

Driving Down Road Accident Toll

The council are concerned about the number of road accidents involving wildlife. Vulnerable animals include badgers, whose eye-sight is poor, and who navigate by smell along the same tracks every night. It means that they always cross the road in the same place, regardless of the danger.



Sometimes badger fencing can be installed, but it is expensive.

Many accidents are also caused by deer. They often leap over fences onto roads. They don't see the traffic, and drivers are not given enough time to avoid them.

Task: Use the table below to find the mean number of accidents for one year, on one stretch of road, where the legal speed limit has been reduced to 40mph.

Month	Wildlife Accidents	<p>Over the previous 12 months, the average wildlife accident level was 18.</p> <p>The aim was to reduce the number of accidents by 30%.</p> <p>Was the speed limit change successful?</p>		<p>Task: Draw a graph to show the average numbers for the two years.</p> <p>Task: Draw a line graph to show the number of accidents for the 12 months shown left.</p>
January	9			
February	11			
March	12			
April	15			
May	14			
June	10			
July	16			
August	14			
September	7			
October	6			
November	7			
December	5			

Task: Can you think of a reason why more animals might be killed on the roads during the summer months?

Badger-proof fencing is required for all sorts of reasons. Such fencing may be needed for the badgers own protection - for example, to keep them away from busy roads, motorways and railway lines. If their territorial boundary is aligned with the road or the railway line, the fence would be used to stop any inquisitive badgers from exploring. If their territory was on either side of the road or railway, the fencing would be used to direct the badgers to a safe crossing point - such as a culvert, tunnel or bridge.

<http://www.badgerland.co.uk/help/solutions/fencing.html>