



# Badger

*Meles meles*

## Quick facts

**Order** Carnivora

**Conservation status**

GB *Least concern*

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England *Least concern*

Scotland *Least concern*

Wales *Least concern*

Global *Least concern*

**GB trend** *Stable*

**Size** Body 75 - 100 cm,  
tail 15 cm

**Weight** 8 - 9 kg in spring,  
11 - 12 kg in autumn

**Life span** up to 14 years, but  
rarely this long in the wild

The badger is a short-legged mustelid with grey fur, a distinctive black and white face, and black legs. They are widespread across Britain but are thinly distributed in Scotland. They are common in most of Ireland. Absent from many islands.

### Habitat

Coniferous, deciduous, and mixed woodlands, arable land, urban and garden.

### Behaviour

Nocturnal. Lies up in extensive underground system of tunnels and nesting chambers, called a sett. Lives in social group of 2 - 23 adults (usually around 6); this group defends a territory around the sett. Leaves faeces in shallow pits called latrines often at boundaries of territory.

### Diet & Feeding

Earthworms make up the majority of the diet, also eats fruits and small mammals if times are hard, including hedgehogs.

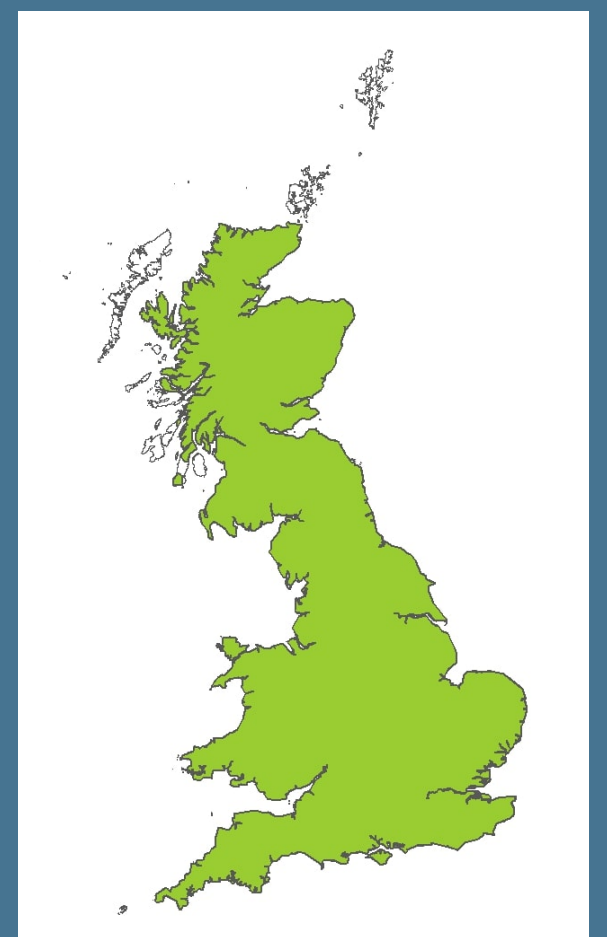
### Reproduction

Mates between February and May, delays implantation until late winter. 2 - 3 cubs born around February. Usually only 1 female in a social group will breed.

### Conservation & Threats

Badgers are protected from being killed, persecuted, or trapped, and their setts are protected from damage, destruction, or obstruction under Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Mortality is relatively high, with 1/5 of adults dying per year. Road traffic accidents are a major cause of mortality. Many local groups dedicated to the protection and study of badgers exist.

## Range



**Mammal**  
SOCIETY

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