

Due to the high level of persecution of badger and legal protection afforded to this species (badger is listed in the Fifth Schedule of the Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2023 and protected under Section 23 of the Wildlife Acts), information pertaining to the location of setts is treated as confidential.

For this reason, figures illustrating and identifying the location of badger setts which are presented in note are not intended to be made available to the general public on the An Coimisiún Pleanála website where environmental information in relation to the Proposed Scheme is otherwise available.

This survey information is intended to be provided to the competent authority, An Coimisiún Pleanála, with the sole purpose of preventing the location of badger setts being easily identified by the general public.

Below is the badger section of the ecology baseline from Chapter 9 Biodiversity of the Environmental Report and Appendix 9.1G (Results – Fauna), refer to Section 1.2 before any details were redacted for confidentiality.

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1.2 Badger

Several signs of badger were noted within approximately 200 m of the Proposed Scheme during a site survey (April 2022). These included badger trails, snuffle holes, latrines, scats, and one potential disused sett. Trails were found on either side of the Proposed Scheme in the vicinity of this potential sett. Badger trails and snuffle holes were identified at the western perimeter of the northwest section of the Proposed Scheme with another potential badger trail on the opposite side of the proposed road. Trails and a latrine with numerous pits and evidence of recent use were also found on the perimeter of the central section of the Proposed Scheme. Badger evidence was identified on both banks of the Liffey during aquatic surveys in June 2023 and a recent badger latrine and footprint were identified on the northwestern bank of the Liffey approximately 10 m southwest of the Proposed Scheme.

An abundance of badger evidence was identified during the 2024 surveys. This included trails, snuffle holes, latrines, footprints and setts. Evidence was found throughout the length of the Proposed Scheme on both sides of the River Liffey with evidence concentrated in similar areas to those in the 2022. Several more potential setts were identified in 2024. The potential setts did not appear to be new, so it is probable that they were present in 2022, but not identified due to vegetation cover. The badger evidence identified is mapped in **Figure 9-5** and the potential setts are described in **Table 9.22**.

A notable limitation in the badger surveys relates to the area of scrub between the St John of Gods land and the River Liffey immediately north of the Proposed Scheme. Because of dense vegetation, this area could not be fully surveyed, but there was circumstantial evidence of a possible breeding sett in the area in 2024. It appeared that straw may have been pulled from the grassland to the south towards the scrub. This behaviour would be indicative of breeding badgers.

Camera Trapping

Patriot (model BTC-Patriot-FHD) camera traps were deployed at the most active-looking potential sett entrances. A camera was deployed at one entrance for a period of 69 days from July to September 2024 and another entrance for a period of 39 days from August to October 2024 (see **Figure Badger Confidential Appendix**). The results indicated that these potential sett entrances were used by rabbits, and not by badgers. The cameras captured a badger commuting and foraging in the treeline on four nights. In the context of these results, and the sparse evidence of badger activity in the immediate vicinity, the other identified potential sett entrances in the treeline were determined to be unlikely to be used by badger.

Table 4.16: Badger Sett Evidence

Sett ID	ITM Easting	ITM Northing	Distance from Proposed Scheme	Notes
1	696871	732192	~1 m	Five-entrance sett within a treeline between a housing estate and farmland. Two well used entrances, two partially used entrances, and one disused entrance. A trail camera was placed outside the most well-used entrance from 23 rd July to 30 th September 2024 (69 days). A second camera was placed outside the second most well used entrance from 26 th August to 4 October 2024 (39 days). The camera confirmed that the entrances were only used by rabbits. These cameras were also likely to capture any commuting badgers that may use setts 2, 3 or 4.
2	696864	732201	~1 m	One apparently well used entrance, but no well used trail connecting to it. Given the abundance of rabbit activity in the treeline, this is likely used by rabbit.
3	696848	732214	~1 m	Four entrances to the potential sett were found. These entrances were covered by heavy trimmings from the treeline which made assessment of use ambiguous. They were either disused or partially used. Given the abundance of rabbit activity in the treeline, this is likely used by rabbit.
4	696824	732237	~1 m	One potential sett entrance also covered in trimmings, so assessment of usage could not be carried out. A well-used trail leads to the entrance. Given the abundance of rabbit activity in the treeline, this is likely used by rabbit.
5	696824	732237	90 m west	One disused entrance along a hedgerow in a GA1 field observed in 2022 and 2024.

