

## **Grasslands & Farmland Habitats – Colin Smyth MSP**

Hello, my name is Colin Smyth and I am a Member of the Scottish Parliament for the South of Scotland region and I am the Nature Champion for the Badger.

Badgers inhabit a range of Scotland's habitats, with the highest density of their underground homes, or 'setts', occurring in areas of arable farmland, native woodlands or grasslands.

Grasslands refer to natural or semi-natural areas dominated by grasses and other plants. They can be found in our parks, on road verges, or in more unique environments like Scotland's species-rich machair.

These humble habitats support a wide array of plant and animal species, including butterflies, wildflowers, and various wildlife. Unfortunately, almost all of the UK's grasslands have been lost since 1930, making our remaining grasslands crucial for plant and animal species.

Most of Scotland's grasslands today are farmlands or used for rough upland grazing. Farmlands refer to land that is used for agriculture, particularly for growing crops or raising livestock.

When managed well, farmland can become a thriving habitat filled with birdsong, blooming hedgerows, and buzzing bees. Nature-friendly farming practices, including grazing with native breeds, contribute to the conservation of our grasslands, benefiting wildlife like birds, butterflies, bumblebees, and of course, badgers.