

School of Professor Brock

Level **Entry**

Where do badgers live?

Badgers live underground in a **SETT**; a network of tunnels and nesting chambers

Badgers spend about 70% of their lives underground

1 to 30 or more D-shaped entrances

Width 30cm

Tree roots are often used to support tunnels

Setts are mostly found on slopes in woodland or hedgerows.

Tunnels - 20 to 100 metres long!

A badger clan may have many **SETTS** in their large **TERRITORY**. Only one will be their **MAIN SETT** which is the family home inhabited all year

Keeping COMFORTABLE

- The sett keeps badgers dry in the rain, warm in Winter and cool in Summer
- Badgers sleep separately in Summer and together in Winter for extra warmth
- They line nesting chambers with bedding shredded from vegetation, such as grass, leaves, bluebells etc. This keeps them off the cold earth floor

Keeping VENTILATED

How do badgers ensure they have enough oxygen underground?

- wind blows in through the multiple sett entrances
- their own movement underground causes air to move in and out of the sett

Keeping CLEAN

- Badgers do not usually go to the loo inside the sett but might use a single chamber if they have to
- Badgers refresh their bedding regularly to reduce parasites. Green bedding may even kill these insects. Wow!

Keeping TIDY

Spare bedding might be stored in an unused chamber; their very own laundry cupboard underground to keep tunnels clear

Keep OUT!

A dung pit immediately outside the sett entrance is a message to others: Keep out!

Nonetheless, foxes and rabbits may move into a disused sett or even a disused part of a sett where badgers are still living

Most tunnels are less than a metre below ground but can be deeper

Setts may be handed down over centuries from one generation to the next