

OXFORDSHIRE BADGER GROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 1186850

Details

Other names	OBG
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2019-12-09
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	29 Webbs Way Kidlington OX5 2EW
Phone	07926219446
Email	OBG@oxonbadgergroup.org.uk
Website	https://www.oxonbadgergroup.org.uk/

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE 1. TO PROMOTE, FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, THE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF BADGERS, THEIR SETTS AND HABITATS IN OXFORDSHIRE AND ELSEWHERE; AND 2. TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC ON THE ECOLOGY, BEHAVIOUR AND PROTECTED STATUS OF BADGERS, THEIR SETTS AND HABITATS. NOTHING IN THIS CONSTITUTION SHALL AUTHORISE AN APPLICATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE CIO FOR THE PURPOSES WHICH ARE NOT CHARITABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 7 OF THE CHARITIES AND TRUSTEE INVESTMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005 AND SECTION 2 OF THE CHARITIES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2008.

Activities: We promote the conservation, protection and understanding of badgers, their setts and habitats in Oxfordshire and elsewhere. Activities include recording badger setts/ sightings and reporting wildlife crime. We provide a badger rescue service. We liaise with professionals, the public to resolve badger issues. We train volunteers and offer education. We own and manage a small ancient wood.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Animals, Environment/conservation/heritage, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Oxfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£8,511	£15,721	-	-
2023-12-31	£16,882	£15,331	-	-
2022-12-31	£16,123	£42,612	-	-
2021-12-31	£10,339	£8,243	-	-
2020-12-31	£8,002	£3,404	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Julia Hammett M.A.	Chair	2019-12-09
Eileen Carmel Anderson MSc		2022-08-20
Linda Catherine Ward BSc		2019-12-09
Richard Hugh Tilley BSc.		2019-12-09

Accounts

Oxfordshire Badger Group

Registered Charity (England and Wales) 1186850



Annual Report

01st January 2024 to 31st July 2025

Financial Statement

for the year ended 31st Dec 2024

**Approved by the Members and Trustees on
25th October 2025 and signed on their behalf by :**

Linda Ward

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Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees’ Annual Report 2024 to 2025

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Reference and administrative details

Charity name:	Oxfordshire Badger Group
Type of charity:	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with voting members
Registration details	Registered with the Charity Commission on 9 th December 2019 The charity is registered with HM Revenue and Customs
Registration Number	Registered Charity in England and Wales number: 1186850
Charity address:	29 Webbs Way, Kidlington, OX5 2EW
Trustees who manage the charity	Julia Hammett (Chair)
	Richard Tilley (Treasurer)
	Linda Ward (Secretary)
	Eileen Anderson (Education and Outreach)
Banks	The Co-operative Bank, P O Box 250, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT (primary) PayPal (Europe) S.à r.l. et Cie, S.C.A. 22-24 Boulevard Royal L-2449 Luxembourg
Public Liability	Zurich insurance, The Zurich Centre, 3000 Parkway, Whiteley, Fareham, Hampshire PO15 7JZ

Structure, governance, and management

Type of governing document

Constitution: Based on the Charity Commission model governing document for a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with voting members. Nothing in this constitution shall authorise an application of the property of the CIO for the purposes which are not charitable in accordance with section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

Charitable objects

As defined in our Constitution (Governing Document) the charity’s objects are:

1. To promote, for the public benefit, the conservation and protection of badgers, their setts and habitats in Oxfordshire and elsewhere; and
2. To advance the education of the public on the ecology, behaviour and protected status of badgers, their setts and habitats.

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Trustees, committee, and organisational approach

Our Constitution specifies that there must be at least 3 charity trustees to a maximum of 12. The Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are ex officio charity trustees.

The trustees during the period of this report were: Julia Hammett (Chair), Richard Tilley (Treasurer), Linda Ward (Secretary) and Eileen Anderson (Education and Outreach). Members confirmed these appointments at our third Annual General Meeting (AGM) held 12th October 2024.

The trustee’s have formally delegated responsibility for day-to-day operational decision making to a committee of volunteers. Late breaking news: Members resolved to accept the committee terms of reference at the AGM held 25th October 2025 and these will supplement the constitution.

The Charity is seeking to recruit additional trustees and committee members. In appointing an additional or replacement trustee, due consideration will be given to ensuring that the trustees have, between them, the skills and experience necessary to manage the charity effectively and in accordance with charity law. Similar considerations apply to committee membership.

Oxfordshire Badger Group has no paid staff and is run entirely on a volunteer basis. Members have the option to volunteer to take part in various organised activities or may simply support our work via their membership fees¹.

Statutory declaration of charitable activities

The trustees of Oxfordshire Badger Group confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in deciding which activities the charity should undertake.

Trustees Report

Oxfordshire Badger Group (OBG) is a small wildlife welfare charity which promotes the conservation and protection of badgers, their setts and habitats in Oxfordshire and beyond. We are funded entirely by public donations and grants. The charity has no paid staff.

This is our fifth annual trustees report since becoming a registered charity in December 2019. It covers the period 1st January 2024 to 31th July 2025. It describes how our group has continued to meet the charities objectives during this time. OBG is engaged in a wide range of activities including badger rescue and welfare; the study of badgers and record keeping; public education and awareness raising. We also take part in planning consultations, provide an advisory service to people with badger problems and encourage the reporting of wildlife crime.

Our badger vaccination programme has now ended after seven years. This work was successful in protecting badgers from bovine TB, offered landowners a humane alternative to culling and raised public awareness of the extent of culling in the county. It also built a strong team of committed volunteers. We hope to redirect their energy and organisation to grow our other charity activities.

During 2024 and carrying on into 2025, our Group has made a major contribution to national efforts to end the badger cull. Looking back at our 52,000 signature petition and our persistent ‘badgering’ of Oxford University scientists shows how much a small group like ours can achieve with determination and commitment.

¹ Membership of the charity costs £12 per year per household (or £6 concessionary rate)

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Hutchcomb's Copse continues to be an absolute jewel. We held a very successful open day for both neighbours and members in June 2024. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the tour of the wood and many commented how secluded and unspoiled it is. We're committed to opening the wood in a controlled way and have successfully hosted a very enthusiastic Scout work party and a gathering of would be poets along with other events ! We now have an agreed management plan and are putting together a substantial work list. Raising the funds to completely secure the land is a top priority for the next 12 months.

Our education and outreach programme is another joy for all concerned especially when we get to meet young school children who hopefully will become wildlife protectors of the future.

Financially the Group remains relatively healthy despite a significant reduction in donations compared with 2023. In part, this reflects the closure of our vaccination crowdfunder as this project began to draw to a close.

Our work for badgers is for the public good, but we also want to 'give back' to our volunteers. We encourage people to play an active role and to give as much or as little time to volunteering as they feel able.

We thank all our wonderful volunteers who give their time and experience freely to help badgers. A special shout out for our tireless committee members who drive our activities along and do so much to mentor and train others. We thank everyone who has donated to allow our work to continue.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Eileen Anderson, Julia Hammett, Richard Tilley and Linda Ward (Trustees)

Activities and achievements – our officers reports

Secretary and membership

At the time of reporting, we have 407 subscribers to our mailing list, just 7 more the last report. Of these, 89 are paid up members and 6 are honorary members. Membership numbers remain stable.

1. The membership fee is fixed at £12 per household per year on a monthly basis.
2. A concessionary membership fee of £6 per household is available to students and people on low income.
3. OBG pays £2 of the membership fee to the Badger Trust. This entitles members to attend Badger Trust training events and Annual General Meetings.
4. Members may join in a variety of volunteer roles.
5. We provide mentoring / training and have produced protocols and guidelines for people taking part in our core 'field based' volunteer activities.
6. Our 'social' activities are open to all and usually advertised via our free mailing list.

Volunteers needed !

Oxfordshire Badger Group (OBG) is run entirely by volunteers. As you will see from this report, we work to protect badgers and their habitats in many ways, with opportunities to take part in both field and office based work. Both are equally vital to the continued success of the Group. If you have any time or expertise to offer, we'd love to hear from you.

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Badger records

Oxfordshire Badger Group (OBG) holds secure records of reported deaths, live sightings and setts dating back over five decades. This highly sensitive, confidential information is key to delivering our crucial rescue work and underpins all our activities.

Professional requests for data and fees received:

We maintain protected records and offer a professional, chargeable data search service to vetted agencies that can prove that they have a legitimate reason to require information about the presence of badgers in a specific area.

Oxfordshire Badger Group welcomes the opportunity to liaise with developers and Local Authorities to share expertise in order to inform and improve development plans that embrace rather than exclude badgers from the environment. We continue to have a mutual data sharing agreement with the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) to facilitate connection between agencies and ensure that badgers and their habitats are considered and protected.

Details of data searches requested and provided in 2024 and 2025:

OBG will provide sett and RTC records on request to bona fide ecologists. We request a donation to cover our costs based on the size of the area of search, which determines workload.

January – December 2024:

Feb 2024: Data request received, correspondence entered into but the ecological consultant did not respond to take the data search further.

Feb 2024: Data request received and correspondence entered into. A data search and report was provided by OBG in April 2024. Invoice sent for £60.00 donation.

May 2024: Data request received and correspondence entered into. A data search and report was provided by OBG in June 2024. Invoice sent for £294.00 donation.

Dec 2024: Data request received and correspondence entered into. A data search and report was provided by OBG on 16 Dec 2024. Information provided for a £60.00 donation, which was chased up and settled in May 2025.

January – end July 2025:

May 2025: Data request received and correspondence entered into. A data search and report was provided by OBG on 26/05/25. Invoice sent for £60.00 donation, which was received on 27/05/25.

Aug 2025: Data request received and correspondence entered into. A data search and report was provided by OBG on 04/08/25. Invoice sent for £60.00 donation, which was received on 05/08/25.

Dead badger reports received:

It is a sad fact that the only badgers that most people see are dead at the side of the road. Their deaths, conversely, are positive evidence that there are populations of badgers close by. An increasing number of volunteers and members of the public report those sightings to us and we greatly appreciate their time and effort. They all contribute to our record of badgers' lives and deaths across our county.

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A reminder about Road Traffic Collision checks:

A core group of OBG members from across the county volunteer to check dead badgers if safe to do so. They report back on the animal’s health and arrange rescue if viable. Dead badgers are checked for gender and lactation status in case there may be vulnerable cubs nearby that require our assistance. The months marked with * on the table below indicate when this activity takes place.

The results of the 2021- 2022 Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) project to ascertain the incidence of Bovine Tb in the wild badger population, which OBG participated in, are still yet to be published to our knowledge.

Table 1: Total number of badgers reported dead 2017 to 2025

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 so far
Deaths	95	161	165	150	287	271	210	245	203

January – December 2024

245 dead badgers were reported between 1st January 2024 and the end of December 2024. This is an increase to the 210 recorded in 2024 (see Table 1).

Table 2: Deaths recorded per month in 2024

Season/ Year	Autumn 2023	Winter 2023/24	Spring 2024	Summer 2024	Autumn 2024	Winter 2024/25
	Sept - 17	Dec - 5	Mar* - 59	Jun - 16	Sept - 15	Dec - 1
	Oct - 9	Jan* - 11	Apr* - 30	Jul - 14	Oct - 20	Jan - 11
	Nov – 6	Feb* - 35	May* - 24	Aug - 16	Nov - 4	Feb - 32
Total	32	51	113	46	39	34

Almost all of the dead badgers reported in 2024 were seen on or at the side of roads. One body raised concerns and was reported to Thames Valley Police by the finder. No further action was reported. Four badgers were found dead close to their setts with no indication of anything other than natural causes. Footage from a trail camera happened to catch the tragic but natural death of a badger on emergence from their sett.

Hotspots for deaths on the county’s roads in 2024:

A34: 21 deaths reported along the route through Oxfordshire with many deaths on the stretch between Wytham and South Hinksey. 12 more deaths than in 2023.

A40: 21 deaths reported along the road’s length with the usual hotspots around Wheatley and the Northern Bypass. Two more deaths than in 2023.

A420: 19 deaths reported along its length in Oxfordshire with a cluster of deaths around Cumnor and Dean Court. An increase of 5 deaths on 2023.

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A4074: 15 deaths again along the road to the Berkshire border, with clusters of deaths recorded around Clifton Hampden. Same total as in 2023.

A4260: 9 deaths recorded, several around Deddington, and notably more than in previous years.

A361: 8 deaths recorded spread along the route.

A44: 6 deaths reported this year, fewer than in 2023.

Other hotspots continued to claim lives: the A415, A417 and A4130 around Didcot.

January to September 2025

203 dead badgers have been reported between 1st January and the end of August 2025. During the same period last year, 205 dead badgers were recorded.

Table 3: Deaths recorded per month in 2025

Month	Jan*	Feb*	March*	April*	May*	June*	July	Aug
No. of deaths	11	32	39	38	23	10	28	22

* = Period when dead badgers are checked for gender and lactation status.

Hotspots for deaths on the county’s roads in first seven months of 2025:

A420 - 29 deaths reported

A40 – 18 deaths reported

A34 – 11 deaths reported

A316 and A4130 - both saw 10 deaths reported on each

A4260 - 9 deaths reported

A4074 and A44 – both saw 5 deaths reported on each

Reflection:

The fluctuation in the number of reported dead badgers over the past eight years reflects a variety of factors. Some negative: the ongoing badger cull bites into most of our county and all open land is vulnerable to being built on as fields disappear into new housing, solar farms, warehousing and speculative laboratory facilities. But there are some positives: there is increased awareness amongst the public to report a dead badger, and as our membership grows our new members are encouraged to play an active part by reporting any badgers that they see to our dedicated What’sApp group. Proof of death is proof of life - there are still populations of badgers existing across the whole county.

Sett records:

Oxfordshire Badger Group holds details of setts that began to be recorded over fifty years ago. Our confidential archive reveals stories of the movements of badgers across the county: setts

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abandoned, destroyed or otherwise lost; new setts excavated, unknown setts discovered and ancient setts still in active, healthy use.

Reports of new setts come in from a variety of sources: members of the public, OBG members who survey areas of interest to them or join up on the sett surveying days organized throughout the winter. Also from rescue call-outs to injured or ill badgers and from visits by OBG to concerned members of the public who seek advice about living with badgers. The work of our expert volunteers will often uncover badger setts in new areas. Methodical surveying of private land signed up to our vaccination program provided highly confidential records that are held separately and excluded from data sharing agreements or professional data searches.

Updates on previously recorded setts are very welcome as they provide a history of the sett and its health over a period of years, and sometimes several decades.

My sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed their time, effort and reports to our records. Emails can be sent to the dedicated address: settrecords.oxonbadgergroup@gmail.com

January – December 2024

A total of 58 new sett reports were added to the OBG records in 2024, along with several updates to older records.

January – end July 2025

A further 40+ new and updated sett reports have so far been recorded during the first half of 2025 bringing the total number of record entries to over 1930.

Sightings of live badgers

We are genuinely delighted to receive reports from people who have been lucky to catch sight of badgers living alongside them. During 2024 and 2025 we've heard from several people whose doorbell or trail camera has revealed that unfamiliar noises and moved objects have been caused by black and white-faced visitors. The residents of one road have given their local boar badger a name and often share footage of his foraging with us.

A few people out walking or cycling have encountered badgers face-to-foot. It's especially likely in late spring when young cubs emerge from the sett to explore their surroundings. They may be out in daylight and on footpaths or – as in the case of a family local to me – curled up fast asleep in the compost heap of a quiet garden!

January – December 2024

17 separate live sightings of one or more badgers together.

January – end August 2025

11 separate live sightings of one or more badgers together.

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Badger vaccination project 2019-2025



Oxfordshire Badger Group has been working with farmers, landowners, volunteers, and the public to prevent the spread of bovine tuberculosis by providing treatment, under licence, in the form of vaccination to badgers in Oxfordshire. Bovine tuberculosis is a disease in cattle that has spread into the wildlife population, including badgers.

Through badger vaccination, we aimed to reduce the transmission and spread of the disease in the badger population and raise awareness that so much of Oxfordshire and England is within a cull zone. Our programme offered a humane and equally effective alternative to culling badgers. It has been hugely popular and very successful.

The 2024 season was the sixth year of our project. Along with our dedicated, experienced volunteers who have been with us in previous years, we recruited a

small number of new volunteers at the beginning of the season, who proved invaluable. After finishing the four-year project on 11 sites last year, we were able to take on a large new farm. This 7.5 square km farm proved to have several setts on and around the outskirts of the land, and over the vaccination weekend, we vaccinated 30 badgers.

Defra reduced the price of the vaccine from £36 to £8 per vial for the 2024 season. This left an excess in our planned budget, and after careful discussion with the committee, we decided to use the excess to pay towards travel costs for the vaccination volunteers.

We had two visits from Natural England during the season. Four trappers and one vaccinator were successfully compliance audited. By the end of the 2024 season we had completed the scheduled four-year projects on another nine sites.

The 2025 season was the seventh and final year of our badger vaccination project. The group completed our commitments with the final 3 farms. It was a hard decision to wrap up the project, but there were many reasons to do so. These included:

- Lack of funding from Defra
- The end of our agreements with current farms
- Many farmers around Oxfordshire have made their decision to cull or not
- Slowing down of fundraising and donations
- Key volunteers having other commitments

Closure: The vaccination equipment purchased for the project, using money from grants and donations, has been distributed to another volunteer-led vaccination project.

Each outside organisation, such as our prescribing veterinary team and on-call support vet, as well as our landowners, has been thanked.

Defra and Natural England have been notified that the project has ceased.

We thank each and every volunteer, past and present for all the hard work and commitment that you have all put in. Thanks also to all our kind donors who made the project possible.

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Badger rescue and welfare



2025 was a quiet year for rescues.

We are not sure whether to attribute it to a smaller number of badgers needing rescue, or members of the public contacting other rescue organisations rather than Oxfordshire Badger Group, or a reduction in badger populations.

In February, we attended a rescue of a badger in a compost bin. A subsequent X-ray found a tumour on his leg, and so he was euthanised.

At the beginning of March, we picked up a badly injured badger that had been hit by a car. He died shortly after arriving at Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue.

In April, a joint rescue with Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue of a badger cub separated from her family. The cub made a full recovery and is due to be released this autumn together with five other badger cubs from various other rescues.

In May, a badger cub was found with a jam jar on its head. This time, rescued by Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue and with a nearby sett located. After a couple of weeks of treatment, she was ready to go back home. The first night we tried, we had no contact from any adults, but the cub was very excited. After seeking further advice, we released her at the sett hole the cub seemed most excited about. She disappeared down the sett very quickly.

In July, we rescued a large badger after it had been hit by a car. Unfortunately, he died at Tiggywinkles a few days later of pneumonia.

The most recent rescue was a badger making a huge amount of noise in a garage. After a difficult rescue, the badger was taken to Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue, but he died under general anaesthetic.

Lastly, we received a report of an injured badger crawling around about on the side of a road. After several hours of searching, the badger was never found.

Donations have been sent to relevant wildlife hospitals towards the care of the badgers.

A huge thank you to all those on the rescue teams.

We have a few new members to the rescue team, so we plan to run a rescue training refresher course over the winter.

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Social media report

The Facebook page has 1875 followers and continues to do well. Posts often have engagement with followers. The highest reaching posts are usually around rescue. Our one off unique posts do quite well whereas sharing other people’s posts are not so popular. The same posts are not doing so well on X, probably since many groups like the Badger Trust leaving and other animal advocates are leaving the platform.

This recent rescue post on Facebook received a huge reach at 1.2k views, 47 comments and 25 shares. On the picture below you can see it was viewed 23,000 times. This post only had 6 retweets and 26 likes on X.

Professional dashboard

Best insights

Oxfordshire Badger Group

5 August · 🌐

This rather large badger was involved in a collision with a car during the huge downpour of rain last Thursday.

The incident was reported to us by two separate passers-by who kindly took the time to stop and check on him.

Luckily, for us, a couple of people were able to stay close by to watch where he crawled to. We located him under a very large bramble patch.

If it hadn't been for those members of the public who stopped, we would probably never have found him.

He is now being treated at a local wildlife hospital.

Fingers crossed for him.

Thank you to our wonderful rescue team too.



1.2K

47

25

1

Overview ⓘ

23,067

Views

\$0.00

Earnings

2,584

Engagement

9

Net follows

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This post of the erythristric badger caught peoples imagination and was even bigger with 54,603 views. The conversations people had on it helped it reach a wider audience, this also had a good reach on X with 61 retweets and 282 likes.

A screenshot of a YouTube post from the 'Oxfordshire Badger Group' channel, dated 9 August. The video shows a white badger cub walking through a field of tall grass and dry vegetation. The video player interface is visible, showing a temperature of 50 °F and a timestamp of 03/08/2025 05:42:59. Below the video, the 'Overview' section displays statistics: 54,603 Views, \$0.00 Earnings, 4,691 Engagement, and 21 Net follows. The 'Views' section shows a total of 54,603 views. The bottom navigation bar of the YouTube app is visible, with icons for Home, Search, Create, Notifications, and Profile.

[both posts shared with permission]

We were also able to share lots of videos of many animals having a drink in the very hot weather and encouraged people to leave bowls of water out for wildlife. We also shared some vaccination videos both subjects did well being viewed over 200 times.

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Badger and other wildlife crime

Our Group liaises with the police, Badger Trust, RSPCA and members of the public to help identify and report wildlife crime. We aim to ensure that all volunteers and members are suitably trained and attend sessions led by Craig Fellowes, the Badger Trust Crime officer. During 2025, two members were able to attend the Trust's excellent advanced crime training course which leads toward Expert witness training.

To reiterate, all crimes to badgers should be reported to the police online or via 101. Please make sure you get a crime number and then send all these details to the Badger Trust (BT). Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to report crime to us or to BT. It is sad for the badgers but by recording all the statistics it really paints a picture of what badgers in Oxfordshire are facing.

Education and Outreach Report



We visited two different schools in the early winter of 2024. In the first, where a repeat visit was required due to the number of children in Reception year, we spent time talking about how badgers live, introduced our taxidermy badger and badger skull, and read a story about Tidy Pete the Badger. We took time to talk about some of the features of how we live and how these differ from badgers. The lack of a front door in badger homes caught the attention of the children! In this school we were able to see artwork the children created after our visit the previous year with a row of paintings of Tidy Pete displayed in the classroom.

The second school was able to give us a whole afternoon to work with the children and we were able to expand our slide presentation to include photos and sounds of other animals that badgers might meet as they go out and about in the night, exploring the term 'nocturnal.' We read a story, sang a song, and then played a 'let's go foraging like badgers' game in small groups. We provided the children with items in paper bags, such that badgers might come across during their nightly foraging, shaking the bags, feeling them, listening to the noises, opening, and sniffing the contents and guessing their identity. We included items such as leaves, pinecones, moss, a horseshoe, and sheep's wool. All children receive an OBG badger sticker, and we leave the storybook with them for their library.

As we approached Christmas, we were delighted to expand our adult outreach activities by inviting members, friends, and the local community to 'Mince Pies in the Copes.' We own a small private woodland and manage it as a wild place and nature reserve. Access is by invitation only and this occasion was one such and it was well attended and appreciated.



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Early in 2024 we spent an evening with local Sea Scout Cubs, and this led to them fund raising for us and then joining us in the Copse during March 2025. They were able to develop and learn new skills that helped them to achieve their badges, making bird boxes, planting 250 Bluebells 'in the green', creating two bug hotels, digging out two sets of earth steps, clearing fallen wood to make log piles , and generally clearing pathways.



Also, in March we trialled a new event, creative writing in the Copse. A small group joined us to enjoy the opportunity to create their own 'Words from the Wild Wood,' seated in a gazebo in the centre of the wood and exploring it for inspiration.

We hold a twice-yearly scything party, in this case in November and June, and the challenging work of reducing the growth in our glade is rewarded with chocolate cake and hot drinks!

So – if you have children attending an Oxfordshire Primary School, do let the school know that we offer an education and outreach programme, and give them our contact details – we would love to meet them. Our email address is: OBG@Oxonbadgergroup.org.uk

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Development and badgers

We have been kept busy with planning application enquiries, Local Plan consultations, as well as numerous site visits . We shared information on the draft Oxford Local Plan encouraging members to respond to ensure that some ecologically sensitive sites including Horse Field, Iffley are protected and not earmarked for development.

Development remains a huge threat to Oxfordshire's badgers and it seems things will get even worse. The Government's new planning Bill, Part 6 , would strip away 'The Protection of Badger's Act 1992', and allow developers to kill badgers legally if their setts are in the way of a planned development. A consultation took place over the summer about options for local council reorganisation. OBG encouraged supporters to raise concerns that the Greater Oxford Council option could result in development extending the City into much of the surrounding Green Belt.

These are some of the developments/ planning issues OBG have been involved with:

Landmead Solar Farm- damage under panels thought to be caused by badgers.

Botley Solar Farm- This could be the largest solar farm in Europe and cover 3,450 acres of land near Botley, Woodstock and Kidlington with devastating impact on ecology and biodiversity.

