

Northumberland Badger Group

“Our aim is to conserve, protect and, promote badger habitat and conservation especially within Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside”.

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Badgers and Garden Damage

Firstly, can we ask if you do any of the following.

- 1 Do you feed birds?
- 2 Do you use peanuts when feeding birds?
- 3 Have you applied feed to your lawn?

If the response is positive to any of these questions, can we suggest you to stop, also you need to clean up any food already on the ground..

How can you stop badgers digging?

It is very hard to prevent badgers digging once they have located a good food source, however you can suggest that as a first course of action they apply lawn sand to the grass.

Current Solutions for Lawn Pests

Chemical pesticides for lawn grubs are largely banned for home use. Effective modern control methods for common lawn pests like chafer grubs and leatherjackets now focus primarily on biological and non-chemical options.

- **Nematodes** This is the primary biological control method for both chafer grubs and leatherjackets.
 - Nematodes are microscopic, naturally occurring worms that infect and kill the grubs.
 - They are mixed with water and applied to the lawn.
 - For effectiveness, the soil must be moist, and the temperature typically needs to be above a certain threshold (e.g., 12°C or 54°F for leatherjackets). The best application time is generally in early autumn when the grubs are young and more vulnerable.
- **Non-Chemical Methods**
 - **Manual removal:** For adult vine weevils, you can inspect plants at night with a torch and pick them off by hand or shake the plant over a tray/umbrella.
 - **Cultural controls:** Maintaining a healthy lawn can help it better tolerate some pest damage.

Applying fencing to gardens is difficult as badgers can climb very well, they can also dig even more easily, however as a last resort the use of an electric cattle fence (low voltage from battery) can be used, but this could be costly to install.

Badgers are a protected species and there are severe penalties if the law is broken. Protection of Badgers Act 1992, Wildlife & Countryside Act and others apply.