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## Police issue appeal after reports of badger digging in High Peak

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Police in the High Peak are urging local residents and visitors, particularly walkers, to be vigilant after recent reports of badger digging.

Badger digging normally involves groups of people excavating badger setts and sending in dogs to flush out badgers. The animals may be killed at the scene or taken away to be used as bait in dog fights.

Badger baiting has been illegal in Britain since 1835 and the animals have full protection under the Protection of Badgers Act, which makes it an offence to capture, kill or injure a badger, or interfere with the setts in which they live.

Any landowner who knowingly permits badger digging to take place on their land will also be prosecuted.

PSCO Pat Findlay-Wilson from the Buxton Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team said: "The practices of badger digging and baiting understandably cause anger and distress to residents.

"The most useful part that a member of the public can play in helping us catch these criminals, is when they see something suspicious, to pass on as much information as possible including, when and where it happened, the number of people present and their descriptions and details of any vehicles including registration plate numbers."

Witnesses of anyone with information should call Derbyshire police on 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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