

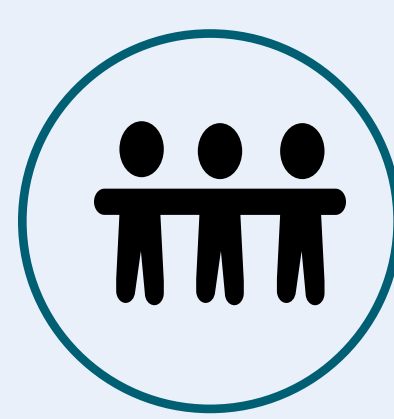
Badger Habitat Selection



(7)

Badgers are important to the ecosystems they reside in as they create new habitat for other animals. They rely heavily on their burrows for foraging and resting. Learning more about badger habitat selection can greatly assist with conservation efforts.

There are many types of badger setts and many reasons for why different setts are utilized. Setts are their underground dens.



Badgers live in small social groups

These social groups share both a main sett as well as outlier setts (4).



Outlier setts are smaller and utilized less frequently

These setts may be used for short resting periods or for individuals to escape more dominant members of the group (4).



Main setts are the largest and most used setts

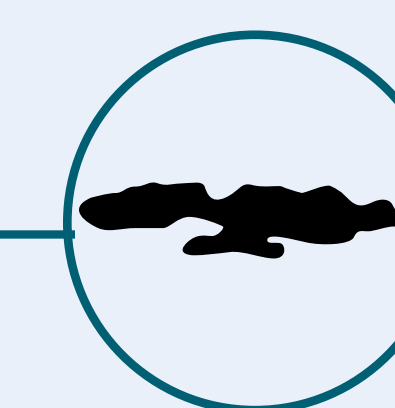
These setts are used for resting, raising young and more (5).



Setts can vary greatly in their size and structure

Sett size and structure is largely related to the number of individuals within a group as well as the age of the sett (3).

The environment has a great impact on badger habitat selection



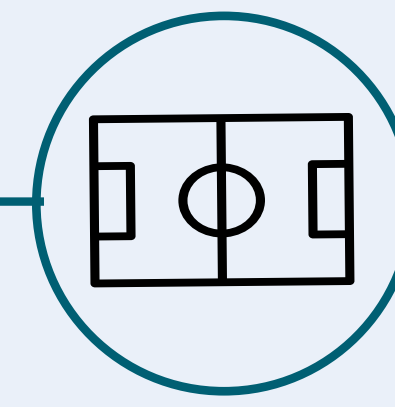
Badgers tend to select open area habitats

It is thought that open habitats have more prey as well as soils that are easy for digging (1).



In the winter, badgers may select for forested habitats more

The extra canopy cover may provide more warmth during cold months (6).



Badgers will change their home range sizes depending on the habitat

Home ranges can vary from 2.4 to 541 km squared in males. That is a range from 448 to 101098 football fields in size! (2)

Knowing more about habitat selection can greatly help highlight where conservation efforts should be focused. To best assist badgers, we need to focus on the creation of open and unfragmented ecosystems which will provide them with more habitat for sett creation.



(8)

References
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