

Summary of 2026 Ecological Assessment/Appraisal

Designated Sites (European/National/Local)

The application site falls within 4-no. European Designated sites (3-no. in Northern Ireland, 1-no. in the Republic of Ireland); Upper Lough Erne SAC, Upper Lough Erne SPA, and Upper Lough Erne RAMSAR Site in Northern Ireland, and Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC in the Republic of Ireland. The site is situated on the Clones groundwater body UKGBNI4NW063. Given the scope and location of works, it is likely that runoff/percolated pollutants from site would discharge into the River Finn. Given the following connections/overlap with these European Designations, it is recommended that a Stage 1 Habitat Regulation Assessment is undertaken; it is likely that this assessment will likely proceed to Stage 2. Additionally, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) should be produced.

The application site also falls within 1-no. National Designated site within Northern Ireland; Upper Lough Erne – Galloon ASSI. An Assent application should be submitted to NIEA CDP, with permission granted, prior to works proceeding. This application should be accompanied by a method statement of works and CEMP.

The site falls within Locally Designated Priority Habitat, a small patch of priority grassland falls within the western boundary. Works should be avoided within this habitat; if not possible, then mitigation and compensation measures should be implemented into design plans/CEMP. This must also include consultation with NIEA/DAERA to ensure acceptance of proposed measures.

The site falls within 2-no. areas of Priority Species: Breeding Waders 1986 – 1987 and Breeding Waders: 2008 – 2011. A pre-construction survey should be undertaken of suitable areas for breeding Waders prior to works commencing.

Bats

63-no. Trees with a PRF-I (Individual roosting feature) were noted during the survey. If these trees are to be removed, they should be soft felled with appropriate compensation in place (e.g., Bat Box) in accordance with BCT guidelines.

2-no. Buildings were assessed as having roosting potential, and 3-no. Structures were assessed as having roosting potential.

- B1: (IGR: H 43604 20473), a derelict two-story building, comprised of stone and brick. The roof is comprised of slate tiles. It was assessed as moderate Bat roost potential.
- B2: (IGR: H 42005 20034), a small derelict building comprised of red brick, with no roof. It was assessed as low Bat roosting potential.
- S1:(IGR: H 43610 20483), a stone wall approx. 1-2m in height. It was assessed as low bat roosting potential.

- S2: (IGR: H 42526 20249), namely A3 Road Clones Bridge. It was assessed as low bat roosting potential.
- S3: (IGR: H 43410 20346), namely Wattle Bridge. It was assessed as low bat roosting potential.

Low Bat Roosting Potential - Requires 1-no. Bat emergence survey between May and August inclusive in accordance with BCT guidelines.

Moderate Bat Roosting Potential - Requires 2-no. Bat emergence surveys between May and September inclusive, with at least 1-no. Survey between May and August inclusive, in accordance with BCT guidelines

Badger

5-no. Badger Setts were noted during the survey at the following locations:

- **MH1:** MH1 measured approx. 40cm in width and 28cm in height, tunnelling around 1m southeast. There was a large spoil pile to the front of the hole, with associated snuffle holes. MH1 was located at H 44368 21218.
- **MH2:** MH2 measured approx. 33cm in width and 23cm in height, tunnelling around 1m east. There was a large spoil pile comprised black clay with signs of active use. MH2 was located at H 44092 20968.
- **MH3:** MH3 measured approx. 46cm in width and 30cm in height, tunnelling around 1m northeast. A large spoil pile was noted outwith the entrance to the sett. MH3 was located at H 43912 20727.
- **MH4:** MH4 measured approx. 44cm in width and 33cm in height, tunnelling around 1m north. A large spoil pile was noted at the entrance of the sett. MH4 was located at H 43917 20730.
- **MH5:** MH5 measured approx. 38cm in width and 33cm in height, tunnelling around 1m southeast. There was a little spoil pile at the entrance and was located within a blackthorn hedge. MH5 was located at H 43913 20746.

MH1 is located within the Republic of Ireland; MH2-MH5 are located within Northern Ireland. Wildlife Licences will be required for derogation of these setts, from the relevant authorities.

