



## Health and Safety Policy

**Date Adopted:** 27<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Next Review Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> May 2027

**Policy Review:** This policy will be reviewed by the trustees every year or sooner if legal guidance changes.

### Our Stance :

- ✿ It is the policy of West Kent Badger Group (WKBG) to comply with the terms of the Health and Safety at Work act 1974.
- ✿ WKBG recognises and accepts responsibility to protect the health and Safety of all volunteers and any member of the public who may be affected by our activities
- ✿ A copy of our policy will be issued to each volunteer taking part in activities or events
- ✿ The specific arrangements for the implementation of the policy are set out below
- ✿ Breaches of the policy will be taken seriously and anyone who does not comply with WKBG policies, or acts recklessly or endangers the public will be asked to leave.

### Policy :

- ✿ All volunteers who assist in handling, rescuing and transporting live or dead badgers will have been trained in the safest and most humane techniques with on going training as required and will not receive any equipment unless they have attended the appropriate training.
- ✿ All equipment issued will be checked to ensure it is in good working order.
- ✿ Equipment must not be lent to anyone outside the badger group or to anyone untrained within the badger group
- ✿ All volunteers are expected to deal with situations as they have been trained to do and to carry the correct equipment with them

- ✿ All volunteers should seek advice from another experienced member if they are unsure how to deal with a situation
- ✿ Any person under the age of 18 must always be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- ✿ Only people over the age of 18 may be trained to undertake badger rescues
- ✿ When undertaking any badger rescue, conducting investigations, inspection or consultation with the public on the public highway or road, volunteers must wear an identification badger with their name and photo.
- ✿ A hi viz jacket must be worn in any circumstance where the volunteer is in a situation where their safety from traffic is compromised.
- ✿ It is always best if volunteers undertake rescues in pairs, but if anyone has to go alone, they must inform another member of the group of their whereabouts and confirm their safe return.
- ✿ When attending a site on behalf of the WKBG volunteers must park responsibly as sites are often difficult to access. Hazard lights and/or a safety warning triangle should be used as appropriate.
- ✿ Locating an injured badger can be difficult and if possible, ask the person who reported it to stay on location.
- ✿ Under no circumstances should a member of the public be put at risk of injury by the badger. Help can be sought, but it is important that inexperienced people are kept away from any badger being rescued.
- ✿ Each rescue is different, and volunteers are expected to assess the risks involved with any given situation and continually monitor the situation and adjust their risks accordingly. If the situation means the rescuer, or members of the public, are put at unacceptable risk, then any attempted rescue must be aborted
- ✿ All badger rescues are undertaken at the risk of the volunteer, and it is expected that common sense be applied at all times.