Aston Upthorpe- Plan to build on an undeveloped paddock, home to badger sett. OBG wrote to Planning Officer with our findings.

Radley Large Wood- OBG called in by local residents as risk to badger sett from tree clearing.

Spindleberry Nature Reserve , Blackbird Leys. 84 dwellings on playing fields adjacent to Nature Reserve had huge impact on the local wildlife and ecosystem. OBG worked with local residents and shared our concerns with Natural England to try to get the best mitigation for badgers

Grandpoint Nature Reserve – We carried out a site visit to see environmental impact of the City Council's plan to build new bridge.

Bicester- called out to check on plans for building work which would impact on badger paths.

Yarnells Hill- an ecologically rich site with established sett. Application rejected by the Vale planners but Inspector overrode this on appeal. New developers have now cleared much of land and closed the sett under license. OBG monitoring the situation.

The badger cull



Oxfordshire Badger Group has always strongly opposed the policy of culling badgers as part of the government's strategy for eradicating bovine TB. In 2020, the government issued licences to cull badgers in Oxfordshire for the first time. Since then, the cull zones have progressively expanded and now cover an estimated 60% of the county. In 2023 the first Oxfordshire cull zone completed a fourth year. The total killed in the 2023 cull was less than expected, however this was due to falling numbers of badgers resulting in much lower targets. Culling is able to reduce the badger population by 70% or more. Yet after ten years of culling there is no clear effect on the spread of bovine TB in cattle. Since August 2023 we have been campaigning to locally to considerable effect:

- To raise awareness that culling may drive badgers to local extinction across much of England
- To lobby decision makers in government to end the badger cull
- To persuade the Oxford University scientists responsible for the 'Randomised Badger Culling Trial (2006)' which provides the original scientific basis for culling – to accept that culling does not contribute to disease control in cattle.

As part of this campaign we have held silent 'SAD Badger' street events; taken to the streets of Oxford in badger costume and demonstrated outside key university buildings. Our petition "Oxford Scientists must Speak Out Against Badger Extermination" has approaching 52,000 signatures and is pivotal to our efforts. We have enjoyed excellent local media coverage.

We expected the new Labour government to end the badger cull which its general election manifesto for July 2024 called 'ineffective'. However, they have renewed cull licences for 2024 and 2025 and so our campaign continues.

Focus on the lack of scientific evidence for culling and the pivotal role played by Oxford University Scientists

We are uniquely placed to lobby and engage with the key scientists responsible for conducting the original Randomised Badger Culling Trial and subsequent research. Many are now influential in advising DEFRA and Ministers on policy for controlling bTB. During 2024 we kept a high profile. Highlights are on our website Cull pages at <https://www.oxonbadgergroup.org.uk/the-cull-1/>

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees’ Annual Report 2024 to 2025

2024: A year of protest

The year started promisingly, with the publication of the Badger Trusts Report on Tackling bovine TB. However, our hopes were dashed in March when Defra launched a consultation on the introduction of “epidemiological culling” which would see the cull continue indefinitely.

In April we launched a petition on Change.org “Oxford Scientists Must Speak out against Badger Extermination” . This had excellent take up and in June we took part in ‘Badger Cull Action Week’ which helped drive our petition along.

We were able to enter into conversations with several of the key scientists but they were adamant that their research was unassailable and that it proved badgers play a measurable role in new herd breakdowns. Plus, they do not set government policy. Our view is that they have significant authority and as originators of the evidence for culling have a moral obligation to use it. Even if that means accepting new evidence that challenges their decades old work.

June saw a General Election called, with the Labour Party manifesto stating that the badger cull was ineffective. However, once in power they failed to take the obvious step of ending it, allowing culling to continue. Thankfully, the threat of epi-culling was dropped.

Meanwhile, the scientific evidence for culling was coming under intense scrutiny. In July, a new paper [“Absence of effects of widespread badger culling on tuberculosis in cattle”](#) was published which reported that the original RBCT results were not reproducible. When correctly analysed the data show that Badgers DO NOT play a significant role in spreading the disease to cattle and that the RBCT DOES NOT support the badger perturbation effect hypothesis.

Perhaps predictably, the lead RBCT author Professor Donnelly (now head of Oxford University Dept of Statistics) attempted to defend her original research by publishing two new papers. We organised a demonstration outside her Department in August where we presented our petition and an open letter in which we said *“Defend your science if you must; but understand that NOT to call for an end to the cull makes you directly responsible for this ongoing tragedy – one that YOU could easily help stop. Please join us in calling for an immediate end to the badger cull”*.



Our year of protest ended on a high note. On 18th November we hosted a scientific seminar in Oxford to discuss the scientific controversy. In the evening, Professor Paul Torgerson of the University of Zurich presented his work re-evaluating the RBCT. Our meeting report can be found via the link below.

We’d like to thank our scientific advisors, everyone who attended demonstrations, signed the petition and donated to keep this campaign “on the road”. So long as good people speak up and take action there is hope.

<https://www.oxonbadgergroup.org.uk/oxfordrbctmeetings18nov24/> (via the Cull menu).

Hutchcomb's Copse – three years on



Hutchcomb's Copse remains an unspoiled haven for wildlife but we have begun a 'light touch' management work. We maintain a natural (in places steep and difficult) narrow circular route around the Copse. We have held regular scything work parties (2-3 per year) to keep the 'glade' open by controlling the growth of bracken, nettles, thistles etc that are trying to take over the meadow.

We have agreed a management plan that includes succession planting and other works. Want to visit with us? Want to get involved in any work we do undertake (creating more log piles? Checking the reptile mats we have laid out? Maintaining the basic trail route?) – then do get in touch. Visit our dedicated website at <https://www.hutchcombs-copse.org.uk> and sign up for Copse news or email OBG@oxonbadgergroup.org.uk

Collaboration with other organisations

Oxfordshire Badger Group believes that collaboration is essential to deliver our charitable aims. We have established operating relationships with the following organisations.

The Badger Trust: OBG is a full member of the Badger Trust (registered charity 1111440). The Trust is the national umbrella organisation which represents and support around 60 local voluntary badger groups across England and Wales). OBG functions independently but in partnership with the Trust. This relationship provides access to expert advice, peer group support and mentoring; training; authoritative information (such as leaflets) and the opportunity to apply for Badger Trust grants. OBG supports relevant Badger Trust campaigns and helps disseminate information and calls for action to our members and followers.

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees’ Annual Report 2024 to 2025

Other Badger Groups: We liaise with the Groups covering our neighbouring counties (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire and Wiltshire) on a regular operational basis. During the reporting period this has involved sharing resources - to cover badger call outs on the ‘overlapping’ county borders along with joint training and social events. We are part of the wider badger vaccination network and have benefited from training and mentoring along with regular news and best practice updates. We offer special thanks to the highly experienced Somerset, Derbyshire and Cornwall vaccination teams for their support.

The Conservation Volunteers local South Eastern group (TCV) registered charity in England (261009). OBG is a paid member of TCV. This gives us access to advice, support and funding opportunities. We are listed on their website and contribute to their regular newsletters. We also benefit from access to discounted insurance prices.

Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT): Our local wildlife Trust shares a keen interest in badger welfare.

Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC): We believe it is vital to maintain accurate environmental records capturing the diversity and threats to wild life in this area. We share information with Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) via a mutual data sharing agreement that respects the sensitivity of our data.

Wytham Woods Field Station, Oxford University Wildlife Conservation Research Unit: OBG is fortunate to have excellent working relationships with the ecologists running Badger Project at WildCRU: The “laboratory with leaves” at Wytham Woods. WildCRU’s Badger Project has collected a wealth of fundamental ecological data for over 30 years.

Wildlife rescue and Hospitals: Our rescue service captures badgers in need of care and take them to a suitable wildlife hospital. We work primarily with ‘local’ centres within striking distance of Oxfordshire – including The Nutkin Ward, Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue, Tiggywinkles and the Vale Wildlife Hospital.

RSPCA: The RSPCA is often contacted by members of the public and others concerned about badger issues, especially possible crime or badgers in need of rescue. Our charity liaises with the local officers.

Treasurer Report 2024

Basis of accounting

OBG's Financial and Reporting Year runs from 1st January to 31st December.

This Report covers our fifth year as a CIO charity, to 31st December 2024.

As in previous years, the accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

Gross income includes gross receipts via PayPal and SumUp.

Gross expenditure includes fees deducted by PayPal, SumUp, Amazon and eBay.

All receipts, including donations and grants, are accounted for when received.

Any income tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid is included when the money is received from HMRC or is paid to OBG via PayPalGiving on qualifying transactions.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from Corporation Tax as all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

Restricted Funds

All income, expenditure and balances in 2024 are Unrestricted.

Independent Examination of Accounts

As OBG's total gross income in 2024 of £8,511.13 is substantially less than the Charity Commission's threshold of £25,000 an independent examination is not required, unless requested by members at the AGM.

Income

All receipts, including donations and grants, are accounted for when received. Any income tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid is included when the money is received from HMRC or is paid to OBG by PayPal on qualifying transactions.

Total gross income in 2024 was £8,511.13, down £8,370.03 (50%) on the previous year (£16,881.76 in 2023). This reflects:

1. The absence of grants in 2024.
2. Reduced donations in 2024.
3. No 2024 Gift Aid received from HMRC until early 2025.

Expenditure

Total gross expenditure in 2024 was £15,719.30, up just £388.75 (2.5%) on the previous year (£15,330.55 in 2023)..

Net Expenditure

Net expenditure in 2024 was £7,208.17 compared to a net income of £1,551.21 in 2023.

Bank balance

At the end of 2024, total bank balance was £8,148.61, down £7,208.17 (47%) on the previous year (£15,356.78 in 2023). The small cash float of £35.42 is similar to last year.

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees' Annual Report 2024 to 2025

Notes on receipts

All sales, subscription and donation figures are gross, before the deduction of any fees by PayPal or SumUp.

Principal funding sources

The main funding sources for the 2024 financial year were:

- Donations from members and supporters
- Sale of goods
- Members subscriptions
- Volunteers' time and services free to the Group

Trading activities

Sale of goods for fundraising was stepped up in 2024 to £1,835.96, up £1,023.75 (126%) on the previous year (£812.21 in 2023).

Bank Interest

No interest accrued to OBG's Co-Op Community Directplus bank account.

A savings account was opened on 3/10/24 to earn interest on reserve funds. A very small amount of interest was accrued on 4/10/24.

Next interest will be due early April 2025

Gift Aid

No Gift Aid was received directly from HMRC in 2024, as the annual claim was not processed until early 2025.

Gift Aid collected via PayPal was £520.56 in 2024, down £554.23 (52%) on the previous year (£1,074.79 in 2023), reflecting the similar reduction in donations.

Grants

No grants were requested from the Badger Trust in 2024.

Subscriptions

Members' subscriptions totaled £834.11 in 2024, up £102.11 (14%) on the previous year (£732.00 in 2023).

Donations

Total donations in 2024 were £5,260.24, down £4,460.97 (46%) on the previous year (£9,721.21 in 2023).

Notes on expenditure

Trading costs

Total trading costs in 2024 were £1,236.84, up £992.41 (406%) compared to just £244.43 in 2023, reflecting a major re-stocking of items to sell and increased participation at fund-raising events.

UK Land – Hutchcomb's Copse

There was no major expenditure on management of Hutchcomb's Copse woodland in 2024. Just £343.90 was spent this year, down £1,000.10 (74%) on 2023 when £1,344.00 was spent on a Baseline Ecological Survey.

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees' Annual Report 2024 to 2025

Loan repayments for the Hutchcomb's Copse woodland purchase were exactly the same as the previous year at £6,500.

As of 31st December 2024, exactly half of the £30,000 loan had been repaid leaving £15,000 outstanding.

The three year loan was to be repaid by 15th July 2025.

Interest on the loan was paid monthly to the lenders at the agreed rate of 2.5%.

Total interest payments were £482.94, down £334.67 (41%) on the previous year (£817.61 in 2023) due to a steady reduction in the outstanding loan principal to be repaid.

General Administration

Total general administration, including insurance and website fee, in 2024 cost £2,154.84, up £145.95 (7%) on the previous year (£2,008.89 in 2023). However, this includes the cost of hosting a scientific meeting in Oxford in November (room hire, catering and honoraria) which was funded entirely from the SAD badger campaign donations.

Donations

Donations are made to local wildlife hospitals to partly cover the costs of treating or humanely euthanising badgers recovered by our rescue team. These totalled £525 in 2024, up £210 (67%) on the previous year (£315 in 2023).

Unspent grants

A major outward payment was the return of an unused Badger Trust grant of £1,500. This had been received in 2023 to help pay for a public debate with Oxford University academics regarding their claimed efficacy of badger culling in reducing Bovine TB in cattle herds. Despite a vigorous OBG campaign (SAD), the academics declined to engage so the grant was returned.

Other expenditure

No further equipment was required for badger rescues.

Total vaccination expenditure in 2024 was £2,750.78, down £1,099.84 (29%) on the previous year (£3,850.62 in 2023) reflecting a carry over of some equipment from the previous year, and allowing team members to be partially recompensed for their travel expenses.

Financial reserves policy

The trustees refer to applicable Charity Commission requirements and Guidance in setting the charities financial reserves policy. The trustees aim to hold adequate reserve funding to meet unforeseen or new contingencies; to maintain a good cash flow; known operating commitments; and be able to close down in good order should the charity become financially unsustainable.

The charity reserves are in cash and cash deposits. They arise from the accumulated surpluses of members' subscriptions, donations and grants over expenditure. They also include surpluses accumulated by the previous voluntary group which were transferred to the charity on 09 December 2019. They are unrestricted and freely available to support any of the charities activities and expenses.

Our policy is to try and maintain reserves sufficient to cover one year's typical expenditure.

Anything over and above this will be kept as a general contingency. This policy, and the level of reserves held by the charity is reviewed annually.

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees' Annual Report 2024 to 2025

Expenditure in 2024 was £15,719.30, comparable with £15,330.55 in 2023.(Up 2.5%) Expenditure in 2025 is expected to be less as the Vaccination Programme comes to an end.

As of 31st December 2024, total reserves carried forward were £8,184.03.

General running costs in 2025 are expected to be between £2K and £3K, with an additional £2K spent on badger rescue and rehabilitation.

The Trustees regard reserves as sufficient, however significantly increased donations and fundraising will be necessary to clear the unsecured loan for Hutchcomb's Copse.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

The charity has no funds which are materially in deficit.

Statutory statements on liabilities

The trustees declare that:

- The charity has given no guarantees where potential liability under the guarantee is outstanding at the date of this statement (*eg*: any outstanding/ongoing contract or legal undertaking to buy or provide specific services); and
- The charity has no debt outstanding at the date of this statement which is owed by the CIO and which is secured by an express charge on any assets of the CIO (*eg*: a mortgage on property owned by the charity).

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees’ Annual Report 2024 to 2025

Statement of accounts 01/01/24 to 31/12/24

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees’ Annual Report 2024 to 2025

OXFORDSHIRE BADGER GROUP (OBG) Receipts & Payments Accounts for year ended 31/12/2024	01/01/2023 TO 31/12/2023	01/01/2024 TO 31/12/2024
<u>INCOME</u>		
Trading activities		
Sale of goods	812.21	1,835.96
Sale of redundant radios	196.96	-
Bank interest	0	0.26
Gift Aid		
Gift Aid claimed from HMRC	882.59	0
Gift Aid collected by PayPal	1,074.79	520.56
From other charities		
Badger Trust grants	3,462.00	0
Other sources		
Members’ subscriptions	732.00	834.11
Donations (unspecified)	1,728.66	1,511.88
Donations for vaccination & rescue	3,986.00	1,649.31
Donations for Education & Outreach	60.00	0
Donations for SAD badgers campaign	1,080.00	10.00
Badger sett surveys	0	60.00
Donations for Hutchcomb’s Copse	2,866.55	2,089.05
TOTAL GROSS INCOME	16,881.76	8,511.13
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Trading Costs		
Purchases of stock for sale	107.15	1,137.94
Stall fees	130.00	80.00
Postage	7.28	18.90
UK Land		
Woodland management	1,344.00	343.90
Loan interest payments	817.61	482.94
Loan repayments	6,500.00	6,500.00
General administration		
Insurance	1,565.29	787.94
Website fee	0	244.00
Land Registry fees	23.94	0
Amazon Prime fees	0	9.98
Ebay fees	0	15.38
PayPal fees	110.46	41.08
SumUp fees	7.46	13.18
Office supplies	141.74	84.62
Venue hire/catering for events	160.00	542.32
Books	0	102.39
Badger suit cleaning	-	63.95
Honorarium for speaker	0	250.00

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees’ Annual Report 2024 to 2025

Donations made		
Badger Trust levy & donation	250.00	225.00
Repayment of unused Badger Trust grant	0	1,500.00
Wildlife hospitals/other groups	315.00	525.00
Other expenditure		
Equipment for badger rescues	0	0
Equipment for vaccination	3,645.62	1,289.84
Travel expenses for vaccination team	0	1,364.94
Vaccination training & mask fitting	205.00	96.00
TOTAL GROSS EXPENDITURE	15,330.55	15,719.30
Net income/(expenditure)	1,551.21	(7,208.17)
Bank balance at end of year	15,356.78	8,148.61
Cash float	30.06	35.42
Richard Tilley, OBG Treasurer, 19/10/2025		

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31st December 2024

Fixed assets

Hutchcomb’s Copse woodland £25,000.00

Current assets

Co-Op Bank account £8,148.61

Cash float £35.42

Net assets £33,184.03

The funds of the charity:

Fixed assets fund £25,000.00

Income funds £8,184.03

Total funds £33,184.03

Richard Tilley, Treasurer and Trustee, 19 Oct 2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
OXFORDSHIRE BADGER GROUP

No (if any)
1186850

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01/01/2024

To

Period end date
31/12/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Members' Subscriptions	834	-	-	834	732
Donations	5,260	-	-	5,260	9,721
Grants	-	-	-	-	3,462
Sales	1,836	-	-	1,836	1,009
Gift Aid	521	-	-	521	1,957
Professional Services	60	-	-	60	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	8,511	-	-	8,511	16,881
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	8,511	-	-	8,511	16,881
A3 Payments					
Insurance and Website	1,032	-	-	1,032	1,565
Badger Trust levy and donation	225	-	-	225	250
Repayment of unused grant	1,500	-	-	1,500	-
Donations to wildlife hospitals	525	-	-	525	315
Hall & stall hire & office supplies	726	-	-	726	439
Books	103	-	-	103	-
Cleaning	64	-	-	64	-
PayPal, SumUp & other online fees	80	-	-	80	118
Equipment for badger vaccination	1,290	-	-	1,290	3,646
Training for vaccination/mask fitting	96	-	-	96	205
Travel expenses and speaker costs	1,615	-	-	1,615	-
Purchase of stock for sale	1,138	-	-	1,138	107
Land registry fees	-	-	-	-	24
Woodland Management	344	-	-	344	1,344
Loan interest	483	-	-	483	818
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	9,221	-	-	9,221	8,831
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Loan repayments	6,500	-	-	6,500	6,500
Sub total	6,500	-	-	6,500	6,500
Total payments	15,721	-	-	15,721	15,331
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 7,210	-	-	- 7,210	1,550
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	8,184	-	-	8,184	15,387

Section B Statement of Financial Position

Categories

B1 Cash funds

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
Bank accounts	8,149	-	-
Cash	35	-	-
	-	-	-
Total cash funds	8,184	-	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Hutchcomb's Copse woodland	OBG	25,000	25,000
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
Outstanding loan for purchase of Hutchcomb's Copse woodland	OBG	15,000	15 July 2025
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	RICHARD TILLEY	19/10/2025

Accounts

Oxfordshire Badger Group

Registered Charity (England and Wales) 1186850



Annual Report

01st January 2024 to 31st July 2025

Financial Statement

for the year ended 31st Dec 2024

**Approved by the Members and Trustees on
25th October 2025 and signed on their behalf by :**

Linda Ward

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Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees’ Annual Report 2024 to 2025

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Reference and administrative details

Charity name:	Oxfordshire Badger Group
Type of charity:	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with voting members
Registration details	Registered with the Charity Commission on 9 th December 2019 The charity is registered with HM Revenue and Customs
Registration Number	Registered Charity in England and Wales number: 1186850
Charity address:	29 Webbs Way, Kidlington, OX5 2EW
Trustees who manage the charity	Julia Hammett (Chair)
	Richard Tilley (Treasurer)
	Linda Ward (Secretary)
	Eileen Anderson (Education and Outreach)
Banks	The Co-operative Bank, P O Box 250, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT (primary) PayPal (Europe) S.à r.l. et Cie, S.C.A. 22-24 Boulevard Royal L-2449 Luxembourg
Public Liability	Zurich insurance, The Zurich Centre, 3000 Parkway, Whiteley, Fareham, Hampshire PO15 7JZ

Structure, governance, and management

Type of governing document

Constitution: Based on the Charity Commission model governing document for a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with voting members. Nothing in this constitution shall authorise an application of the property of the CIO for the purposes which are not charitable in accordance with section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

Charitable objects

As defined in our Constitution (Governing Document) the charity’s objects are:

1. To promote, for the public benefit, the conservation and protection of badgers, their setts and habitats in Oxfordshire and elsewhere; and
2. To advance the education of the public on the ecology, behaviour and protected status of badgers, their setts and habitats.

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees’ Annual Report 2024 to 2025

Trustees, committee, and organisational approach

Our Constitution specifies that there must be at least 3 charity trustees to a maximum of 12. The Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are ex officio charity trustees.

The trustees during the period of this report were: Julia Hammett (Chair), Richard Tilley (Treasurer), Linda Ward (Secretary) and Eileen Anderson (Education and Outreach). Members confirmed these appointments at our third Annual General Meeting (AGM) held 12th October 2024.

The trustee’s have formally delegated responsibility for day-to-day operational decision making to a committee of volunteers. Late breaking news: Members resolved to accept the committee terms of reference at the AGM held 25th October 2025 and these will supplement the constitution.

The Charity is seeking to recruit additional trustees and committee members. In appointing an additional or replacement trustee, due consideration will be given to ensuring that the trustees have, between them, the skills and experience necessary to manage the charity effectively and in accordance with charity law. Similar considerations apply to committee membership.

Oxfordshire Badger Group has no paid staff and is run entirely on a volunteer basis. Members have the option to volunteer to take part in various organised activities or may simply support our work via their membership fees¹.

Statutory declaration of charitable activities

The trustees of Oxfordshire Badger Group confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in deciding which activities the charity should undertake.

Trustees Report

Oxfordshire Badger Group (OBG) is a small wildlife welfare charity which promotes the conservation and protection of badgers, their setts and habitats in Oxfordshire and beyond. We are funded entirely by public donations and grants. The charity has no paid staff.

This is our fifth annual trustees report since becoming a registered charity in December 2019. It covers the period 1st January 2024 to 31th July 2025. It describes how our group has continued to meet the charities objectives during this time. OBG is engaged in a wide range of activities including badger rescue and welfare; the study of badgers and record keeping; public education and awareness raising. We also take part in planning consultations, provide an advisory service to people with badger problems and encourage the reporting of wildlife crime.

Our badger vaccination programme has now ended after seven years. This work was successful in protecting badgers from bovine TB, offered landowners a humane alternative to culling and raised public awareness of the extent of culling in the county. It also built a strong team of committed volunteers. We hope to redirect their energy and organisation to grow our other charity activities.

During 2024 and carrying on into 2025, our Group has made a major contribution to national efforts to end the badger cull. Looking back at our 52,000 signature petition and our persistent ‘badgering’ of Oxford University scientists shows how much a small group like ours can achieve with determination and commitment.

¹ Membership of the charity costs £12 per year per household (or £6 concessionary rate)

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees' Annual Report 2024 to 2025

Hutchcomb's Copse continues to be an absolute jewel. We held a very successful open day for both neighbours and members in June 2024. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the tour of the wood and many commented how secluded and unspoiled it is. We're committed to opening the wood in a controlled way and have successfully hosted a very enthusiastic Scout work party and a gathering of would be poets along with other events ! We now have an agreed management plan and are putting together a substantial work list. Raising the funds to completely secure the land is a top priority for the next 12 months.

Our education and outreach programme is another joy for all concerned especially when we get to meet young school children who hopefully will become wildlife protectors of the future.

Financially the Group remains relatively healthy despite a significant reduction in donations compared with 2023. In part, this reflects the closure of our vaccination crowdfunder as this project began to draw to a close.

Our work for badgers is for the public good, but we also want to 'give back' to our volunteers. We encourage people to play an active role and to give as much or as little time to volunteering as they feel able.

