



DURHAM COUNTY BADGER GROUP BADGER WATCHING INFORMATION AND HINTS



Badger Watching Information:

Get your timing right: The main thing to avoid is disturbing the badgers. *They always come first!* Find a seat in a comfortable position before the badgers leave their setts. (An hour or so before dark.) Some badgers leave their setts early and some late. It will be trial and error, unless you can find someone who knows. (Durham Badger Group)

Seating Arrangements: Find a comfortable seat! You are going to be there for at least 2 hours. Your position should be somewhere where you don't need to fidget around. Sit at least 10 metres from the sett entrance, if possible.

What to wear: Dark, dull clothes are best for camouflage. No nylon, as it makes a lot of noise! Cotton or wool are best. Make sure you will be warm and waterproof! (Even in summer, it gets cold after dark.)

No Smellies! Sit downwind of the sett, DO NOT wear aftershave, perfume, talc, hairspray, etc. The badgers will smell you from a long distance! Even insect repellent can be a problem.

Badger Food: Many people don't agree with feeding badgers in the wild. Others feel that sensible foods like peanuts, (NOT SALTED), fruit and nuts are fine.

Why not keep a diary? Keep a record of the activity at your sett. How many badgers? When do they emerge? What sex do they seem to be? (Tricky!) Sizes? Behaviour? Personalities?

When should you leave? DO NOT startle them with your exit. Wait until they've gone about their business. Then leave QUIETLY.

The weather: Badgers may come out later on wet and windy nights. It might be well after dark. In cold weather, they may not emerge for days. Be prepared to have some blank nights! Don't expect too much. Wild animals will do things when THEY want to - not when you want them to!

Badger Hide: You could join Durham Badger Group, or Durham Wildlife Trust. Then you could enjoy badger watching in the comfort of our hide!