

Proposed Electricity Substation and Overhead Line Works at Weston Marsh

Badger Survey Report

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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 This Badger Survey Report has been prepared by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (National Grid).
- 1.1.2 National Grid are proposing to undertake works to construct a new electricity substation, new sections of overhead line and modification of existing overhead lines west of the Spalding Tee-Point in the Weston Marsh area, within the administrative boundary of South Holland District Council (SHDC) in Lincolnshire.

1.2 Summary of the Scheme

- 1.2.1 In totality, the Scheme consists of four components, each planned to be progressed via separate consenting routes. These are summarised in **Table 1.1**.

Table 1.1 Components of the Scheme

Works Required	Consenting Regime
Construction of the new Air Insulated Substation (AIS) – 400kV Weston Marsh Substation A, associated landscaping and environmental mitigation works, drainage, highways and other associated works.	Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA) (Ref 1) Component referred to as ‘ Substation Works ’
Construction of new sections of overhead line to connect the new substation into the existing 4ZM overhead lines. Removal of a section of the existing 4ZM overhead lines. Other associated works.	Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (Ref 2) and deemed consent pursuant to section 90(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Component referred to as ‘ S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works ’
Construction of a new section of overhead line to connect the new substation into the existing 2WS overhead lines. Removal of a section of the existing 2WS overhead lines. Other associated works.	Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 and deemed consent pursuant to section 90(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Component referred to as ‘ S37 2WS Overhead Line Works ’
Reconductoring works required on the existing 4ZM overhead line. Two spans of temporary overhead lines.	The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (Ref 3) and The Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 (Ref 4) Component referred to as ‘ Exempt Overhead Line Works ’

- 1.2.2 The Substation Works will require consent from SHDC under the TCPA.
- 1.2.3 The S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works and S37 2WS Overhead Line Works (collectively referred to as ‘S37 Overhead Line Works’) will require consent from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (Section 37).
- 1.2.4 The Exempt Overhead Line Works constitute permitted development under Part 15 Class B of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 and The Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009.
- 1.2.5 The Scheme Site Boundary, which consists of the land required to construct and operate the Scheme in its entirety, is illustrated on **Figure 1**. The areas of land required to construct and operate each individual component described in **Table 1.1** are also illustrated on **Figure 1**.
- 1.2.6 The Scheme in its totality is a standalone development to enable connection of the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm to the national electricity transmission system. Each component stated in **Table 1.1** above is required for the Scheme to fully function as part of the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS).

1.3 Purpose of this report

- 1.3.1 The purpose of this report is to present the results of the badger surveys undertaken and to inform the ecology baseline for the Scheme.
- 1.3.2 This Badger Survey Report has been prepared in support of the necessary consent applications required to deliver the Scheme. It has been informed by engagement between National Grid and the relevant consenting authorities.
- 1.3.3 The badger survey data has been collected across the Scheme Site Boundary in its entirety. However, the survey results in **Section 4** are presented in relation to each component of the Scheme as outlined in **Table 1.1**. This approach enables the relevant consenting authority to readily identify and consider only those survey results that are associated with the application before them, whilst also maintaining a clear understanding of the Scheme in its wider context.
- 1.3.4 The objectives for this report are to:
- 1) Present desk study information of relevance to badgers within the desk study area (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Study Area’) (refer to **Figure 3** and **Section 3.2**);
 - 2) identify the presence or likely absence of badgers within the Survey Area (refer to **Figure 4** and **Section 3.2**); and
 - 3) provide sufficient information to inform an assessment of potential impacts to badgers as a result of the Scheme and identify where further surveys are required to inform such assessment.
- 1.3.5 The assessment of potential impacts to badgers and mitigation (where required) is reported within the **Ecological Impact Assessment** [document number GWNC-ARU-SS50-XXXXXX-RPT-ES-000005].

2. Legislative and Policy Framework

2.1.0 Legislation and national and local planning policy relevant to the Scheme is described in the Planning, Design and Access Statement (TCPA) and Section 37 Statement (S37 applications). Key legislation and policy specifically relevant to badgers is summarised in the following sections.

