



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



Badger Activity App

User Manual

Overview

Bovine TB affects thousands of farm families in Ireland every year. Multiple research projects have demonstrated that TB can spread between badgers and from badgers to cattle. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, as part of the bovine TB eradication programme, runs the largest wildlife TB vaccination programme in the World - the badger vaccination programme. In order for vaccination to be effective it is important that sufficient population penetration is achieved. Put simply, badger vaccination effectiveness increases when we know where the badgers are.

There are videos and leaflets on bovinetb.ie which help people to identify what badger activity looks like. This new app will complement that information and will allow the public, and in particular farmers, to assist the Department in locating badger setts. This, in turn, facilitates the enhanced implementation of the wildlife TB control programme.

It is important to note that badgers are a protected species under the Irish Wildlife Act and it is illegal to interfere with badgers or badger setts. The Department operates the wildlife TB control programme under licence from the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The app can be accessed via phone / tablet / laptop or PC and is available at the following address:

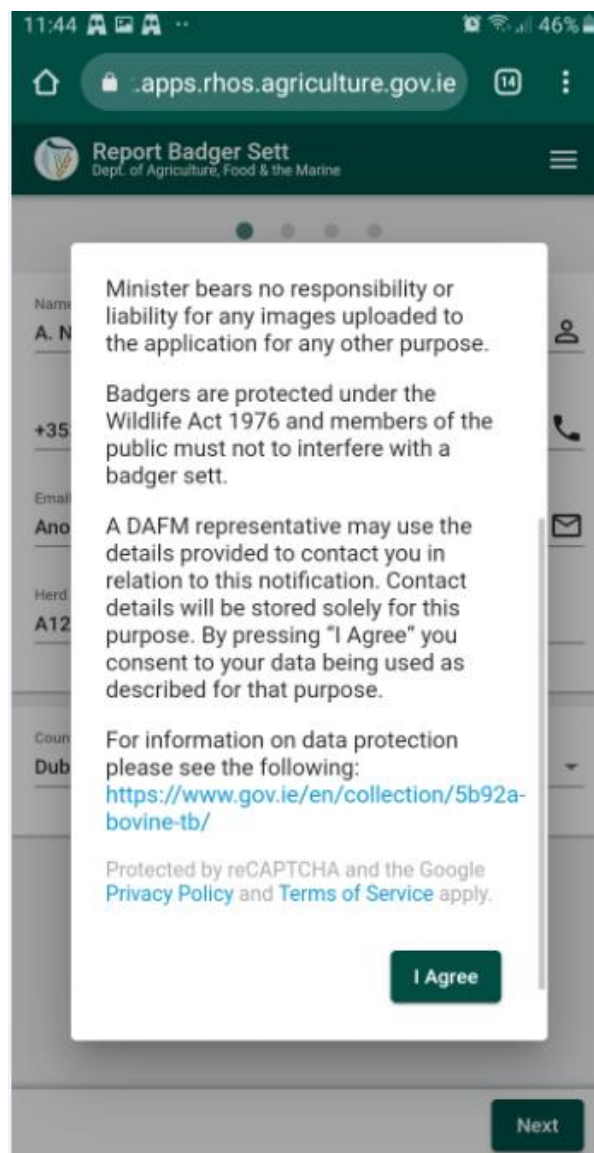
<https://badger-sett.apps.rhos.agriculture.gov.ie/>

It is also available via the www.bovinetb.ie website.

Data Protection

The opening page of the application displays data protection information. The message is longer than a smart phone screen length so you should scroll down while reading.

Please read the message carefully. No information recorded on this application will be used for any purpose other than the processing of this badger activity report.

