

Oxfordshire Badger Group (OBG) Vaccination project – FORP AGM 11/11/2021

1. Address to the Friends of Raleigh Park AGM of September 2020:

At the last AGM, my update covered the wider OBG vaccination project and the severe impacts of the lockdown restrictions that had banned activities including wildlife surveying and vaccinating for several months. These restrictions prevented us from starting vaccination on new sites in 2020 and I noted that we aimed to re-establish our plans to survey the Park over the following winter.

2. Sett and site survey prior to 2021 season

In early November last year, two members of the OBG Vaccination team and two members of Julian Cooper's team from Oxford City Council met at the Park. We surveyed the Park itself and the adjoining field to the west that is not publicly accessible, for signs of badger activity and use. The survey confirmed that there was recent activity indicating the presence of live badgers.

We followed up the survey with paperwork committing both parties to supporting vaccination onsite in 2021.

3. Vaccination 2021

The 16-day period of laying bait and cages in which to trap the badgers to vaccinate them, began near the end of August.

It was excellent timing that the cattle were moved off-site before the pre-baiting began, as we would not have been able to lay any cages where cattle were due to the danger of the cattle kicking or crushing cages whilst badgers were in them.

Bait points were placed at several locations around the site and were checked, recorded and replenished daily. Six cages were introduced onsite from day 3 and trail camera footage showed badgers trotting in and out of the cages (wired open) freely to get their peanuts. All the bait points were taken consistently.

The first vaccination morning began at 6:00am with Tawny Owls watching us arrive and go through our biosecurity processes. We vaccinated and gave health checks to five badgers who had been caught overnight, 3 adults and 2 cubs. One was asleep when we arrived.

The second morning there were two new adult badgers to be vaccinated and one recaptured cub from the day before who were all health-checked and released. All the badgers we caught on site were healthy, of a good weight and looked very clean and sprightly.



4. OBG's plans to vaccinate in Raleigh Park 2022 to 2024

We were very pleased with such a successful first year at this site. This a four-year vaccination project and we look forward to returning hopefully about the same time each year to capture and vaccinate the population of wild, healthy badgers in and around Raleigh Park, North Hinksey.

Keep in touch with the latest information by checking our Vaccination page on Go Fund Me <https://www.gofundme.com/f/oxfordshire-badger-group-vaccination-project>

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