

# Animal tracks



## Welcome to our guide to tracking animals in the Forest of Marston Vale!

From this guide you will be able to discover secret trails, and learn about some of the animals that live in and around the area. Remember never to disturb animals or endanger their homes.

### How do I find them?

There are many ways to track an animal. A good way is to search for footprints in mud and soft ground.

### What do I need?

It can get cold and wet so wear warm clothes, waterproofs and some wellies or boots. You may want to take a camera or note book to write or draw what you see. A good wildlife guide with lots of pictures will help you identify what you discover.

### When should I go?

You can go any time but remember, during the summer the ground may be too hard for animals to leave foot prints.

### What could I see?

Well, look out for signs of the following animals...

**Badgers:** They are nocturnal and active throughout the year. Their homes are called "setts" and they will eat whatever food is available. Their footprints can sometimes be found along paths and their territories are marked with dug out toilets called "latrines".

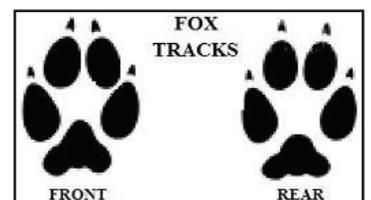


**Deer:** You are most likely to see the Muntjac deer which was introduced to this country from South-East Asia. You can find their hoof prints, which are sometimes called "slots" because of how they look, crossing paths. They often strip bark off young trees which can kill the tree.

**Rabbits:** You are most likely to see rabbits in short grassland which they nibble down very short. You may see a "rabbit warren" which is their home.

Rabbits also nibble at young trees.

**Fox:** Are usually nocturnal and solitary. They spend most of their day in an "earth". Foxes eat small mammals such as voles and rabbits.



## Have fun in the Forest!