

## Case Record

# Badger improvements on the Shrewsbury to Welshpool line



<b>Date</b>	November 2002
<b>Location</b>	Forden, on the Shrewsbury to Welshpool line
<b>Main Contractor</b>	Carillion Rail
<b>Client</b>	Railtrack / Network Rail

**When a large badger population was found to be inhabiting the ground beneath a section of track making it unstable, Carillion Rail had the challenge of making the area safe for staff while ensuring the badgers were protected and their habitats maintained.**

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Carillion Rail undertook a delicate operation to ensure staff safety and the preservation of badger habitats found on site

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### Benefits

- **Safety of Carillion Rail staff and on-train crews considered and made a priority**
- **Preservation of wildlife and their habitats - commitment to environmental conservation**
- **Removal of the risk of prosecution**

Forden, on the Shrewsbury to Welshpool line, is high in badger population. The presence of several large setts located around the embankment and the multitude of tunnels dug by the badgers has caused the ground to give way resulting in the formation of some very large holes. These holes present a safety hazard to both Carillion Rail staff and on-train crews who have to use the cess.

Knowing that the badgers and their setts are protected meant making the cess safe, which was going to be a delicate operation. Several site visits with Railtrack and the National Assembly for Wales were arranged to discuss ways of making the cess safe whilst keeping

badger disruption to a minimum.

Following licence acceptance, a plan to dig out the cess and infill it with ballast was agreed, as entrances to the setts were some way down the extremely steep embankment.

This first stage work was undertaken by the Shrewsbury P-Way gang and involved heavy on-track machinery and several tons of ballast.

A second stage to relocate the badgers was also agreed, but this has since been put on hold pending monitoring of the cess. If no further problems arise with the setts then the badgers can continue to live in their lineside habitat.