



BADGER

BROC

Meles meles

BROC

BADGER

Meles meles



The little stars on this map represent the distribution of Badgers throughout Ireland. Each square on the map is equivalent to 100 kilometres by 100 kilometres.

The badger is a thick-set animal with a coarse grey coat and a handsome white, black striped head. With its powerful limbs and bear-like claws, the badger is a great digger. Its home consists of tunnels which lead underground to a main living chamber and smaller sleeping quarters. These tunnels are called "setts" and they have large entrance holes. Setts are often dug in woodland on sloping ground and can be hundreds of years old. Badgers are tidy housekeepers and they make their homes comfortable with grass, straw, bracken and leaf mould. Cubs are born in early spring and they are blind at birth. The female (the sow) is a very caring mother who keeps her babies clean and free from ticks. The male (the boar) has to live in a

separate chamber before the cubs are born and he cannot visit the babies until the sow gives him permission! When the cubs are ready to come out of the sett, they do not hunt with their parents. They play noisily around the entrance, running about and digging holes. The adult badgers are night creatures and when dusk comes, they emerge cautiously after sniffing and listening to make sure it is safe to start the search for food. A badger has a large appetite and will eat almost anything! Young rabbits, rats, mice and frogs are caught and eaten. Earthworms, beetles, acorns and even bees' and wasps' nests are also eaten sometimes. Be careful not to throw litter in the countryside where our wonderful wildlife lives!

PROTECT OUR WILDLIFE – PLEASE DO NOT LITTER