

Whose poo?

Can you tell what animals live in and around the woods by their poo?

Badger



Look out for poo in shallow pits called 'latrines' (a badger toilet). It's sloppy if they've been eating lots of worms, firm and sausage-like if they've had other foods.

Fox



Fox poo looks a bit like dog poo. It's often a bit pointy at one end. Look out for fur in the poo, as well as feathers, tiny bones, seeds and berries.

Rabbit and hare



Look out for piles of little round balls of poo. Rabbits and hares eat a lot of grass, so their poo is made up of fibres. It's usually yellowy-brown or green in colour.

Deer



Look for piles of shiny, dark pellets, a bit pointy at one end. Deer ruminates – this means they regurgitate their food and chew it twice before full digestion, so their poo is very smooth and doesn't have lots of bits in it.

Otter



Otter poo is also called spraint. It usually contains fish bones, as well as feathers, seeds and berries. Find it near water where they live, often in the open on rocks and the riverbank.

Dog



Dogs often go for walks in the woods and their poo is sometimes left behind by careless owners. It had a very strong, nasty smell. It comes in all shades of brown and looks a bit sausage-like. Never touch dog poo, it contains very nasty bugs that could make you really ill.

Remember, never touch poo with your hands as it can contain nasty germs which could make you ill. If you want a closer look to see if the poo you find contains bones or fur, poke it with a stick instead to break it apart.

Photos: WTPL Badger: Reece Whyld. iStockphoto Dog: Alistair McCaskill.
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