We thank all our wonderful volunteers who give their time and experience freely to help badgers. A special shout out for our tireless committee members who drive our activities along and do so much to mentor and train others. We thank everyone who has donated to allow our work to continue.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Eileen Anderson, Julia Hammett, Richard Tilley and Linda Ward (Trustees)

Activities and achievements – our officers reports

Secretary and membership

At the time of reporting, we have 407 subscribers to our mailing list, just 7 more the last report. Of these, 89 are paid up members and 6 are honorary members. Membership numbers remain stable.

1. The membership fee is fixed at £12 per household per year on a monthly basis.
2. A concessionary membership fee of £6 per household is available to students and people on low income.
3. OBG pays £2 of the membership fee to the Badger Trust. This entitles members to attend Badger Trust training events and Annual General Meetings.
4. Members may join in a variety of volunteer roles.
5. We provide mentoring / training and have produced protocols and guidelines for people taking part in our core 'field based' volunteer activities.
6. Our 'social' activities are open to all and usually advertised via our free mailing list.

Volunteers needed !

Oxfordshire Badger Group (OBG) is run entirely by volunteers. As you will see from this report, we work to protect badgers and their habitats in many ways, with opportunities to take part in both field and office based work. Both are equally vital to the continued success of the Group. If you have any time or expertise to offer, we'd love to hear from you.

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Badger records

Oxfordshire Badger Group (OBG) holds secure records of reported deaths, live sightings and setts dating back over five decades. This highly sensitive, confidential information is key to delivering our crucial rescue work and underpins all our activities.

Professional requests for data and fees received:

We maintain protected records and offer a professional, chargeable data search service to vetted agencies that can prove that they have a legitimate reason to require information about the presence of badgers in a specific area.

Oxfordshire Badger Group welcomes the opportunity to liaise with developers and Local Authorities to share expertise in order to inform and improve development plans that embrace rather than exclude badgers from the environment. We continue to have a mutual data sharing agreement with the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) to facilitate connection between agencies and ensure that badgers and their habitats are considered and protected.

Details of data searches requested and provided in 2024 and 2025:

OBG will provide sett and RTC records on request to bona fide ecologists. We request a donation to cover our costs based on the size of the area of search, which determines workload.

January – December 2024:

Feb 2024: Data request received, correspondence entered into but the ecological consultant did not respond to take the data search further.

Feb 2024: Data request received and correspondence entered into. A data search and report was provided by OBG in April 2024. Invoice sent for £60.00 donation.

May 2024: Data request received and correspondence entered into. A data search and report was provided by OBG in June 2024. Invoice sent for £294.00 donation.

Dec 2024: Data request received and correspondence entered into. A data search and report was provided by OBG on 16 Dec 2024. Information provided for a £60.00 donation, which was chased up and settled in May 2025.

January – end July 2025:

May 2025: Data request received and correspondence entered into. A data search and report was provided by OBG on 26/05/25. Invoice sent for £60.00 donation, which was received on 27/05/25.

Aug 2025: Data request received and correspondence entered into. A data search and report was provided by OBG on 04/08/25. Invoice sent for £60.00 donation, which was received on 05/08/25.

Dead badger reports received:

It is a sad fact that the only badgers that most people see are dead at the side of the road. Their deaths, conversely, are positive evidence that there are populations of badgers close by. An increasing number of volunteers and members of the public report those sightings to us and we greatly appreciate their time and effort. They all contribute to our record of badgers' lives and deaths across our county.

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A reminder about Road Traffic Collision checks:

A core group of OBG members from across the county volunteer to check dead badgers if safe to do so. They report back on the animal’s health and arrange rescue if viable. Dead badgers are checked for gender and lactation status in case there may be vulnerable cubs nearby that require our assistance. The months marked with * on the table below indicate when this activity takes place.

The results of the 2021- 2022 Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) project to ascertain the incidence of Bovine Tb in the wild badger population, which OBG participated in, are still yet to be published to our knowledge.

Table 1: Total number of badgers reported dead 2017 to 2025

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 so far
Deaths	95	161	165	150	287	271	210	245	203

January – December 2024

245 dead badgers were reported between 1st January 2024 and the end of December 2024. This is an increase to the 210 recorded in 2024 (see Table 1).

Table 2: Deaths recorded per month in 2024

Season/ Year	Autumn 2023	Winter 2023/24	Spring 2024	Summer 2024	Autumn 2024	Winter 2024/25
	Sept - 17	Dec - 5	Mar* - 59	Jun - 16	Sept - 15	Dec - 1
	Oct - 9	Jan* - 11	Apr* - 30	Jul - 14	Oct - 20	Jan - 11
	Nov – 6	Feb* - 35	May* - 24	Aug - 16	Nov - 4	Feb - 32
Total	32	51	113	46	39	34

Almost all of the dead badgers reported in 2024 were seen on or at the side of roads. One body raised concerns and was reported to Thames Valley Police by the finder. No further action was reported. Four badgers were found dead close to their setts with no indication of anything other than natural causes. Footage from a trail camera happened to catch the tragic but natural death of a badger on emergence from their sett.

Hotspots for deaths on the county’s roads in 2024:

A34: 21 deaths reported along the route through Oxfordshire with many deaths on the stretch between Wytham and South Hinksey. 12 more deaths than in 2023.

A40: 21 deaths reported along the road’s length with the usual hotspots around Wheatley and the Northern Bypass. Two more deaths than in 2023.

A420: 19 deaths reported along its length in Oxfordshire with a cluster of deaths around Cumnor and Dean Court. An increase of 5 deaths on 2023.

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A4074: 15 deaths again along the road to the Berkshire border, with clusters of deaths recorded around Clifton Hampden. Same total as in 2023.

A4260: 9 deaths recorded, several around Deddington, and notably more than in previous years.

A361: 8 deaths recorded spread along the route.

A44: 6 deaths reported this year, fewer than in 2023.

Other hotspots continued to claim lives: the A415, A417 and A4130 around Didcot.

January to September 2025

203 dead badgers have been reported between 1st January and the end of August 2025. During the same period last year, 205 dead badgers were recorded.

Table 3: Deaths recorded per month in 2025

Month	Jan*	Feb*	March*	April*	May*	June*	July	Aug
No. of deaths	11	32	39	38	23	10	28	22

* = Period when dead badgers are checked for gender and lactation status.

Hotspots for deaths on the county’s roads in first seven months of 2025:

A420 - 29 deaths reported

A40 – 18 deaths reported

A34 – 11 deaths reported

A316 and A4130 - both saw 10 deaths reported on each

A4260 - 9 deaths reported

A4074 and A44 – both saw 5 deaths reported on each

Reflection:

The fluctuation in the number of reported dead badgers over the past eight years reflects a variety of factors. Some negative: the ongoing badger cull bites into most of our county and all open land is vulnerable to being built on as fields disappear into new housing, solar farms, warehousing and speculative laboratory facilities. But there are some positives: there is increased awareness amongst the public to report a dead badger, and as our membership grows our new members are encouraged to play an active part by reporting any badgers that they see to our dedicated What’sApp group. Proof of death is proof of life - there are still populations of badgers existing across the whole county.

Sett records:

Oxfordshire Badger Group holds details of setts that began to be recorded over fifty years ago. Our confidential archive reveals stories of the movements of badgers across the county: setts

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abandoned, destroyed or otherwise lost; new setts excavated, unknown setts discovered and ancient setts still in active, healthy use.

Reports of new setts come in from a variety of sources: members of the public, OBG members who survey areas of interest to them or join up on the sett surveying days organized throughout the winter. Also from rescue call-outs to injured or ill badgers and from visits by OBG to concerned members of the public who seek advice about living with badgers. The work of our expert volunteers will often uncover badger setts in new areas. Methodical surveying of private land signed up to our vaccination program provided highly confidential records that are held separately and excluded from data sharing agreements or professional data searches.

Updates on previously recorded setts are very welcome as they provide a history of the sett and its health over a period of years, and sometimes several decades.

My sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed their time, effort and reports to our records. Emails can be sent to the dedicated address: settrecords.oxonbadgergroup@gmail.com

January – December 2024

A total of 58 new sett reports were added to the OBG records in 2024, along with several updates to older records.

January – end July 2025

A further 40+ new and updated sett reports have so far been recorded during the first half of 2025 bringing the total number of record entries to over 1930.

Sightings of live badgers

We are genuinely delighted to receive reports from people who have been lucky to catch sight of badgers living alongside them. During 2024 and 2025 we've heard from several people whose doorbell or trail camera has revealed that unfamiliar noises and moved objects have been caused by black and white-faced visitors. The residents of one road have given their local boar badger a name and often share footage of his foraging with us.

A few people out walking or cycling have encountered badgers face-to-foot. It's especially likely in late spring when young cubs emerge from the sett to explore their surroundings. They may be out in daylight and on footpaths or – as in the case of a family local to me – curled up fast asleep in the compost heap of a quiet garden!

January – December 2024

17 separate live sightings of one or more badgers together.

January – end August 2025

11 separate live sightings of one or more badgers together.

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Badger vaccination project 2019-2025



Oxfordshire Badger Group has been working with farmers, landowners, volunteers, and the public to prevent the spread of bovine tuberculosis by providing treatment, under licence, in the form of vaccination to badgers in Oxfordshire. Bovine tuberculosis is a disease in cattle that has spread into the wildlife population, including badgers.

Through badger vaccination, we aimed to reduce the transmission and spread of the disease in the badger population and raise awareness that so much of Oxfordshire and England is within a cull zone. Our programme offered a humane and equally effective alternative to culling badgers. It has been hugely popular and very successful.

The 2024 season was the sixth year of our project. Along with our dedicated, experienced volunteers who have been with us in previous years, we recruited a

small number of new volunteers at the beginning of the season, who proved invaluable. After finishing the four-year project on 11 sites last year, we were able to take on a large new farm. This 7.5 square km farm proved to have several setts on and around the outskirts of the land, and over the vaccination weekend, we vaccinated 30 badgers.

Defra reduced the price of the vaccine from £36 to £8 per vial for the 2024 season. This left an excess in our planned budget, and after careful discussion with the committee, we decided to use the excess to pay towards travel costs for the vaccination volunteers.

We had two visits from Natural England during the season. Four trappers and one vaccinator were successfully compliance audited. By the end of the 2024 season we had completed the scheduled four-year projects on another nine sites.

The 2025 season was the seventh and final year of our badger vaccination project. The group completed our commitments with the final 3 farms. It was a hard decision to wrap up the project, but there were many reasons to do so. These included:

- Lack of funding from Defra
- The end of our agreements with current farms
- Many farmers around Oxfordshire have made their decision to cull or not
- Slowing down of fundraising and donations
- Key volunteers having other commitments

Closure: The vaccination equipment purchased for the project, using money from grants and donations, has been distributed to another volunteer-led vaccination project.

Each outside organisation, such as our prescribing veterinary team and on-call support vet, as well as our landowners, has been thanked.

Defra and Natural England have been notified that the project has ceased.

We thank each and every volunteer, past and present for all the hard work and commitment that you have all put in. Thanks also to all our kind donors who made the project possible.

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Badger rescue and welfare



2025 was a quiet year for rescues.

We are not sure whether to attribute it to a smaller number of badgers needing rescue, or members of the public contacting other rescue organisations rather than Oxfordshire Badger Group, or a reduction in badger populations.

In February, we attended a rescue of a badger in a compost bin. A subsequent X-ray found a tumour on his leg, and so he was euthanised.

At the beginning of March, we picked up a badly injured badger that had been hit by a car. He died shortly after arriving at Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue.

In April, a joint rescue with Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue of a badger cub separated from her family. The cub made a full recovery and is due to be released this autumn together with five other badger cubs from various other rescues.

In May, a badger cub was found with a jam jar on its head. This time, rescued by Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue and with a nearby sett located. After a couple of weeks of treatment, she was ready to go back home. The first night we tried, we had no contact from any adults, but the cub was very excited. After seeking further advice, we released her at the sett hole the cub seemed most excited about. She disappeared down the sett very quickly.

In July, we rescued a large badger after it had been hit by a car. Unfortunately, he died at Tiggywinkles a few days later of pneumonia.

The most recent rescue was a badger making a huge amount of noise in a garage. After a difficult rescue, the badger was taken to Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue, but he died under general anaesthetic.

Lastly, we received a report of an injured badger crawling around about on the side of a road. After several hours of searching, the badger was never found.

Donations have been sent to relevant wildlife hospitals towards the care of the badgers.

A huge thank you to all those on the rescue teams.

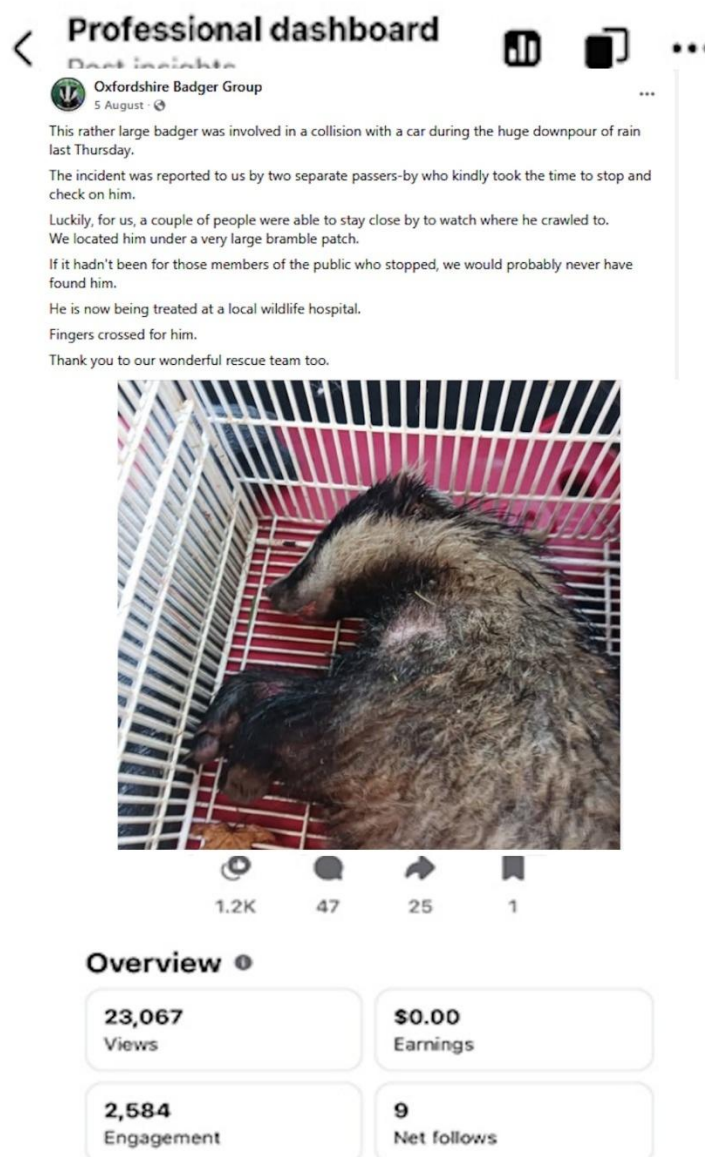
We have a few new members to the rescue team, so we plan to run a rescue training refresher course over the winter.

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Social media report

The Facebook page has 1875 followers and continues to do well. Posts often have engagement with followers. The highest reaching posts are usually around rescue. Our one off unique posts do quite well whereas sharing other people's posts are not so popular. The same posts are not doing so well on X, probably since many groups like the Badger Trust leaving and other animal advocates are leaving the platform.

This recent rescue post on Facebook received a huge reach at 1.2k views, 47 comments and 25 shares. On the picture below you can see it was viewed 23,000 times. This post only had 6 retweets and 26 likes on X.



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This post of the erythristric badger caught peoples imagination and was even bigger with 54,603 views. The conversations people had on it helped it reach a wider audience, this also had a good reach on X with 61 retweets and 282 likes.

A screenshot of a YouTube post from the 'Oxfordshire Badger Group' channel, dated 9 August. The video shows a white badger cub walking through a field of tall grass and mud. The video player interface includes a temperature of 50 °F and a timestamp of 03/08/2025 05:42:59. Below the video, the 'Overview' section displays statistics: 54,603 Views, \$0.00 Earnings, 4,691 Engagement, and 21 Net follows. The 'Views' section shows a total of 54,603 views. The bottom navigation bar of the YouTube app is visible.

[both posts shared with permission]

We were also able to share lots of videos of many animals having a drink in the very hot weather and encouraged people to leave bowls of water out for wildlife. We also shared some vaccination videos both subjects did well being viewed over 200 times.

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Badger and other wildlife crime

Our Group liaises with the police, Badger Trust, RSPCA and members of the public to help identify and report wildlife crime. We aim to ensure that all volunteers and members are suitably trained and attend sessions led by Craig Fellowes, the Badger Trust Crime officer. During 2025, two members were able to attend the Trust's excellent advanced crime training course which leads toward Expert witness training.

To reiterate, all crimes to badgers should be reported to the police online or via 101. Please make sure you get a crime number and then send all these details to the Badger Trust (BT). Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to report crime to us or to BT. It is sad for the badgers but by recording all the statistics it really paints a picture of what badgers in Oxfordshire are facing.

Education and Outreach Report



We visited two different schools in the early winter of 2024. In the first, where a repeat visit was required due to the number of children in Reception year, we spent time talking about how badgers live, introduced our taxidermy badger and badger skull, and read a story about Tidy Pete the Badger. We took time to talk about some of the features of how we live and how these differ from badgers. The lack of a front door in badger homes caught the attention of the children! In this school we were able to see artwork the children created after our visit the previous year with a row of paintings of Tidy Pete displayed in the classroom.

The second school was able to give us a whole afternoon to work with the children and we were able to expand our slide presentation to include photos and sounds of other animals that badgers might meet as they go out and about in the night, exploring the term 'nocturnal.' We read a story, sang a song, and then played a 'let's go foraging like badgers' game in small groups. We provided the children with items in paper bags, such that badgers might come across during their nightly foraging, shaking the bags, feeling them, listening to the noises, opening, and sniffing the contents and guessing their identity. We included items such as leaves, pinecones, moss, a horseshoe, and sheep's wool. All children receive an OBG badger sticker, and we leave the storybook with them for their library.

As we approached Christmas, we were delighted to expand our adult outreach activities by inviting members, friends, and the local community to 'Mince Pies in the Copes.' We own a small private woodland and manage it as a wild place and nature reserve. Access is by invitation only and this occasion was one such and it was well attended and appreciated.



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Early in 2024 we spent an evening with local Sea Scout Cubs, and this led to them fund raising for us and then joining us in the Copse during March 2025. They were able to develop and learn new skills that helped them to achieve their badges, making bird boxes, planting 250 Bluebells 'in the green', creating two bug hotels, digging out two sets of earth steps, clearing fallen wood to make log piles , and generally clearing pathways.



Also, in March we trialled a new event, creative writing in the Copse. A small group joined us to enjoy the opportunity to create their own 'Words from the Wild Wood,' seated in a gazebo in the centre of the wood and exploring it for inspiration.

We hold a twice-yearly scything party, in this case in November and June, and the challenging work of reducing the growth in our glade is rewarded with chocolate cake and hot drinks!

So – if you have children attending an Oxfordshire Primary School, do let the school know that we offer an education and outreach programme, and give them our contact details – we would love to meet them. Our email address is: OBG@Oxonbadgergroup.org.uk

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Development and badgers

We have been kept busy with planning application enquiries, Local Plan consultations, as well as numerous site visits . We shared information on the draft Oxford Local Plan encouraging members to respond to ensure that some ecologically sensitive sites including Horse Field, Iffley are protected and not earmarked for development.

Development remains a huge threat to Oxfordshire's badgers and it seems things will get even worse. The Government's new planning Bill, Part 6 , would strip away 'The Protection of Badger's Act 1992', and allow developers to kill badgers legally if their setts are in the way of a planned development. A consultation took place over the summer about options for local council reorganisation. OBG encouraged supporters to raise concerns that the Greater Oxford Council option could result in development extending the City into much of the surrounding Green Belt.

These are some of the developments/ planning issues OBG have been involved with:

Landmead Solar Farm- damage under panels thought to be caused by badgers.

Botley Solar Farm- This could be the largest solar farm in Europe and cover 3,450 acres of land near Botley, Woodstock and Kidlington with devastating impact on ecology and biodiversity.

Aston Upthorpe- Plan to build on an undeveloped paddock, home to badger sett. OBG wrote to Planning Officer with our findings.

Radley Large Wood- OBG called in by local residents as risk to badger sett from tree clearing.

Spindleberry Nature Reserve , Blackbird Leys. 84 dwellings on playing fields adjacent to Nature Reserve had huge impact on the local wildlife and ecosystem. OBG worked with local residents and shared our concerns with Natural England to try to get the best mitigation for badgers

Grandpoint Nature Reserve – We carried out a site visit to see environmental impact of the City Council's plan to build new bridge.

Bicester- called out to check on plans for building work which would impact on badger paths.

Yarnells Hill- an ecologically rich site with established sett. Application rejected by the Vale planners but Inspector overrode this on appeal. New developers have now cleared much of land and closed the sett under license. OBG monitoring the situation.

The badger cull



Oxfordshire Badger Group has always strongly opposed the policy of culling badgers as part of the government's strategy for eradicating bovine TB. In 2020, the government issued licences to cull badgers in Oxfordshire for the first time. Since then, the cull zones have progressively expanded and now cover an estimated 60% of the county. In 2023 the first Oxfordshire cull zone completed a fourth year. The total killed in the 2023 cull was less than expected, however this was due to falling numbers of badgers resulting in much lower targets. Culling is able to reduce the badger population by 70% or more. Yet after ten years of culling there is no clear effect on the spread of bovine TB in cattle. Since August 2023 we have been campaigning to locally to considerable effect:

- To raise awareness that culling may drive badgers to local extinction across much of England
- To lobby decision makers in government to end the badger cull
- To persuade the Oxford University scientists responsible for the 'Randomised Badger Culling Trial (2006)' which provides the original scientific basis for culling – to accept that culling does not contribute to disease control in cattle.

As part of this campaign we have held silent 'SAD Badger' street events; taken to the streets of Oxford in badger costume and demonstrated outside key university buildings. Our petition "Oxford Scientists must Speak Out Against Badger Extermination" has approaching 52,000 signatures and is pivotal to our efforts. We have enjoyed excellent local media coverage.

We expected the new Labour government to end the badger cull which its general election manifesto for July 2024 called 'ineffective'. However, they have renewed cull licences for 2024 and 2025 and so our campaign continues.

Focus on the lack of scientific evidence for culling and the pivotal role played by Oxford University Scientists

We are uniquely placed to lobby and engage with the key scientists responsible for conducting the original Randomised Badger Culling Trial and subsequent research. Many are now influential in advising DEFRA and Ministers on policy for controlling bTB. During 2024 we kept a high profile. Highlights are on our website Cull pages at <https://www.oxonbadgergroup.org.uk/the-cull-1/>

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2024: A year of protest

The year started promisingly, with the publication of the Badger Trusts Report on Tackling bovine TB. However, our hopes were dashed in March when Defra launched a consultation on the introduction of “epidemiological culling” which would see the cull continue indefinitely.

In April we launched a petition on Change.org “Oxford Scientists Must Speak out against Badger Extermination” . This had excellent take up and in June we took part in ‘Badger Cull Action Week’ which helped drive our petition along.

We were able to enter into conversations with several of the key scientists but they were adamant that their research was unassailable and that it proved badgers play a measurable role in new herd breakdowns. Plus, they do not set government policy. Our view is that they have significant authority and as originators of the evidence for culling have a moral obligation to use it. Even if that means accepting new evidence that challenges their decades old work.

June saw a General Election called, with the Labour Party manifesto stating that the badger cull was ineffective. However, once in power they failed to take the obvious step of ending it, allowing culling to continue. Thankfully, the threat of epi-culling was dropped.

Meanwhile, the scientific evidence for culling was coming under intense scrutiny. In July, a new paper [“Absence of effects of widespread badger culling on tuberculosis in cattle”](#) was published which reported that the original RBCT results were not reproducible. When correctly analysed the data show that Badgers DO NOT play a significant role in spreading the disease to cattle and that the RBCT DOES NOT support the badger perturbation effect hypothesis.

Perhaps predictably, the lead RBCT author Professor Donnelly (now head of Oxford University Dept of Statistics) attempted to defend her original research by publishing two new papers. We organised a demonstration outside her Department in August where we presented our petition and an open letter in which we said *“Defend your science if you must; but understand that NOT to call for an end to the cull makes you directly responsible for this ongoing tragedy – one that YOU could easily help stop. Please join us in calling for an immediate end to the badger cull”*.



Our year of protest ended on a high note. On 18th November we hosted a scientific seminar in Oxford to discuss the scientific controversy. In the evening, Professor Paul Torgerson of the University of Zurich presented his work re-evaluating the RBCT. Our meeting report can be found via the link below.

We’d like to thank our scientific advisors, everyone who attended demonstrations, signed the petition and donated to keep this campaign “on the road”. So long as good people speak up and take action there is hope.

