

Appendix 5.10. Camera Trap Monitoring, 2021

Sweeney Consultancy

Rahan, Mallow, Co. Cork.

Tel. 022 26780, 086 2263383

E-mail sweeneyconsultancy@gmail.com

**CAMERA TRAP MONITORING OF A MAMMAL BURROW
AT MORTARSTOWN, CO. CARLOW**

September 2021

1.0 Introduction

Sweeney Consultancy was contracted to monitor a mammal burrow, which appears to be an otter holt, at Mortarstown, using a camera trap. The location of this burrow is shown in Figure 1. The purpose of this monitoring is to determine whether this is an active holt or if any other mammals are using it.

Fig. 1: Location Map:



2.0 Methodology

As otter is a legally protected species, photography was carried out under Licence No. 182/2021, issued by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. A Bushnell HD Trail Camera was attached to a tree, 5m from the burrow on September 13, 2021 and left in place until September 21, 2021.

3.0 Results

No otters were photographed.

No mammals were photographed exiting the burrow.

A Pine Marten (*Martes martes*) was photographed outside the burrow twice on the night of September 13/14 (Photo 1).

Photo 1: Pine Marten



(Note: The time stamp on the camera was incorrectly set by 12 hours early)



A Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) was photographed outside the burrow on the nights of September 13/14, September 16/17, September 17/18, and September 20/21 (Photo 2).

Photo 2: Fox



4.0 Conclusions

While the burrow appears to be an otter holt, it is not currently active and neither is it in use by any other mammal species.