Breeding Bird

9-no. nests located at the following:

- Nest 1: H 43881 20603
- Nest 2: H 43676 20545
- Nest 3: H 43902 20759
- Nest 4: H 41840 20184
- Nest 5: H 41936 20125
- Nest 6: H 42002 20093
- Nest 7: H 43734 20532

- Nest 8: H 43734 20532
- Nest 9: H 42008 20106

If nest removal is required during the breeding season (1st March - 31st August) a Wildlife Licence will be required for its removal. Additionally, the site is within areas of Breeding Waders and has suitability for these purposes. A pre-construction check should be undertaken prior to works within the above window, with further mitigation potentially required based off results.

Wintering Bird

The site has potential to be utilised by wintering birds for foraging purposes within the large open grassland habitats and marshy grassland. Additionally, the site is located adjacent to Upper Lough Erne SPA, of which are designed for wintering populations of Whooper Swan, which were noted to be utilising the site during the survey. Mitigation measures include avoidance of works during the peak over-wintering season, as well as minimising disturbance to key habitats.

Otter

1-no. potential Otter Holt was noted H 43018 20617, adjacent to the Finn River; this comprised a large space between 2-no. large rocks on the bank of the River Finn with entry from the river into this gap. Additionally, an Otter spraint was noted at H 42140 20041; the spraint was dried/old and comprised fish scales. A camera trap should be placed for 4-no. Weeks to determine its usage.

Smooth Newt

The site comprised suitable habitat for both breeding and over-wintering/terrestrial purposes. 3-no. Areas were identified which were deemed suitable for breeding, and as such eDNA tests are currently being undertaken. These waterbodies/watercourses were noted at the following locations:

- Area 1 (previously P2) – H 43984 20786
- Area 2 – H 42050 20133
- Area 3 – H 42589 20475

Another area, previously namely P1 (H 43606 20490), was not reidentified; during the survey the location “P1” was void of water and as such was deemed unsuitable for breeding newts. The results of the eDNA will inform the need for further dedicated Smooth Newt surveys under NIEA Wildlife Licence.

Fisheries

The River Finn was deemed optimal for Fisheries, providing a suitable water depth for commuting and foraging potential. As certain works will be in-stream, licence acquisition from NIEA will be required under the Fisheries Act 1966 - Section 14 (Translocation) (if a dry-works

area is to be created) and a Section 48 Licence (removal/modification of riverbed/banks), as well as avoiding in-stream works during the spawning season.