2.1 Legislation and National Policy

2.1.1 Badgers are afforded legal protection under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (Ref 5). The Act is based primarily on the need to protect badgers from persecution. It also contains restrictions that apply more widely. Under the Act it is an offence without a licence to:

- 1) Wilfully kill, injure or take a badger or attempt to do so (Section 1);
- 2) cruelly ill-treat a badger (Section 2); or
- 3) intentionally or recklessly interfere with a sett (any place inhabited by a badger) including disturbing a badger while it is in a set, obstructing access to a sett, and damaging a sett or any part of it (Section 3).

2.1.2 Natural England issues licenses that can permit works that disturb/damage badger setts for development purposes. However, these are subject to strict conditions and typically only permit mitigation to exclude/close setts between July and November, inclusive.

2.1.3 In addition, Natural England publishes Standing Advice for Badgers (Ref 6), which provides guidance to local planning authorities and developers on the consideration of badgers within the planning system. The Standing Advice sets out recommended survey requirements, avoidance and mitigation measures, and circumstances under which a badger development licence is likely to be required.

National Planning Policy Framework

2.1.4 The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in December 2024 (Ref 7) and further amended on 7 February 2025. It is a material consideration for planning decisions. The Framework establishes a presumption in favour of sustainable development (paragraph 11) as its central principle and requires the planning system to pursue three mutually supportive overarching objectives (economic, social and environmental objectives (paragraph 8)).

2.1.5 Chapter 15 of the NPPF is relevant to the receptors identified within this report. Paragraph 187 requires planning policies and decisions to protect and enhance sites of biodiversity value and to minimise impacts on valued habitats and species. Paragraph 193 establishes the key decision-making principles when determining planning applications. These include: where significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided through alternative siting, adequately mitigated, or as a last resort compensated for, planning permission should be refused.

2.2 Regional and Local Policy

2.2.1 Regional and local plans or policies relevant to this survey report are as follows:

- 1) South Holland District (Lincolnshire): South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036 (Ref 8):
 - a) Policy 28 The Natural Environment: supports protecting, managing and enhancing a high quality, comprehensive ecological network of interconnected designated sites, sites of nature conservation importance and wildlife-friendly greenspace; and
 - b) Policy 31 Climate Change and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy: notes that all development proposals will be required to demonstrate that the consequences of current climate change have been addressed, minimised and mitigated by (amongst other measures) incorporating measures which promote and enhance green infrastructure and provide an overall net gain in biodiversity. This policy also stipulates that the development of renewable energy facilities and associated infrastructure will be permitted provided that individually or cumulatively, there would be no significant harm to the natural environment.
- 2) Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan (3rd edition) (Ref 9) provides the local nature conservation strategy for identifying threats to species within the country and set out the action plans necessary to conserve them. This Local BAP provides context to inform the identification and, or uncommon species within the relevant districts and, or county. It also identifies priorities for conservation and enhancement but confer no particular legislative or policy protection to the species identifies. However, in some cases this is provided through related legislation and local planning.

3. Methodology

3.1 Scope

- 3.1.1 The scope of the badger survey has been determined in accordance with relevant industry guidance and Natural England's Standing Advice for Badgers (Ref 6), and is considered appropriate in order to assess potential effects arising from the Scheme.
- 3.1.2 An evaluation of potential constraints associated with badgers was undertaken using a combination of desk-based information and field surveys, following established best-practice guidance (Surveying Badgers, The Mammal Society (Ref 10); The history, distribution, status and habitat requirements of the badger in Britain (Ref 11); Guidance on 'Current Use' in the definition of a Badger Settle (Ref 12); The use of marked bait in studies of the territorial organisation of the European badger (Ref 13); and Badger Protection: Best Practice Guidance for Developers, Ecologists and Planners (England) (Ref 14)). The methods adopted in this study are detailed below.

3.2 Study Area and Survey Area

- 3.2.1 The Study Area for badgers is defined as within 2 km of the Scheme Site Boundary (Figure 1).
- 3.2.2 The Survey Area for badgers was defined as 50 m from the Scheme Site Boundary (Figure 2).

3.3 Data Collection

Desk Study

- 3.3.1 A desk study was undertaken in relation to this Scheme. As part of the desk study, Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP) was contacted in February 2026 to obtain records of protected and notable species, including badgers, within 2 km of the Scheme Site Boundary. Records returned included sett location, field signs and incidental sightings within the Study Area.

