

West Coast Signalling Project

Case Record



Location	West Coast Rail Route, UK
Client	Railtrack
Main Contractor	Carillion Infrastructure Management & Capital Projects



Whilst working on the West Coast Signalling Project a badger sett was identified by one of the people working on the track.

Environmental Initiatives

Wildlife Protection	Protecting badgers on site.
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It was a large sett, very close to where work was taking place. The site contacted the Carillion Environmental Helpline for advice.

A badger expert was sent out immediately to inspect the sett. The team were given guidelines as to the work that could and could not be carried out.

Although badgers are not an endangered species, they are protected in the UK by the Protection of Badgers Act, 1992. Their setts are also protected and it is an offence to obstruct, destroy or damage any part of a sett. Animals within a sett cannot be disturbed or excluded except under licence. Extra caution should be taken from January to March.

A licence is required whenever:

- ◆ Heavy machinery is being used within 30 metres of an entrance to an active sett.
- ◆ Light machinery, particularly for digging operations is being used within 20 metres.
- ◆ Light work such as hand digging or scrub clearance is being undertaken within 10 metres.

The project involved working on existing infrastructure, not new-build, which made a difference to the work that was allowed. In order to protect the badgers they had to work nights, between 12 and 4. The badgers would leave the sett before work was started and return after work had finished. Also as it was summer they were not mating and did not have very young cubs.

The team completed the work without disturbing the badgers, who as far as we know are still there!