

Environment

Deer

This correspondent has lived at his present address since 1989. During this time, I have only witnessed a pair of Roe Deer in my rear garden on one occasion. A Muntjac deer ran down my driveway in broad daylight some 15 years ago, the only occasion I have ever seen one and I was completely unaware such species were to be found in the area.

Over the past 2 years, both my wife and I have noticed the appearance of Roe Deer in the field alongside our home on a regular basis, especially in the early morning. These sightings tally with increasing reports of deer being spotted in areas they have not frequented in the past.

Badgers

Our home was burgled on 23 December 2024 while we were away on holiday. On our return and on police advice, we examined our rear garden for evidence of entry from that direction. I noticed small holes dug in the lawn and I put it down to a neighbour's dog causing the damage. Such damage from loose dogs has been extremely rare in the past.

My wife insisted on 24 hour security cameras around our property and on 28 December 2025 at 23.18 they recorded a badger digging holes in our rear garden. Subsequently, similar damage has appeared in our front garden. However, this is the only evidence we have seen of badgers foraging in our gardens in 34 years. (Screengrab submitted taken from security video as video cannot be uploaded)

Great Crested Newts

Our garden is home to Great Crested Newts who have lived here ever since we moved here in 1989. Their presence was notified to both the County Council and Notts Wildlife but nothing appears in official documentation. Their presence did not stop the housing development in the next field despite being mentioned in the written objections to the development.

Future development

These sightings are now becoming the norm and residents have attributed them to the opening of Sturton Quarry in late 2023. Production began in 2024 and steadily increased last year and we expect even more sightings in 2026 as production reaches full capacity. Badger setts near the quarry have been illegally blocked which could explain their appearance in private gardens for the first time.

The above is just a snapshot of how the vibrant wild life of the Trent Valley has reacted to the opening of the Quarry, an undertaking whose footprint is far smaller than the solar array proposal. It will be devastated and no amount of mitigation can compensate for this loss.



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