<https://www.oxonbadgergroup.org.uk/oxfordrbctmeetings18nov24/> (via the Cull menu).

Hutchcomb's Copse – three years on



Hutchcomb's Copse remains an unspoiled haven for wildlife but we have begun a 'light touch' management work. We maintain a natural (in places steep and difficult) narrow circular route around the Copse. We have held regular scything work parties (2-3 per year) to keep the 'glade' open by controlling the growth of bracken, nettles, thistles etc that are trying to take over the meadow.

We have agreed a management plan that includes succession planting and other works. Want to visit with us? Want to get involved in any work we do undertake (creating more log piles? Checking the reptile mats we have laid out? Maintaining the basic trail route?) – then do get in touch. Visit our dedicated website at <https://www.hutchcombs-copse.org.uk> and sign up for Copse news or email OBG@oxonbadgergroup.org.uk

Collaboration with other organisations

Oxfordshire Badger Group believes that collaboration is essential to deliver our charitable aims. We have established operating relationships with the following organisations.

The Badger Trust: OBG is a full member of the Badger Trust (registered charity 1111440). The Trust is the national umbrella organisation which represents and support around 60 local voluntary badger groups across England and Wales). OBG functions independently but in partnership with the Trust. This relationship provides access to expert advice, peer group support and mentoring; training; authoritative information (such as leaflets) and the opportunity to apply for Badger Trust grants. OBG supports relevant Badger Trust campaigns and helps disseminate information and calls for action to our members and followers.

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Other Badger Groups: We liaise with the Groups covering our neighbouring counties (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire and Wiltshire) on a regular operational basis. During the reporting period this has involved sharing resources - to cover badger call outs on the ‘overlapping’ county borders along with joint training and social events. We are part of the wider badger vaccination network and have benefited from training and mentoring along with regular news and best practice updates. We offer special thanks to the highly experienced Somerset, Derbyshire and Cornwall vaccination teams for their support.

The Conservation Volunteers local South Eastern group (TCV) registered charity in England (261009). OBG is a paid member of TCV. This gives us access to advice, support and funding opportunities. We are listed on their website and contribute to their regular newsletters. We also benefit from access to discounted insurance prices.

Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT): Our local wildlife Trust shares a keen interest in badger welfare.

Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC): We believe it is vital to maintain accurate environmental records capturing the diversity and threats to wild life in this area. We share information with Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) via a mutual data sharing agreement that respects the sensitivity of our data.

Wytham Woods Field Station, Oxford University Wildlife Conservation Research Unit: OBG is fortunate to have excellent working relationships with the ecologists running Badger Project at WildCRU: The “laboratory with leaves” at Wytham Woods. WildCRU’s Badger Project has collected a wealth of fundamental ecological data for over 30 years.

Wildlife rescue and Hospitals: Our rescue service captures badgers in need of care and take them to a suitable wildlife hospital. We work primarily with ‘local’ centres within striking distance of Oxfordshire – including The Nutkin Ward, Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue, Tiggywinkles and the Vale Wildlife Hospital.

RSPCA: The RSPCA is often contacted by members of the public and others concerned about badger issues, especially possible crime or badgers in need of rescue. Our charity liaises with the local officers.

Treasurer Report 2024

Basis of accounting

OBG's Financial and Reporting Year runs from 1st January to 31st December.

This Report covers our fifth year as a CIO charity, to 31st December 2024.

As in previous years, the accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

Gross income includes gross receipts via PayPal and SumUp.

Gross expenditure includes fees deducted by PayPal, SumUp, Amazon and eBay.

All receipts, including donations and grants, are accounted for when received.

Any income tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid is included when the money is received from HMRC or is paid to OBG via PayPalGiving on qualifying transactions.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from Corporation Tax as all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

Restricted Funds

All income, expenditure and balances in 2024 are Unrestricted.

Independent Examination of Accounts

As OBG's total gross income in 2024 of £8,511.13 is substantially less than the Charity Commission's threshold of £25,000 an independent examination is not required, unless requested by members at the AGM.

Income

All receipts, including donations and grants, are accounted for when received. Any income tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid is included when the money is received from HMRC or is paid to OBG by PayPal on qualifying transactions.

Total gross income in 2024 was £8,511.13, down £8,370.03 (50%) on the previous year (£16,881.76 in 2023). This reflects:

1. The absence of grants in 2024.
2. Reduced donations in 2024.
3. No 2024 Gift Aid received from HMRC until early 2025.

Expenditure

Total gross expenditure in 2024 was £15,719.30, up just £388.75 (2.5%) on the previous year (£15,330.55 in 2023)..

Net Expenditure

Net expenditure in 2024 was £7,208.17 compared to a net income of £1,551.21 in 2023.

Bank balance

At the end of 2024, total bank balance was £8,148.61, down £7,208.17 (47%) on the previous year (£15,356.78 in 2023). The small cash float of £35.42 is similar to last year.

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees' Annual Report 2024 to 2025

Notes on receipts

All sales, subscription and donation figures are gross, before the deduction of any fees by PayPal or SumUp.

Principal funding sources

The main funding sources for the 2024 financial year were:

- Donations from members and supporters
- Sale of goods
- Members subscriptions
- Volunteers' time and services free to the Group

Trading activities

Sale of goods for fundraising was stepped up in 2024 to £1,835.96, up £1,023.75 (126%) on the previous year (£812.21 in 2023).

Bank Interest

No interest accrued to OBG's Co-Op Community Directplus bank account.

A savings account was opened on 3/10/24 to earn interest on reserve funds. A very small amount of interest was accrued on 4/10/24.

Next interest will be due early April 2025

Gift Aid

No Gift Aid was received directly from HMRC in 2024, as the annual claim was not processed until early 2025.

Gift Aid collected via PayPal was £520.56 in 2024, down £554.23 (52%) on the previous year (£1,074.79 in 2023), reflecting the similar reduction in donations.

Grants

No grants were requested from the Badger Trust in 2024.

Subscriptions

Members' subscriptions totaled £834.11 in 2024, up £102.11 (14%) on the previous year (£732.00 in 2023).

Donations

Total donations in 2024 were £5,260.24, down £4,460.97 (46%) on the previous year (£9,721.21 in 2023).

Notes on expenditure

Trading costs

Total trading costs in 2024 were £1,236.84, up £992.41 (406%) compared to just £244.43 in 2023, reflecting a major re-stocking of items to sell and increased participation at fund-raising events.

UK Land – Hutchcomb's Copse

There was no major expenditure on management of Hutchcomb's Copse woodland in 2024. Just £343.90 was spent this year, down £1,000.10 (74%) on 2023 when £1,344.00 was spent on a Baseline Ecological Survey.

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees' Annual Report 2024 to 2025

Loan repayments for the Hutchcomb's Copse woodland purchase were exactly the same as the previous year at £6,500.

As of 31st December 2024, exactly half of the £30,000 loan had been repaid leaving £15,000 outstanding.

The three year loan was to be repaid by 15th July 2025.

Interest on the loan was paid monthly to the lenders at the agreed rate of 2.5%.

Total interest payments were £482.94, down £334.67 (41%) on the previous year (£817.61 in 2023) due to a steady reduction in the outstanding loan principal to be repaid.

General Administration

Total general administration, including insurance and website fee, in 2024 cost £2,154.84, up £145.95 (7%) on the previous year (£2,008.89 in 2023). However, this includes the cost of hosting a scientific meeting in Oxford in November (room hire, catering and honoraria) which was funded entirely from the SAD badger campaign donations.

Donations

Donations are made to local wildlife hospitals to partly cover the costs of treating or humanely euthanising badgers recovered by our rescue team. These totalled £525 in 2024, up £210 (67%) on the previous year (£315 in 2023).

Unspent grants

A major outward payment was the return of an unused Badger Trust grant of £1,500. This had been received in 2023 to help pay for a public debate with Oxford University academics regarding their claimed efficacy of badger culling in reducing Bovine TB in cattle herds. Despite a vigorous OBG campaign (SAD), the academics declined to engage so the grant was returned.

Other expenditure

No further equipment was required for badger rescues.

Total vaccination expenditure in 2024 was £2,750.78, down £1,099.84 (29%) on the previous year (£3,850.62 in 2023) reflecting a carry over of some equipment from the previous year, and allowing team members to be partially recompensed for their travel expenses.

Financial reserves policy

The trustees refer to applicable Charity Commission requirements and Guidance in setting the charities financial reserves policy. The trustees aim to hold adequate reserve funding to meet unforeseen or new contingencies; to maintain a good cash flow; known operating commitments; and be able to close down in good order should the charity become financially unsustainable.

The charity reserves are in cash and cash deposits. They arise from the accumulated surpluses of members' subscriptions, donations and grants over expenditure. They also include surpluses accumulated by the previous voluntary group which were transferred to the charity on 09 December 2019. They are unrestricted and freely available to support any of the charities activities and expenses.

Our policy is to try and maintain reserves sufficient to cover one year's typical expenditure.

Anything over and above this will be kept as a general contingency. This policy, and the level of reserves held by the charity is reviewed annually.

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees' Annual Report 2024 to 2025

Expenditure in 2024 was £15,719.30, comparable with £15,330.55 in 2023. (Up 2.5%) Expenditure in 2025 is expected to be less as the Vaccination Programme comes to an end.

As of 31st December 2024, total reserves carried forward were £8,184.03.

General running costs in 2025 are expected to be between £2K and £3K, with an additional £2K spent on badger rescue and rehabilitation.

The Trustees regard reserves as sufficient, however significantly increased donations and fundraising will be necessary to clear the unsecured loan for Hutchcomb's Copse.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

The charity has no funds which are materially in deficit.

Statutory statements on liabilities

The trustees declare that:

- The charity has given no guarantees where potential liability under the guarantee is outstanding at the date of this statement (*eg*: any outstanding/ongoing contract or legal undertaking to buy or provide specific services); and
- The charity has no debt outstanding at the date of this statement which is owed by the CIO and which is secured by an express charge on any assets of the CIO (*eg*: a mortgage on property owned by the charity).

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees’ Annual Report 2024 to 2025

Statement of accounts 01/01/24 to 31/12/24

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees’ Annual Report 2024 to 2025

OXFORDSHIRE BADGER GROUP (OBG) Receipts & Payments Accounts for year ended 31/12/2024	01/01/2023 TO 31/12/2023	01/01/2024 TO 31/12/2024
<u>INCOME</u>		
Trading activities		
Sale of goods	812.21	1,835.96
Sale of redundant radios	196.96	-
Bank interest	0	0.26
Gift Aid		
Gift Aid claimed from HMRC	882.59	0
Gift Aid collected by PayPal	1,074.79	520.56
From other charities		
Badger Trust grants	3,462.00	0
Other sources		
Members’ subscriptions	732.00	834.11
Donations (unspecified)	1,728.66	1,511.88
Donations for vaccination & rescue	3,986.00	1,649.31
Donations for Education & Outreach	60.00	0
Donations for SAD badgers campaign	1,080.00	10.00
Badger sett surveys	0	60.00
Donations for Hutchcomb’s Copse	2,866.55	2,089.05
TOTAL GROSS INCOME	16,881.76	8,511.13
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Trading Costs		
Purchases of stock for sale	107.15	1,137.94
Stall fees	130.00	80.00
Postage	7.28	18.90
UK Land		
Woodland management	1,344.00	343.90
Loan interest payments	817.61	482.94
Loan repayments	6,500.00	6,500.00
General administration		
Insurance	1,565.29	787.94
Website fee	0	244.00
Land Registry fees	23.94	0
Amazon Prime fees	0	9.98
Ebay fees	0	15.38
PayPal fees	110.46	41.08
SumUp fees	7.46	13.18
Office supplies	141.74	84.62
Venue hire/catering for events	160.00	542.32
Books	0	102.39
Badger suit cleaning	-	63.95
Honorarium for speaker	0	250.00

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees’ Annual Report 2024 to 2025

Donations made		
Badger Trust levy & donation	250.00	225.00
Repayment of unused Badger Trust grant	0	1,500.00
Wildlife hospitals/other groups	315.00	525.00
Other expenditure		
Equipment for badger rescues	0	0
Equipment for vaccination	3,645.62	1,289.84
Travel expenses for vaccination team	0	1,364.94
Vaccination training & mask fitting	205.00	96.00
TOTAL GROSS EXPENDITURE	15,330.55	15,719.30
Net income/(expenditure)	1,551.21	(7,208.17)
Bank balance at end of year	15,356.78	8,148.61
Cash float	30.06	35.42
Richard Tilley, OBG Treasurer, 19/10/2025		

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31st December 2024

Fixed assets

Hutchcomb’s Copse woodland £25,000.00

Current assets

Co-Op Bank account £8,148.61

Cash float £35.42

Net assets £33,184.03

The funds of the charity:

Fixed assets fund £25,000.00

Income funds £8,184.03

Total funds £33,184.03

Richard Tilley, Treasurer and Trustee, 19 Oct 2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
OXFORDSHIRE BADGER GROUP

No (if any)
1186850

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01/01/2024

To

Period end date
31/12/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Members' Subscriptions	834	-	-	834	732
Donations	5,260	-	-	5,260	9,721
Grants	-	-	-	-	3,462
Sales	1,836	-	-	1,836	1,009
Gift Aid	521	-	-	521	1,957
Professional Services	60	-	-	60	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	8,511	-	-	8,511	16,881
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	8,511	-	-	8,511	16,881
A3 Payments					
Insurance and Website	1,032	-	-	1,032	1,565
Badger Trust levy and donation	225	-	-	225	250
Repayment of unused grant	1,500	-	-	1,500	-
Donations to wildlife hospitals	525	-	-	525	315
Hall & stall hire & office supplies	726	-	-	726	439
Books	103	-	-	103	-
Cleaning	64	-	-	64	-
PayPal, SumUp & other online fees	80	-	-	80	118
Equipment for badger vaccination	1,290	-	-	1,290	3,646
Training for vaccination/mask fitting	96	-	-	96	205
Travel expenses and speaker costs	1,615	-	-	1,615	-
Purchase of stock for sale	1,138	-	-	1,138	107
Land registry fees	-	-	-	-	24
Woodland Management	344	-	-	344	1,344
Loan interest	483	-	-	483	818
Sub total	9,221	-	-	9,221	8,831
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Loan repayments	6,500	-	-	6,500	6,500
Sub total	6,500	-	-	6,500	6,500
Total payments	15,721	-	-	15,721	15,331
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 7,210	-	-	- 7,210	1,550
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	8,184	-	-	8,184	15,387

Section B Statement of Financial Position

Categories

B1 Cash funds

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
Bank accounts	8,149	-	-
Cash	35	-	-
	-	-	-
Total cash funds	8,184	-	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Hutchcomb's Copse woodland	OBG	25,000	25,000
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
Outstanding loan for purchase of Hutchcomb's Copse woodland	OBG	15,000	15 July 2025
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	RICHARD TILLEY	19/10/2025

Accounts

Oxfordshire Badger Group

Registered Charity (England and Wales) 1186850



Annual Report

01st January 22 to 31st July 2023

Financial Statement

for the year ended 31st Dec 2022

Signed on behalf of the Trustees
Linda Ward Date: 3rd October 2023

Linda Ward.

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Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees’ Annual Report 2022/23

Reference and administrative details

Charity name:	Oxfordshire Badger Group
Type of charity:	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with voting members
Registration details	Registered with the Charity Commission on 9 th December 2019 The charity is registered with HM Revenue & Customs
Registration Number	Registered Charity in England and Wales number: 1186850
Charity address:	29 Webbs Way, Kidlington, OX5 2EW
Trustees who manage the charity	Julia Hammett (Chair)
	Richard Tilley (Treasurer)
	Linda Ward (Secretary)
	Eileen Anderson (Education and Outreach)
Banks	The Co-operative Bank, P O Box 250, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT (primary) PayPal (Europe) S.à r.l. et Cie, S.C.A. 22-24 Boulevard Royal L-2449 Luxembourg
Public Liability	Zurich insurance, The Zurich Centre, 3000 Parkway, Whiteley, Fareham, Hampshire PO15 7JZ

Structure, governance, and management

Type of governing document

Constitution: Based on the Charity Commission model governing document for a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with voting members. Nothing in this constitution shall authorise an application of the property of the CIO for the purposes which are not charitable in accordance with section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

Charitable objects

As defined in our Constitution (Governing Document) the charity’s objects are:

1. To promote, for the public benefit, the conservation and protection of badgers, their setts and habitats in Oxfordshire and elsewhere; and
2. To advance the education of the public on the ecology, behaviour and protected status of badgers, their setts and habitats.

Trustees, committee, and organisational approach

Our Constitution specifies that there must be at least 3 charity Trustees to a maximum of 12. The Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are ex officio charity Trustees.

The Trustees during the period of this report were: Julia Hammett (Chair), Richard Tilley (Treasurer), Linda Ward (Secretary) and Eileen Anderson (Education and Outreach). Members confirmed these appointments at our first Annual General Meeting held 5th June 2021.

The Charity is seeking to recruit additional trustees and has made a role description available via the website. In appointing additional or replacement Trustee, due consideration will be given to ensuring that the Trustees have, between them, the skills and experience necessary to manage the charity effectively and in accordance with charity law.

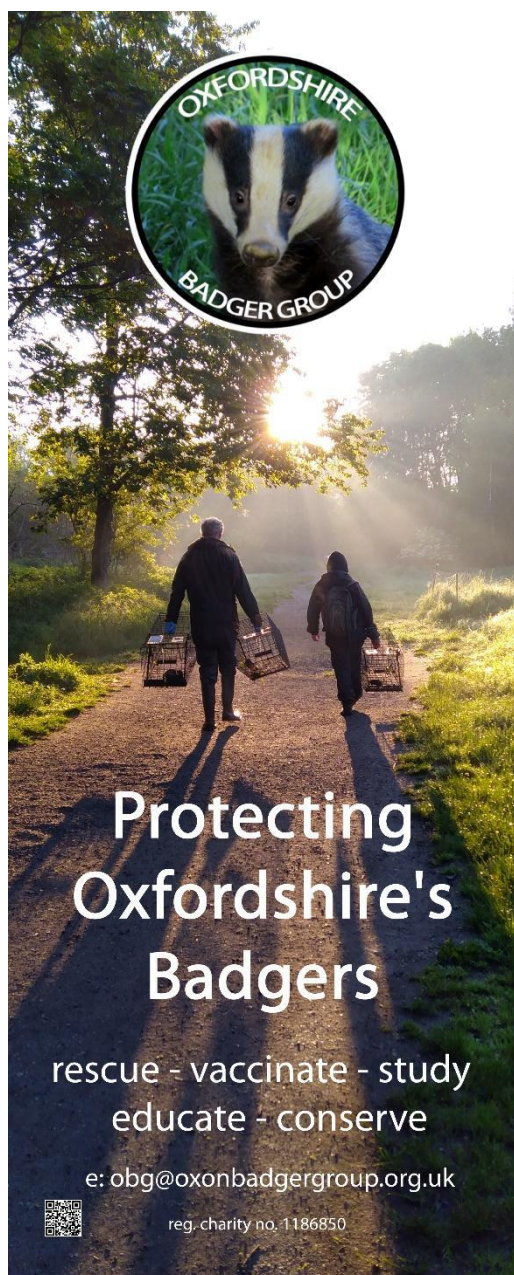
Oxfordshire Badger Group has no paid staff and is run entirely on a volunteer basis. Members have the option to volunteer to take part in various organised activities or may simply support our work via their membership fees¹.

Statutory declaration of charitable activities

The Trustees of Oxfordshire Badger Group confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in deciding which activities the charity should undertake.

¹ Membership of the charity costs £12 per year per household (or £6 concessionary rate)

Introduction



Oxfordshire Badger Group (OBG) is a small wildlife welfare charity which promotes the conservation and protection of badgers, their setts and habitats in Oxfordshire and beyond.

OBG began as a not-for profit organisation in January 1989. This is our third annual Trustees report since becoming a registered charity in December 2019. It covers the period 1st January 2022 to 31th July 2023.

Our group covers a full range of services as might be expected of a full member of the Badger Trust: badger rescue & welfare; vaccination against bovine TB; study of badgers & record keeping; public education and awareness raising. We undertake conservation work, take part in planning consultations, lobby against badger culling and encourage the reporting of wildlife crime.

Sadly, much of Oxfordshire is threatened by the badger cull. After 3 years of culling we are starting to see a reduction in badger numbers in the cull zone. We continue to lobby government to end culling badgers since it is cruel and ineffective.

This has been our first full year as owners of Hutchcomb's Copse. It has been a time of exploration, to understand the woodland in all seasons. From this we shall draw up a five-year management plan and get to work protecting and enhancing the woods continuing potential as a biodiverse wildlife haven.

We thank all our wonderful volunteers who give their time and experience freely to help badgers. We also thank our many supporters and everyone who has donated to our work. We are funded entirely by public donations and grants and have no paid staff.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Eileen Anderson, Julia Hammett, Richard Tilley and Linda Ward (Trustees)

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees' Annual Report 2022/23

Activities and achievements – our officers reports

Chairs report

It's been another busy year for OBG. This is the 5th year of badger vaccination for the dedicated team of volunteers. Teams have been out at all hours and in all weathers to rescue injured badgers and we thank them for their sterling efforts. Oxfordshire continues to face unprecedented levels of housebuilding and we are finding it difficult to keep up with reviewing the applications. As well as green fields, ecologically rich areas in Oxford are being concreted over and badger setts are being lost at an unprecedented rate.

Culling already takes place across an estimated 60% of Oxfordshire. We estimate that over 5000 badgers were killed between 2020-2022. Many more will needlessly die during the 2023 cull period which begins in September. As though this wasn't enough it looks like Oxfordshire could be subjected to 'epidemiological badger culling' pilots. These would aim to kill every badger (100%). If epidemiological culling becomes policy we fear badgers would be driven to local extinction across large areas of the county. Culling would also continue indefinitely, in response to new herd breakdowns. A DEFRA consultation is to take place this autumn. Oxfordshire Badger Group will argue strongly against proposals to introduce epidemiological culling.

Secretary report

Oxfordshire Badger Group belongs to our members – you are at the heart of all we do. We also value the vital contribution made by our kind donors and the many supporters who follow us via the newsletters and on social media. We all share a love of badgers and a desire to celebrate and protect the natural world. Oxfordshire badgers are – literally – coming under fire as scapegoats for the spread of bTB. We need strength in numbers to oppose this government's flawed badger cull policy.

There is no pressure on members to volunteer in our activities, though many do. Many others are content to just be kept informed of our work and badger related news. We try to organise at least one badger watching session per year. We provide relevant fieldwork training for those taking part in our rescue, vaccination, and field work programmes. There are a lot of other things going on – members can expect to get invitations to help with funding campaigns, awareness raising, sett survey walks, field work, 'office work', signing petitions, lobbying decision makers, responding to planning applications, public enquiries, sales events and so on.

As of 1st September 2023, we have just under 400 subscribers to our mailing list. Of these, 118 are registered members of the group. However, around 20% are in arrears with their subscriptions. According to our constitution, membership will lapse "if any sum of money owed by the member to the CIO is not paid in full within six months of its falling due".

OBG is a membership group, led by four trustees and a small committee. The more paid members we have the better – first because we need a pool of volunteers to call on; the numbers help boost the charities profile; and not least since we need the subscriptions to operate. Your annual membership fee of £12 (£6 for concessions) is needed to cover essential running expenses such as 3rd party insurance, website hosting and so on.

Can you help run our 'behind the scenes' activities?

We are always looking for volunteers interested in helping with administrative activities such as membership; finance/ treasurer work, fundraising (including sales), dealing with planning

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees' Annual Report 2022/23

applications, public enquiries, managing the website and social media or looking after Hutchcomb's Copse. If you have time to offer, we'd love to hear from you.

I believe that OBG is well run by our super-dedicated Trustees and committee BUT we really need more people to pitch in, learn the ropes, help do some of the work and bring new ideas.

Membership

1. The membership fee is fixed at £12 per household per year but now runs monthly and will no longer expire at the end of each calendar year.
2. A concessionary membership fee of £6 per household was introduced to enable people on low income to join. Subscription to our newsletter has always been free to the public.
3. OBG pays £2 of the membership fee to the Badger Trust. This entitles members to attend Badger Trust training events and Annual General Meetings.
4. Members may join in volunteer activities such as badger rescue, vaccination and checking road casualties (RTAs).
5. We provide mentoring / training and have produced protocols and guidelines for people taking part in these core volunteer activities.
6. Our 'social' activities are open to all and usually advertised via our free mailing list.

- Linda Ward, Secretary

Badger records

Oxfordshire Badger Group holds secure records of reported deaths, live sightings and setts dating back over five decades. This highly sensitive, confidential information underpins our vital rescue and vaccination work and underpins all our activities.

