

# School of Professor Brock

Level **Entry**

## How does a badger communicate?

### SMELL

A badger's sense of smell is 700 times better than ours and plays a vital role in badgers communicating with each other

#### WHAT MAKES A BADGER'S SCENT?



A badger's distinctive smell comes mainly from his/her faeces and sticky secretions from GLANDS (found under the tail)

#### HOW DO THEY LEAVE THEIR PUNGENT MESSAGES?

- **SQUAT MARKING**, dipping their rear end to deposit secretions on the ground
- **SCENT MARKING** other badgers in the same clan:
  - Two badgers mark each other's rears
  - One badger marks another
- **DEFECATING**, urinating and leaving secretions in **DUNG PITS**



Many dungpits together are called a **LATRINE**. These play an important role in communication.

For example, latrines are often placed on the territory's edge as a signpost to badgers from other clans

#### WHAT CAN THEIR ODOROUS MESSAGES SAY?



Just as it is for us, badger communication is two-way. Badgers visit latrines to **PICK UP** messages as well as to **LEAVE** their own!



### VOICE

Badgers have a wide range of calls to give different messages, eg. aggression, fear, surprise, pain, etc. Their very own language indeed!

Chitter Kecker Purr Churr snarl  
Growl Squeak snort Yelp

Listen to badger sounds on this great WildCRU video: [Click here](#) or go to the Binfield Badger Group website



### BODY LANGUAGE

Body language is where the badger gives a message with its body. This can be:

- to threaten, by emphasising their size and white facial markings
- to attract a mate, eg. a male fluffs up his tail (bottle brushing)
- to show submission, where badgers turn their heads away and crouch to try to look smaller, or back off to look harmless

