

# Discovering Badgers

**Sunday 26th September 2010**

**10.00 to 16.00**

## About the Course:

This one day course on the natural history of badgers will cover several aspects including: badger characteristics, anatomy and lifestyle. The course will also consider the badger in Essex - its position in the ecology of the area. Participants will have the opportunity to visit an active badger sett and gain tips on how to watch and track these beautiful creatures. Other features of the course will include social structure, badgers problems, hazards and badgers and the law.

This course is intended to show how to track badgers and will not involve seeing badgers.

This badger course runs from 10am to 4pm. Please bring a packed lunch.

If you have not already booked on this course please contact the centre.

The Centre's purpose built facilities offer superb opportunities for field study in the heart of Epping Forest.

All of our courses are led by experienced Tutors selected for their knowledge and expertise as well as their relaxed and friendly manner

**Epping Forest Field Centre**

**Tel: 020 8502 8500**

**Address: Paul's Nursery Road, High Beach,  
Loughton, Essex, IG10 4AF**

**Fax: 020 8502 8502**

**Email: [enquiries.ef@field-studies-council.org](mailto:enquiries.ef@field-studies-council.org)**

**Website: [www.field-studies-council.org/eppingforest](http://www.field-studies-council.org/eppingforest)**

**Registered Charity Number: 313364**

**Managed by FSC for an on behalf of the City of London Corporation, Conservators of Epping Forest.**

The logo for the Field Studies Council (FSC) features the letters 'FSC' in a bold, green, sans-serif font. The 'F' and 'S' are connected, and the 'C' is slightly larger and positioned to the right.

BRINGING  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
UNDERSTANDING TO ALL

# Discovering Badgers

## About the Leader

Don is an experienced tutor of natural history courses for adults and has run many similar days at other centres. Don started watching badgers back in the 1950's whilst teaching in Gloucestershire and was inspired by one of the first badger enthusiasts Earnest Neale. He has a tremendous knowledge of badgers, based on years of careful study and observation and has featured on television programmes about this fascinating mammal, including the Badger Night Live broadcasts. He is a founder member of the Essex Wildlife Trust.

## Course Timetable

Assemble at 10am at the Epping Forest Field Centre. The first quarter of an hour will be informal introductions and discussion over coffee.

During the day we will be doing some tracking in the local area. Discussions will include areas of interest such as:

The Eurasian Badger, *Meles meles* - Position in evolution - Relatives  
Anatomy and lifestyles: Adaptations for burrowing and underground residence -  
Change of diet from typical carnivore pattern - Community living - Need for territorial defence.

The badger in Essex: Town Badger, Country Badger

Tracking: Recognising signs

Tracking in the field. The timing for field excursion can be changed to fit with the weather but is planned to be just before lunch and will require a trip in our minibus.

Badger watching: Tips on how to go about it. Tips on photography.

More about social structure - The breeding cycle

Problems and hazards: Damage to crops, livestock and gardens. Bovine Tuberculosis.

Road traffic hazards. Badger digging and baiting.

Badgers and the law; Badgers Act 1973 to Protection of Badgers Act 1992.

**Lunch Arrangements:** Please bring a packed lunch

*All times are approximate. This is an outline programme and may be subject to change according to the weather and / or requirements of the group*

## Epping Forest Field Centre

*The Field Studies Council (FSC) is an environmental education charity committed to helping people explore understand and be inspired by the natural world. Each year over 100,000 people experience the FSC through visits to our network of 17 centres.*

