



Thank you for booking the **Mammal Hide** at **Tewin Orchard Nature Reserve**. In order to get the best possible experience from your visit to the Hide, please read through the following instructions carefully.

Please read the full Terms and Conditions before visiting. If this is an unescorted booking, please remember that there will be not be a member of the Badger Group on site and you will be responsible for your own welfare throughout your time at Tewin Orchard Nature

Reserve. If you would prefer an escorted watch, please let us know.

LOCATION OF THE RESERVE AND HIDE

HIDE ADDRESS: Tewin Orchard and Hopkyns Wood Nature Reserve, Upper Green, Tewin, Welwyn Hertfordshire AL6 0LX

Tewin Orchard Nature Reserve is located at the edge of Tewin village.

OS ref TL 268155. What3Words = cage.person.shapes.

The entrance to the reserve is by the large Tewin Orchard sign of a cockerel. Turn in to the gravel driveway and turn right and drive carefully through the gates into the reserve car park.

Where to park & being kind to our neighbours

There are private homes very close to the nature reserve and right next to the parking area. **Please be very careful not to shine your headlights into the houses**, so reverse into the parking spaces on the left of the track when you arrive and then drive straight out at the end. Please refrain from standing around and talking by your cars too and please do not enter adjacent gardens or homes.

Please note that if there has been heavy rain in the days before you visit, you may be emailed to be asked to park on the track instead.

When to get there

It is best to arrive around 20 minutes before sunset. Check the sunset times.

If your party are arriving in more than one car, meet in the car park (remembering to keep noise to a minimum) and walk quietly down to the Hide together.

How to find the Hide

To find the Hide, follow the track into the orchard and around to the right - look out for the reflective direction signs. The Hide is a large wooden building. Please walk through the orchard quietly as there may already be badgers, foxes and deer outside the Hide.

Go directly in and do not walk around the outside of the Hide. Visitors leave their scent and may frighten off wildlife.

The grassy pathway is uneven with roots and can be muddy after periods of rain. Because of this unfortunately the Hide is not currently suitable for wheelchair users or those with very restricted mobility.

Safety First: We ask that you wear sturdy footwear such as walking boots or wellies when visiting the Hide. When taking the path to and from the Hide, please be aware of mud, tree roots, fallen apples and also low branches. There are also some areas with exposed concrete ledges around the Hide so please take care and **make sure to bring a torch to light your path after your watch**.

Watching

If you have booked the whole Hide for your own exclusive use, you are welcome to include friends and family up to 12 persons in total.

On shared watches, Children 7 – 18 may watch free with a grown up. Badger watching is not recommended for youngsters below 7 as it entails sitting quietly in the dark for periods of time.

Dogs are not allowed in the Hide during badger watches under any circumstances.

Please note the Hide will be unlocked for your watch and please leave it unlocked when you leave.

It is important to remain seated on the chairs at the back of the Hide. The chairs have been placed so watchers are not lit by the external lighting. Please be very quiet when the badgers are out and do not stand up or move about or point.

Donations. Each evening throughout the year, Michael Clark our volunteer Warden, Apple and Badger expert, leaves a little supplementary feed for the visiting badgers, foxes and muntjacs. This supplementary food keeps the animals engaged for up to an hour or so before they head off into the orchard and woodland to continue natural foraging. **Your donations are used for the upkeep of the Hide and the supplementary badger food which supports the educational objectives of the badger group**

BACS donation to;

Herts and Middlesex Badger Group
Account Number 01356013
Sort Code 30-93-92

THANK YOU!!

HMBG request a donation of £5-10 per adult or £50 for the whole hide. Children between 7-18 watch free. Please put as your reference for the payment:

Hide and the date of your watch

The Hide is fully enclosed but it can get chilly in the evenings, even in the summer. A warm, dark jumper and maybe a blanket are recommended. The flash from your mobile phone screen will be visible to the nocturnal creatures and will scare them. For the best watching experience, leave your camera at home and keep your phone on silent and in your pocket. The rewards of sitting quietly and just watching badgers and other creatures going about their business is a joy and well worth the wait!

We recommend bringing water with you, but please be aware that no other food or drink is permitted and that there is no toilet available at the site although there are facilities at the local pub for customers.

We ask that you please leave quietly by 11:30pm as there are houses nearby. If possible, we ask that you leave when there is a lull in wildlife activity so that you do not disturb them.

Bring a torch for the short walk back to the car park and look out for the reflective arrows. There are several pathways around the orchard, including a couple of ponds. Please stick to the main path when returning to your car and take care over the uneven ground!

While we are fortunate to be visited by the badgers most evenings, there is a possibility they may decide not to come to the Hide to feed, for a variety of reasons. Do stay as quiet as possible for the best possible chance and, even if the badgers are absent, you still stand a good chance of seeing foxes, deer, mice and bats. Please be aware that as badgers are wild animals we cannot guarantee that you will see them however they have been very reliable recently. Although we do not offer a refund if you do not see badgers or other wildlife we will try and book you another watch in that event, if you wish

What to bring

- Torch
- Charged mobile phone and emergency information
- Water
- Warm layers (It can get chilly in the evening) and sturdy footwear
- Any medication or epi-pens, that you may require in your visit.

Emergencies

Please ensure you have a charged mobile phone with you in case of an emergency. We ask that in the unlikely event of an emergency, you call the emergency services. **Directions for the emergency services are on the wall of the Hide.**

If anyone else turns up unexpectedly during the evening to watch the badgers, please politely ask them to leave and report this to us. If you feel in danger at any point from unexpected visitors, please leave the Hide and call the police.

If you or any of your party are feeling unwell on the day, please don't visit. Please make sure that you have any medication with you, that you may require for the duration of your visit.

Share Your Sightings

Please do complete the watch diary that is kept in the Hide with the species, numbers and time you saw them and any further information about your watch, eg weather/temperature. These diaries have been kept for many years and are an important record of Tewin wildlife. We are also always pleased to have your feedback by email to tewinHide@gmail.com

Thank you again for booking and we hope you enjoy the evening!

Availability of Badger watches:

Our normal watch bookings run between March and the end of October.

Bookings are only via email tewinHide@gmail.com

This year HMBG plan to allow some winter watches to be booked after the season. Please contact us to discuss.

Privacy Policy

Your personal details will not be saved by HMBG beyond the purpose of this booking nor passed on to any third party. If you wish to join the badger group please email us at

info@hmbadgergroup.org.uk

Thank you

Herts and Middlesex Badger Group

Registered Charity Number 1076878