

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Badger Group

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Northumberland



PRESS RELEASE

Northern Badger Groups meet the Police

Saturday saw the 2nd meeting of the Northern Badger Groups, whose conservation activities cover an area from South Yorkshire across to Lancashire and north to the Scottish border. They are members of the Badger Trust and have links to groups in Scotland and the rest of the UK.

The meeting was attended by Police Officers from many of the forces in the northern area, along with representatives from Natural England, the UK National Wildlife Crime Unit, the RSPCA and the RSPB.

Discussions were primarily on how all organisations could work more collaboratively to fight crime against Badgers.

Badger Baiting is still a problem in the United Kingdom despite Badgers having protection from the "Protection of Badgers Act 1992". It involves digging out a badger from a sett and setting it to fight against a dog. The badger is often disabled prior to the fight to stack the odds and will inevitably be killed. The dogs can suffer hideous injuries.

Gangs and individuals are known to be active in badger-related crime in the northern area and often travel hundreds of miles to secure badgers for fighting or to attend a fight.

Improved collaboration is planned to increase the information and intelligence gathering which can be fed into a database much more quickly and efficiently, allowing better analysis and targeting of resources.

Badger Groups will also swiftly advise other groups if they suspect people involved in wildlife crime are travelling into another area.

Direct links to Police contacts will ensure that information is also available quickly to the Wildlife Crime Officers and the National Wildlife Crime Unit.

THE MESSAGE FROM THIS MEETING IS WE ARE WATCHING YOU AND ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES AGAINST BADGERS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

The meeting was hosted jointly by Northumberland Badger Group and Durham County Badger Group.

Patron
Bill Oddie
President
Sir John Riddell
Vice-Presidents
Charles Baker-Creswell
Chief Executive
Mike Pratt



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