Common Frog

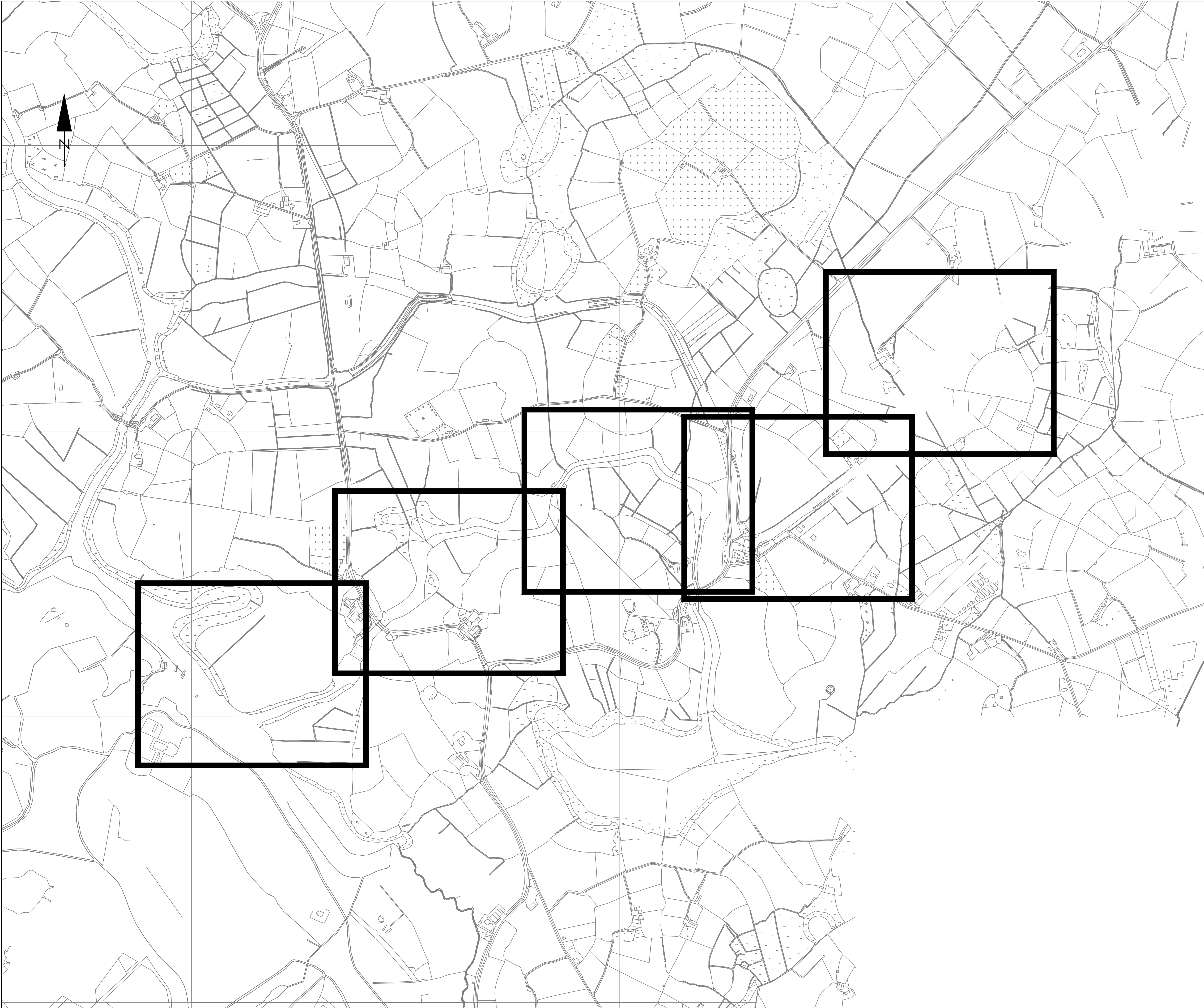
The site offered suitability for Common Frog for both aquatic and terrestrial purposes, as well as evidence on-site of the species (Frogspawn - H 42916 20669). Mitigation measures include a pre-construction survey, as well as phased de-vegetation works.

Invasive Species

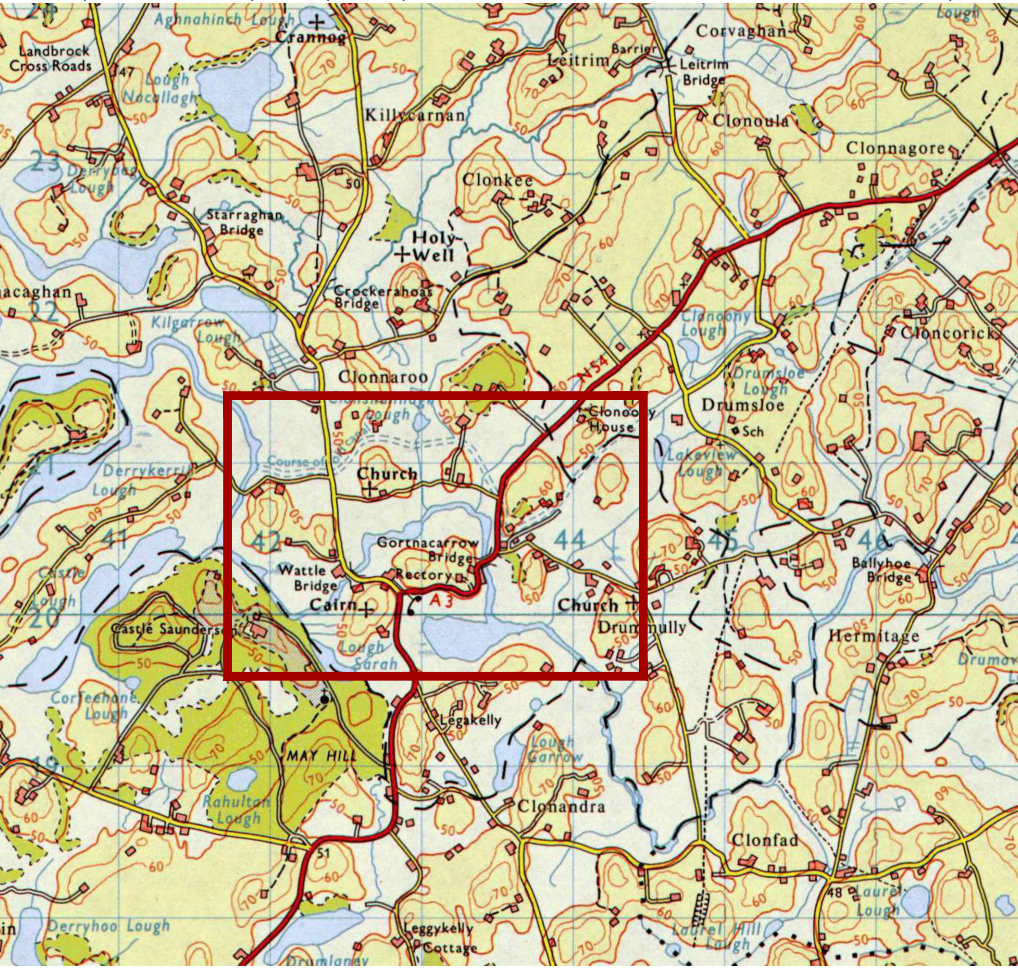
1-no. invasive species listed by the EU as a Species of Union Concern was noted within Northern Ireland, namely Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*). 1-no. infestations were noted to the east of a commercial premises at approx. IGR: H 43667 20515, off Drumgramph Road. The infestation measured approx. 20m in length, with width ranging between 6-8m.