Field Survey

- 3.3.2 The Survey Area (Figure 2) was defined as all suitable habitat within and up to 50 m of the Scheme Site Boundary, and within 100 m of any known potential main setts, identified through desk study or previous surveys. All areas of permanent habitat loss were also inspected. Incidental sightings of badger setts during other survey types were also recorded and further survey visits of these locations were conducted, as required.
- 3.3.3 Consistent with national trends and regional distribution patterns, the Scheme adopted a precautionary assumption that badgers may occur across the Survey Area. Survey effort, therefore, focused on locating any main setts, identifying supporting setts (annex, subsidiary and outlier) and mapping all relevant field signs.

3.3.4 Searches were undertaken for evidence including:

- 1) Sett entrances;
- 2) footprints;
- 3) latrines;
- 4) hairs;
- 5) pathways; and
- 6) feeding signs (e.g. snuffle holes).

3.3.5 Where setts were recorded, they were classified following the standard definitions (Ref 10).

- 1) Main – a sett forming the main abode of a group of badgers. Main setts are occupied continually throughout the year and are generally used by at least one sow to rear young. In a national survey of setts, the average number of holes for a main sett was 12, although there may be any number of holes from one to more than 40 (Ref 10). These setts usually have large spoil heaps and well-worn paths to and from the entrances;
- 2) Annex – a sett located close to a main sett and usually connected by one or more obvious, well-worn paths. This type of sett consists of several holes but are not necessarily in use all the time, even if the main sett is very active. Although often occupied throughout the year, they are generally only used for breeding when the main sett is occupied by another breeding sow. The distinguishing feature of these setts is the well-used path running to the main sett;
- 3) Subsidiary – a sett usually located around 50 m away from the main sett, often with only a few holes. These setts do not have an obvious path connecting them to another sett and are not continuously active. The sett may be used to exploit a seasonal food source; and
- 4) Outlier – setts located away from the main sett, usually only one or two holes with little spoil. No obvious path connecting them to another sett and are used sporadically. These setts are rarely in continuous occupation.

3.3.6 Sett entrance activity was also recorded as:

- 1) Active – these setts are clear of any debris and vegetation, are obviously in regular use, and may or may not have been excavated recently. This category also includes setts that may not be in regular use and have debris such as leaves or twigs in the entrance or have moss or other plants growing in or around the entrance. These holes could be in regular use after a minimal amount of clearance; and
- 2) Disused – these setts have not been in use for some time, are partially or completely blocked, and cannot be used without a considerable amount of clearance. If the hole has been disused for some time, all that may be visible is a depression in the ground where the hole used to be, and the remains of a spoil heap, which may be covered in moss or other plants.

Field Sign Survey

- 3.3.7 Badger field sign surveys were completed between October 2024 and February 2025, with additional survey work undertaken in February 2026.
- 3.3.8 Each survey was completed by survey teams consisting of two ecologists, with the lead ecologist classed, at a minimum, as “Capable” according to the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) competency framework (Ref 15) and the CIEEM 2022 Competency Standard for Badger Survey, Mitigation and Management (Ref 16).
- 3.3.9 Detailed searches were undertaken within all areas of suitable habitat (woodland, dense scrub, permanent grassland) within the Scheme Site Boundary, the 50 m buffer and within 100 m of known or potential main setts (the Survey Area). Incidental records from other survey disciplines were followed up with dedicated confirmation visits.
- 3.3.10 Handheld electronic devices were utilised to capture geospatial data for sett locations and field signs.

Bait Marking Surveys

- 3.3.11 Badger bait marking surveys can be very useful for establishing the limits of badger social group territories. A programme of bait marking surveys was undertaken between March and April 2025 and February and March 2026 to identify territorial boundaries and sett associations, following methodology from Delahay et al. (2000) (Ref 13). Bait marking involved the following:
- 1) Bait deployed at the setts for five days and latrine surveys were undertaken for 10 days afterwards;
 - 2) placement of uniquely marked baits at identified setts;
 - 3) subsequent collection and analysis of latrine deposits; and
 - 4) determination of territorial group ranges and confirmation of whether setts were functionally linked.
- 3.3.12 This information helped to establish whether any main setts occurred within, or were likely to interact with, the Survey Area.
- 3.3.13 The survey effort and weather for winter 2024-2025 and spring-summer 2025 during the survey visits are outlined in **Table 3.1** Survey conditions were generally suitable for detecting field signs and determining activity levels of setts.

