Parishes, numbers of badgers and date ranges are as follows:-

Cottingham	22	1664-1692
Ecclesfield	8	1712-1714
Hooton Roberts	6	1755-1756
Kildwick	47	1669-1767
Kirkby Malzeard	?	1587
Shipley	1	1676
Thorpe Salvin	42	1699-1734
Worsborough	4	1710-1751

Sadly precise dates on which badger heads were presented for bounty payments were only infrequently recorded. For those instances when dates were given, the majority, including the majority of multiple captures, were from April to June. This represents the peak period when the cubs were being weaned and along with lower bounty rates probably suggests that groups of cubs were being caught and that the method of capture was by digging setts.

Sacking the badger.

The traditional method by which badgers were caught alive (presumably for baiting purposes) in the Doncaster area at the turn of the 18th Century is outlined by Miller (1804):- "The usual mode of taking this animal is... when they are abroad in the night, a sack is fastened at the mouth of their den, and one person remains near the hole to watch, while the other beats around the field with a dog, in order to drive him home; as soon as the man at the hole hears that the badger has run in for refuge he immediately seizes the mouth of the sack, ties it up and carries it off. This mode, in many parts of the county, is called 'sacking the badger'." Variations on this theme are provided by Hamilton (1860) who mentions the use of a willow hoop to hold open the mouth of the sack, and by Hatfield (1866) who describes "the sack is prepared with a strong cord passing round its mouth, the same as the strings of an ordinary purse." When the returning badger enters the sack-lined sett entrance, the mouth of the purse is closed by tightening the cords and the badger is caught. He also quotes a tree as being chosen for the watcher to climb into while he awaits the return of the badger.

Trapping

Records from the turn of the 18th century show that steel spring traps, box traps and, since the outlawing of gin traps, snares have been extensively used throughout the county. In some cases badgers have been found dead in these traps, but frequently, trapped animals were killed and others retrieved for badger baiting.

Griffith (1985) shows that wire snares are frequently used in the Doncaster/Rotherham district, and in 1972 a local RSPCA inspector discovered a supply of heavy duty snares in the grounds of High Melton College.

Trapping Records

-.6.1830	Edlington Wood	Three trapped.
1842	Watchley Crags	Badger caught in box trap.
1883	-	Badger caught in steel rabbit trap set in hedge. Killed and mounted.
1885	Brimham Rocks	One caught in trap placed for foxes.
15.3.1893	Renshaw Wood, Towton	One caught in trap.
1902	nr. Ripon	Two caught in traps.
1905	West Cleveland	One trapped
pre 1907	nr. Fyling Hall, Robin Hood's Bay	Five trapped
1909	Plumpton	One caught in rabbit trap
Winter 1915	Newbold	Over a dozen trapped
1916	Brantinghamdale	Three trapped
15.9.1947	Brockholes, Huddersfield	One caught in fox trap
15.7.1968	Kirk Bramwith area	One dead in trap.
11.10.1968	Kirk Bramwith area	Two adults and two cubs snared and killed by earth stoppers.
7.3.1969	Kirk Bramwith area	One caught in trap 20 yards from sett. Skull smashed with spade by earth stoppers.
11.3.1969	Kirk Bramwith area	Two caught in snares. Killed as on 7.3.1969
18.5.1970	Kirk Bramwith area	One caught in snare and killed by blow on snout.
1972	Melton Wood Doncaster	Case of snaring.
-.10.1972	High Melton College Grounds	Metal spring trap set in shallow pit near sett.
-.6.1973	Copgrove	One found in snare.

Badger Hunting

Badger Hunting was a common nocturnal sport in which large numbers of people from the surrounding neighbourhood often took part (Wilkinson 1872). It was judged by Blakeborough and Pease (1914) to be 'legitimate sport... which might even make for his preservation.'

A description of the techniques involved is provided by this local example:-"The hounds were brought to the village of Wadworth in the evening and remained there until nearly midnight and then proceeded either to Wadworth Wood or Edlington Wood. They were thrown into the 'thick' by the huntsmen; the whips and the huntsmen were placed at points where ridings met... the huntsmen told by the notes of the hounds whether they were on the 'slots' of the badger and followed the trail with precision... until badger was run into and the 'who-whoop' sounded." (Hatfield 1866).

The Yorkshire hunting literature shows that during the 1860s badgers were hunted with fox-hounds in woodland around Kirkbymoorside and Duncombe Park by members of the Sinnington and York and Ainsty Hunts. They were