

GUIDANCE NOTES to sett recording form

1. Fields marked in **grey** are the 8 key fields to be passed on to Scottish Badgers for the national database. All other fields are for personal use. Please forward the relevant information to ian@scottishbadgers.org.uk, preferably in an Excel spreadsheet.
2. **Sett grid reference:** - Remember the two-letter prefix. Do not rely exclusively on electronic devices; always check the location on a map. GPS readings are often skewed by tree or cloud cover.
3. **Region:** - e.g. *East Lothian, Grampian etc.*
4. **1-km grid square:** - Remember the two-letter prefix.
5. **Sett name (map locus):** nearest feature on map e.g. name of wood, park or nearest farm. If there are several setts in the site or near to each other add A, B, C. (e.g. Adam's Wood A, Adam's Wood B, Adam's Wood C).
6. **Sett category:- (Circle word OR underline word if completing electronically)**
 - **Main sett:** - usually only one per social group, permanently occupied, usually has several or many entrances.
 - **Annexe sett:** - usually within 150 metres of the main sett and connected to it by well used paths. Often with several well used entrances but may not be permanently occupied.
 - **Subsidiary sett:** - some distance from main sett, usually with several entrances but not permanently occupied.
 - **Outlying sett (Outlier):** - has only one or two entrances, no obvious paths connecting it to other setts, often with small spoil heaps and used sporadically.
7. **Entrances:-** count and categorise each entrance as follows:
 - **Well used:** - Open with minimal debris but **may not show signs of activity** e.g. fresh digging.
 - **Part used:** - would require some excavation to allow badger to enter.
 - **Disused:** - entirely full of debris or leaves and would require considerable excavation before a badger could enter.
 - **Collapse:** - Where tunnel or chamber has collapsed e.g. by passage of farm animals or people.
 - **Air hole:** - small hole, too small for a badger to enter, created by badgers from tunnel below. May eventually be enlarged to form an entrance with little or no spoil.
8. **Signs of occupation: - (Circle word OR underline word if completing electronically)**

Persevere to find more than one sign, ideally a guard hair, prints or bedding. These should be on the sett, although a latrine connected to the sett by a well used path could also be included. **Photograph signs as proof.**
9. **Sett status:- (Circle word OR underline word if completing electronically)**

Consider 8. above to decide whether the sett is active or dormant.
10. **Sett habitat: - (Circle word OR underline word if completing electronically)**

Vegetation the sett lies in but could be two habitats eg sett on woodland edge with some entrances in field. "Scrub" includes gorse.
11. **Aspect:** - compass direction, S = south, NW = North West etc.
12. **Ground: - (Circle word OR underline word if completing electronically)**

Degree of slope (e.g. very steep) can be included in sett description.
13. **Soil type: - (Circle word OR underline word if completing electronically)**

"other" could be clinker, black loam or limestone.
14. **General description of sett: -** include brief guidance for finding sett on revisits, species of tree at sett if known, degree of slope, *layout* e.g. a long sett that stretches 50 metres along top of embankment.
15. **Adjoining habitats: -** information about foraging habitat and possible causes of RTAs.
16. **Potential risks to sett: -** these relate to nearby human use, e.g. arable cultivation, dog walking, forestry operations, quarrying, housing. Risks could also include planning applications.
17. **Visible evidence of interference:-** list any signs of damage to sett eg crowning down hole, snare on badger path, vehicle tracks near entrances, cultivation over spoil heaps, dumping, fires, tree felling. Include estimate of age of signs - recent or historical. **Take photographs.**
18. **Knowledge of past interference: -** Included to complete the sett record and may be reason for current visit.
19. **Any developments nearby: - (Circle word OR underline word if completing electronically)**

Could trigger more frequent monitoring or approach to landowner or statutory body.
20. **Previous sett records: -** indicates age of sett and possibly future risk to sett, e.g. in 1998 a consultant recorded the sett while surveying for a housing development.