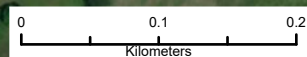
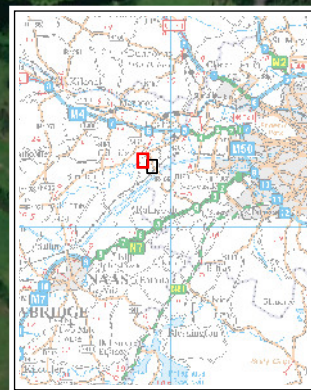
Sett ID	ITM Easting	ITM Northing	Distance from Proposed Scheme	Notes
6	697590	731705	0 m	Two partially used entrances could be a badger sett or could potentially be rabbit. There is a lot of nearby rabbit activity and there were some potential rabbit hairs at the entrance.
7	697729	731667	0 m	Four entrances, but only one showing signs of use. However, the partially used entrance is narrow and is blocked so that it is unlikely that badgers could use it. There is a fresh latrine nearby.

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Legend

-  Proposed Scheme Boundary
-  150m buffer
-  Potential Sett



Confidential Badger Appendix

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Issue Details

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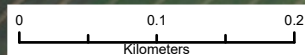
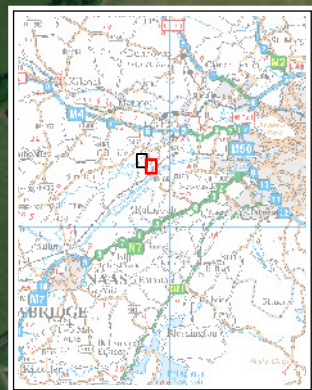
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Checked By: MS	Date: 31/07/2024	
Approved By: LG	Projection: ITM	

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Legend

-  Proposed Scheme Boundary
-  150m buffer
-  Potential Sett



Confidential Badger Appendix

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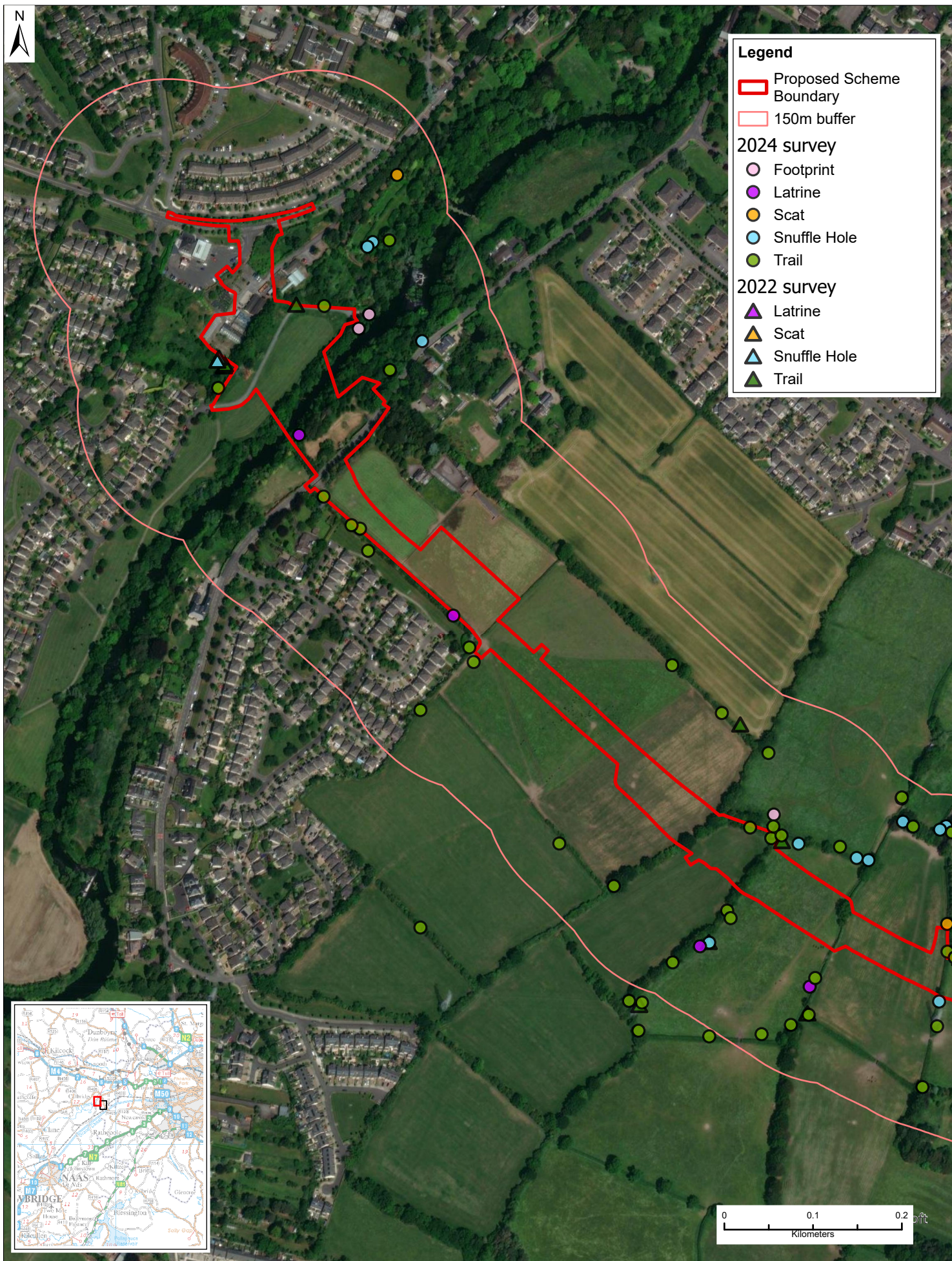


