

Badger Information

Friends of Easter
Craiglockhart Hill



ECH is home to the European Badger which is the UK's largest predator. They are recognisable by their large black and white furry bodies and can grow to one metre in length and up to 12Kg in weight. They grow to become the size of a dog although their legs are a lot shorter so they are lower to the ground.

ECH has a small clan of five badgers living there and feeding on the worms, beetles and grubs in the woodland and on the grassy areas. They are most active at night when the hill is quiet and they particularly enjoy damp nights when the worms are easier to get at.



Badgers have long, strong claws that they use for digging for food, and for building their large underground burrows, known as setts. They keep these clean and piles of discarded bedding can be found around a sett entrance.

Snuffle holes are often seen near a sett and are the signs of a badger looking for food. You can identify them by small scrapings in the ground and lots of them all around.



Badger footprints are up to 6.5cm wide. They show the badgers long claw marks, and have a distinctive kidney bean shaped rear pad with five toe pads in front of it.

The paths made by badgers are in straight lines because badgers like to minimise the energy they use to get to places. They are typically up to 30 cm wide, and are well worn as the badgers travel to frequent feeding grounds.



Badgers are very clean animals and make their toilets away from the sett. They dig small holes called latrines and do their business there, but they don't cover over because these latrines mark the badger's territory so that other badgers know that it's occupied.

Badger poo often looks like black plasticine when the badgers diet is mostly earth worms.



Badger Protection

It's against the law to hurt a badger, to damage where they live, or to disturb them when they are in their sett.