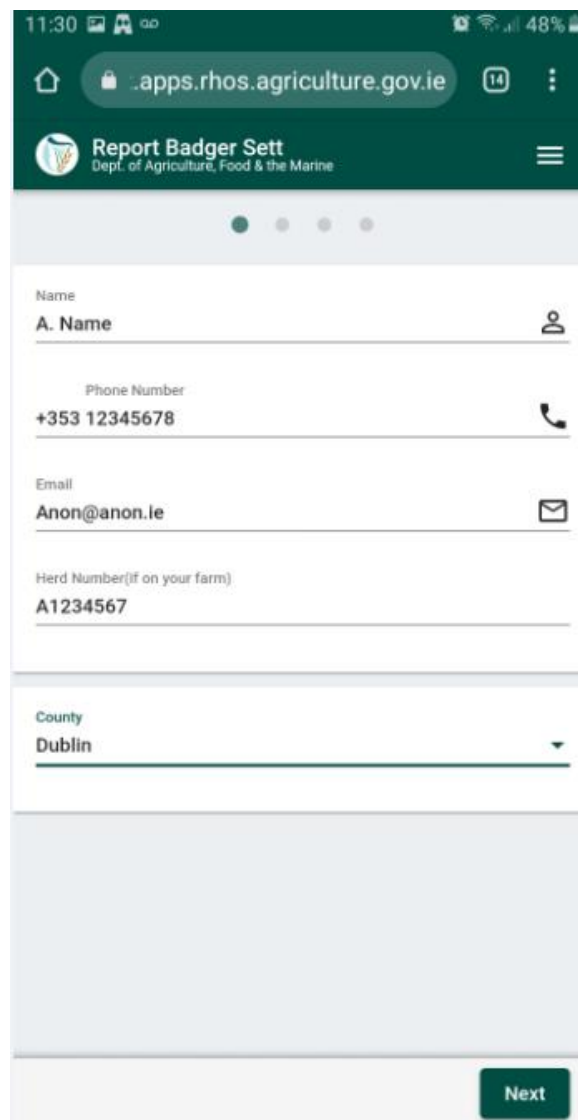


Reporter Details

Once you have read the initial data protection information you will be presented with the reporter details screen.

Your name, phone number and the county in which the suspect badger sett is located are required. An email address and a herd number may also be provided. Name / Phone / Email details are required by the app so that a member of the wildlife team may contact the reporter to clarify any issue relating to the report.

The county where the badger activity is located is a mandatory field as it will be used to direct your notification directly to the closest Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine wildlife team. Hit “Next” to proceed.



The screenshot shows a mobile application interface for reporting a badger sett. The app is titled "Report Badger Sett" and is associated with the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine. The form contains the following fields:

- Name:** A. Name
- Phone Number:** +353 12345678
- Email:** Anon@anon.ie
- Herd Number(if on your farm):** A1234567
- County:** Dublin

A "Next" button is located at the bottom right of the form.

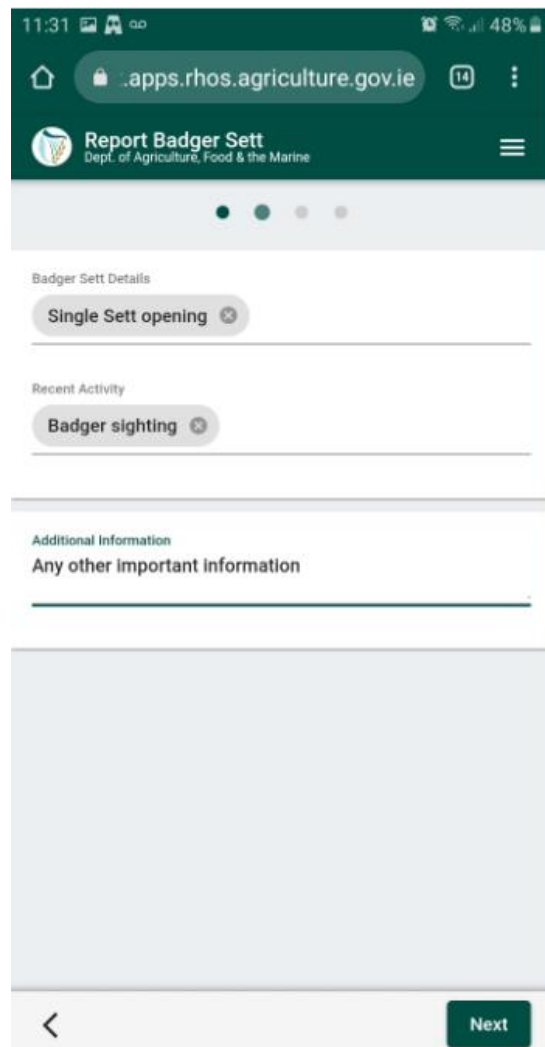
Badger Activity

This screen records the badger sett details and recent badger activity.