1-no. scheduled invasive species was noted within the Republic of Ireland, namely Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*). This was identified within the Castle Sanderson estate, within woodland habitat to the west of the survey area. The infestation comprised 2-no. stands at IGR: H 41891 20142 and H 41932 20127, approx. 4m apart.

If works are to be conducted within 7m of Japanese Knotweed (NI) or Rhododendron (ROI), then an Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP) will be required.



Rev.	Date	By	Check	Details	Appr.
P01	20/01/26	GP	PMM	First Issue	CD



Site Location
Scale 1:50,000

**PRELIMINARY
DRAWING**



Project Title:
**ULSTER CANAL RESTORATION
PHASE 3.1 AND 3.2**

Drawing Title:
Ecology Survey Extents

Client: WATERWAYS IRELAND	Drawn by: GP	Date: January 2026	
Project Number: CC004	Checked by: PMM	Scales: 1:5000	
Doran Project Number: 251088	Approved by: CD	Sheet Size: A1	Uniclass: PM_40_40
Drawing Number: (Project-Orig-FB-SB-F-DISC-NUMBER) CC004-DCL-XX-XX-D-C-0001		Revision: P01	STATUS: S2

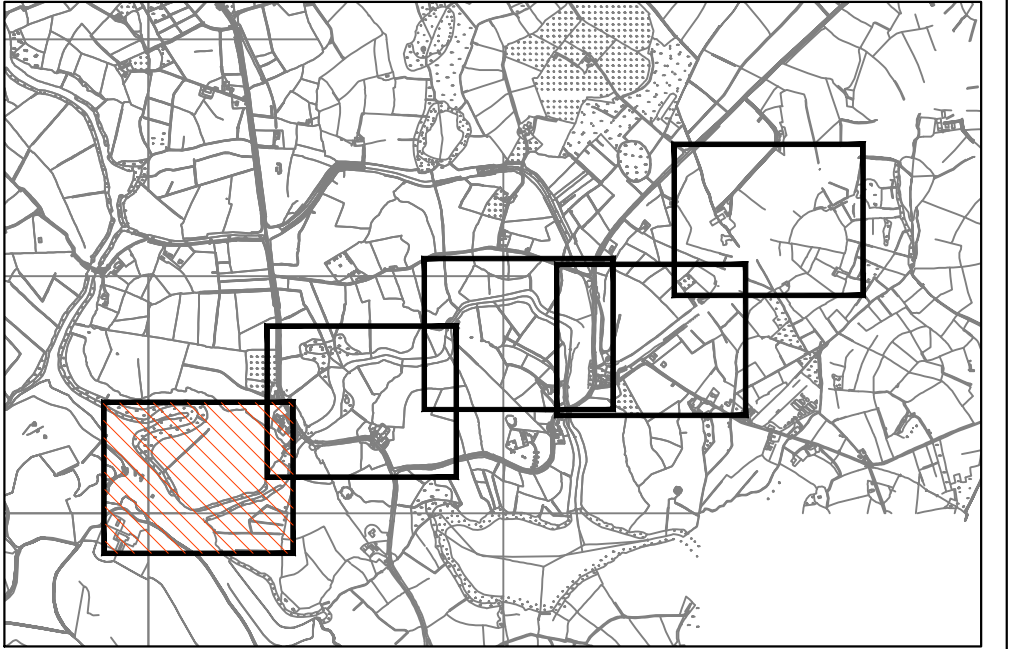


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P01	20/01/26	GP	PMM	First Issue	CD



Key Plan

Point Data		
POINT NUMBER	EASTING	NORTHING
P01	241826.661	320237.648
P02	241920.258	320316.414
P03	242033.693	320220.754
P04	242155.754	320062.148
P05	242352.834	320134.522
P06	242403.269	320228.055
P51	242388.737	319995.550
P52	242195.899	319940.281
P53	242132.468	319943.291
P54	242066.123	319964.394
P55	241957.382	320113.398

Legend

- Planning Boundary
- Survey Area

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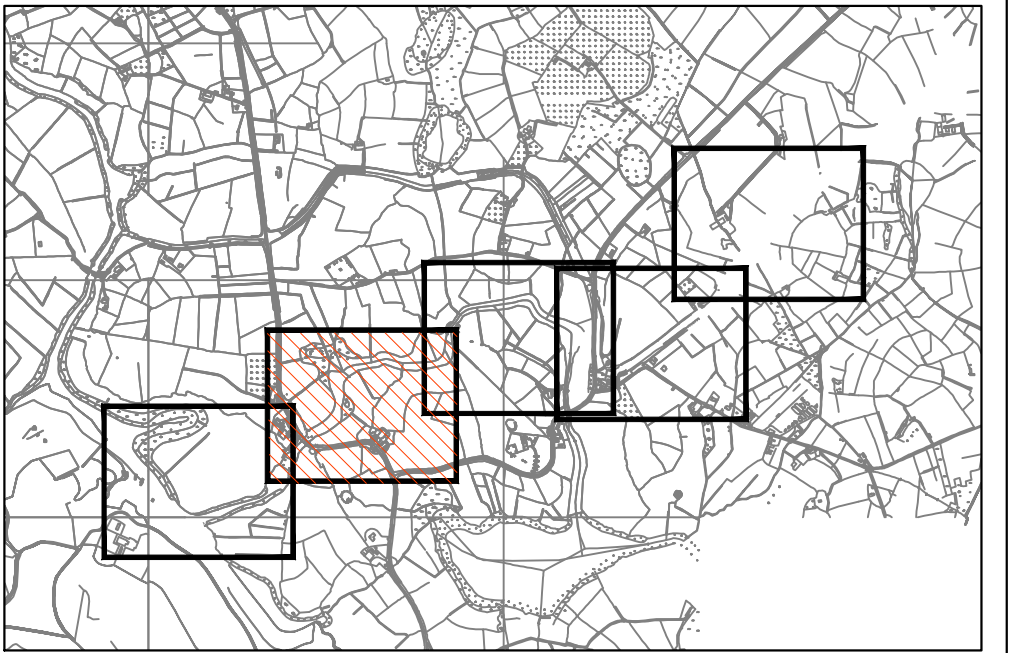
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Key Plan

P07	242578.688	320374.291
P08	242558.637	320518.443
P09	242603.165	320587.556
P10	242761.992	320595.450
P11	242849.323	320589.295
P43	242922.924	320361.342
P44	242905.849	320254.552
P45	242801.459	320137.078
P46	242726.160	320203.991
P47	242644.238	320178.130
P48	242700.307	320061.558
P49	242589.752	320050.187
P50	242500.680	320065.713

