

## Badger culling pilots: Independent Expert Panel

### Monitoring the humaneness of controlled shooting

The aim of this monitoring is to test the assumption that controlled shooting is a humane culling technique. This will be monitored through post-mortems of culled badgers and observations in the field. The work has been designed to collect information that can be used to make an assessment of humaneness, without influencing how culling is carried out.

Part of the monitoring will involve examining the carcasses from a sample of the badgers that are culled. The carcasses will first be x-rayed, to assess damage to bones, as well as any fragments of bullets or shotgun pellets. They will then be subject to a post mortem, to look at the location of wounds and the degree of damage to internal organs.

Observations in the field will form a second part of the monitoring. Field researchers will accompany a proportion of those carrying out the culling and observe the activity that takes place. These observations will have two broad aims – to assess the likelihood that badgers will be wounded but not killed, and to provide data to aid an assessment of the humaneness, based on the behaviour displayed by the animal, and an estimate of the time to death.

Information relevant to an assessment of humaneness will be provided by:

- 1) Field observations of badgers being culled by controlled shooting.
- 2) Post mortem and x-ray examinations of the same badgers.
- 3) Post mortem and x-ray information from badgers shot when an observer was not present.

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