

Mammals on our sites



Badger (*Meles meles*)

Prefers drier conditions in undulating mixed mature woodland, but often builds setts on hillsides, especially with gorse cover. Creatures of habit often using obvious tracks & trails. Often forage in open farmland for slugs, earthworms etc but are carnivorous. Young generally emerge from the sett in May. Distinctive latrine pits are dug for their droppings.



Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

Found in many habitats and increasingly in urban areas. Fox 'dens' usually taller and narrower than badger sett entrances with giveaway signs of feeding or prey nearby such as 'nipped' off feathers. Vixen very audible during breeding season with loud piercing 'screams'



Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

Generally found near water though will frequent open ground on passage. Visible droppings or 'spraint' found in territory, often on prominent places alongside burns and watercourses such as rocks etc. Diet consists of fish, frogs etc. Home called a 'holt' which often has several entrances. Shy and elusive, sometimes seen at dusk feeding in stretches of quiet water.



Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*)

Only squirrel native to Britain, increasingly dispersed and numbers reduced by the North American grey squirrel, especially due to the increase of the parapox virus, which does not affect greys. Main diet of hazel nuts / conifer seeds though will feed on plants & fungi.



Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*)

Found in most woodland areas, often foraging around woodland edges. Males have short antlers & are seasonally territorial. Most active at dawn and dusk, they have a varied diet of buds, leaves, fruit, grasses & herbs. Many are injured or killed in traffic accidents.



Brown Hare (*Lepus europeaus*)

Probably an introduced species, they live in very exposed habitats, often in upland areas, feeding mainly on grass shoots and crops. Very large distinctive yellow eyes and black tips to the ears. Can run up to speeds of 45mph when evading predators.



Pine Marten (*Martes martes*)

Isolated populations in Southern Scotland. Prefer well wooded areas which have lots of cover and, being carnivorous, have a very varied diet consisting of fruits, seeds, fungi and plants to birds, eggs and dead animals. An agile climber, their dens are often in hollow trees or under a tangle of seemingly inaccessible roots.



Pipistrelle



Daubenton's



Natterer's



Brown long-eared

Bat species

Pipistrellus / myotis species

Pipistrelle bat species are the UK's smallest bats. There are 17 species in the UK, with 8 of these occurring in Scotland, of which, 3 of these shown are common, together with the less common natterer's bat.

Pipistrelles often fly just around head height, while Daubenton's bats generally fly low over water, often in huge sweeping figures of eight. Brown long eared bats are also known as the 'whispering bat' as their echolocation is extremely quiet on bat detectors. The length of their ears is distinctive when observed.