Professional requests for data

We maintain protected records and offer a professional, chargeable data search service to vetted agencies that can prove that they have a legitimate reason to require information about the presence of badgers in a specific area. Oxfordshire Badger Group welcomes the opportunity to liaise with developers and Local Authorities sharing expertise to inform and improve development plans that enhance rather than exclude badgers from the environment. We have a mutual data sharing agreement with the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) to facilitate connection between agencies and ensure that badgers and their habitats are considered and protected.

January – December 2022: No data requests received during 2022.

January – end June 2023:

One data request received: following provision of a data search and report the ecological consultants donated to Oxfordshire Badger Group.

The single data request received during this 18 month period is evidence of the trend noted in last year's report: that the majority of developers and ecologists are not seeking detailed, up-to-date information about the prevalence of this protected species.

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees' Annual Report 2022/23

Casualty reports

Road Traffic Collision checks:

A core group of OBG members from across the county volunteer to check dead badgers & report back on their health (and arrange rescue if viable) or if pronounced dead, to check it's gender and lactation status in case there may be vulnerable cubs nearby that required our assistance. The months marked with * on the table below indicate when this activity takes place.

Oxfordshire Badger Group were amongst many groups and individuals across the country to participate in a study run by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) to ascertain the incidence of Bovine Tb in the wild badger population. The study began in April 2021 and ran until September 2022. The results are yet to be published.

January – December 2022

271 dead badgers were reported between 1st January 2022 and the end of December 2022.

This total is just slightly lower than the 287 recorded in 2021 and it reflects the increasing number of volunteers and members of the public who report what they see across the county to us. Their time and effort is much appreciated

Most badgers were killed on roads.

One thin juvenile male was collected from a school playing field and a dead cub was found on a footpath, both during the dry spring. One badger was reported after having drowned. An OBG member was called to check on a dead badger found to have died from bite wounds consistent with having been attacked by other badgers or dogs. Three badgers were found dead in or next to their setts and three more were found in college grounds, a barn and on a path in Wytham Woods. OBG liaised with Wytham Woods who did not believe the death to be suspicious.

Table 1: Casualties recorded per month in 2022

Season/ Year	Winter 2021/2	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Winter 2022/3
		Mar* - 50	June *- 12	Sept - 13	Dec - 3
	Jan - 14	Apr*- 52	July - 24	Oct - 17	
	Feb* - 43	May*- 24	Aug - 15	Nov - 4	
Total dead	57	126	51	34	3

Hotspots for deaths on the county's roads in 2022:

A34: 22 deaths again this year in total with hotspots around Gosford and the stretch between North Hinksey and Abingdon.

A40: 20 deaths reported along the road's length with particular hotspots around Witney (8 deaths) and the Northern Bypass (7 deaths).

A420: Also saw 20 deaths reported along its length in Oxfordshire with hotspots again between the Botley interchange and Besselsleigh, and a further 12 deaths reported south of Besselsleigh.

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees’ Annual Report 2022/23

A4074: 10 deaths along the road to the Berkshire border, with clusters of deaths at the familiar hotspots at the Dorchester bypass and around Nuneham Courtenay & the Arboretum.

A44: 10 deaths also reported along the busy A44, with several around Begbroke and Enstone.

There was a spike in deaths on the A423 Eastern Bypass road where four badgers were killed during spring and a further two in autumn. Checks were made where safe to do so, nothing suspicious was found.

There continued to be numerous reports from the A415 (Culham continues to be a hotspot), B4009 around Chinnor and Aston Rowant and the A4260 around Deddington.

January – end June 2023

137 dead badgers have been reported in 2023 between 1st January and the end of June. During the same period last year, 195 dead badgers were recorded.

The difference could be due to a wide range of innocuous factors such as changes in the routes and behaviour of the reporters, but the ongoing cull continues to eradicate badgers from large areas of Oxfordshire and the reduction of the badger population is becoming more apparent.

Table 2: Casualties recorded per month in 2023

Month	January*	February*	March*	April*	May*	June*
No. of deaths	9	32	24	27	22	23

* = Period when dead badgers are checked for gender and lactation status.

Hotspots for deaths on the county’s roads in **first six months of 2023:**

A40 – 17 deaths reported

A420 – 11 deaths reported

A4074 and A4260 - 9 deaths reported on each road

A44 – 8 deaths reported

A34 – 7 deaths reported.

Total deaths reported annually:

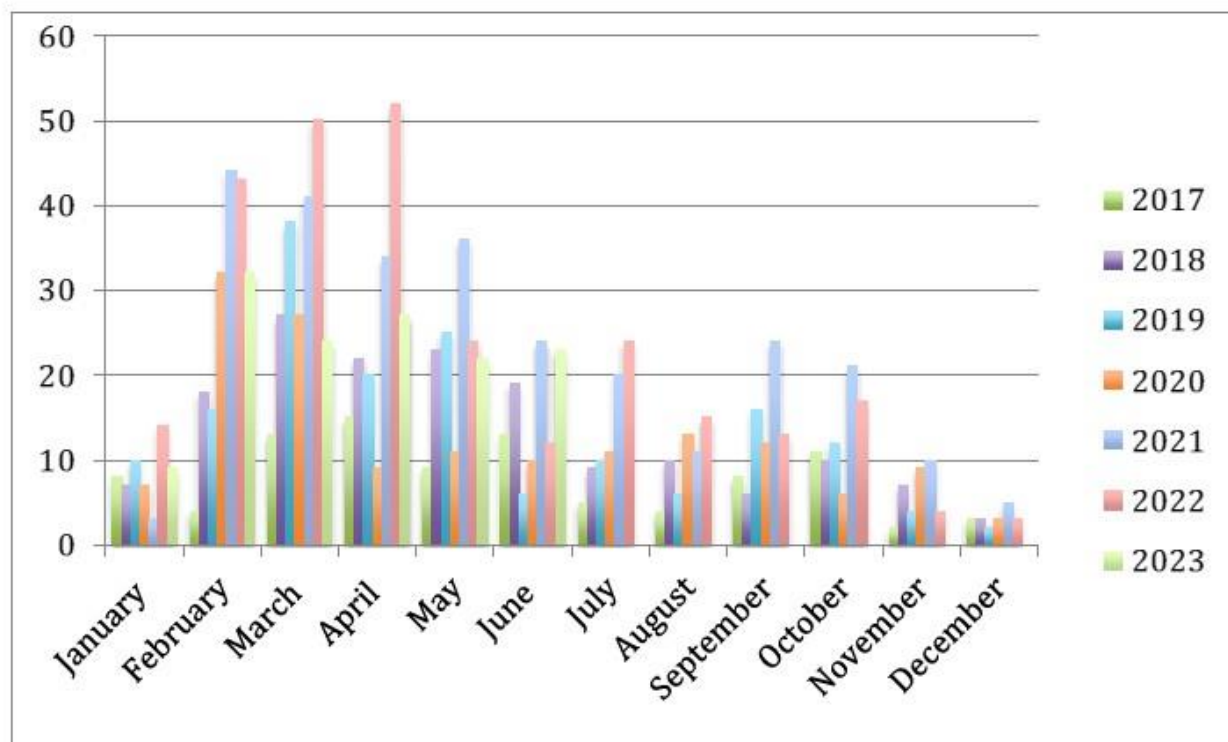
2017 = 95 2018 = 161

2019 = 165 2020 = 150

2021 = 287 2022 = 271

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees’ Annual Report 2022/23

Fig 1. Chart representing the number of badger deaths (y axis) recorded per month (x axis) each year since 2017



Sett records:

Oxfordshire Badger Group holds details of setts that began to be recorded over fifty years ago. Our confidential archive reveals stories of the movements of badgers across the county: setts abandoned, destroyed or otherwise lost, new setts excavated, unknown setts discovered and ancient setts still in active, healthy use.

Reports of new setts come in from a variety of sources:

- From members of the public concerned about development of land where they know there is a sett.
- From sett surveying days organised by OBG to explore areas of the county where we have sparse records or where development is planned.
- From methodical surveying of private land by landowners who have signed up to our vaccination programme. These extremely confidential records are held separately and are excluded from data sharing agreements and professional data searches.
- From rescue call-outs to injured or ill badgers across the county and from visits by OBG to concerned members of the public who seek advice about living with badgers – the work of our expert volunteers often uncovers badger setts and signs in new areas.

Updates on previously recorded setts are very welcome as they provide a history of the sett and its health over a period of years, and sometimes several decades.

January – December 2022

A total of 103 new sett reports were added to the OBG records in 2022, along with several updates to older records.

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees’ Annual Report 2022/23

January – end June 2023

A further 90+ new & updated sett reports have been received during the first half of 2023 bringing the total number of records close to 1750.

Sightings of live badgers

We love to receive reports of badgers going about their business. Their presence is often picked up by trail or doorbell cameras owned by residents who wouldn’t otherwise have been aware of the nocturnal life around them.

Most reports are of single badgers hurrying past, but there have been a few families of adults with cubs who visit gardens to tidy up fallen apples and uneaten cat food. A garden trail camera showed a clan of four adults including a veteran badger whom OBG assisted with supplementary feeding some years ago, he’s still going strong. Another lucky badger ran to safety after snacking in the middle of a dark road.

January – December 2022

29 live sightings

January – end June 2023

4 live sightings.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed their time, effort and reports to our records.

Badger vaccination project



Oxfordshire Badger Group works with farmers, landowners, volunteers, and the public to prevent the spread of bovine tuberculosis by providing treatment, under licence, in the form of vaccination to badgers in Oxfordshire. Bovine tuberculosis is a disease in cattle that has spread into the wildlife population, including badgers. Through badger vaccination, we aim to reduce the transmission and spread of the disease in the badger population and reduce the risk to cattle. We believe it is important to offer a humane and equally effective alternative to culling. More and more landowners want to vaccinate their badgers.

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees' Annual Report 2022/23

2023 season

We were delighted to be awarded a Badger Trust Vaccination Grant, worth just under £2000. This allowed us to purchase two additional vaccine fridge batteries. It also funded consumables needed to equip the volunteers and to buy some all-important bTB vaccine.

The volunteer team are now working their way through the 5th year of badger vaccination in Oxfordshire. This means some of the areas will have reached their final year of the recommended 4 years of vaccination.

It is quite sad to be leaving some beautiful sites that we have fallen in love with over the past few years, but it will mean we will have the capacity, funds, and volunteers to look at taking on new areas in 2024.

We have already been approached by landowners keen to learn more about getting their badgers vaccinated.

A huge thank you to our wonderful volunteers who give up their evenings and lie-ins at the weekends to protect Oxfordshire's badgers.



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An erythristic (ginger coloured) badger



Two cubs – double trouble !

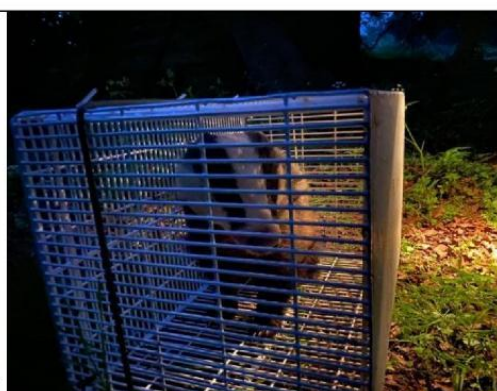
Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees' Annual Report 2022/23

Badger rescue and welfare

Oxfordshire Badger Group works with members of the public and wildlife hospitals in the rescue of injured or sick badgers in Oxfordshire. Our teams are on call to advise the public and landowners who may have concerns about the welfare of badgers in their community.

The first 5 months of 2023 were extremely busy with 15 badger rescues. From 'Biscuit' the badger flooded out of his home to 'Badgie' the hit and run badger, with Midge and Barney with bite wounds. Not all of the rescues had a happy ending, but each badger was treated with respect and kindness in its last moments.

A huge thank you to Nutkin Ward, Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue and Tiggywinkles for their veterinary care and rehabilitation services.



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The local newspapers have taken a great deal of interest in our badger rescues, sharing the rescue stories, and educating readers on the work we do. Even the local TV station ran a story on Biscuit.

In March 2023, we held a very successful joint rescue training day with Northants Badger Group,



teaching new volunteers the basics of badger rescue. This is going to be repeated with Gloucestershire Badger Group in August

Badger and other wildlife crime

Oxfordshire Badger Group liaises with the police, Badger Trust, RSPCA and members of the public. Wildlife crime in the county is probably under-reported and the police response is often unduly delayed and inadequate. We offer advice and support and also follow through as necessary to monitor situations where badgers may be at risk in future. Our aim is to ensure that all volunteers and members are suitably trained.

In April 2023 we organised a very successful and popular wildlife crime training session, provided by Craig Fellowes, the Badger Trust Crime officer. It was held at the Wytham Woods chalet, allowing for a field work session where delegates could practice assessing and reporting signs of an active sett.

To reiterate, all crimes to badgers should be reported to the police online or via 101. Please make sure you get a crime number and then send all these details to the Badger Trust (BT).

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to report crime into us or to BT. It is sad for the badgers but by recording all the statistics it really paints a picture of what badgers in Oxfordshire are facing.

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Promotion of activities and social media



Oxfordshire Badger Group understands how important social media is in attracting new members, spreading our message and engaging with the general public.

Over the past year our social media following has been steadily growing. This has been down partly to great footage and photos from vaccination and rescue but also continuing to engage with other groups and individuals and post about the badger cull. Hutchcomb's Copse also provided us with new content.

It has been a difficult year for our fundraisers, but we still have gained donations from our social media posts including those from Instagram.

The badger cull and badger coalition will continue to feature, alongside our work in schools and vaccination and rescue.

Stories of the sad badger campaigning against the badger cull in Oxfordshire have really increased interest and engagement.

Facebook – has grown from 1,380 people liking our page in 2022 to 1,500 in 2023.

Facebook has seen a general decline across the whole so our results are really promising and we will continue to try and grow it.

Twitter (now X)!

1696 followers in 2022, grown to 1,979 in 2023

Twitter has been very good for engagement this year with the most popular posts in the last 14 days of writing this gaining us new followers have been our vaccination update film and a short clip of sad badgers in Oxford.

All in all, a good year for our social media! Looking forward to thinking of more creative ways of sharing what we do and making an even bigger impact.

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Outreach and education report

Since our last report a year ago, we have met and engaged with many people in our efforts to inform about and help protect badgers. In November 2022 we held our first ever conference entitled:



On a beautiful sunny day in the Cotswolds, we hosted some 40 plus delegates including many of our members, our own committee and five great speakers. (Bob Cowley, Dr Tanesha Allen, Dr Meryll Gelling, PC Caroline Newsome, and Pauline Kidner). Our own members also provided workshops covering ways of recording location (OS grid reference vs What3Words), and how we plan and deliver our vaccination programme, with a practical demonstration (minus badgers!).

So much badger interest, enthusiasm, and love! It was deemed an enormous success by all.



Since then, we have given presentations to the Ashmolean Natural History Society, Binfield Badger Group, and a local WI. Plus, the Rescue Training highlighted in another of our reports. Our school's programme has found us chatting about badgers with nursery school children, with a taxidermy badger and a badger hand puppet assisting with badger story reading.

After spending time with the nursery children, we have then joined the rest of the school and provided a 'Badger Assembly' presentation with lots of badger video clips, explaining how badgers live their lives. When our full-size badger can join us, she always gets a great welcome and often finds herself shaking hands with every child in the school. A badger sticker for every child is always well received and we leave the nursery with the book that we read to them.

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Meeting the children in Nursery – no tears, lots of giggles and fun	story time!

Whole school assembly – the school was celebrating wild animals’ day and were dressed accordingly. Yes – there were badgers (see one bottom left), and they became extremely excited to see their distant relations!



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Foxy meets badger	The fascination of a badger skull!
	

So – if you have children attending an Oxfordshire Primary School, do let the school know that we offer an education and outreach programme, and give them our contact details – we would love to meet them. Our email address is: OBG@Oxonbadgergroup.org.uk

Eileen Anderson, Education and Outreach Coordinator, July 2023

(All photos are shared with full permissions and are from the last school we visited)

Planning and development

Housebuilding in Oxford and the county continues at an unprecedented rate. Instead of using brown field sites for really affordable/council housing the City council is building high tec business parks and student/ post-doc accommodation. As a result, huge swathes of green fields around the city, as well as ecologically rich green spaces within Oxford are being built on, to meet the unmet housing need. Many main badger setts have been lost. The threat to wildlife is at a critical stage.

Development of 84 houses on and adjacent to Spindleberry Nature Reserve, off Knights Rd, Blackbird Leys. The plan by Oxford City Council to build on a playing field and part of a Nature reserve will result in a 26% loss in biodiversity. Setts will be lost and the wildlife corridors along Northfield Brook will be impacted. Unbelievably there is a risk that water voles may be killed!!!

Horse Field, Iffley: Oxford City Council is preparing reports and is seemingly determined to come back with their flawed application to build on this species rich meadow and large main badger sett- home to the famous Luna and her clan.

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees' Annual Report 2022/23

Begbroke Science Park- application open to consultation. Badger setts will be lost on this former Green Belt development.

Barton Park: More housing is planned on former Green Belt putting the SSSI and wildlife at risk.

Forresters, Hurst Rise Road, Development on this site has impacted badgers. An outlier sett has been blocked and a well-established badger path is now disused.

The Louie Memorial Fields, North Hinksey Proposal to build large community centre/ Pavilion on Green Belt/ Open Space approved for second time despite risk to catchment area of irreplaceable alkaline fen in the adjacent LWS and wildlife corridors to OBG's Hutchcomb's Copse.

Yarnells Hill, North Hinksey A rare but welcome victory for badgers and ecology. Plan to build 3 luxury homes on unspoilt green, bluebell wooded land adjacent to a LWS and rare alkaline fen unanimously rejected by VWHDC planning committee on grounds that, "the development would lead to an unacceptable risk and harm to irreplaceable habitats and protected species and impact on the badger sett!"

Can you help with our planning workload? We are looking for volunteers willing to monitor developments that may impact badgers. The aim is to try and ensure the badgers get the best 'possible deal' – adequate mitigation – from the development. This might be giving them space to keep their setts, or providing an artificial sett, maintaining access to foraging areas via adequate wildlife corridors, sensitive lighting and so on.

Should you learn of any development impacting a badger sett do report it quickly – the earlier in the planning process we can intervene the greater chance of making a difference to the outcome.

Julia Hammett., August 2023

The badger cull

Oxfordshire Badger Group has always strongly opposed the policy of culling badgers as part of the government's strategy for eradicating bovine TB. In 2020, the government issued licences to cull badgers in Oxfordshire for the first time. Since then, the cull zones have progressively expanded and now cover an estimated 60% of the county. Around 5000 badgers have been shot in the first 3 years of culling. A further 5000 may die in the 2023 cull, since existing cull zones may expand to cover larger areas.

Worryingly, the National Farmers Union are lobbying for the introduction of epidemiological culling in reaction to new herd breakdowns. Oxfordshire could become a pilot area for 'epi-culling' in which all badgers would be killed across large areas around breakdowns.

Our Group has joined the Oxfordshire Badger Coalition. Our aim is to raise public awareness of plans that could drive badgers to local extinction and lobby decision makers to speak out against this unethical, cruel and futile proposal. Killing EVERY badger in the country will not change the progression of bovine TB. Only better cattle controls can manage a disease that is hidden in the herd.

We are helping drive the national campaign to end the cull by focusing on the impact and importance of Oxfordshire.

- Linda Ward



Hutchcomb's Copse – One year on

We purchased Hutchcomb's Copse a year ago, finding it unrestored and unspoiled – a haven for wildlife. From the start our intention was to preserve it in this way and so we decided to do little during the first twelve months and to focus on establishing what flora and fauna we have on site.

With a generous Councillors' grant from Oxfordshire County Council, we commissioned a baseline ecology survey. This has just been completed, with Spring and late Summer recording taking place. We await the report.

We know there are Roe and Muntjac deer, foxes, Field Voles, and protected mammals. We have recorded as many birds as we have seen and heard and have started to do the same with butterflies. We hope to have a bat survey, and for the Oxfordshire fungal survey to consider including us as one of their sites to explore and record. We have also measured and recorded our ancient Oak trees.



On the ground we have resisted any sort of tidying up. We cut back Cow Parsley, Brambles, and Nettles only enough to allow us to form a route around the copse- and found it was soon overgrown again !



Whilst there will never be a public access route into and around the Copse, we are keen to show OBG Members and guests around – subject to being able to walk the route we have tried to create. Once the vegetation dies back and we know what and who we have living there, then we can consider what if anything we want to do to enhance it further- we have some gifted local Oak saplings awaiting planting. It will stay as wild and protected as we can keep it.

Want to visit with us? Want to get involved in any work we do undertake (creating more log piles? Checking the reptile mats we have laid out? Maintaining the basic trail route?) – then do get in touch.

email OBG@oxonbadgergroup.org.uk

Eileen Anderson, July 2023



Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees' Annual Report 2022/23

Collaboration with other organisations

Oxfordshire Badger Group believes that collaboration is essential to deliver our charitable aims. We have established operating relationships with the following organisations.

The Badger Trust: OBG is a full member of the Badger Trust (registered charity 1111440). The Trust is the national umbrella organisation which represents and support around 60 local voluntary badger groups across England and Wales). OBG functions independently but in partnership with the Trust. This relationship provides access to expert advice, peer group support and mentoring; training; authoritative information (such as leaflets) and the opportunity to apply for Badger Trust grants. OBG supports relevant Badger Trust campaigns and helps disseminate information and calls for action to our members and followers.

Other Badger Groups: We liaise with the Groups covering our neighbouring counties (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire; Warwickshire, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire) on a regular operational basis. During the reporting period this has involved sharing resources - to cover badger call outs on the 'overlapping' county borders along with joint training and social events. We are part of the wider badger vaccination network and have benefited from training and mentoring along with regular news and best practice updates. We offer special thanks to the highly experienced Somerset, Derbyshire and Cornwall vaccination teams for their support.

The Conservation Volunteers local South Eastern group (TCV) registered charity in England (261009). OBG is a paid member of TCV. This gives us access to advice, support and funding opportunities. We are listed on their website and contribute to their regular newsletters. We also benefit from access to discounted insurance prices.

Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT): Our local wildlife Trust shares a keen interest in badger welfare, opposes culling and vaccinate against bTB. BBOWT is able to provide local training for vaccination volunteers.

Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC): We believe it is vital to maintain accurate environmental records capturing the diversity and threats to wild life in this area. We share information with Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) via a mutual data sharing agreement that respects the sensitivity of our data.

Wytham Woods Field Station, Oxford University Wildlife Conservation Research Unit: OBG is fortunate to have excellent working relationships with the ecologists running Badger Project at WildCRU: The "laboratory with leaves" at Wytham Woods. WildCRU's Badger Project has collected a wealth of fundamental ecological data for over 30 years. We regularly hold social and training events at Wytham Woods.

Wildlife rescue and Hospitals: Our rescue service captures badgers in need of care and take them to a suitable wildlife hospital. We work primarily with 'local' centres within striking distance of Oxfordshire – including The Nutkin Ward, Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue, and the Vale Wildlife Hospital.

RSPCA: The RSPCA is often contacted by members of the public and others concerned about badger issues, especially possible crime or badgers in need of rescue. Our charity liaises with the local officers.

Treasurer Report 2022

Basis of accounting

The attached accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis. OBG's Financial and Reporting Year runs from 1st January to 31st December. This Report covers our third year as a CIO, to 31st December 2022.

Income

All receipts, including donations and grants, are accounted for when received. Any income tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid is included when the money is received from the Inland Revenue or is paid automatically by PayPal on qualifying transactions.

Trading activities

A new venture for OBG in 2022 was holding our first Conference in November. Starting in late 2021, considerable effort went into the sale of goods, tickets and other fundraising to finance the event. After costs, a profit of £648.88 was made, £500 of which was allocated to setting up an Education and Outreach fund within OBG.

Interest

No interest accrues to OBG's Co-Op Community Directplus bank account.

Payments from APHA

Payments from the Animal and Plant Health Agency were received to compensate for costs incurred collecting dead badgers and submitting them to this government agency for post mortem and testing for disease

Purchase of Woodland

The largest new expenditure and responsibility for OBG in 2022 was the purchase of 2.05 acres of land including ancient woodland. Hutchcomb's Copse is in North Hinksey, near Oxford City. The land is now registered in the name of Oxfordshire Badger Group.

Hutchcomb's Copse was purchased on 17th August 2022 for £25,000. Professional Valuation, Search and Legal Fees totalled £3,744.80 and were covered by the loan detailed below.

The purchase was made possible by a trustee loan to Oxfordshire Badger Group. Under the Loan Agreement (dated 15th July 2022 and as modified 23rd July 2023):

1. The Lender promises to loan £30,000 GBP to the Borrower
2. The Borrower promises to use this loan to purchase the parcel of land known as Hutchcomb's Copse, off Hurst Rise Road, Cumnor, Oxon OX2 9HF
3. The Borrower promises to repay this principal amount to the Lender plus interest.
4. Interest is payable on the unpaid principal sum at the current Bank of England base rate, but capped at 2.5% with effect from 16th July 2023. Interest will be calculated monthly not in advance, from the date of this agreement.

