

School of Professor Brock

Level **Standard**

How does a badger communicate?

SMELL

A badger's sense of smell is 700 times better than ours and plays a crucial 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 produced by subcaudal and anal GLANDS (found below the tail)

HOW DO THEY LEAVE THEIR PUNGENT MESSAGES?

- **SQUAT MARKING**; dipping their rear end to deposit secretions on the ground. This may occur several times an hour near the sett, on foraging routes, in latrines etc
- **SCENT MARKING** other badgers in the same clan:
 - 2 badgers mark each other's rears, eg. to share clan odour
 - 1 badger marks another, eg. to indicate readiness to mate
- **DEFECATING**, urinating and leaving secretions in **DUNG PITS**



WHAT CAN THEIR ODOROUS MESSAGES SAY?



Multiple dungpits together are called a **LATRINE** and these play an important role in communication. For example, latrines are often placed on the territory's boundary as a signpost to badgers from other clans



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 make a wide range of vocalisations which may vary for different situations, eg. aggression, fear, surprise, pain, mating etc. Their very own language indeed!

- Chitter
- Kecker
- Purr
- Churr
- snarl
- Squeak
- snort
- Growl
- Yelp

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



BODY LANGUAGE

Body language can be:

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