Figure 9-5: Badger evidence within 150 m of the Proposed Scheme

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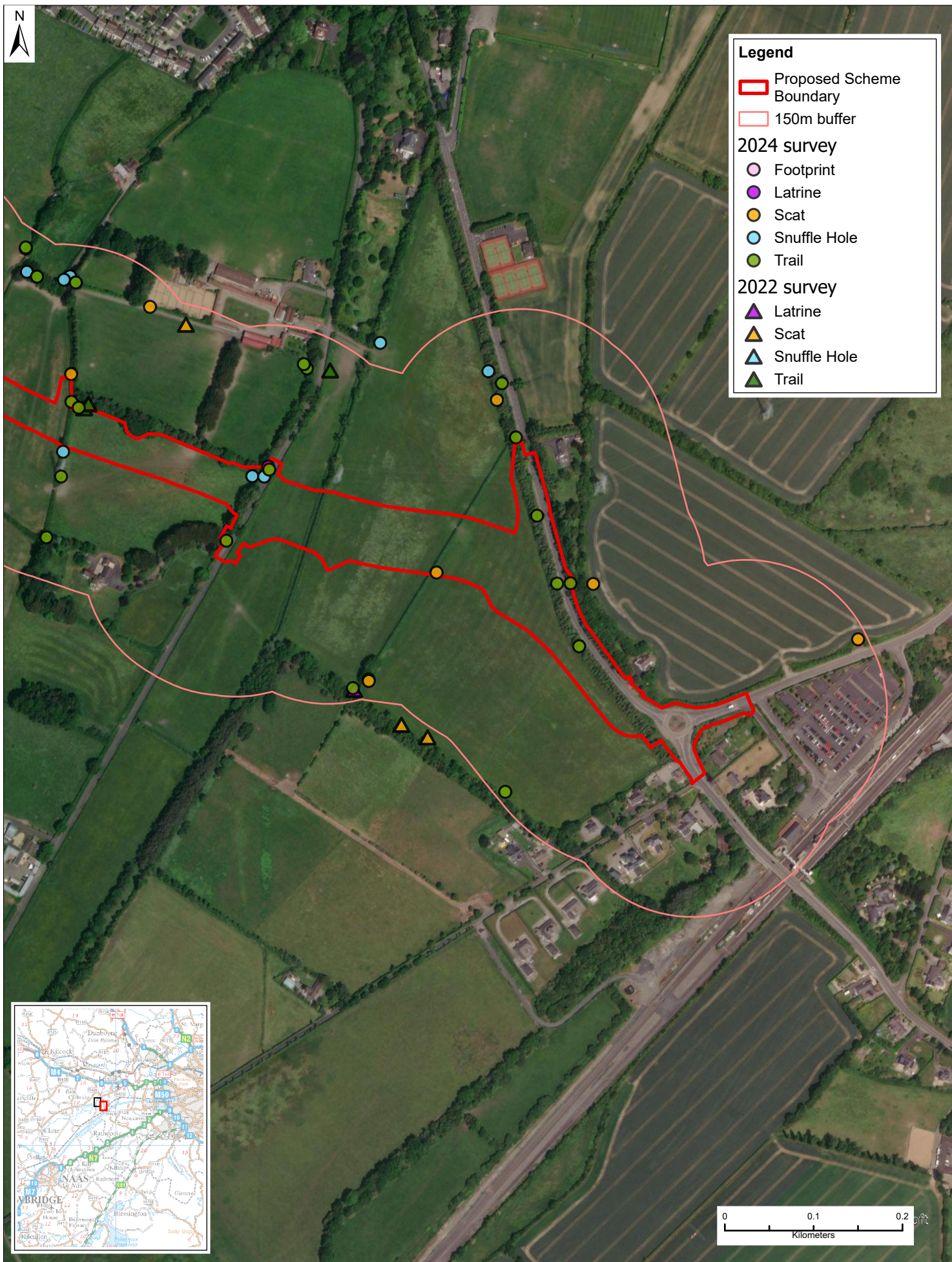


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