Legend

- Planning Boundary
- Survey Area
- Scat found on 2025 walkover survey

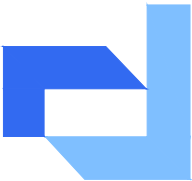
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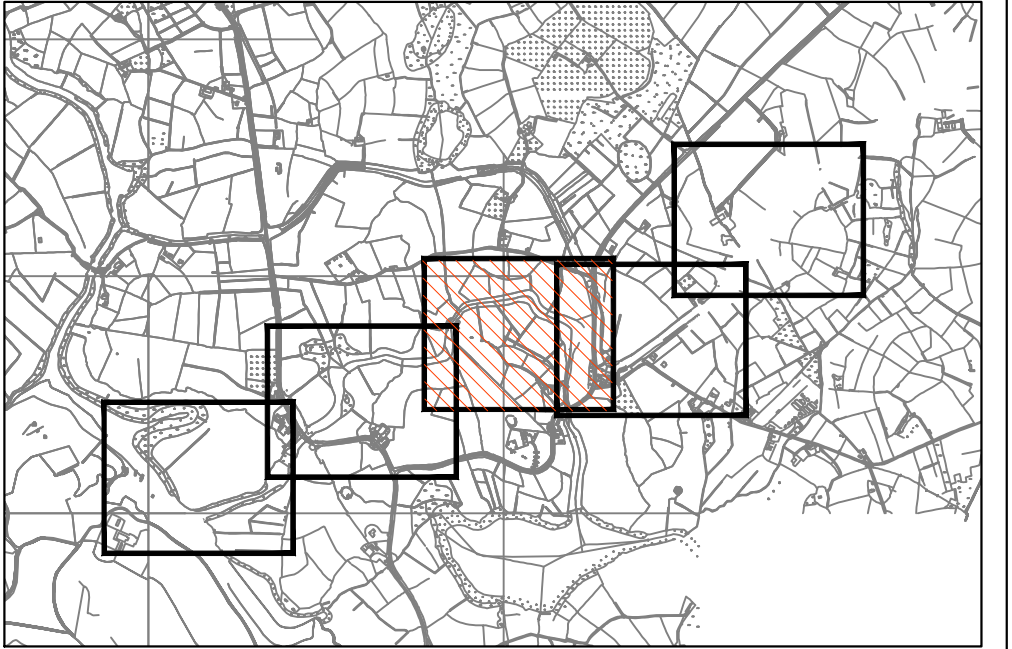
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P01	20/01/25	GP	PMM	First Issue	CD



Key Plan

P11	242849.323	320589.295
P12	242881.693	320662.115
P13	242924.181	320684.063
P14	242973.422	320673.481
P15	243013.030	320740.962
P16	243231.459	320794.892
P17	243294.003	320788.907
P18	243430.166	320725.039
P19	243448.034	320861.517
P36	243381.960	320358.028
P37	243377.959	320475.344
P38	243339.598	320595.766
P39	243247.318	320661.321
P40	243185.572	320644.088
P41	243271.425	320503.618
P42	243223.618	320377.981
P43	242922.924	320361.342

Legend

- Planning Boundary
- Survey Area

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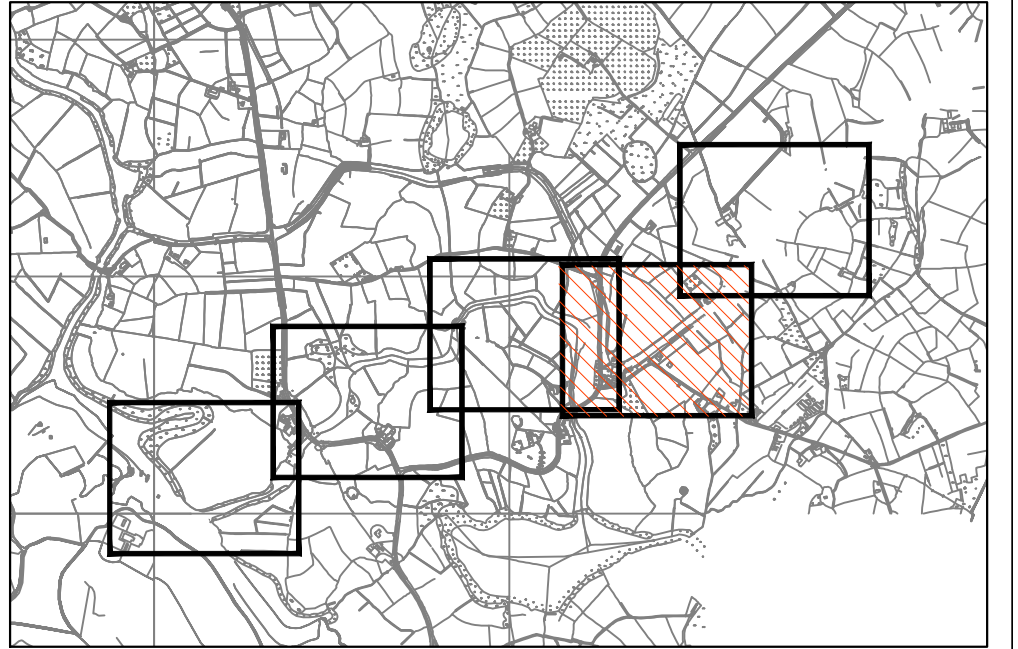
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Key Plan