Table 3.1 Survey Dates and Weather Conditions

Survey Type	Date	Weather Conditions
Field sign	13/11/2024	Mostly cloudy conditions with 6/8 cloud cover. The temperature was 9 °C, with dry conditions and no precipitation recorded during or in the preceding 24 hours. Winds were light, classified as a light breeze (force 2).
Field sign	19/11/2024	Clear conditions with no cloud cover. The temperature was 7 °C, with dry conditions and no precipitation recorded during or in the preceding 24 hours. Wind conditions were calm (force 0).

Survey Type	Date	Weather Conditions
Field Sign	20/11/2024	Mostly cloudy conditions with 6/8 cloud cover. The temperature was 8 °C, with dry conditions during the survey and precipitation recorded in the preceding 24 hours. Winds were light, classified as a light breeze (force 2).
Field Sign	18/02/2025	Clear conditions with no cloud cover. The temperature was 6°C, with dry conditions and no precipitation recorded during or in the preceding 24 hours. Wind conditions were light classified as a gentle breeze (force 3).
Field Sign	14/03/2025	Partly cloudy conditions with 3/8 cloud cover. The temperature was 6 °C, with dry conditions and no precipitation recorded during or in the preceding 24 hours. Wind conditions were light, classified as a light breeze (force 2).
Field Sign	14/03/2025	Partly cloudy (3/8 cloud cover), temperature 6 °C, dry conditions with no precipitation in the preceding 24 hours, and light winds (light air, force 1).
Bait marking	17/03/2025	Partly cloudy conditions with 4/8 cloud cover. The temperature was 6 °C, with dry conditions and no precipitation recorded. Wind was light, classified as a gentle breeze (force 3).
Bait marking	18/03/2025	Largely clear conditions with 1/8 cloud cover. The temperature was 11 °C, with dry conditions and no precipitation recorded during or in the preceding 24 hours. Winds were light, classified as a light breeze (force 2).
Bait marking	25/03/2025	Partly cloudy conditions with 5/8 cloud cover. The temperature was 12 °C, with dry conditions and no precipitation recorded during or in the preceding 24 hours. Winds were light, classified as a gentle breeze (force 3).
Bait marking	26/03/2025	Mostly cloudy conditions with 6/8 cloud cover. The temperature was 12 °C, with dry conditions and no precipitation recorded during or in the preceding 24 hours. Winds were light, classified as a light breeze (force 2).
Bait marking	28/03/2025	Overcast conditions with 8/8 cloud cover. The temperature was 12 °C, with dry conditions and no precipitation recorded during or in the preceding 24 hours. Winds were moderate, classified as a moderate breeze (force 4).
Bait marking	01/04/2025	Largely clear conditions with 1/8 cloud cover. The temperature was 10 °C, with dry conditions and no precipitation recorded during or in the preceding 24 hours. Winds were moderate, classified as a moderate breeze (force 4).
Bait marking	02/04/2025	Clear conditions with no cloud cover. The temperature was 12 °C, with dry conditions and no precipitation recorded during or in the preceding 24 hours. Winds were light, classified as a gentle breeze (force 3).

Survey Type	Date	Weather Conditions
Bait marking	03/04/2025	Clear conditions with no cloud cover. The temperature was 15 °C, with dry conditions and no precipitation recorded during or in the preceding 24 hours. Winds were light, classified as a gentle breeze (force 3).
Bait marking	04/04/2025	Clear conditions with no cloud cover. The temperature was 16 °C, with dry conditions and no precipitation recorded during or in the preceding 24 hours. Winds were light, classified as a gentle breeze (force 3).
Field Sign	01/05/2025	Partly cloudy conditions with 5/8 cloud cover. The temperature was 27 °C, with dry conditions and no precipitation recorded during or in the preceding 24 hours. Wind conditions were calm (force 0).

