

# Toolbox Talk - Environment

## Badgers



### WHAT?

Badgers are a protected species.

- both the animals and their setts are protected by law
- It is illegal to carry out any construction work close to a badger sett without taking steps to positively avoid damage and without an appropriate licence
- it is no excuse in law to be unaware of the presence of badgers.

### IDENTIFICATION

Most badgers have the characteristic black and white striped face although very occasionally they can be creamy white (albino) red/ginger in colour fully grown adults can be up to 1 m in length and weigh up to 14kg.

- the sett entrance is usually D-shaped and at around 300 mm wide by 200 mm high is wider than either a fox or rabbit hole
- there may be signs of freshly excavated material at the entrance or piles of leaves, dry grass, straw or bracken, which the badgers take inside to use as bedding

- badgers have a distinctive footprint – five claws and a broad main pad
- an indicator of badgers can be found on trees or posts that badgers use for scratching.

### WHY?

Avoid prosecution: it is a criminal offence for anyone without a licence to:

- kill, injure or handle a badger
- disturb a badger when it is occupying a sett
- interfere with a badger sett by damaging or destroying it
- obstruct the access to, or any entrance of, a badger sett
- breaking the law can lead to fines of up to £5000 per badger and/or up to six months in prison.

### DO'S & DON'TS



**IMMEDIATELY** stop work and inform site management if a badger sett is found or a badger is seen on site or close to the site boundary



Seek guidance from a competent person before any work within 30 m of a badger sett.



use heavy machines within 30 m of a badger sett before checking with site management



use light machines within 20 m of a badger sett before checking with site management



work within 10 m of a badger sett before checking with site management



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