

## Report All Suspect Incidents

It is of vital importance that all incidents involving badger persecution are reported to your local police. Always report your suspicions to the call centre covering your force area and get an incident number at the time you call. Alternatively you can contact the charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or visit [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)



Badger sett threatened by quarrying works



ASSOCIATION OF CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS

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ASSOCIATION OF CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS IN SCOTLAND



PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION AGAINST  
*wildlife crime*

 **CRIMESTOPPERS**  
**0800 555 111**  
Call anonymously with information about crime



## Badger Persecution



## Operation Meles

*Protecting badgers,  
their setts and habitat.*

## Badger Persecution

What exactly do we mean when we talk about badger persecution? All manner of crimes are committed by people either interfering with badger setts or with badgers themselves. The offences range from simply ploughing over a sett to the heinous and completely unacceptable killing of badgers in the most cruel of fashion.



Subjected to being drowned with slurry pumped into setts, shot, snared and torn to pieces by dogs they have a hard time of it in some areas and Operation Meles aims to target the offenders using intelligence led policing to identify potential offenders and to target those person with a view to prosecution.

As with most crimes it is the public who will be the most important piece in the fight back against the criminal activities of a few. The Operation will rely completely on you to report incidents where it is suspected that a crime has been committed. Crucially you can also play a pivotal role in supplying information about persons suspected of being involved in badger crime.



Sett Damage



Snared



Sett full of slurry



Dug out by baiters



Forestry damage



Baited with dogs

## Animal Welfare

At its worst badger persecution also leads to the mistreatment of dogs which are used to bait and chase down badgers. In normal circumstances in which you might meet a badger you would find that they are shy retiring animals who are not going to attack on sight. However like most wild animals if they are trapped they will fight most ferociously with the attacker which often results in very serious injuries to the dogs which go untreated. Veterinary Surgeons will quickly recognise injuries on a dog which have been caused through fighting so rather than take the dogs to a vet their owners treat them at home.

Many dogs are seriously injured as a consequence of the fight and are put down by their owners in the cruellest of fashion.



**Is this how we should treat animals in the 21st Century?**

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