As of 31st December 2022, the loan amount outstanding was £28,000.

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Independent Examination of Accounts

For the purposes of deciding whether an independent examination of these accounts is required the loan should be excluded from gross income. This is explained in the Charity Commission guidance "Charity reporting and accounting: the essentials" November 2016 (CC15d) which defines gross income as follows:

"For accounts prepared on a receipts and payments basis, gross income is simply the total receipts recorded in the statement from all sources excluding the receipt of any endowment, loans and proceeds from the sale of investments or fixed assets"....."

This guidance also states: *"For very small charities in England and Wales with gross income less than £25,000 there is no statutory requirement for either an audit or an independent examination."*

As gross income is less than £25,000 an independent examination is not required.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from Corporation Tax as all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

Receipts

Total gross income in 2022 was £16,122.84 (including gross payments via PayPal and SumUp).

The £30,000 Loan increased overall receipts to £46,122.84.

Payments

Including the purchase of Hutchcomb's Copse, loan interest and loan repayments made, total expenditure in 2022 was £42,611.74 (including fees deducted by PayPal and SumUp).

Balance

At the end of the financial year (31/12/2022) balance in OBG Co-Op account was £13,805.57 with an additional £39.16 cash float.

- Richard Tilley, Treasurer 24th July 2023

Financial reserves policy

The Trustees have referred to applicable Charity Commission requirements and Guidance in setting the charities financial reserves policy. The Trustees aim to hold adequate reserve funding to meet unforeseen or new contingencies; to maintain a good cash flow; known operating commitments; and be able to close down in good order should the charity become financially unsustainable.

The charity reserves are in cash and cash deposits. They arise from the accumulated surpluses of members' subscriptions, donations and grants over expenditure. They also include surpluses accumulated by the previous voluntary group which were transferred to the charity on 09 December 2019. They are unrestricted and freely available to support any of the charities activities and expenses.

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees' Annual Report 2022/23

Our policy is to try and maintain reserves sufficient to cover one year's typical expenditure. Anything over and above this will be kept as a general contingency. This policy, and the level of reserves held by the charity is reviewed annually.

The purchase of Hutchcomb's Copse incurred an exceptional expenditure of £31,148 in 2022. Regular expenditure in 2022 was of the order of £11,500.

As 31 December 2022 the reserves carried forward to 2023 were £13,805. Given rising costs, including the need to repay interest on the loan, the Trustees are satisfied that the charity is carrying forward sufficient financial reserves into 2023.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

The charity has no funds which are materially in deficit.

Statutory statements on liabilities

The Trustees declare that:

- The charity has given no guarantees where potential liability under the guarantee is outstanding at the date of this statement (*eg*: any outstanding/ongoing contract or legal undertaking to buy or provide specific services); and
- The charity has no debt outstanding at the date of this statement which is owed by the CIO and which is secured by an express charge on any assets of the CIO (*eg*: a mortgage on property owned by the charity).

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees' Annual Report 2022/23

Statement of accounts 01/01/22 to 31/12/22

OXFORDSHIRE BADGER GROUP (OBG) Receipts & Payments Accounts for year ended 31/12/2022	01/01/2021 TO 31/12/2021	01/01/2022 TO 31/12/2022
INCOME		
Trading activities		
Sale of goods	301.29	1,029.15
Sales of goods for Conference	80.00	787.45
Ticket sales for Conference	0	1,072.92
Bank interest	0	0
Gift Aid		
Gift Aid claimed from HMRC	0	540.33
Gift Aid collected by PayPal	438.00	282.25
From other charities		
Badger Trust grant	1,963.00	0
Other sources		
Members' subscriptions	787.35	947.99
Donations	6,074.52	905.70
Donations for badger vaccination	included in donations above	5,767.15
Donations for Conference	20.00	289.90
Badger sett survey fees	0	0
Payments from APHA	675.00	800.00
Local Authority Grant for woodland management		3,000.00
Donations for woodland		700.00
GROSS INCOME	10,339.16	16,122.84
LOAN for woodland purchase		30,000.00
TOTAL INCOME		46,122.84
EXPENDITURE		
Trading Costs		
Purchases of stock	0	287.30
Stall fees	58.00	8.00
Sales postage	5.30	8.95
UK Land		
Purchase of woodland		25,000.00
Purchase of woodland - legal fees		3,744.80
Woodland management		138.06
Loan interest payments		265.09
Loan repayments		2,000.00
General administration		
Insurance	565.86	30.00
Website fee	0	244.00
PayPal fees	92.67	69.22
SumUp fees	0	10.89
Office supplies	0	287.42

Oxfordshire Badger Group – Trustees' Annual Report 2022/23

Venue hire/catering for events	0	1,220.00
Conference speakers' fees	0	150.00
Travel expenses	173.70	98.40
Donations made		
Badger Trust levy & donation	100.00	150.00
Wildlife hospitals/other groups	85.00	275.00
Other expenditure		
Equipment for badger rescues	418.45	0
Equipment for vaccination	6,129.01	5,531.61
Vaccination training & mask fitting	615.00	3,093.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	8,242.99	42,611.74
Net income/(expenditure)	2,096.17	3,511.10
Bank balance at end of year	10,294.47	13,805.57
Cash float	30.80	39.16
Richard Tilley, OBG Treasurer, 21/07/2023		

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31st December 2022

Fixed assets

Hutchcomb's Copse woodland £25,000.00

Current assets

Co-Op Bank account £13,805.57

Cash float £39.16

Net assets £38,844.73

The funds of the charity:

Fixed assets fund £25,000.00

Income funds £13,844.73

Total funds £38,844.73

Approved by the Members and Trustees on 19th August 2023 and signed on their behalf by



Richard Tilley

Treasurer and Trustee



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

OXFORDSHIRE BADGER GROUP

1186850

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/01/2022

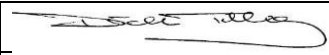
To

31/12/2022

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Members' subscriptions	948	-	-	948	787
Donations	7,663	-	-	7,663	6,095
Grants	3,000	-	-	3,000	1,963
Sales	2,889	-	-	2,889	381
Gift Aid	823	-	-	823	438
APHA payments	800	-	-	800	675
Professional services	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	16,123	-	-	16,123	10,339
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Loan received for woodland purchase	30,000	-	-	30,000	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	30,000	-	-	30,000	-
Total receipts	46,123	-	-	46,123	10,339
A3 Payments					
Insurance and website	274	-	-	274	566
Badger Trust levy and donation	150	-	-	150	100
Donations to wildlife hospitals/groups	275	-	-	275	85
Hall & stall hire & office supplies	1,524	-	-	1,524	63
PayPal & SumUp fees	80	-	-	80	93
Equipment for badger rescues	-	-	-	-	418
Equipment for badger vaccination	5,532	-	-	5,532	6,129
Training for vaccination	3,093	-	-	3,093	615
Travel expenses & speaker fees	248	-	-	248	174
Purchase of stock for sale	287	-	-	287	-
Purchase of woodland	25,000	-	-	25,000	-
Purchase of woodland - legal fees	3,745	-	-	3,745	-
Woodland management	138	-	-	138	-
Loan interest	265	-	-	265	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	40,611	-	-	40,611	8,243
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Loan repayments	2,000	-	-	2,000	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	2,000	-	-	2,000	-
Total payments	42,611	-	-	42,611	8,243
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,512	-	-	3,512	2,096
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	8,238
Cash funds this year end	13,845	-	-	13,845	10,334

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank account	13,806	-	-
	Cash	39	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	13,845	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Hutchcomb's Copse ancient woodland	OBG	25,000	25,000
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Outstanding loan for purchase of Hutchcomb's Copse ancient woodland	OBG	28,000	15 July 2025
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
			RICHARD TILLEY	19/08/2023

Accounts



Registered charity no. 1186850

Trustees report 2021/22

and financial statement
for the year ended 31st Dec 2021

Report dated 23rd October 2022

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Oxfordshire Badger Group: Trustees Annual Report

Reference and administrative details

Charity name:	Oxfordshire Badger Group
Type of charity:	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with voting members
Registration details	Registered with the Charity Commission on 9 th December 2019 The charity is registered with HM Revenue & Customs
Registration Number	Registered Charity in England and Wales number: 1186850
Charity address:	29 Webbs Way, Kidlington, OX5 2EW
Trustees	Julia Hammett (Chair)
	Richard Tilley (Treasurer)
	Linda Ward (Secretary)
	Eileen Anderson (Education and outreach)
Committee members	Simon Boulter, Karl Moore, Keiron Ward, Debbie White and Barbara Witkowski
Banks	The Co-operative Bank, P O Box 250, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT (primary) PayPal (Europe) S.à r.l. et Cie, S.C.A. 22-24 Boulevard Royal L-2449 Luxembourg
Public Liability	Zurich insurance, The Zurich Centre, 3000 Parkway, Whiteley, Fareham, Hampshire PO15 7JZ

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Constitution: Based on the Charity Commission model governing document for a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with voting members. Nothing in this constitution shall authorise an application of the property of the CIO for the purposes which are not charitable in accordance with section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

Charitable Objects

1. To promote, for the public benefit, the conservation and protection of badgers, their setts and habitats in Oxfordshire and elsewhere; and
2. To advance the education of the public on the ecology, behaviour and protected status of badgers, their setts and habitats.

Trustees, Committee and organisational approach

The charity Trustees during the period of this report were: Julia Hammett (Chair), Richard Tilley (Treasurer), and Linda Ward (Secretary). Members confirmed these appointments at OBG's first Annual General Meeting held 5th June 2021. Our second AGM held on 20th August appointed Eileen Anderson (education and outreach), as Trustee.

Other members of the Committee during the report period were:

Emily Lawrence (crime liaison and public relations), Karl Moore (licenced vaccinator), Keiron Ward (licenced trapper), Debbie White (vaccination and rescue coordinator) and Barbara Witkowski (records officer). Simon Boulter (an ecologist) joined the Committee on 2nd October 2022.

Our Constitution specifies that there must be at least 3 charity Trustees to a maximum of 12. The Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are ex officio charity Trustees. The Charity is seeking to recruit one or more additional trustees and has made a role description available via the website. In appointing Trustees, consideration will be given to ensuring the Trustees have, between them, the skills and experience necessary to manage the charity effectively and in accordance with charity law.

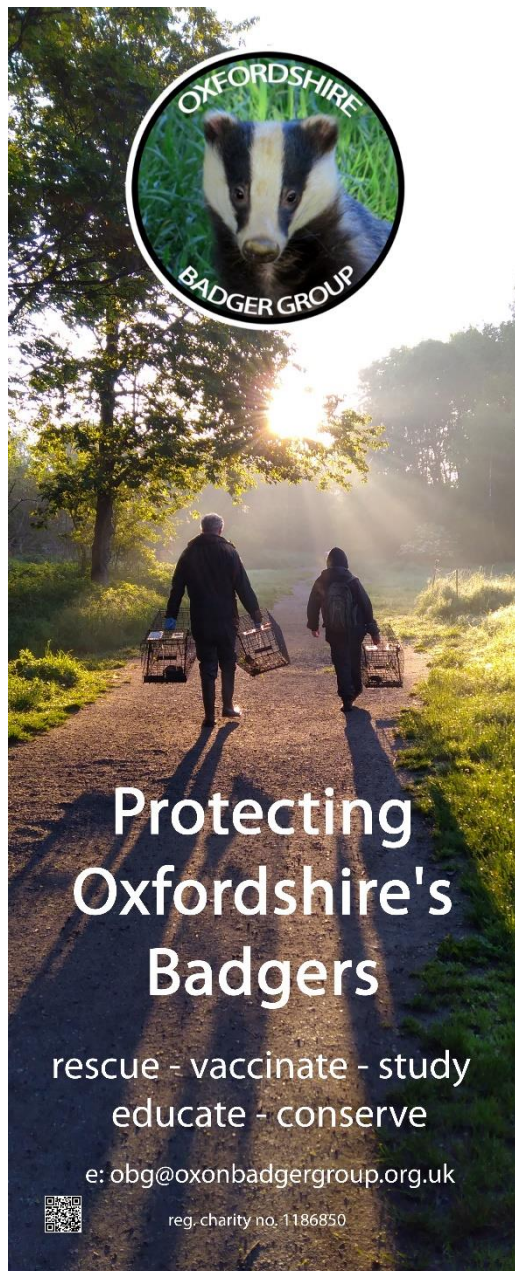
Oxfordshire Badger Group has no paid staff and is run entirely on a volunteer basis. Members have the option to volunteer to take part in various organised activities or may simply support our work via their membership fees¹.

Statutory declaration

The Trustees of Oxfordshire Badger Group confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in deciding which activities the charity should undertake.

¹ Membership of the charity costs £12 per year per household (or £6 concessionary rate)

Activities and achievements – our officers reports



Oxfordshire Badger Group (OBG) is a small wildlife welfare charity which promotes the conservation and protection of badgers, their setts and habitats in Oxfordshire and beyond.

OBG began as a not-for profit organisation in January 1989. This is our second annual Trustees report since becoming a registered charity in December 2019. It covers the period 1st January 2021 to 31st August 2022. Late breaking news includes the appointment of Simon Boulter to the Committee on 2nd October.

Our charity's activities have focused on badger rescue; vaccination; study & record keeping; public education and awareness raising. We undertake conservation work, take part in planning consultations, lobby against badger culling and encourage the reporting of wildlife crime.

We are fortunate to have many supporters and a growing number of wonderful volunteers who give their time and experience freely to help badgers. We are funded entirely by public donations and grants and have no paid staff. Most of our funding goes to run our badger vaccination and rescue programmes.

OBG is committed to providing training and supporting our volunteers. We have worked to put systems and protocols in place to encourage best and safe practices.

Highlights of this report include – several successful and high profile rescues; doubling the land covered by the vaccination programme; increased badger sett and sighting reporting; and initiating an educational outreach programme in schools.

In August 2022 the charity purchased Hutchcomb's Copse, a small (2.05 acre) parcel of ancient and semi-ancient woodland close to Oxford City. This is a major and exciting new departure for the Charity. The aim is to protect, preserve and enhance a wildlife reserve – including an established breeding badger sett – from the threat of development. We will be mounting a major fund raising campaign to cover the purchase cost.

Oxfordshire Badger Group has been making very positive news. More and more people are coming to us for help and advice when badgers get into difficulty. It's been a very busy time but it is good to know that our work is benefiting badgers and their human neighbours.

Thank you for your interest and support.

- **Julia Hammett, Richard Tilley, Eileen Anderson and Linda Ward (Trustees)**

Membership

Our members are at the heart of Oxfordshire Badger Group and new members are always welcome. One thing we have in common is a love of badgers and other wildlife and a desire to celebrate and protect the natural world.



Paid membership is a must for volunteers who work in the field and/or represent Oxfordshire Badger Group. Membership fees are £12 per household per year (£6 concession). £2 of this goes to the Badger Trust and allows members to take part in the Trusts' events and AGM.

There is no pressure on members to volunteer in our activities, though many do. Many others are content to just be kept informed of our work and badger related news. We try to organise at least one badger watching session per year. We provide relevant fieldwork training for those taking part in our rescue, vaccination and field work programmes. There are a lot of other things going on – members can expect to get invitations to help out with funding campaigns, awareness raising, sett survey walks, field work, 'office work', signing petitions, lobbying decision makers, responding to planning applications, public enquiries, sales events and so on.

Oxford is a large county and we hope every member will look out for badgers in their local area.

Interest in membership and volunteering has been boosted by positive media coverage and a social media presence that is both authoritative and fun. Many people are attracted to join by the opportunity to take part in our rescue and vaccination programmes. We are also looking for volunteers interested in helping with administrative activities such as fundraising, dealing with enquiries, managing the website. If you have skills and time to offer we'd love to hear from you.

- Linda Ward, Secretary

Badger records

Oxfordshire Badger Group holds secure records of reported deaths, live sightings and setts dating back over five decades. This highly sensitive, confidential information underpins our vital rescue and vaccination work and underpins all our activities.

Professional requests for data

We maintain protected records and offer a professional, chargeable data search service to vetted agencies that can prove that they have a legitimate reason to require information about the presence of badgers in a specific area.

Oxfordshire Badger Group welcomes the opportunity to liaise with developers and Local Authorities sharing expertise to inform and improve development plans that enhance rather than exclude badgers from the environment. We have a mutual data sharing agreement with the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) to facilitate connection between agencies and ensure that badgers and their habitats are considered and protected.

January – December 2021: One data request received, but the ecologists decided not to pursue the report. No data requests have been received in the first eight months of 2022.

Reflection:

Developers & ecologists are performing their due diligence by asking TVERC for an initial data search. The reports that TVERC produce always advise that the developers should then contact OBG for more accurate information than TVERC have, but perhaps the developers feel that the TVERC data search is adequate.

The lack of professional data requests not only impacts negatively on the income to the Oxfordshire Badger Group. It also raises serious concerns that development of land is going ahead across the county without proper research into the prevalence of badgers, putting animals at risk instead of shaping plans that will accommodate this protected species.

Casualty reports

A core group of OBG members from across the county volunteer to check dead badgers & report back on their health (and arrange rescue if viable) or if pronounced dead, to check it's gender and lactation status in case there may be vulnerable cubs nearby that required our assistance. The months marked with * on the table below indicate when this activity takes place.

The activity has generated several reports of new setts, as well as improved records of the gender and approximate age of badgers found dead. Close inspection of the bodies allows us to check for signs of suspicious circumstances of death, as yet none have been found.

January – December 2021

287 dead badgers were reported between 1st January 2021 and the end of December 2021.

The numbers are grim but sadly not notably higher than in previous years, and our reach has grown substantially with the addition of new reporters across the county. Most were killed on roads. One dead cub was found near a sett and another seen on farmland from a footpath, both during dry summer months and neither was thought to be suspicious. Four other badgers were found dead in

Oxfordshire Badger Group: Trustees Annual Report

parks, college grounds and woodland. OBG members checked the bodies, one of which was sent for post mortem.

Casualties per month:

Season/ Year	Winter 2021	Spring 2021	Summer 2021	Autumn 2021	Winter 2021
		Mar* - 41	June *- 24	Sept – 28	Dec - 5
	Jan - 4	Apr*- 35	July - 19	Oct – 22	
	Feb* - 48	May*- 36	Aug - 12	Nov – 13	
Total dead	52	112	55	63	5

Total deaths reported annually:

2018 = 161

2019 = 165

2020 = 150

2021 = 287

Hotspots for deaths on the county's roads in 2021:

A40: More than 30 deaths reported along the road's length with particular hotspots at Shotover / Sandhills (13 deaths), between Old Marston and Barton (10 deaths) and around Witney (7 deaths).

A34: 22 deaths in total with hotspots between Wytham and Hinksey Hill interchange (12 deaths).

A420: 9 deaths between the Botley interchange and Besselsleigh, a further 11 deaths reported south of Besselsleigh.

A4074: 14 deaths between Reading & Oxford, with clusters of deaths at the familiar hotspots near the Dorchester bypass (4 deaths), Sandford On Thames (3 deaths) and around Nuneham Courtenay & the Arboretum.

There have been notable numbers of reports from the A415 (Culham continues to be a hotspot), B4009 around Chinnor and Aston Rowant and the A4260 around Deddington. The rise in reports from these areas reflects an increasing number of OBG members who regularly travel these roads.

The A40, A34, A420 and A4074 have again claimed the most lives in the first six months of 2022.

January – end June 2022

191 dead badgers have been reported in 2022 between 1st January and the end of June.

Month	January*	February*	March*	April*	May*	June*
No. of deaths	14	45	47	43	22	20

* = Period when dead badgers are checked for gender and lactation status.

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Sett records:

The updates on previously recorded setts are very welcome as they provide a history of the sett and it's health over a period of years, and sometimes several decades. Reports of new setts come in from a variety of sources:

- From members of the public concerned about development of land where there is a sett.
- From sett surveying days organised by OBG to explore areas of the county where we have sparse records or where development is planned.
- From methodical surveying of private land by landowners taking part in our vaccination programme. These extremely confidential records are held separately from the main records and are excluded from data sharing agreements and professional data searches.

The increased amount of rescue call outs to injured or ill badgers across the county have generated new records of badger setts and signs in new areas.

2021	January – end June 2022
252 new and updated sett reports, raising the total number of records to just over 1480 collected since the 1970s.	252 new and updated sett reports

Sightings of live badgers

Members of the public and OBG members continue to share their experiences of seeing badgers with us, many from trail cameras. We really appreciate receiving reports about live sightings; they reveal where badgers are living and also describe the genuine excitement that people feel on seeing a live badger going about it's normal activities.

Two notable sightings from the records in 2022: an erythristic badger was seen by a dog walker on Salt Way, Banbury in broad daylight; and an urban badger spotted near Cowley gave a cyclist a shock when it barrelled out in front of him. Luckily a collision was avoided & the badger was observed diving back into the scrub adjacent to the cycle path.

2021	January – end June 2022
27 live sightings	11 live sightings

My sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed their time, effort and reports to our records.

Barbara Witkowski, Records Officer, July 2022

Badger vaccination project

Oxfordshire Badger Group works with farmers, landowners, volunteers, and the public to prevent the spread of bovine tuberculosis by providing treatment, under licence, in the form of vaccination to badgers in Oxfordshire.

Bovine tuberculosis is a disease in cattle that has spread into the wildlife population, including badgers. Through badger vaccination, we aim to reduce the transmission and spread of the disease in the badger population and reduce the risk to cattle.

We believe it is important to offer a humane and equally effective alternative to culling. More and more landowners want to vaccinate their badgers.



OBG badger receiving the charity donation cheque from Waitrose & Partners Wantage.

A generous donation by Mr. Lumpy enabled us to buy a second portable fridge, meaning we could finish the 2021 season running two separate vaccination teams able to work simultaneously in different areas of the county.



During our 2021 season, we were able to double the area of vaccination land. This was made possible by a successful GoFundMe appeal, a kind donation from Waitrose & Partners, Wantage, and a grant from the Badger Trust. Funds were used for vaccine and consumables. We were also able to pay for more of our existing volunteers to train to become licenced to trap and vaccinate via our Natural England Licence.

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Our 2022 vaccination season was successfully completed in September.



In April 2022, we held a well-attended volunteers introduction session, signing up just over 20 new volunteers.

We enjoyed a lively social and educational event at Wytham Woods Sawmill.



New farms and landowners made for a very busy season, but together with our amazing core team, the new volunteers have learned quickly and become indispensable.

Vaccination highlights



Some highlights from the vaccination programme – all health checked, vaccinated and released by our volunteers.



Badger rescue and welfare

Oxfordshire Badger Group works with members of the public and wildlife hospitals in the rescue of injured or sick badgers in Oxfordshire. Our teams are on call to advise the public and landowners who may have concerns about the welfare of badgers in their community. In 2020 we attended 18 rescues and incidents.

Thankfully, 2021 was quieter than previous years, with only six rescues, over half of which were cubs. The rescues involved support feeding orphaned cubs, a road traffic collision, and a badger cub with a plastic bag stuck around its neck. Our teams also visited several sites to give advice. In January, several team members attended the Secret World training event on 'Rescue, care and rehabilitation of badgers

So far, 2022 has been a busy year for the rescue teams, with 15 rescues to date. The rescues have been a mixture of cubs, road traffic collisions, and badgers in poor condition or with injuries. We have used Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue and Nutkin Ward for all veterinary treatment, donating to both for each rescue.



Elsa, a 'white' cub, rescued June 2022

Debbie said *"she is a tiny fighter and now eating on her own. All badgers are special, but occasionally one just gets you straight in the heart. I first saw this little one hiding under a bin, barely able to walk. Kudos to Oxfordshire wildlife rescue for her care.*

When we released Elsa back to her family, I've never seen a badger so quickly recognise her home and so keen to be released."

Elsa, the white badger cub, and the badger in the skateboard park both received a lot of media attention, which highlights our work.

Thank you to all of the rescue team, not only for the rescues but for helping monitor and support feed cubs and elderly badgers.

- Debbie White,
Rescue and Vaccination Coordinator



Oxon Badgers
@OxonBadgers · Follow

Here's the Badger pre rescue in the skate park. Happily fit, well and home now [#badgermonday](#)



12:20 PM · Jul 11, 2022



Badger and other wildlife crime

Oxfordshire Badger Group crime lead liaises with the police, Badger Trust, RSPCA and members of the public. We are concerned that wildlife crime in the county is probably under-reported. We stress the importance of reporting all suspicious or actual wildlife crime incidents to the police and also to the Badger Trust. We offer advice and support and also follow through as necessary to monitor situations where badgers may be at risk in future. Our aim is to ensure that all volunteers and members are suitably trained and this is achieved via periodic online crime training sessions provided by Craig Fellows, the Badger Trust Crime officer.

To reiterate all crimes to badgers should be reported to the police online or via 101. Please make sure you get a crime number and then send all these details into the Badger Trust.

