

Looking for Tracks and Signs

Sometimes wildlife can be tricky to spot – looking for signs (prints, poos etc.) is a good way to discover all kinds of species that live in your local patch. Using your nature detective skills can you spot any of these?

Roe Deer



Deer scat (poos) pellets are oval-shaped and tend to be dark brown or black and shiny. They are usually in clusters and can often be found along woodland paths.

Badger



A badger latrine (potty in the woods!)

Badgers tend to dig toilet holes (called latrines) along the edges of their territory. Their poos tend to be quite sloppy (they can eat up to 200 worms in a night!) and they have a musky, sweet and spicy smell. You could dip a stick in for a closer sniff test!

Fox



Fresh scat



Old scat

Fox poos are often found raised up on clumps of grass or tree stumps to mark the territory. They tend to be twisted, with a pointed end and you can often see the remains of what has been eaten – bone, hair, berry seeds etc.

If you find an explosion of feathers when you're out and about. Use your detective skills to work out **Whodunnit!.....** Was it a fox or, was it a sparrowhawk?



A Woodpigeon has been killed!



Have a close look at the end of the feathers



Are the end of feathers still pointed? This would indicate that a sparrowhawk is guilty (birds of a prey pluck their victims).

Are the ends of the feathers blunt, flat or look chewed? This would indicate that a fox or larger mammal is the culprit.