P18	243430.166	320725.039
P19	243448.034	320861.517
P20	243549.053	320863.104
P21	243562.323	320828.981
P22	243686.218	320762.392
P23	243724.971	320795.621
P24	243779.447	320745.345
P25	243861.824	320777.457
P26	243894.735	320857.603
P32	243901.399	320577.624
P33	243781.449	320382.158
P34	243683.152	320454.861
P35	243543.725	320357.927
P36	243381.960	320358.028
P37	243377.959	320475.344

Legend

- Planning Boundary
- Survey Area
- Smooth Newts identified during 2011 survey
- Badger set entrance identified during 2011 survey
- Japanese Knotweed identified during 2025 walkover survey

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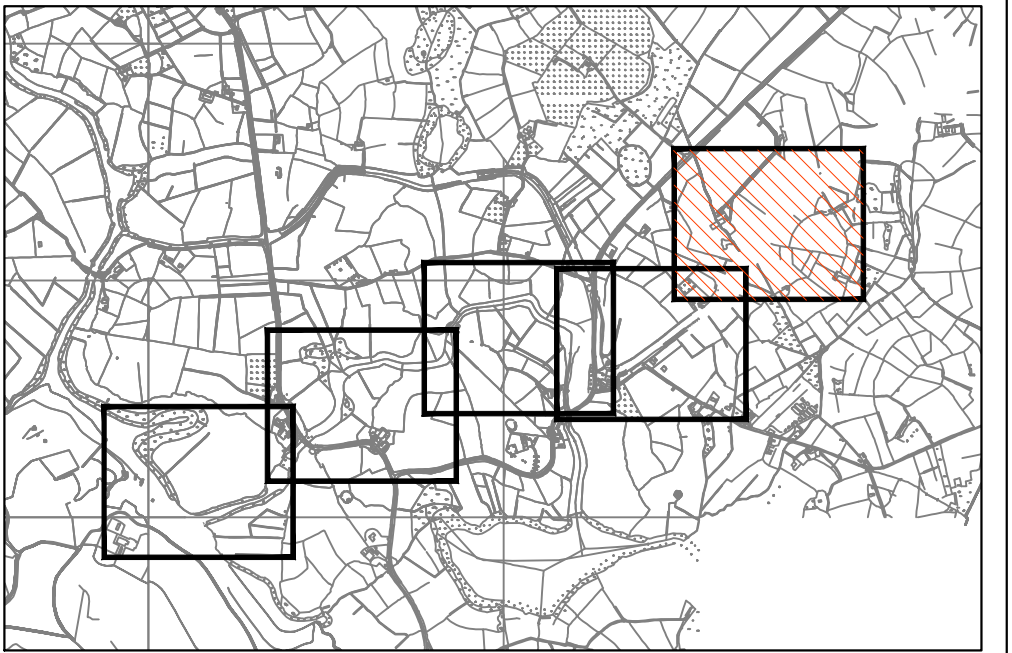
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Key Plan

P25	243861.824	320777.457
P26	243894.735	320857.603
P27	244069.955	321101.952
P28	244339.455	321303.224
P29	244441.190	321171.675
P30	244126.774	320856.342

Legend

- Planning Boundary
- Survey Area
- Smooth Newts identified in 2011 survey
- Badger set entrance identified in 2011 survey
- Cowslip identified in 2011 survey

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