Both fields are driven by dropdown so just click on the heading for each and the dropdown will appear. Please select at least one option for each. Multiple options may be recorded for either dropdown field.

You also have the option to include extra information in the appropriate section at the bottom of the page. This is a free text field and can be up to 400 characters long.

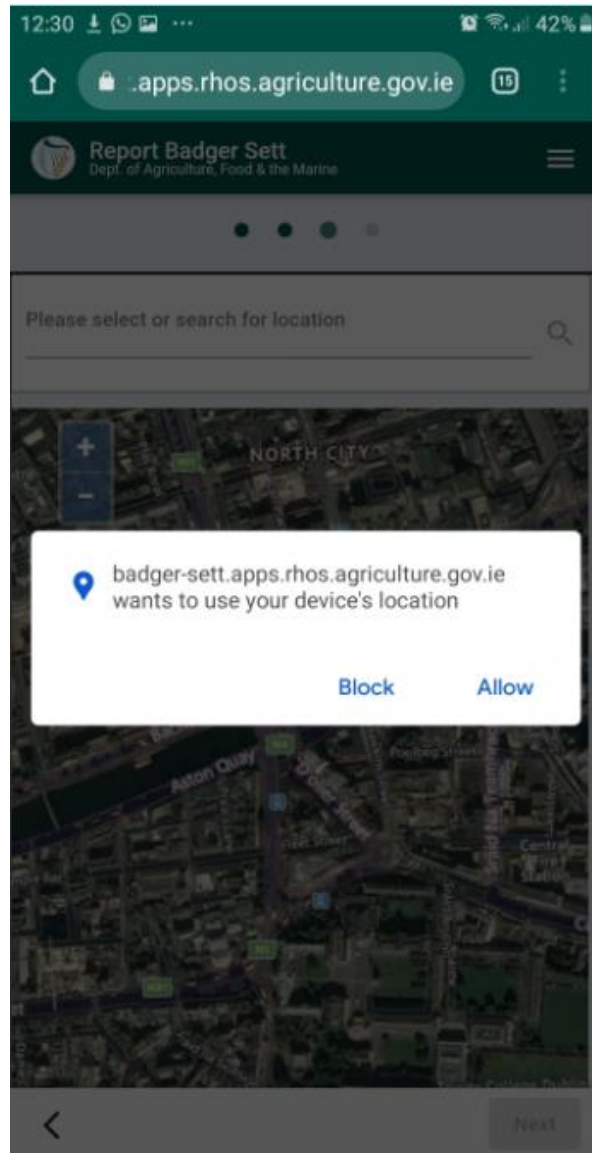
Press “Next” to continue to the next page.



