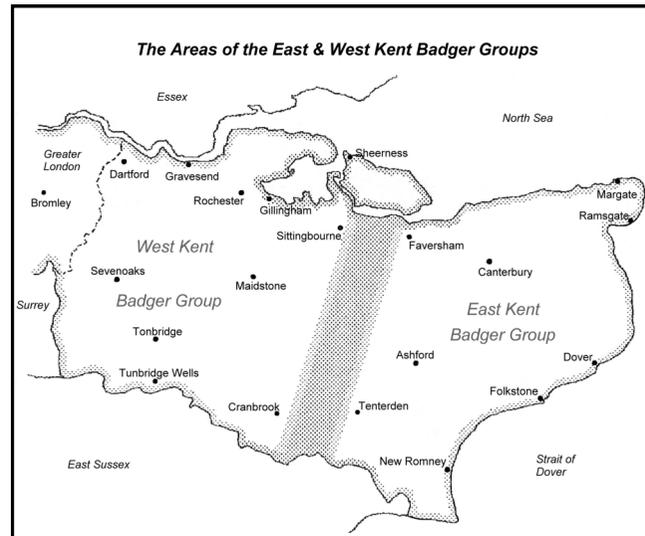


Please use the map to decide which Group you need to contact.:

Email: westkentbadgergroup@yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.wkbg.org.uk

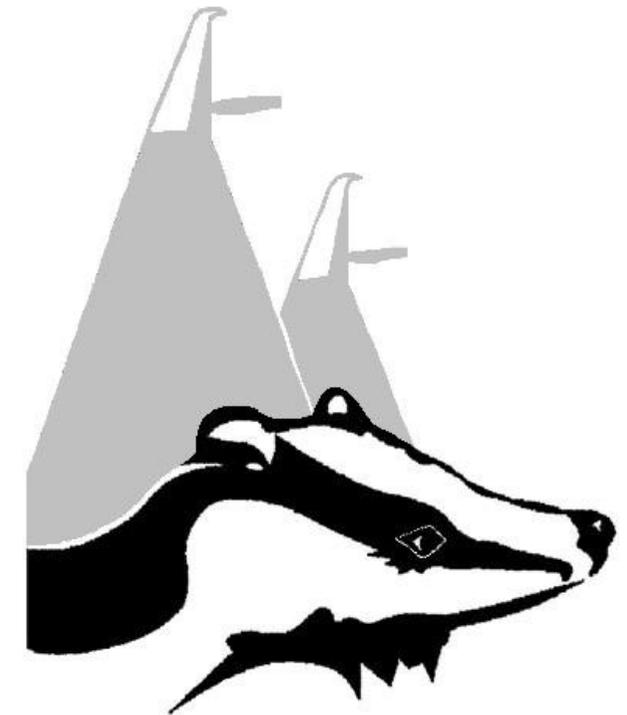
For the East Kent Badger Group please
telephone: 01233 720229



The West Kent Badger Group produces leaflets on the following topics:

1. General Information about Badgers
2. What Badger Groups do
3. WKBG: Protecting the Badger
4. How to Watch Badgers
5. The Badger's Enemies
6. Badgers in your Garden
7. *Badgers and Developments*
8. Badgers and Farming

Badgers *and* Developments



A free information leaflet from the
West Kent Badger Group

BADGERS AND DEVELOPMENTS

INCREASINGLY, housing developers and local and county authorities have become aware of the law regarding the disturbance of badgers and their setts. It is illegal to harm either. Developers will appoint an environmental consultant who will deal with all potential wildlife problems on the proposed site. An environmental survey has to be carried out and presented at the same time as the application to develop. Most consultants will come straight to us for a survey to see if there are badgers present, and if so in what density. Although the giving of advice to the public in general, and an initial visit or two are free of charge, surveys for commercial purposes are done on a strictly business basis.

Badgers are creatures of habit, and may return to their old areas if persuaded to move not too far away for a time while building is taking place. Thus, when a housing estate has been built on old badger territory, garden problems may occur after some time; or if there is a large new building they may try to dig out a new sett underneath [See leaflet *Badgers in your Garden*].

The badger's insistence on taking the same path whatever may be in his way is the cause of many road casualties. If a new road is to go through badger setts, Natural England will have to be asked to advise and, if allowing the badgers to be relocated, a licence to do so under supervision will be issued.

Trouble for the badger occurs more often when the road or railway is passing across a regular path from a sett to foraging grounds. This is where underpasses are often put in place, and suitable fencing erected to encourage the badger to use them, before the final road surface is laid. There are still new roads being built in Kent, whether bypasses, motorway improvements, roads to industrial/housing developments, etc. As with houses, badgers will return to their old setts given the opportunity so, if work does not commence immediately, a further survey has to be

done. Many roads were built before the County authorities were aware of such potential problems, and this may account for so many badger deaths on, for example, the bypasses on the A21(T) and the A20 near Brands Hatch.

Where an electric rail is in danger of killing badgers, breaks in the live rail can be made at the appropriate spots to allow the badgers to pass through safely. This happened on the Hastings to Tonbridge line, after over 100 badgers had been electrocuted in the first few weeks of a newly-installed live conductor rail. The construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link was monitored and only five main setts had to be closed, artificial setts having been built for the badgers nearby. It is not the Group's wish to disturb badgers unless absolutely necessary, but there are some occasions when it cannot be helped. And it is surprising how quickly they adapt, and continue to thrive.

The Group hopes to be able to advise before fatalities and incidents occur, and is increasingly being asked to do so. The Police, RSPCA and Local Councils will know

USEFUL ADDRESSES

The Badger Trust, P O Box 708, East Grinstead,
RH19 2WN Tel: 08458 287 878
www.badgertrust.org.uk

RSPCA, Wilberforce Way, Southwater, Horsham, West
Sussex, RH13 7WN
Urgent calls phone: 0300 1234 999

DEFRA (Natural England), Wildlife Management and
Licensing, International House, Dover Place, Ashford,
Kent, TN23 1HU Tel: 0300 060 4797