

Windows on Wildlife

Badgers



Bashful Badgers

Badgers are active between dusk and dawn. They often emerge from their setts before sunset between May and August. Badgers and their setts are protected by law. For your best chance of seeing one in the wild, join one of our badger watches.

Do Badgers Hibernate?

No is the answer although they do show some behavioural adaptations to beat the worst of the winter. They rely more on their fat reserves as well as sleeping for longer and more deeply. They also lower their body temperature which helps reduce the amount of energy they use.



What's for Tea?

Badgers love worms which make up over 50% of their diet. Ever the opportunist, they will also eat insects, hedgehogs and other small mammals, eggs and fruit.

Did you Know?

The badger's white stripes main function appears to be a warning to potential aggressors. Indeed, the stripes point to the danger zone: powerful jaws and sharp teeth, the badger's main defence.



Is it a Badger?

Paws and Poo

Badgers' poo in dung pits. These can be found close to the sett but are also used to mark territory boundaries. Badger paw prints are unique and hard to confuse with any other mammal. Often you can see the five toes and the claws.



Maintaining the Bond

Social grooming is very important for badgers which live in groups called clans. As well as grooming, badgers will scent mark each other. This helps give each group of badgers a collective group smell.

Baby Badgers

Cubs are born in late January/early February and stay below ground until April. There can be up to five cubs in a litter although 2-3 are more common. When they are born they can weigh as little as 75g but by December they will average in at 10kg.