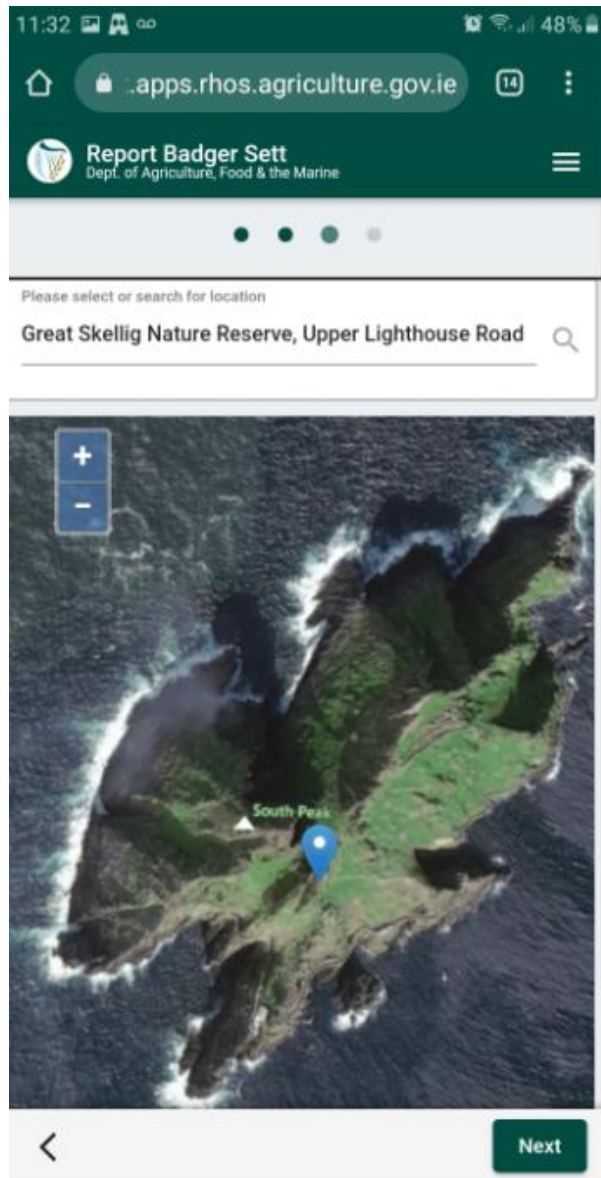
The screenshot shows a mobile application interface for reporting badger setts. At the top, the status bar shows the time 11:31 and battery level at 48%. The browser address bar displays the URL .apps.rhos.agriculture.gov.ie. The app title is 'Report Badger Sett' from the Dept. of Agriculture, Food & the Marine. The interface is divided into three sections: 'Badger Sett Details' with a dropdown menu currently showing 'Single Sett opening', 'Recent Activity' with a dropdown menu showing 'Badger sighting', and 'Additional Information' with a text input field labeled 'Any other important information'. A 'Next' button is located at the bottom right, and a back arrow is at the bottom left.

Mapping

The app will ask you if you consent to it using your current location to put a pin on the map. This pin records the GPS location and is used to direct Department Wildlife teams to the correct badger activity site. Allowing the app to access your location is used for this single purpose only.



If you have allowed the app to access your location, a local area map will be displayed on screen and a pin registered. If not, you may use the search function to detail your location via either address or GPS coordinates. When the map is displayed, click on the screen to mark the correct spot.



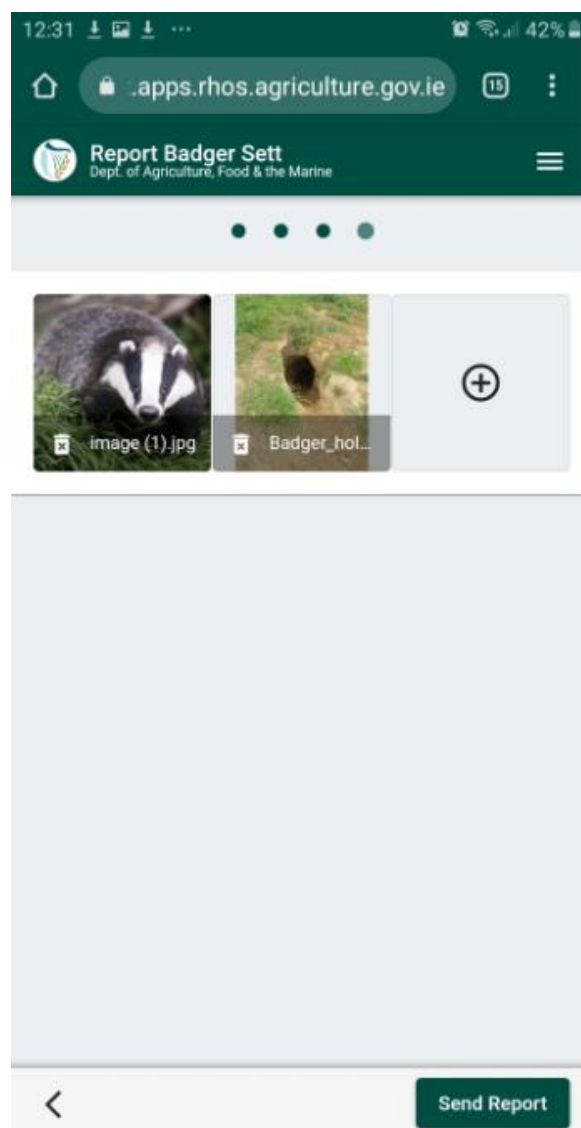
Images

You may forward images to assist the Department wildlife team member to assess your report.

