

Wildlife Tracks and Signs



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Squirrels live up in trees in a drey. ¹Dreys are full of leaves, different from nests which are mostly made from branches. Dreys made in fork of branches. ²Squirrels leave behind half eaten pine cones. Often find stashes of pine cones at base of trees.



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Fox dens can be just spaces under portacabins or sheds but if you find a ¹tall thin hole then probably a fox den. ²Fox poo generally black, doesn't smell (unlike dog's), has prey items in it e.g. beetle cases, feathers, bones, seeds and has a 'squiggle' or 'kink' in it, rather than straight. Again, unlike a dog's. ³ If you find pile of feathers with no points at their tips, then it's a fox kill. Foxes break off feathers from bird's body with their teeth so break points off.



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Badgers use ¹'latrines'. They use a communal toilet place so generally you will find a large pile of droppings. ²You might see 'snuffle holes' which are hollows scuffed into ground around tree trunks where badger snuffling with snout for grubs in ground. You can sometimes see their claw marks where they scratch the ground looking for insects. ³They use the same path around perimeter of field to get from a to b. So if you see a well worn path around an edge then probably from a badger. If you find a wide low hole under bushes then it could be a sett entrance. Badgers live in complex tunnel systems underground called setts.

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¹Bats can leave droppings on the outside of a building wall under the eaves. This is where they enter/exit their roost under the roof. ²Also, you might see a 'landing pad'; a dirty patch of wall, again high up, under their entrance/exit point. They cannot fly directly up into their roost, they have to land then walk up under the roof. ³You might see a pile of moth wings, generally inside an old building. Bats eat the moth's body but throw out the wings!



If you find a pile of feathers that have points intact, then it is a bird of prey kill. Birds pluck out feathers from their prey, leaving the points intact.



If you find what looks like a den or some sort and want to know if it is being used, look for cobwebs. If the hole is covered by a cobweb then it has not been used recently so probably nothing there. If no cobweb then there might be a fox or other animal inside.