



Registered Badger Worker Training Scheme
Level One
Information for Candidates

The purpose of the Registered Badger Worker Training Scheme: The purpose of the registered Badger Worker Training Scheme is to build a network of surveyors certified as competent to undertake specific tasks as identified by Scottish Badgers and who would be available voluntarily to assist Scottish Badgers and other organisations (e.g. Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish SPCA and the Police) with badger issues such as sett identification or survey work. The scheme is also open to those who wish to gain recognition of having achieved a certain level of skills and experience in badger issues. However, becoming a Registered Badger Worker requires candidates to carry out work for Scottish Badgers on a continual basis.

The cost of the Registered Badger Worker Training Scheme: Registration to the Level One Training Scheme costs £140. This includes a comprehensive training manual in PDF format (please note that a paper version is available for an extra £7.00 to cover printing and postage); classroom and field based training; assessment fees and registration on successful completion. The £140.00 fee includes membership of Scottish Badgers for one year and is reduced to £120.00 for those who are already members.

Pre-requisites for registration: As a substantial amount of the training will be self-led, prospective candidates should have a basic knowledge of badgers. This training scheme is not suitable for complete beginners. Those wishing to take part in the training scheme, but who lack the required knowledge or experience, should contact Scottish Badgers. We would be happy to direct you towards one of our beginner training days or to match you up with an experienced badger surveyor in your area.

Theory component of Level One training scheme: A training manual will be provided on registration. The training manual will cover badger biology and ecology, badger surveying, access legislation, map reading, scenes of crime, legislation and Health & Safety. Candidates are required to ensure that they are familiar with the contents of the training manual prior to taking the assessment. Candidates will receive support from Scottish Badgers in clarifying any aspect of the training manual, as required.

Level One training weekend: Candidates are required to attend a two-day training course. The training course consists of one day of classroom and field-based training, followed by one day of field surveying with the Level One trainer.

Fieldwork experience: Candidates should endeavour to gain as much fieldwork experience as possible before taking the assessment. Therefore, requirements are in place throughout the scheme to account for this. A minimum of five surveys must be undertaken and recorded in your experience log before assessment. All these surveys must have been in company with an experienced surveyor approved by Scottish Badgers. This experienced surveyor should sign the candidate's experience log at the end of each survey. In only one of the surveys can a negative result (no sett found) be returned.

Sett monitoring: Candidates are required to make at least four visits to a local sett (either known to the candidate previously, or allocated to you by Scottish Badgers). Visits should be spread over one year (in three monthly intervals for candidates to identify signs of occupation over seasons) and recorded as per the Scottish Badgers recording form. A monitoring log and recording form will be provided on registration. You will be required to submit your write-up of sett monitoring visits before undertaking assessment. An example monitoring log will be provided on registration.

Assessments: The purpose of the assessment is to ascertain that the candidate can competently find and identify a badger sett and badger signs and record the same, taking into account his or her own health and safety and that of all others present, including the assessor(s). Assessments will involve a short written test, based on the contents of the training manual, plus a fieldwork test as outlined above. Full details of the assessment procedure are provided on registration. The field training survey log and sett monitoring log must be returned to Scottish Badgers when applying to take an assessment.

Certificate of completion: On successful completion of the assessment, candidates will be issued with a Level One Registered Badger Worker certificate in recognition of the standards achieved. Candidates will then be entered into the Scottish Badgers Live Register, and will remain on the register for ONE YEAR. Renewal of Registered Badger Worker status will include membership renewal and demonstrated work carried out for Scottish Badgers during the previous year.

How to enrol: To join the scheme or for more information contact the Training Co-ordinator by emailing info@scottishbadgers.org.uk.