

Badgery Science Fun 15

Dan and Jane were out in the woods with their parents, surveying a badger sett. (Their parents were members of Durham Badger Group, so they knew what they were doing.)



Jane looked at the spoil heap. "Isn't the soil here sandy?" she said.

"Yes," her dad said, "badgers like sandy soil, on hillsides, just like this. It's easier to dig, and it lets water drain through easily."

"Hmm," said Dan, "I reckon we should collect some of the different soils around here, and run an experiment."

"Okay," Jane replied. They went up the hill and also down into the valley, where the soil seemed wet, and collected a number of samples.



They measured out the soils, put them in funnels, and then ran water over each one in turn. They watched how much water ran through in 5 mins. Their results are below.

Type of soil	cu. cm water
Clay from the valley bottom	50
Clay with some sand from the river bank	120
Sand with some clay from a little higher up	200
Mostly sand from around the sett	240
Gravel from the river bed	300



What did they discover about the soils? **Clay soil has small grains and doesn't let water through easily. Sand has large grains. It lets water through easily.**

Why didn't the badgers dig their sett on the riverbank? **The soil would be much wetter. It would be too uncomfortable for a sett.**