There have been ongoing problems with the Thames Valley Police forces ability to respond to badger crime reports in a timely and effective way. OBG has collated and raised several examples of concern. The Inspector leading the Thames Valley Police Rural Crime Taskforce attended our AGM in August. He explained the how the Taskforce is organising to tackle rural crime, the challenges they face and outlined measures that should improve the forces' response to badger crime reports in future. We continue to monitor the situation.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to report crime into us or to BT. It is sad for the badgers but by recording all the statistics it really paints a picture of what badgers in Oxfordshire are facing. I am happy to talk to anyone who needs advice or assistance on badger related crime.

Emily Lawrence

Promotion of activities and social media

Oxfordshire Badger Group understands how important social media is in attracting new members, spreading our message and engaging with the general public.

Facebook

Currently, 1,380 people like our page and 1,457 people follow us.

Between the 6th July - 2nd August 2022, our posts reached a huge 7.2k and 8 new people liked our page. The most popular post was a share of the new badger bedding at Asda creating the most reactions to a post with 229 likes, 22 shares. It reached 4000 people.

The second was a rescue that at a skate park in Oxford. This reached 1000 people, had 92 likes and 10 shares. This story reached local media and so reached an even higher audience.

Twitter

Twitter has been very good for engagement this year and less posting has improved engagement to ensure followers aren't saturated with content.

We have 1696 twitter followers and our average rate of engagement is usually is around 500 impressions (How much it is seen in feeds), but we have had some stories in 2022 that have gone way above this. Twitter has been very successful in helping direct people to donate via our

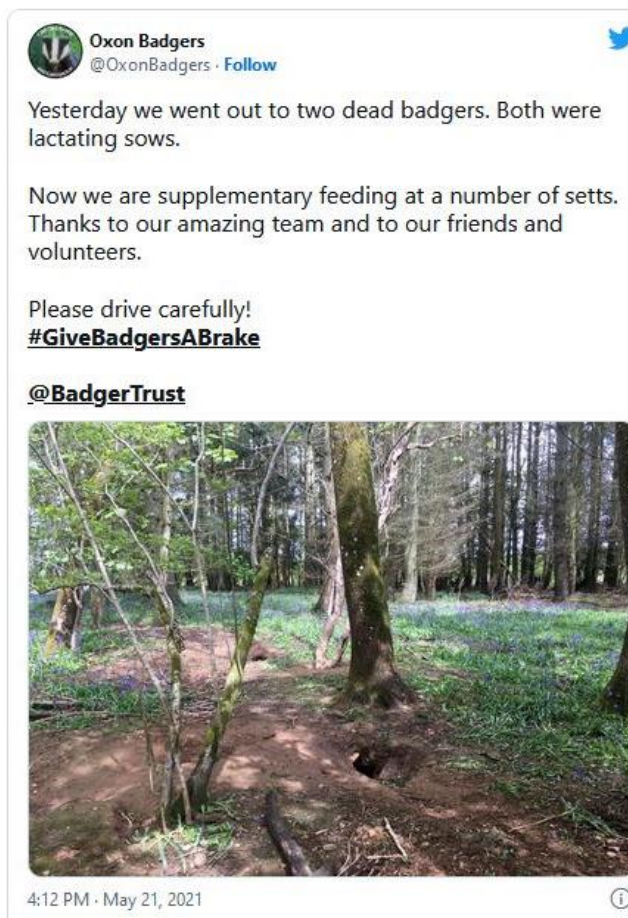
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vaccination fundraiser. Our post about the vaccination of the pure white badger achieved 6529 impressions/ 522 engagements

A tweet we put out with the video of the skate park badger being released had 4224 impressions and 180 engagements. A tweet that we put out regarding a rescue we were called to by Thames Valley police was one of our most popular tweets at 7041 impressions.

We had lots of coverage about the rescue of Elsa the white badger cub. We shared Debbie's tweets on this. The Badger Trust, Oxfordshire Wildlife rescue, Keep the Ban and Dominic Dyer (wildlife campaigner) also shared the story in their words on their own channels which increased our reach.

Where relevant our posts explain how the public can help badgers as in these examples. In 2022, Facebook posts asking the public to put out water in the hot weather for wildlife reached over 1000 people.



Summary

All in all a really good year on social media with the vaccination and rescue teams providing lots of interesting content to share. Next steps are promoting other areas of our work including development and education on our platforms. We do a lot of work in these areas which is largely unseen. We haven't needed to use Facebook Ads in 2022, maybe this is an area we can look into for recruiting new people or sharing any big fundraisers we may have in the future.

We are thinking of different ways to promote our fundraising. Facebook has seen a decline across the whole industry with younger people moving to platforms like Tik Tok so OBG may have to think about where the future of its social media lies. In March 2021 we opened an Instagram account that now has 699 followers

Emily Lawrence

Education: Reaching out for Badgers in 2022

In the Spring of 2022 engagement and support was sought from Oxfordshire Badger Group (OBG) as part of the campaign to save the Horse Fields and Memorial Field in Iffley Village. The Horse Fields is the home of Luna the White Badger, and the Friends of the Fields Iffley wish to protect these fields for her, for the Badger clan living there for many years and for the rich habitat on these ancient meadows which connects with the blue green corridor along the Thames. Oxford City Council purchased the land in 2020 and it is designated for housing development.

As part of our support for the campaign, OBG Committee Members Julia and Eileen attended three local schools² to provide a 'Badger Assembly' and Eileen and Evelyn Sanderson, Co-ordinator of Friends of the Fields, Iffley Campaign attended a fourth school³ to provide a classroom-based event. Following this last event, the children wrote to their local Councillor saying why the Fields should be saved from development. We were able to broaden this session to look at biodiversity more generally and the benefits for all of us of being in and protecting nature at this time of emergencies for people and planet

Some two hundred children took part in these events. Most were 7–8-year-olds, whilst Iffley Academy students who have special educational needs were in some cases older.

Children were wonderfully engaged, enthusiastic and bursting with questions. We shared information about how badgers live and encouraged the children to help us to protect them. Watching the video about Iffley Fields, narrated by Peggy Seeger a famous folk singer, prompted discussion of protecting where Luna and her clan live. Subsequently, some children asked their parents to take them to 'see where Luna lives.'

We look forward to invitations from schools to meet and 'talk Badger' with more children after the summer break. Friends of the Fields Iffley will also be providing an update on Luna and her family.



This photograph is shared with the permission of parents and the school.

Frodo the taxidermy badger was universally loved!

– Eileen Anderson, Education & Outreach

² Rosehill Primary, St Mary and St John Primary, Iffley Academy

³ Larkrise Primary

Public outreach – fetes and fairs

In the summer of 2022, we were able to start taking OBG's message to the general public via our stall at suitable fetes and fairs. Thanks to the easing of the pandemic restrictions, there was no shortage of suitable events. The season kicked off at the Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue's Easter Bank Holiday Fete. Our badger took part in the obstacle race and dancing much to the crowd's delight.



Many people came to share their love of badgers, to talk about badger problems, their concerns about the Cull or just for information. Our child friendly stall offered games, drawing material and puzzles, using educational material provided by the Badger Trust. Our three stuffed badgers- Frodo, Sam and Gandalf - were a great attraction. Our new information posters were also well received, especially our (in)famous 'Badger Poo Poster'!

What's in the poo?

Badgers are very clean animals. They dig toilets called 'latrines' which mark their territory. A badger's poo smells musky and sweet. Other badgers can tell who's used the toilet by the smell. Look at the poo to see what badgers eat.



Badgers love plums & fruits



A badger can eat 100's of worms each night.



They like sweet things

Planning and development

The county of Oxfordshire is facing massive development from both local and national planning for growth pressures. Oxford City plans to build on much of the open spaces remaining within its boundaries. As local councils have to provide for Oxford's unmet housing needs, more and more pressure is being put on the Green Belt and rural areas outside the city.

The scale of development planned for Oxfordshire is daunting and many of the proposals are likely to impact the badger population. During the period of this report new development threats have emerged in the form of massive solar farms and industrial warehousing. The Environment Agencies' proposal for the £123 million Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme threatens multiple badger setts along its length.

Oxfordshire Badger Group have responded to consultations for local plans with comments about potential impact on badgers and are trying to make sure that the mitigation is the best it can be for badgers on new developments. We also liaise with and support local residents concerned about the environmental impact of smaller proposals that nevertheless, can be devastating to badgers.

We encourage our members and the public to contact us as early as possible in the planning process if they are concerned that badger setts or foraging areas will be impacted. It is very difficult to influence proposals once planning permission has been granted. The following are examples of current developments where we hope to make a real difference in ensuring the best possible outcome for badgers.

Eynsham Garden Village: OBG is concerned that plans for this green field site would lead to the loss of many setts. We are working closely with Council Officers to suggest mitigation measures.

Land north of Bayswater Brook, Barton: OBG taken part in consultations from the concept stage and have voiced concerns about the impact on badgers and the species rich Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) adjacent to the site. Our feedback was received positively. Recently we submitted comments on the outline plans and will continue to be involved throughout the planning process.

Radley Development: OBG has worked with the developers and local residents to provide a badger road tunnel as part of the new development of 240 houses on fields sold by Radley School. The developer, Pye Homes is proud to have achieved a higher-than-average biodiversity net gain by incorporating natural landscaping to encourage and protect local wildlife, including the introduction of badger corridors. We know, because they have advertised this on the buses !

Iffley Fields: OBG are working closely with local residents in the Friends group to ensure that the badger sett is protected through future development by Oxford City Council on fields in this Conservation area.

- **Julia Hammett and Richard Tilley**

Badger cull

Oxfordshire Badger Group has always strongly opposed the policy of culling badgers as part of the government's strategy for eradicating bovine TB. In 2020, the government issued licences to cull badgers in Oxfordshire for the first time. The 2021 culling season opened at the end of August and covered a larger area of the county than previously due to the addition of a second cull zone licence. In March 2022 we reported that 1254 badgers were culled in Oxfordshire in 2021 - up from 1040 in the previous year. We were appalled to see the number of badgers killed by the cruel and inhumane 'free shooting' method has increased from 61% to 80% , meaning that many more animals are likely to have suffered a painful and lingering death.

Oxfordshire Badger Group believe that the vaccination of badgers in the county is a more humane and cost effective alternative. We are proud to offer a vaccination service to landowners. We continue to call on the Government to stop the cull. Badgers in Oxfordshire are already under threat due to the unprecedented level of housing developments. Culling an iconic, protected native mammal on such an intensive scale is not acceptable in one of the most nature depleted countries in the world.

We encourage our members and supporters to oppose the cull by all legal means possible.

Hutchcomb's Copse



In August 2022 Oxfordshire Badger Group completed the purchase of Hutchcomb's Copse. This is 2.05 acres of ancient and semi ancient broad leaf woodland on Cumnor Hill (OX29 HE) close to Oxford City. Our professional valuation report described it as *"a quiet gem of a woodland that is secluded and largely untouched."*

Importantly, the wood is home to a well-established breeding badger sett. Hence the purchase will allow us to directly protect and study a badger clan.

The Copse is part of a larger, ecologically important green space within an otherwise urban area.

We intend to manage the Copse sensitively to enhance it's potential as a wildlife reserve and training/ volunteer asset.

The purchase was completed with the aid of an unsecured Trustee loan. The Charity plans to crowdfund the repayment costs to secure the Copse for posterity.

Collaboration with other organisations

Oxfordshire Badger Group believes that collaboration is essential to deliver our charities' aims. We have established ongoing operating relationships with the following organisations.

The Badger Trust: OBG is a full member of the Badger Trust (registered charity 1111440). The Trust is the national umbrella organisation which represents and support around 60 local voluntary badger groups across England and Wales). OBG functions independently but in partnership with the Trust. This relationship provides access to expert advice, peer group support and mentoring; training; authoritative information (such as leaflets) and the opportunity to apply for Badger Trust grants. OBG supports relevant Badger Trust campaigns and helps disseminate information and calls for action to our members and followers.

Other Badger Groups: We liaise with the Groups covering our neighbouring counties (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire; Warwickshire, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire) on a regular operational basis. During the reporting period this has involved sharing resources - to cover badger call outs on the 'overlapping' county borders along with joint training and social events. We are part of the wider badger vaccination network and have benefited from training and mentoring along with regular news and best practice updates. We offer special thanks to the highly experienced Somerset, Derbyshire and Cornwall vaccination teams for their support.

The Conservation Volunteers local South Eastern group (TVC) registered charity in England (261009). OBG is a paid member of TVC. This gives us access to advice, support and funding opportunities. We are listed on their website and contribute to their regular newsletters. We also benefit from access to discounted insurance prices.

Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT): Our local wildlife Trust shares a keen interest in badger welfare, opposes culling and vaccinate against bTB. BBOWT is able to provide local training for vaccination volunteers.

Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC): We believe it is vital to maintain accurate environmental records capturing the diversity and threats to wild life in this area. We share information with Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) via a mutual data sharing agreement that respects the sensitivity of our data.

Wytham Woods Field Station, Oxford University Wildlife Conservation Research Unit: OBG is fortunate to have excellent working relationships with the ecologists running Badger Project at WildCRU: The "laboratory with leaves" at Wytham Woods. WildCRU's Badger Project has collected a wealth of fundamental ecological data for over 30 years. We regularly hold social and training events at Wytham Woods.

Wildlife rescue and Hospitals: Our rescue service captures badgers in need of care and take them to a suitable wildlife hospital. We work primarily with 'local' centres within striking distance of Oxfordshire - including The Nutkin Ward; Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue; and the Vale Wildlife Hospital.

The RSPCA is often contacted by members of the public and others concerned about badger issues, especially possible crime or badgers in need of rescue. Our charity liaises with the local officers.

Treasurer's Financial Report

This is the charities' second financial report. It includes a Statement of Accounts for the period 01 January 2021-31 December 2021, along with figures for our first CIO period 2019/2020 for comparison. As a CIO with 2021 income of £10,339, OBG's accounts do not require Independent Examination until our gross income exceeds £25,000, unless a specific request is made by membership at the AGM. No request was made at the latest AGM on 22nd August 2022.

2021 Receipts

Sales - With events curtailed by Covid, sales remained at very reduced level. Dedicated sales were started to finance the OBG Conference planned for November 2022.

Interest - No interest accrues to our Co-Op bank account.

Gift Aid – The Charity is able to claim Gift Aid on donations and this is helping boost our income.

Badger Trust Grant - In May 2021 OBG received a Badger Trust Vaccination Grant of £1,963.00. This funded one Module 3 Vaccinator course and four the Module 2 Trapper courses.

Members' Subscriptions – Up 76% in volume on previous year reflecting a larger than usual new intake of volunteers.

Donations - Comprise 59% of OBG's income in 2021. As last year, the outstanding feature of our accounts is the continued generosity of our members and supporters, who continue to be the mainstay of our funding. The Trustees thank all our members and supporters and hope for continue support despite the current pressure on everyone's cost of living.

The Secretary has worked to increase OBG fundraising and income by using online tools which support charities. The charity is now registered with platforms such as PayPalGiving, Amazon Smile, Ebay and Give As You Live Online. These allow supporters to nominate us as their chosen charity, donate items from our wish list and 'top up' payments to benefit our work.

Professional Fees: OBG received payment of £675 from APHA (Animal and Plant Health Agency).

2021 Payments

Insurance – Annual insurance continued at £565.86 in October 2021, to cover OBG's expansion of field activities, including sett surveying, badger rescue and vaccination.

Badger Trust Levy and Donation - OBG is a full member of the Badger and as such, pays an annual fee based on membership numbers.

Badger Rescue Equipment – In March 2021 OBG spent the last £418.45 of our 2020 Clare Hammacott £1,472 Grant from the Badger Trust on equipment for badger rescues. The Grant enabled us to complete equipment purchase for 7 rescue teams.

Badger Vaccination – 81% of OBG's expenditure in 2021 has been towards the vaccination project, including purchase of equipment, vaccines, expendables and training of volunteer trappers and vaccinators.

2021 Reporting

The Trustees' first Annual Report and Accounts for 2019/2020 were submitted to the Charity Commission on 8th October 2021.

2019/2020 Tax Returns and accounts for HMRC, to confirm that, as a charity, OBG should be exempt from Corporation Tax, were submitted online on 11th November 2021.

At year end, 31st December 2021, OBG funds totalled £10,334.27, up 25% on year end 2020.

Financial status

Though modest, Oxfordshire Badger Group's current resources from unrestricted donations are sufficient to meet its outgoings for at least next year. Indications are that this will remain the case for the foreseeable future.

Financial reserves policy

The charity aims to hold adequate reserve funding to meet unforeseen or new contingencies; to maintain a good cash flow; known operating commitments; and be able to close down in good order should the charity become financially unsustainable. The Trustees have referred to applicable Charity Commission requirements and Guidance in setting the charities financial reserves policy.

The charity reserves are in cash and cash deposits. They arise from the accumulated surpluses of members' subscriptions, donations and grants over expenditure. They also include surpluses accumulated by the previous voluntary group which were transferred to the charity on 09 December 2019. They are unrestricted and freely available to support any of the charities activities and expenses.

Our policy is to try and maintain reserves sufficient to cover one year's typical expenditure. Anything over and above this will be kept as a general contingency. This policy, and the level of reserves held by the charity is reviewed annually.

As at 31 December 2021 the reserves carried forward to 2022 were £10,334.27

Details of any funds materially in deficit

The charity has no funds which are materially in deficit.

Richard Tilley, Treasurer, 20TH October 2022

Statutory statements on liabilities

The Trustees declare that:

- The charity has given no guarantees where potential liability under the guarantee is outstanding at the date of this statement (*eg*: any outstanding/ongoing contract or legal undertaking to buy or provide specific services); and
- The charity has no debt outstanding at the date of this statement which is owed by the CIO and which is secured by an express charge on any assets of the CIO (*eg*: a mortgage on property owned by the charity).

Oxfordshire Badger Group: Trustees Annual Report

Statement of accounts for financial year 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2021

OXFORDSHIRE BADGER GROUP	TOTAL 09/12/2019 TO 31/12/2020	TOTAL 01/01/2021 TO 31/12/2021
RECEIPTS		
Trading activities		
Sales	389.86	381.29
Interest	0	0
Gift Aid collected by PayPal	325.75	438.00
From other charities		
Badger Trust grant	1,472.00	1,963.00
Other sources		
Members' subscriptions	446.30	787.35
Donations	5,308.54	6,094.52
Survey fees	60.00	0
Payments for other services	-	675.00
Subtotal other sources	5,814.84	7,556.87
TOTAL RECEIPTS	8,002.45	10,339.16
PAYMENTS		
Trading Costs		
Purchases of stock	411.50	0
Stall fees	25.00	58.00
Sales postage	-	5.30
Subtotal trading costs	436.50	63.30
General administration		
Insurance	565.86	565.86
Website fee	178.00	0
PayPal fees	-	92.67
Office supplies	39.45	0
Hall hire for events	93.00	0
Travel expenses	-	173.70
Subtotal general administration	876.31	832.23
Donations made		
Badger Trust levy & donation	200.00	100.00
Wildlife hospitals	275.00	85.00
Subtotal donations made	475.00	185.00
Other payments		
Equipment for badger rescues	1,053.55	418.45
Equipment for vaccination	562.54	6,129.01
Vaccination training	-	615.00
Subtotal other payments	1,616.09	7,162.46
TOTAL PAYMENTS	3,403.90	8,242.99
Bank funds at end of period	8,198.30	10,294.47
	+ cash 39.30	+ cash 39.80
Total funds at end of period	8,237.60	10,334.27
Richard Tilley, OBG Treasurer, 20/10/2022		



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
OXFORDSHIRE BADGER GROUP

No (if any)
1186850

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2021	To	Period end date 31/12/2021
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Members' subscriptions	787	-	-	787	-
Donations	6,095	-	-	6,095	-
Grants	1,963	-	-	1,963	-
Sales	381	-	-	381	-
Gift Aid	438	-	-	438	-
APHA payments	675	-	-	675	-
Professional services	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	10,339	-	-	10,339	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	10,339	-	-	10,339	-
A3 Payments					
Insurance	566	-	-	566	-
Badger Trust levy and donation	100	-	-	100	-
Donations to wildlife hospitals	85	-	-	85	-
Hall and stall hire, & office supplies	63	-	-	63	-
PayPal fees	93	-	-	93	-
Equipment for badger rescues	418	-	-	418	-
Equipment for vaccination programme	6,129	-	-	6,129	-
Training for vaccination	615	-	-	615	-
Travel expenses	174	-	-	174	-
Sub total	8,243	-	-	8,243	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	8,243	-	-	8,243	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,096	-	-	2,096	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	8,238	-	-	8,238	-
Cash funds this year end	10,334	-	-	10,334	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Co-Op bank account	10,294	-	-
	Cash float	40	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	10,334	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		RICHARD TILLEY	20/10/2022	

Accounts



Registered charity no. 1186850

Trustees report
and financial statement
for the year ended 31st Dec 2020

Final version dated 08 Oct 2021

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Trustees approval:	19

Oxfordshire Badger Group: Trustees Annual Report

Reference and administrative details

Charity name:	Oxfordshire Badger Group
Type of charity:	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with voting members
Registration details	Registered with the Charity Commission on 9 th December 2019 The charity is registered with HM Revenue & Customs
Registration Number	Registered Charity in England and Wales number: 1186850
Charity address:	29 Webbs Way, Kidlington, OX5 2EW
Trustees who manage the charity	Julia Hammett (Chair)
	Richard Tilley (Treasurer)
	Linda Ward (Secretary)
Advisors and senior members of staff	None
Banks:	The Co-operative Bank, P O Box 250, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT (primary) Lloyds Bank, P O Box 1000, Andover
Public Liability	Zurich insurance, The Zurich Centre, 3000 Parkway, Whiteley, Fareham, Hampshire PO15 7JZ

Oxfordshire Badger Group: Trustees Annual Report

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Constitution: Based on the Charity Commission model governing document for a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with voting members.

Charitable Objects

As defined in our Constitution (Governing Document) the charity's objects are:

1. To promote, for the public benefit, the conservation and protection of badgers, their setts and habitats in Oxfordshire and elsewhere; and
2. To advance the education of the public on the ecology, behaviour and protected status of badgers, their setts and habitats.

Nothing in this constitution shall authorise an application of the property of the CIO for the purposes which are not charitable in accordance with section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

Trustee Selection Methods

In accordance with the Constitution there must be at least 3 charity Trustees to a maximum of 12.

The current Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are ex officio charity Trustees. They became the first Trustees of Oxfordshire Badger Group when it became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 09 December 2019. In accordance with the Constitution, all Trustees retired from office at the first Annual General Meeting held 5th June 2021. They were unanimously re-elected as Officers and Trustees by the membership.

In appointing additional or replacement Trustees, due consideration will be given to ensuring that the Trustees have, between them, the skills and experience necessary to manage the charity effectively and in accordance with charity law.

Committee and organisational approach

The Trustees of the charity during the period of this report were: Julia Hammett (Chair), Richard Tilley (Treasurer), and Linda Ward (Secretary).

The Trustees meet regularly. In addition to their regular committee duties, the Trustees lead on ensuring we comply with the Charity Commission's best practice guidance, reporting requirements and applicable regulation.

Members of the committee are elected via the members Annual General Meeting and have specific role(s) within OBG> Other members of the Committee during the report period were: Barbara Witkowski (records officer), Debbie White (vaccination and rescue coordinator), Emily Lawrence (crime liaison and public relations), Karl Moore (licenced vaccinator), Keiron Ward (licenced trapper).

Eileen Anderson was elected to the committee (as an additional post) at the first Annual General Meeting of the members held 5th June 2021.

Oxfordshire Badger Group: Trustees Annual Report

Oxfordshire Badger Group has no paid staff and is run entirely on a volunteer basis. Members have the option to volunteer to take part in various organised activities or may simply support our work via their membership fees¹.

The charity has created three regional sub-groups serving the North West, the South, Central and eastern areas of the County of Oxfordshire respectively. Each sub-group is organised by one or more committee members.

Activities and achievements

Statutory declaration

The Trustees of Oxfordshire Badger Group confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in deciding which activities the charity should undertake.

Executive summary

Oxfordshire Badger Group (OBG) is a small wildlife welfare charity which promotes the conservation and protection of badgers, their setts and habitats in Oxfordshire and beyond. It began as a not-for profit organisation (of the same name) in January 1989.

This is our first annual Trustees report since becoming a registered charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). It covers the period 9th December 2019 to 30th September 2021.

