

Surveying for signs of badger activity

Walk hedgerows, field boundaries, rough and wooded areas and around buildings to identify badger field signs such as setts, runs and latrines. Follow runs to see if they lead to setts or latrine sites.

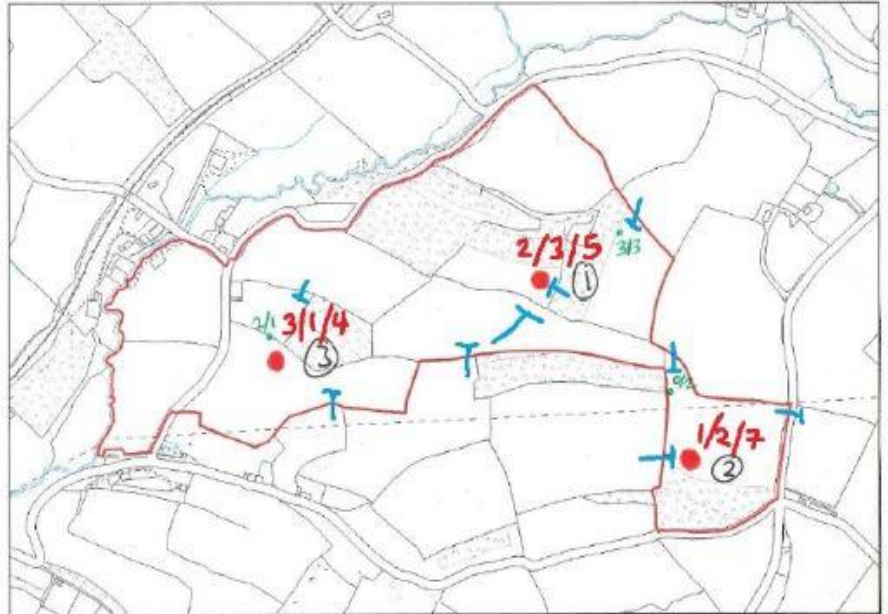
Recording activity onto a map

Please use your farm map or download a map from Magic Maps (<https://magic.defra.gov.uk/>) or similar.

● Mark badger setts with a red dot and assign a number so details can be transferred onto a table. The number of active, partially active and inactive holes should be recorded next to the sett. E.g. 3/1/5 would be a sett with 3 active holes, 1 partially active hole and 5 inactive holes.

● Mark latrines with a green dot, record number or fresh dung / number of old dung, e.g. 2/1 would be 2 fresh dung and 1 old dung.

— Mark badger runs with blue line.



Classification of sett entrances

Active Holes

- Entrances look like capital 'D' on its side – flat bottom and rounded sides and roof
- 25-35cm in diameter
- Smooth sides with no moss growing
- Associated tunnel must also be D shaped and continue at same size, does not narrow excessively inside
- Clear area outside, free from large debris such as leaves and sticks
- Freshly excavated spoil outside and furrow through spoil heap
- May see fresh badger prints and hair, in the entrance
- Bedding outside the entrance
- Well used runs to and from entrances



Partially Active holes



- Entrances look like capital 'D' on its side – flat bottom and rounded sides and roof
- 25-35cm in diameter
- Associated tunnel must also be D shaped and continue at same size, does not narrow excessively inside
- Area immediately around the entrance not smooth
- Some debris present around the entrance
- Runs not that obvious around the sett

Inactive holes

- Entrances look like capital 'D' on its side – flat bottom and rounded sides and roof
- 25-35cm in diameter
- Moss growing inside tunnel
- Usually blocked with debris (leaves and branches) and may have collapsed,
- Self-seeded vegetation within associated spoil heaps
- May have been taken over by other species such as rabbit or foxes



If holes are within 30m of each other they can usually be recorded as the same sett.

Latrines



- Clusters of shallow pits containing faeces, urine & anal gland secretions
- Can also be single pits
- Found near setts, runs, territorial boundaries
- Useful for determining recent activity – consistency varies with diet
- Contents will depend on season e.g. peanuts, wheat, seeds etc.
- Similar to fox but no twist at the end
- Sometimes deposited on surface of ground, not always in a pit

Pad Marks

- Approx. 4cm wide x 5cm long and generally oval in shape
- 5 toes (inner 5th toe usually missing or faint) arranged around a kidney-shaped pad
- Front claws may be visible on soft ground
- 'Sand traps' may help identify freshness of activity



Once you have completed your sett survey and marked the details on your map, transfer the relevant information onto the sett survey table. Please pass the table back to your company and keep the map for your reference.