To do this, hit Select Pictures on screen. This will allow you to either capture images on your camera or select images from your phone / tablet / laptop / PC library.

Hit “Done” in upper right of screen once image(s) selected

Then hit “Send Report” on the bottom right of the screen to submit the report.

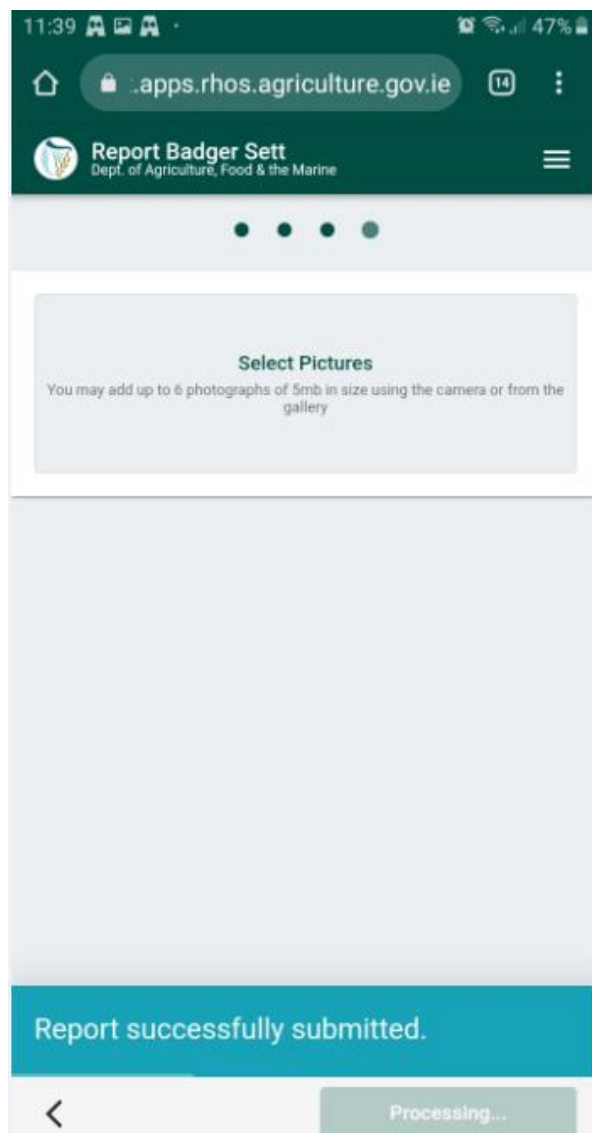


Successful Report

When a report has been successfully recorded, a message will be displayed on screen to verify that it has been received.

If you have supplied an email address, a confirmation email will be issued to that account.

Thank you for participating.



Badger Setts

Badger setts are mostly found in hedgerows, ring forts and riverbanks. Good farming land has the capacity to host badgers.

Large spoil heaps at the sett entrance are a tell-tale sign that it is a badger sett. They can move quite large stones. Badger setts have openings of 25cm wide whereas a rabbit burrow may have a wide opening but the chamber itself quickly narrows. The presence of hay like bedding beside a sett entrance is a definite sign that it is a badger sett



Badger Footprints

Badgers root in pasture searching for food, they often overturn cow pats. They also form small pits about 12cm in diameter called snuffle holes.

Badgers create well-worn paths about 15 to 20 cm in width. These are easiest to see in the winter and spring.

In wet areas around gates or drinking troughs you may see badger footprints. The prints consist of a broad kidney shaped pad with four or sometimes 5 toes visible in a straight line.



Badger Latrines

- Latrines are generally found close to a sett.
- Badgers have a territory that can range about 500M to 1 Km from the main sett.
- Fence off setts and latrines to keep cattle away from them.
- Avoid feeding concentrates on the ground.
- Raise mineral licks, feed, and water troughs to prevent badgers accessing them.
- If you see signs of badger activity on your farm, contact the Wildlife Officer in your Regional Veterinary Office