3.4 Assumptions and Limitations

- 3.4.1 Species records provided by local records centres are not often collected as a result of systematic surveys and therefore geographic, temporal, and species coverage are not often representative. As such, a lack of records of a species in an area does not necessarily mean an absence of this species.
- 3.4.2 A pond with a steep bank adjacent to a main sett recorded to the east of the Scheme Site Boundary prevented access to view potentially more entrances. A precautionary approach was taken to the extent of the sett and the limitation is therefore deemed not to have a significant impact on the survey findings.
- 3.4.3 The findings presented in this study represent those at the time of survey and reporting, and data collected from available sources. Ecological surveys are limited by factors which affect the presence of flora and fauna, factors such as the time of year and natural behaviour of the animals.
- 3.4.4 Aside from these limitations, the survey was conducted using sufficient survey effort and methodologies which are in accordance with published guidelines. These limitations were not considered to have significantly affected the results of the survey.

4. Baseline and Evaluation

4.1 Desk Study

- 4.1.1 The desk study returned seven records of badger within the Study Area. These records relate to badger fatalities on roads throughout the area. The closest record is located 575 m north of the Scheme Site Boundary (**Figure 3**).

4.2 Field Survey

- 4.2.1 Baseline badger surveys confirmed that no main setts are present within the Survey Area. Two main setts were identified outside of the Survey Area: one located approximately 340 m east of the Scheme Site Boundary and a second located approximately 430 m to the north east. These setts lie outside the current Survey Area and were recorded during surveys undertaken prior to refinement of the Scheme design, when a larger survey area was in place. Bait marking was undertaken at both main setts, and subsequent territory mapping demonstrated that there is no spatial overlap between the delineated badger territories and the Scheme Site Boundary.
- 4.2.2 Within the Study Area, baseline surveys recorded one subsidiary sett and three outlier setts. The subsidiary sett was identified along the central watercourse, to the north of the new Weston Marsh Substation A. Two outlier setts were recorded along the same watercourse to the south of the new Weston Marsh Substation A. A further outlier sett was recorded along a separate ditch to the south west of the Scheme Site Boundary, with an associated subsidiary sett and an additional outlier sett also present along this feature. Habitats within the Scheme Site Boundary provide suitable conditions for badger foraging, while the banks of ditches and pond margins offer locally suitable opportunities for sett excavation and establishment.
- 4.2.3 Additional baseline field signs attributable to badger were recorded throughout the Study Area, including footprints, latrines, scratch marks and well-used mammal paths. The majority of these signs were concentrated along the central watercourse, indicating regular use of this feature by commuting and foraging badgers.
- 4.2.4 Details of the setts and their proximity to each of the consenting boundaries are outlined below and in **Table 4.1**.
- 4.2.5 Representative photos of each of the setts are within Appendix A in **Table A.1** The locations of setts, field signs and territories are outlined in **Figure 4** and **5**.

Table 4.1 Badger Setts Recorded within the Study Area in Relation to the Consenting Boundaries

Sett ID	Sett Type and Status	Proximity to Consenting Boundary			
		TCPA Substation	S37 2WS	S37 4ZM	S37 Exemptions
BS001	Main Sett – Active	435 m	1400 m	975 m	810 m
BS002	Subsidiary Sett – Active	38 m	133 m	0 m	80 m
BS003	Outlier Sett – unknown use	0 m	0 m	0 m	275 m
BS004	Outlier Sett - Active	0 m	0 m	0 m	250 m
BS005	Outlier Sett – Active	90 m	300 m	300 m	300 m
BS006	Subsidiary Sett – Active	147 m	296 m	296 m	296 m
BS007	Outlier Sett – Active	245 m	290 m	290 m	290 m
BS008	Main Sett – Active	330 m	340 m	340 m	390 m

