

Identifying Badger Setts

Badgers usually have one main sett that they use all-year round. However, there may be several other setts that are not always active.
They like to build their setts in well-drained, sloping ground near woodland or hedgerows.

There are usually multiple entrances which are approximately 30cm wide, and wider than they are high. They are often described as D-shaped; if the D was on its side ⌓.

The sett's tunnels get narrower as you enter. If the sett is active, the walls will be smooth. Active setts may also have fresh bedding near the entrance, recently excavated soil heaps (Picture A), evidence of footprints or badger hairs, or badger runs radiating from the entrance.



Picture A

Identifying Badger Latrines

Badger latrines are a series of small holes in the ground containing faeces.
They are usually found at the edge of their territory along fences (Picture B), hedges, or roads.

They show evidence of the badgers omnivorous diet, such as earthworms, insects, wild berries and even cattle feed! Picture C.



Picture C

Why are Badgers Important?

Badgers can be infected with bovine tuberculosis (TB). Badgers are referred to as a "maintenance host" which means that TB can circulate and be maintained within the badger population.

However, TB can also spread from cattle-to-badgers and badgers-to-cattle. This happens either by direct contact with an infected badger, or contact with saliva, nasal discharge, urine or faeces from infected badgers



Picture B

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How can I prevent my cattle from contacting badgers?



Picture D

At Pasture

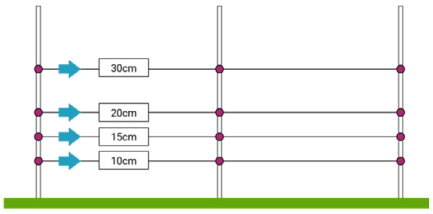
Badger setts and latrines are high risk areas as they may be contaminated with infectious material.
Electric or barbed wire fencing can be used to prevent cattle accessing these areas (Picture D).
The top wire should be 80cm high and fence posts spaced every 4m.
Fencing must allow badgers continued access to their setts and latrines.



Picture E

At Housing

Badgers are nocturnal, installing cameras may assist in identifying badger activity around the yard.
Ensure that the perimeter of the shed, walls and gates, are solid with smooth sides and a minimum of 1.5m high (Picture E).
Any gaps, for example between the gate and the floor, should be less than 7.5cm as badgers can squeeze through very small spaces.



Picture F

Feed Stores and Silage Clamps

If buildings cannot be secured, consider the use of silos or bins. Ensure the lids are fully closed and locked.
Clean up any spilt or leftover feed.
Maize and wholecrop silage can be attractive to badgers.
An electric fence with four high tensile wires at 10, 15, 20 and 30cm should be placed at the silage face (Picture F). Alternatively, for walled silage clamps, it may be easier to install a badger proof gate at entry. It is essential that the gates or electric fence is closed at night.



Picture G

Feed and Water Troughs

When grazing, do not feed concentrates from the ground. Only put enough feed out for the day so there are no leftovers.
Raise feed and water troughs and mineral licks to at least 90cm.
Do not place troughs near hedgerows or features that would allow badgers to climb into them (Picture G).
Regularly empty, clean, and disinfect troughs to prevent the buildup of potentially infectious material.

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