Our work for badger conservation is for the public benefit, primarily in Oxfordshire but also nationally, in partnership with the Badger Trust and other badger groups. Our members are concerned for the conservation, protection and welfare of badgers and their habitats. We promote:

- protection, understanding and appreciation of an important native wild animal
- a healthy ecosystem and biodiversity
- enabling individuals and communities to protect and nurture wildlife
- ethical standards of behaviour and respect for the law
- animal welfare

The charity has worked to increase:

- the number of paid members and pool of active volunteers;
- the training support and resources available for volunteers; and
- the range and scope of activities which directly benefit badgers and the public

The charity has established an ambitious animal welfare programme that includes structured procedures for checking badger sighting reports and manning a 24/7 badger rescue response team. Our badger vaccination programme began in 2019 as a small scale pilot. We have successfully doubled this activity year on year. We have also worked to increase awareness and reporting of wildlife crime. Work to expand and keep our badger records up to date is ongoing.

An important part of our volunteer work is to respond to incidents and enquires involving badgers. Since becoming a charity OBG has logged and responded to 136 enquiries (70 in 2019/20 and 66 in 2021 to date. Call outs are classified as animal welfare and rescue (26); possible wildlife crime (31);

¹ Membership of the charity costs £12 per year per household (or £6 concessionary rate)

Oxfordshire Badger Group: Trustees Annual Report

public outreach/ education / concerns over badgers in property or gardens (42); impact of development works or planning applications (37). The majority 91 (67%) of enquiries came from members of the public. Our members raised 30 (22%) of cases and 15 (11%) were from professionals. Members of the public were found to be important sources of all types of report. They were responsible for 39% of crime reports, 54% of badger rescue incidents and 64% of work/development queries.

The government established a cull zone in Oxfordshire in 2020. Part of Oxfordshire is also included in the Warwickshire zone. In 2021 they licensed a second Oxfordshire zone, greatly increasing the area culled and the target number of badgers to be shot. These are all four year licenses. OBG works to raise public awareness, lobby decision makers and to support members in opposing the cull by all legal methods available.

OBG has achieved significant growth in membership, activities and service delivery. We are building a strong public profile as the 'go to' charity for Oxfordshire badgers. Volunteer morale and commitment remains very high despite the extremely challenging operating conditions.

Membership and volunteering

The existing members of the previous voluntary organisation were transferred (with their knowledge and consent) over into the new charity administration on 9th December 2019. The membership database has been cleaned. Of note:

1. The membership fee was increased to £12 per household per year but now runs monthly and will no longer expire at the end of each calendar year.
2. A concessionary membership fee of £6 per household was introduced to enable people on low income to join. Subscription to our newsletter has always been free to the public.
3. Membership applications and payment of fees can now be made online.
4. Paid membership has increased by 60% following a membership drive.
5. Members of OBG benefit from group membership of the Badger Trust and are entitled to attend Badger Trust events and Annual General Meetings.
6. We have formed teams of volunteers willing to take part in badger rescue, vaccination and checking road casualties (RTAs). This enables us to provide much better coverage of the county, improved response times and greater strength in depth.
7. We provide mentoring / training and have produced protocols and guidelines for people taking part in these core volunteer activities.

Badger casualty, sett and live sightings records

Oxfordshire Badger Group holds secure records of reported deaths, live sightings and setts dating back over five decades. This information underpins our core charitable activities. Hence we work to maintain the data base and ensure it is as up to date and extensive as possible. Data is held in confidence and only released for legitimate purposes. Examples of bone fide data uses include:

Oxfordshire Badger Group: Trustees Annual Report

- A professional, chargeable data search service to agencies (such as developers, ecologists, and planning authorities) that can prove that they have a legitimate reason need for information about the presence of badgers in a specific area.
- To inform OBG's responses to planning applications and major development consultations
- Planning the badger vaccination programme
- Enabling volunteers to check that sett records are up to date by periodic visits
- Dealing with potential wildlife crime or identifying setts which may be at risk
- Animal welfare and rescue – for example identification of nearby setts which require monitoring to assist in badger cub rescues or release
- Data sharing under agreement – for example we have a mutual data sharing agreement with the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre. We also share information with the National Badger Trust.

We encourage members and the public to report all badger sightings live or dead promptly. The data is very valuable; it demonstrates badgers are active in an area. It can be cross-checked against sett records to confirm continued activity at known setts or else identify areas where our records may be incomplete. The number of dead badgers reported killed on roads in Oxfordshire averages about 160 a year. This is probably an underestimate since reporting patterns reflects our membership base. We are working to raise public awareness and reporting rates via social media and outreach. We emphasise that prompt reporting allows us to help badgers directly and have made it very easy to report online.

Casualty reports protocols introduced in 2021

In February 2021, volunteers started a concerted effort to go out to every dead badger that was reported, and check firstly whether the animal could possibly be rescued. Then, if pronounced dead, to check its gender and lactation status in case there may be vulnerable cubs nearby that required our assistance. Information about dead badgers (RTAs) was shared in a closed What's App group to a core group of OBG members from across the county, individuals volunteered to check bodies & report back. The charity has updated its risk assessment and casualty report protocols accordingly.

This system is working well, providing timely, thorough checks of RTAs (where safe to stop) and surveys of the surrounding environment. It has generated several reports of new setts, as well as improved records of the gender and approximate age of badgers found dead. Close inspection allows us to check for signs of suspicious circumstances of death, as yet none have been found.

We are aware of several 'hotspots' for badger casualties. As you might expect, there are clusters on several of the counties' major A roads. We support and promote the Badger Trusts' 'Give Badgers a Brake' campaign.

Sett records

OBG holds well over 1300 sett records of which 500 were added or updated in the reporting period. This has involved a significant volunteer effort. We have a core of people who regularly contribute

Oxfordshire Badger Group: Trustees Annual Report

reports and those who have set – and achieved - personal targets of adding considerable numbers of new setts to our records each year, even during a pandemic. We have been raising public awareness of the importance of sett reporting and welcome ‘ad hoc reports’ from non-members.

Some of the reports are updates on previously recorded setts, which are very welcome as they provide a history of the sett and its health over several decades in some cases. Other reports provide brand new information and increase our knowledge of badger presence in the county. A good number are new setts that we have learned of from being permitted access onto private land by landowners who have signed up to our vaccination programme. These extremely confidential records are held separately from the main records and are excluded from data sharing agreements and professional data searches.

Our sett surveying work had been structured to two purposes: “footpath surveying” of areas marked for development, and methodical surveying of land where access has been agreed for vaccination. The on-set of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions impacted on both activities. We were not able to hold sett surveying days where small groups of volunteers followed footpath routes to survey areas of interest. However, individuals who wished to walk in areas local to them, following all current health guidance, were provided with tailored information. A fieldwork training session was provided at Wytham Woods in the summer 2021. We have encouraged more members to be “guardians” of their local setts, keeping a regular watch to check that all’s well and reporting any changes, or any concerns, to the Group for advice on maintaining the sett’s protection.

Nationwide, badger vaccination was delayed until the time when national restrictions were lifted and protocols were in place to ensure that vaccination teams could work safely. Surveys were undertaken on all previous and new vaccination sites in 2020 and 2021 during the summer.

Sightings of live badgers

Around 35 live sightings of badgers have been reported to us since July 2019 from a variety of locations across the county. Many of the reporters express their surprised delight on seeing a real, live badger. Several of the reports mention capturing badgers on trail cameras in the resident’s gardens, and a few reporters have told us where they think or know their local sett is. We really appreciate receiving reports about live sightings; they don’t only tell us where badgers are, they also reveal the engagement that members of the public have with nature and the genuine excitement that people feel when they have a rare interaction with our secretive, cautious nocturnal neighbours.

Badger vaccination

Oxfordshire Badger Group works with landowners, volunteers, and the public to prevent the spread of bovine tuberculosis by providing treatment, under licence, in the form of vaccination to badgers in Oxfordshire. Badger vaccination builds immunity and reduces the risk of treated badger populations becoming infected with TB. The aim is to reduce the spread of the disease in the badger population.

Oxfordshire Badger Group actively promotes this humane approach to reducing the spread of bovine tuberculosis through education and awareness.

Oxfordshire Badger Group: Trustees Annual Report

Despite the Covid restrictions, during 2020, our core vaccination group, consisting of 2 qualified vaccinators and 2 qualified trappers, supported by 4 field assistants, worked with 10 landowners to successfully vaccinate the badgers on their land.

Once the vaccination season finished in September, the last few months of 2020 were spent proactively engaging with new landowners ready for expansion in 2021.

The 2021 vaccination programme is our largest and most ambitious to date.

Badger rescue and welfare

Oxfordshire Badger Group works with members of the public and wildlife hospitals in the rescue of injured or sick badgers in Oxfordshire. Together with being on call to give advice to the public and landowners who may have concerns about the welfare of badgers in their community. It is important that badger rescue is performed by suitably experienced volunteers. Also they must have the proper tools to retrieve an injured badger from various situations and transport it in a way that is both safe and welfare friendly. Initially, the charity had only two 'inherited' sets of basic rescue equipment and just one trained rescue volunteer. In 2020 we successfully applied for a Badger Trust Clare Hammacott Grant (£1,472) for field work and badger rescue equipment. This allowed us to increase capacity and establish 7 rescue teams complete with full rescue equipment. Rescue is ideally performed in pairs. Via our WhatsApp group we can rapidly coordinate and call on 19 rescue trained volunteers. We now are able to provide good coverage across the county. We also liaise with neighbouring badger Groups to improve response times. The charity is now able to offer an out of hours call out service.

Luckily, our volunteer rescue training day, with input from a local wildlife hospital and a Thames Valley Police Wildlife officer, was held in February 2020 before the lockdowns began. The training meeting was well attended by members and we were pleased to be joined by several members of the Binfield Badger Group.

During the year 2020 we attended 18 rescues and incidents. Some were resolved through monitoring and advice. Several badgers were removed from scene for veterinary treatment. A small number had to be euthanised due to the seriousness of injuries, but the rest were successfully returned to the wild. In 2021 so far we have dealt with 9 call outs to rescue badgers.

Crime liaison

Oxfordshire Badger Group crime lead liaises with the police, Badger Trust, RSPCA and members of the public. We are concerned that wildlife crime in the county is probably under-reported and that the police response is often unduly delayed and inadequate. We stress the importance of reporting all suspicious or actual wildlife crime incidents to the police and also to the Badger Trust. We offer advice and support and also follow through as necessary to monitor situations where badgers may be at risk in future.

Our aim is to ensure that all volunteers and members are suitable trained and this is achieved via periodic online crime training sessions provided by Craig Fellows, the Badger Trust Crime officer.

During 2020/21 we have had a large number of crime reports coming into OBG. We believe this is because we are succeeding in helping our members become more aware and that we are getting

Oxfordshire Badger Group: Trustees Annual Report

better at dealing with these issues. With the badger cull taking place in Oxfordshire more people have been out on the group checking badger setts and reporting in anything suspicious.

Badger crime from hunting was not an issue in 2020 due to the suspension of hunting due to Covid19 restrictions (we did not have any reports in).

Members are becoming adept at recording grid references and then reporting via our new form which is on the website and then to the Badger Trust.

Our crime liaison officer is a member of the Committee and is available if anyone needs advice or assistance on badger related crime. Oxfordshire Badger Group has identified a number of issues with how badger crimes are being dealt with via Thames Valley Police. We have escalated these concerns via the Badger Trust crime officer and are continuing to monitor the situation.

We thank everyone who has taken the time to report crime into us or to BT. By recording all the incidents and statistics we are able to paint a more accurate picture of what badgers in Oxfordshire are facing.

Promotion of activities and social media

Oxfordshire Badger Group understands how important social media is in attracting new members, spreading our message and maintaining good relationships with stakeholders and the general public. We aim to grow these platforms and improve our interaction and content.

We also operate a mailing list which includes nearly 300 subscribers. Around two thirds of these are formally members of the Group, significantly increasing the reach of our 'open' newsletters.

We currently have 1319 followers on twitter and have great interaction with a wild ranging audience from other badger groups to individuals in conservation and general members of the public. We also have members of the local media that follow us who we have established a good relationship with, especially in the last 18 months.

Vaccination pictures and reports go down well and this is something that is done sensitively to maintain confidentiality. We are looking to increase and widen our reach by including more video on what we do. This is something we are encouraging supporters to get more involved in. We have lots of people sending in pictures of badger sightings which we try to retweet. As an example, one of our vaccination videos had 2,713 Impressions. 356 people clicked on it to watch and we had 104 engagements so we can hopefully work on making these numbers larger.

Twitter has been very successful in helping direct people to donate via our vaccination fundraiser.

Similarly we have 1261 Facebook followers and get good interaction and reach on posts. We are working to engage a wider and more engaged Facebook audience by putting out more meaningful posts including events as these get up and running again. We have begun to share Facebook posts in other relevant groups and have been sharing our friends posts when seen (Northamptonshire Badger group, Nutkin Ward, Oxfordshire Wildlife rescue. Vale Wildlife hospital and Warwickshire Badger group to name a few)

Oxfordshire Badger Group: Trustees Annual Report

Planning and development

The county of Oxfordshire is facing massive development from both local and national planning for growth pressures. Oxford City plans to build on much of the open spaces remaining within its boundaries. As local councils have to provide for Oxford's unmet housing needs, more and more pressure is being put on the Green Belt and rural areas outside the city. Cherwell Council are planning to build 4,400 houses in the Green Belt north of the City. Land at Barton will see 1,100 additional homes built on Green Belt under Oxford City's Local Plan in addition to the recent 885 home Mosaics Barton LLP development. West Oxford's Local Plan includes a 2,220 home development on green fields in Eynsham.

New controversial planning laws would do away with many of the constraints on development, see local councils and residents' views marginalised and categorise land according to its suitability for housing putting many areas rich in wildlife at risk.

Oxfordshire Badger Group have responded to consultations for local plans with comments about potential impact on badgers and are trying to make sure that the mitigation is the best it can be for badgers on new developments. We also liaise with and support local residents concerned about the environmental impact of proposals. The scale of development planned for Oxfordshire is daunting and much of the proposals are likely to impact the badger population.

Eynsham Garden Village: OBG has submitted an objection for plans on this green field site as it would lead to the loss of many setts. We are working closely with Council Officers at this early stage of planning with suggestions for mitigation.

Land north of Bayswater Brook, Barton: OBG has attended some of the online open meetings and have voiced concerns about the impact on badgers and the species rich Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) adjacent to the site. Outline plans have yet to be submitted.

Radley Development: OBG has worked with the developers and local residents to provide a badger road tunnel as part of the new development of 240 houses on fields sold by Radley School.

Iffley Fields: OBG are working closely with local residents in the Friends group to ensure that the badger sett is protected through future development by Oxford City Council on fields in this Conservation area.

Seacourt Park and Ride extension: The extension to the Park and Ride is completed. OBG has worked with the Council officers and site manager to ensure that the neighbouring badger sett is given the maximum protection possible from light pollution and disturbance.

Badger cull

Oxfordshire Badger Group has always strongly opposed the policy of culling badgers as part of the government's strategy for eradicating bovine TB. In 2020, the government issued licences to cull badgers in Oxfordshire for the first time. Culling will continue for at least four years. Hence 2020 was a pivotal year for our campaign against the cull. Our activities included:

- Supporting and promoting two legal challenges to the cull via the Judicial Review process;

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- Supported the Wild Justice petition calling for an immediate end to the free shooting of badgers;
- Responded to the DEFRA consultation on proposals to manage the delivery of both badger vaccination and culling in Edge counties;
- Mounted a campaign highlighting the impact of the planned Oxfordshire cull, encouraging members and the public to write to the Secretary of State and local MPs with their objections;
- Cooperated with other groups opposing the cull including Berks Bucks and Oxon wildlife Trust (BBWOT) and the Badger Trust;
- Worked with Oxford City Councillors providing advice that led to the Council voting to ban culling on their land, also lobbied other Councils across Oxfordshire to do the same;
- Provided advice to landowners concerned that badgers might be culled on their land;
- Provided support and advice on how to oppose the cull by legal means (such as organising a wounded badger patrol) while discouraging any illegal activity;
- Issued a press release and secured widespread press coverage. Gave interviews on local and national TV and radio stations;
- Advocated badger vaccination as a humane and effective alternative to culling;
- Publicised the outcome of the Oxfordshire cull – with the deaths of at least 1040 badgers.

The 2021 culling season opened at the end of August and covers a larger area of the county than previously due to the addition of a second cull zone licence.

Collaboration with other organisations

Oxfordshire Badger Group has worked with and contributed to the activities of several other organisations during the reporting period. We view collaboration as essential to our own objectives and continue to seek new operating relationships.

- **The Badger Trust:** OBG is a full member of the Badger Trust (registered charity 1111440). The Trust is the national umbrella organisation which represents and support around 60 local voluntary badger groups across England and Wales). OBG functions independently but in partnership with the Trust. This relationship provides access to expert advice, peer group support and mentoring; training; authoritative information (such as leaflets) and the opportunity to apply for Badger Trust grants. OBG supports relevant Badger Trust campaigns and helps disseminate information and calls for action to our members and followers.
- **Other Badger Groups:** We liaise with the Groups covering our neighbouring counties (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire; Warwickshire, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire) on a regular operational basis. During the reporting period this has involved sharing resources - to cover badger call outs on the 'overlapping' county borders along with joint training and social events.
We are part of the wider badger vaccination network and have benefited from training and mentoring along with regular news and best practice updates. We offer special thanks to the highly experienced Somerset, Derbyshire and Cornwall vaccination teams for their support.
- **The Conservation Volunteers** local South Eastern group (TVC) registered charity in England (261009). OBG is a paid member of TVC. This gives us access to advice, support and funding opportunities. We are listed on their website and contribute to their regular newsletters. We also benefit from access to discounted insurance prices. We intend to make more of this resource to help grow our own charity. <https://www.tcv.org.uk/>
- **Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT):** Our local wildlife Trust has a keen interest in badger welfare and shares our opposition to culling. Like us, they advocate vaccination against bTB as the way forward. During 2022 OBG worked with BBOWT staff to perform a badger rescue on their land. We are also using BBOWT as a source of local training for our vaccination volunteers.
- **Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC):** We believe it is vital to maintain accurate environmental records capturing the diversity and threats to wild life in this area. We share information with Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) via a mutual data sharing agreement that respects the sensitivity of our data.
- **Wytham Woods Field Station, Oxford University Wildlife Conservation Research Unit:** OBG is fortunate to have excellent working relationships with the ecologists running Badger Project at WildCRU: The "laboratory with leaves" at Wytham Woods. WildCRU's Badger Project has collected a wealth of fundamental ecological data for over 30 years. They kindly support our activities, and have allowed us to use their facilities for training in sett mapping and badger watching events. In July 2021 we held a social and training event at Wytham Woods which was well attended by members.

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- **Wildlife rescue and Hospitals:** Our rescue volunteers aim to take badgers in need of care to a suitable wildlife hospital. We work primarily with 'local' centres within striking distance of Oxfordshire. Rescued badgers have been taken to Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital; The Nutkin Ward; Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue; and the Vale Wildlife Hospital. We have also taken advice from the Secret World Wildlife Rescue in Somerset which specialises in badger rescue and rehabilitation, especially of orphaned cubs.
- **RSPCA:** The RSPCA is often contacted by members of the public and others concerned about badger issues, especially possible crime or badgers in need of rescue. Our charity liaises with the local officers. Volunteers were called to assist the RSPCA with a badger crime investigation in 2020 and a badger rescue from the floods in January 2021.

Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic

The pandemic has had a major impact on communities and economies worldwide. It significantly affected Oxfordshire Badger Group's operations. Plans to increase our public presence and fundraising via public meetings, fairs and events had to be put on hold. As a result, our sales income (which historically had accounted for around 65% of income) plummeted. It was necessary to scale back planned fundraising campaigns. We concentrated effort on running an online crowdfunder. This was very well supported, thanks largely to a successful social media campaign focused on the success and cost of continuing our badger vaccination programme.

Since the charity does not have 'offices' much home based work could continue unaffected. Our committee, trustee and other meetings, including essential training and the 2020 AGM, were moved online. The website was further developed to provide downloadable information to members and others

Two of our major charity activities- animal rescue and vaccination were designated 'key work'. We implemented 'best practice' covid-19 safety protocols which allowed volunteers to continue rescue, vaccination and fieldwork in safety while taking additional measures to prevent the spread of COVID into the badger population and their habitats. We stressed the importance of personal choice and safety in making individual risk based decisions.

We continued to respond to public enquiries though at the peak of the restrictions it was necessary to replace 'home' site visits with remote assessments.

It is worth noting the charity has had to absorb the considerable and ongoing costs of providing volunteers with personal protective equipment – masks, gloves and disinfectant – in addition to the need to purchase additional equipment so that no one had to share items used in the field.

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Financial report for the period 09 December 2019-31 December 2020

Principal sources of funding and outgoings

The charity was registered as a CIO on 9th December 2019. Hence our first financial “year” reporting period runs from 09th December 2019 to 31st December 2020. Future financial years will run for the calendar year 1st January to 31st December (unless otherwise notified).

On becoming a charity, our main banking activity was moved from the previous Lloyds Business Account across to a new Co-Operative Bank “Community Account. No interest accrues on the bank account.

We have worked to maximise our fundraising online. The charity is now registered with platforms such as PayPalGiving, Amazon Smile, Ebay and Give As You Live online. These allow supporters to nominate us as their chosen charity, donate items from our wish list and ‘top up’ payments to benefit our work.

The main source of income is from donations from our generous members and supporters. Donations comprised 65% of total income, with crowd funding raising 40% of total income. The charity is working to maximise the lawful take up by donors of Gift Aid.

A further 18% of income came from a Badger Trust Grant. Sales income was down 60% on 2019 due to Covid-19 restrictions putting a stop to attending and selling at public events.

Expenditure in the financial reporting period was largely related to the consumable costs of badger vaccination during 2020. The Badger Trust Grant was spent as planned on the purchase of equipment to establish our county wide badger rescue teams. Expenditure was lower than projected due to the impact of Covid 19 restrictions in limiting volunteer activities and training.

Financial status

Though modest, Oxfordshire Badger Group’s current resources from unrestricted donations are sufficient to meet its outgoings for at least next year.

Indications are that this will remain the case for the foreseeable future

Financial reserves policy

The charity aims to hold adequate reserve funding to meet unforeseen or new contingencies; to maintain a good cash flow; known operating commitments; and be able to close down in good order should the charity become financially unsustainable. The Trustees have referred to applicable Charity Commission requirements and Guidance in setting the charities financial reserves policy.

The charity reserves are in cash and cash deposits. They arise from the accumulated surpluses of members’ subscriptions, donations and grants over expenditure. They also include surpluses accumulated by the previous voluntary group which were transferred to the charity on 09 December 2019. They are unrestricted and freely available to support any of the charities activities and expenses. In practice, our main priority is to fund the badger vaccination project and our fundraising campaigns emphasise this.

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The Trustee's current policy is to maintain reserves at a level that will cover at least one year's typical expenditure. Anything over and above this will be kept as a general contingency. The Trustees seek to build a larger reserve over time in order to support a planned expansion of the badger vaccination programme year on year.

As at 31 December 2020 the reserves carried forward to 2021 were £8,238.

This policy, and the level of reserves held by the charity will be kept under review. The Trustees intend to prioritise using the charities income and funds to support activities that directly benefit our work in the public interest.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

The charity has no funds which are materially in deficit.

Statutory statements on liabilities

The Trustees declare that:

- The charity has given no guarantees where potential liability under the guarantee is outstanding at the date of this statement (*eg*: any outstanding/ongoing contract or legal undertaking to buy or provide specific services); and
- The charity has no debt outstanding at the date of this statement which is owed by the CIO and which is secured by an express charge on any assets of the CIO (*eg*: a mortgage on property owned by the charity).

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Statement of accounts for the period 09/12/2019 to 31/12/2021



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
OXFORDSHIRE BADGER GROUP (OBG)

No (if any)
1186850

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	09/12/2019		31/12/2020

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Members' subscriptions	446	-	-	446	-
Donations	5,308	-	-	5,308	-
Grants	1,472	-	-	1,472	-
Sales	390	-	-	390	-
Professional services	60	-	-	60	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid	326	-	-	326	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	8,002	-	-	8,002	7,928
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	8,002	-	-	8,002	7,928
A3 Payments					
Insurance	566	-	-	566	-
Badger Trust Levy	200	-	-	200	-
Donations to wildlife hospitals	275	-	-	275	-
Hall and stall hire	118	-	-	118	-
Office supplies	39	-	-	39	-
Website fee	178	-	-	178	-
Purchase of stock for sale	411	-	-	411	-
Equipment for badger rescues	1,054	-	-	1,054	-
Equipment for Vaccination project	563	-	-	563	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	3,404	-	-	3,404	8,708
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	3,404	-	-	3,404	8,708
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,598	-	-	4,598	- 780
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	3,640	-	-	3,640	-
Cash funds this year end	8,238	-	-	8,238	3,640

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Lloyds Bank account	275	-	-
	Co-Op Bank account	7,924	-	-
	Cash float	39	-	-
	Total cash funds	8,238	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
			RICHARD TILLEY	05/10/2021

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Trustees approval:

Signed on their behalf by: Linda Ward, Secretary and Trustee

Date: 08 Oct 2021