Substation Works

Setts

- 4.2.6 An active main sett (BS001) was recorded in February 2025 along the north western section of Lord’s Drain. The sett comprised three entrances with associated paths and dung pits, confirming active use. Bait marking indicated that the nearest extent of the associated badger territory lies approximately 330 m east of the Substation Works Site Boundary, with no bait retrieval points recorded within the boundary (**Figure 5**).
- 4.2.7 A second active main sett (BS008), first recorded in November 2024, was identified at the south eastern extent of Lord’s Drain, adjacent to a pond. This sett comprised nine entrances with evidence of active use including fresh spoil, snuffle holes and well-defined paths. Territory mapping showed the closest activity occurring approximately 50 m from the Substation Works Site Boundary, with activity primarily concentrated to the east (**Figure 5**).
- 4.2.8 One active subsidiary sett (BS002) was recorded in March 2025 adjacent to the northern extent of the Substation Works Site Boundary, approximately 35 m from the boundary. The sett comprised five entrances along the ditch bank, with evidence of recent excavation, spoil heaps, bedding material and mammal paths, extending over an estimated area of 30 m². The associated main sett was not located during surveys and is considered likely to be situated beyond the Scheme Site Boundary.
- 4.2.9 Approximately 550 m south of this location, two outlier setts were recorded adjacent to the ditch and within the Substation Works Site Boundary. One outlier sett (Sett ID:

BS004) was confirmed as active, while a second (BS003) was classified as of unknown status due to a lack of evidence of recent use.

- 4.2.10 Further badger activity was recorded approximately 90 m south of the mid-western extent of the Substation Works Site Boundary, comprising one active subsidiary sett (BS006) with two associated outlier setts located approximately 60 m to the north and south. Due to separation distances exceeding 15 m, these features were classified as separate sett types. The subsidiary sett exhibited multiple entrances with evidence of active use, while both outlier setts comprised single entrances with signs consistent with current activity.

Field Signs

- 4.2.11 Nine badger signs were recorded in total (six latrines and three dung pits) along the mid-section of the Substation Works Site Boundary, comprising six confirmed active dung pits. These records were mainly clustered adjacent to the central ditch, along the eastern grassland verge beside arable land and along the western ditch bank/top, adjacent to an outlier sett and one recorded on the southern bank of a dry ditch.
- 4.2.12 Foraging signs were also recorded within the cropland adjacent to the Substation Works Site Boundary.

S37 2WS Overhead Line Works

Setts

- 4.2.13 Two outlier setts were recorded within the S37 2WS Overhead Line Works Site Boundary during surveys undertaken in March 2025. One outlier sett (BS004) was confirmed as active, comprising a single west-facing entrance within the ditch bank, with a clear access path, badger footprints, a spoil heap and limited discarded bedding, occupying an area of approximately 2 m². The second outlier sett (BS003) comprised a single entrance of comparable size; however, vegetation encroachment and limited field signs suggested a lack of recent use, and the sett was therefore classified as being of unknown status.
- 4.2.14 An active subsidiary sett (BS002) was recorded in March 2025 adjacent to a ditch approximately 550 m north of the outlier setts and at a minimum distance of approximately 65 m from the S37 2WS Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. The sett comprised five west-facing entrances measuring approximately 20 cm in height and 30 cm in width, with associated mammal paths, recent excavation, defined spoil heaps and discarded bedding. The subsidiary sett extended over an estimated area of approximately 30 m². The associated main sett was not located during surveys and is considered likely to be situated beyond the Scheme Site Boundary.
- 4.2.15 No further setts were recorded within or immediately adjacent to the S37 2WS Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. The closest active main sett (BS008) was located approximately 330 m east of the boundary along the south eastern extent of Lord's Drain. This sett comprised nine entrances with evidence of active use, including fresh spoil, snuffle holes, well-used paths and ground disturbance. Bait marking surveys confirmed that the nearest extent of the associated badger territory lies approximately 125 m from the S37 2WS Overhead Line Works Site Boundary, with activity primarily concentrated around the sett and within adjacent wooded and scrub habitats to the east (**Figure 5**).

Field Signs

- 4.2.16 Four badger signs were recorded in total along the section of the S37 2WS Overhead Line Works Site Boundary which intersects with the ditch, comprising two active dung pits and two latrines comprising clusters of dung pits in March 2025. These records were mainly clustered adjacent to the ditch, along the eastern grassland verge beside arable land and along the western ditch bank/top.
- 4.2.17 Additional dung pits and latrines were recorded further north along the ditch, just outside the S37 2WS Overhead Line Works Site Boundary.

