

THE BADGER

The Badger is probably Britain's most easily recognizable and best loved mammal. The only sightings the majority of us will have is on our T.V. screens or sadly lying by the roadside, another victim of the motor vehicle. He is by nature a very retiring creature and will shy away from his only enemy, man. It is probably for this reason that he only emerges at night from the sett, an underground labyrinth of interconnection tunnels where he lives in a social group with other badgers.

Badgers are fairly common in East and North Yorkshire but less so in the flat and intensively arable areas and the acidic uplands.

The male badger (boar) can average 80cm in length (30inches) and weigh around 16kg (35lbs), the sow tending to be slightly smaller. They are omnivorous feeders, the bulk of their diet when available being earthworms. Badgers are however opportunists in their feeding habits rather than hunters and they will also eat insects, small mammals, slugs, fruit in season, cereals and fleshy roots such as bluebell bulbs.

