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 In-House Editor **Laura Barber**

## Badgerlands

### The Twilit World of Britain's Most Loved and Hated Animal

**Patrick Barkham**

#### Keynote

The author of *The Butterfly Isles* turns his wry, affectionate attention to an even more beloved (and controversial) British animal - the badger

#### Sales Points

- Patrick Barkham's first book, *The Butterfly Isles*, received ecstatic reviews, has sold 25,000 copies, and won him shortlistings for the Ondaatje Prize and the Galaxy New Writer of the Year Award 2010
- The British love badgers: they are the symbol of the Wildlife Trusts, and characters in our best loved children's fiction, from *The Wind in the Willows* to *The Tale of Mr Toad*
- Praise for *The Butterfly Isles*:
  - \* 'Every hedgerow and every bit of grass in every supermarket comes alive with possibility in this book ... Charming' **Ali Smith, *The Times* Books of the Year**
  - \* 'A delightful book ... Barkham writes with authority, love, charm, understatement and the driest of wit. There are wonderful descriptive passages, moments of absurdity and frequent small epiphanies of wonder and awe' ***The Spectator***
  - \* 'Enraptured, visionary, witty and erudite' **Jonathan Keates, *Sunday Telegraph***
- A beguiling book ... Barkham criss-crosses Britain, recording his search in a vivid, adept, unapologetic voice, wonderfully catching the spirit of these ethereal creatures - Richard Mabey, *Guardian*

#### Description

Britain is the home of the badger - there are more badgers per square kilometre in this country than in any other. And yet most of us have never seen one. They are nocturnal creatures, who vanish into their labyrinthine underground setts at the first hint of a human. Accompanied by the eccentrics and scientists who feed and study badgers, Barkham explores Badgerland; a nocturnal world in which sounds and scents are amplified, and Britain seems a much stranger place, one in which these low slung, snuffling, distinctively striped creatures gambol and dig, and live out their complex social lives. Patrick Barkham's grandmother won their trust enough to feed and nurse them, and was responsible for a private member's bill that prohibited their slaughter. Today, over 40 years later, the badger is once again set to be culled.

Barkham delves into the fascinating natural history and rich cultural history of the animal - from their prehistoric arrival in Britain, to their savage hunting and persecution over the centuries, to their change of fortunes in the 20th century, when Kenneth Grahame's badger spurred a growing fondness for them. Barkham's affection for the stubborn, striped-nose creatures is infectious and *Badgerland* will cement his reputation as one of our most vivid, witty and curious nature writers.

#### Author Biography

PATRICK BARKHAM was born in 1975 in Norfolk and was educated at Cambridge University. He is a features writer for the *Guardian*, where he has reported on everything from the Iraq War to climate change. He is the author of *The Butterfly Isles*. He lives in Norwich and Wells-next-the-Sea in Norfolk.

#### Market

Readers of Richard Mabey, Paul Theroux, Roger Deakin, Esther Woolfson, Stephen Moss's *The Bumper Book of Nature*; those interested in the badger culling debate

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