



## Natural Kirklees Small Grant Scheme 2023

### Application Form

<b>Name of Group</b>	Kirklees Badger Protection Group (KBPG)
<b>Location of Green Space</b>	Keldregate, Bradley
<b>Contact Name</b>	Rosemary Gault
<b>Contact Phone</b>	██████████
<b>Email Address</b>	████████████████████
<b>Project Title</b>	Sett Protection at Keldregate
<b>Project Description</b> <b>Max 100 words</b>	<p>KBPG are applying for £750 to cover labour costs for sett protection at Keldregate, Bradley, where our volunteers have observed signs of illegal digging.</p> <p>This is a common sign of badger-baiting, where dogs wearing RFID collars are sent into setts to corner badgers which are dug out and thrown to the pack for sport.</p> <p>In this project, we will install a steel mesh / rubber barrier under the soil above the sett to prevent access. The work cannot be carried out before July as the sett is active.</p>
<b><u>Grant Value £</u></b>	£750
<b><u>Costings</u></b> <b><u>(please provide full cost analysis and /or estimates</u></b>	Costs for sett protection vary depending on the size of the sett to be protected (area of tunnels / chambers), the layout of the land (which determines whether or not a mechanical digger can be used and whether a flatbed truck or a dumper truck is required to transport materials to the site), and the rapidly rising cost of steel mesh. Although rubber belting
<small>Provide a separate email if insufficient space</small>	

	<p>(from old coal mines) is typically free, we need to pay for handling and transport.</p> <p>For a single sett, typical costs (averaged over the previous 3 setts protected and 2 artificial setts built in the last 18 months) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Labour hire: £1,020</li> <li>● Machine hire: £1,100</li> <li>● Materials (steel mesh, belting): £805</li> </ul> <p>As this sett is smaller than average, the grant would be sufficient to cover our labour costs. We have sufficient donated material to complete this work and do not anticipate needing a machine.</p>
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<b><u>Kirklees Volunteer Coordinator</u></b>	Jan Smith
<b><u>Project End Date</u></b>	August 2023
<b><u>No of Volunteers involved</u></b>	3-4
<b><u>Anticipated Volunteers Hours</u></b>	45

**Please detail the benefits as appropriate**

- What actual improvements or benefits will the project make to the green space and to the general community.

<b><u>What benefit will the project bring to the park or green space?</u></b>	<p>We feel strongly that the countryside and local wildlife should be protected and preserved for future generations. It has been shown that improving green spaces leads to higher volunteer numbers and nature and its variety of creatures are a huge asset to our mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The project will benefit badgers and improve the natural environment. Badgers are a keystone species, fulfilling the role of apex predator now that larger animals (bears, wolves) are extinct in the wild. Their removal results in an increase of pest species such as rabbits, rats, mice and foxes, leading to a rapid fall in the prevalence of other protected species such as brown and mountain hares.</p>
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- [Will this project which involves planting trees /flowers, improving/creating habitats etc.](#)

<p><b><u>What, if any, benefit will the project bring in terms of addressing Climate Change</u></b></p>	<p>Badgers also eco-system engineers, maintaining and regenerating soil health by breaking down and cycling materials through foraging / sett-building and dispersing seeds in their dung. Disturbed topsoil around setts has higher species diversity than undisturbed surroundings and foraging creates new micro-habitats. Setts are also shared by different species (wood mice, voles, rats, rabbits, weasels, foxes).</p>
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<p><b><u>Please print your name and date on the understanding you are signing the form</u></b></p>	<p>Rosemary Chapman 31 March 2023</p>
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- [The 2023 small grant will run on the same lines as last year. The terms and conditions are as posted on our web site which can be viewed here.](#)
- [The trustees are keen to assist the existing and newly formed villages “In Bloom” groups but all full members of Natural Kirklees are invited to apply for a grant providing the project benefits the park or green space within Kirklees.](#)
- [If the total value of grant applications exceeds the allotted budget for the scheme, grants will be awarded giving priority to, what in the Trustees opinion, will provide the greatest benefit to the community. Priority will also be given to new applicants, although this does not preclude groups who have previously received awards from being successful.](#)