S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works

Setts

- 4.2.18 Three badger setts were recorded within the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works Site Boundary, comprising one subsidiary sett and two outlier setts.
- 4.2.19 The subsidiary sett (BS002), first recorded in March 2025, was confirmed as active. The sett comprised five west-facing entrances along the ditch bank, with entrance dimensions of approximately 20 cm in height and 30 cm in width. Evidence of recent use included fresh excavation, defined spoil heaps, discarded bedding and well-established mammal paths. The sett extended over an estimated area of approximately 30 m². The associated main sett was not located during surveys and is considered likely to be situated beyond the Scheme Site Boundary.
- 4.2.20 Approximately 550 m south of the subsidiary sett, two outlier setts were recorded in March 2025 adjacent to the ditch and within the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. One outlier sett (BS004) was confirmed as active, comprising a single west-facing entrance with a clear access path, badger footprints, a spoil heap and limited discarded bedding, occupying an area of approximately 2 m². The second outlier sett (BS003) comprised a single east-facing entrance of similar size; however, vegetation growth within the entrance and the absence of fresh field signs indicated a lack of recent use, and the sett was therefore classified as being of unknown status.
- 4.2.21 No further setts were recorded within or immediately adjacent to the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. The closest active sett was a large active main sett (BS008), located approximately 330 m east of the boundary along the south eastern extent of Lord's Drain. The sett comprised nine entrances with evidence of active use, including fresh spoil, snuffle holes, well-used paths and ground disturbance. Bait marking surveys indicated that the nearest extent of the associated badger territory lies approximately 125 m from the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works Site Boundary, with activity primarily concentrated around the sett and within wooded and scrub habitats to the east (**Figure 5**).

Field Signs

- 4.2.22 Five active latrines and two active dung pits were recorded within or immediately adjacent to the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works Site Boundary, to the northern extent along the ditch. These records were mainly clustered adjacent to the ditch, recorded in March 2025, along the eastern grassland verge beside arable land and along the western ditch bank/top.

- 4.2.23 Additional signs recorded within close proximity to the latrines comprised badger footprints, a mammal path leading into an outlier sett and foraging signs further south where the ditches intersect, in the form of crop damage.

Exempt Overhead Line Works

Setts

- 4.2.24 No setts were recorded immediately within the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary, however, an area to the south of the site lies within close proximity to the badger territory. One active subsidiary sett was recorded along the ditch; however, this lies over 30 m buffer from the boundary, 80 m from the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary.
- 4.2.25 A large active main sett (BS008) was first recorded in November 2024 to the south eastern extent of the Lord's Drain, 380 m from the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary, spread across the north edge of a pond between the pond and the dyke. Nine entrances were recorded between 20-35 cm with deep tunnels beyond. Well used paths, recent snuffle holes, fresh spoil and ground disturbance were also recorded showing active status. Badger bait marking surveys were undertaken and the territory was mapped (see **Figure 4**) at closest proximity 50 m from the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary, with four bait marking retrieval points recorded. The remaining points were adjacent to the sett and in the wooded/scrub areas to the east of the site along Lord's Drain.

Field Signs

- 4.2.26 One count of foraging signs in the form of crop damage was recorded in November 2024. Corn detritus with distinctive 3.5-4 cm bite mark, 50 m from the previous corn crop was recorded. No other field signs were identified immediately within the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary.

5. Summary

- 5.1.1 A desk study completed in February 2026 identified records of badger setts, field signs and road casualties within 2 km of the Scheme Site Boundary.
- 5.1.2 Targeted badger field surveys were undertaken between October 2024 and February 2025, with supplementary surveys completed in February 2026. Bait marking surveys were carried out in 2025 and 2026 to determine territorial extents and functional relationships between recorded setts.
- 5.1.3 Baseline surveys confirmed the presence of multiple badger sett types within the Survey Area, including main, subsidiary, and outlier setts. No main setts were recorded within the consenting boundaries or within 30 m of the Scheme. Two active main setts were identified off-site to the north east and south east of the Scheme Site Boundary. Bait marking confirmed these setts to be associated with two discrete badger territories which extend into the wider landscape but do not overlap with the Scheme Site Boundary.
- 5.1.4 Within the Scheme Site Boundary, subsidiary and outlier setts were recorded, predominantly associated with drainage ditches and areas of suitable foraging habitat. Badger field signs, including paths, latrines and footprints, indicate regular use of the Scheme Site Boundary as part of the wider territorial range. The on-site subsidiary and outlier setts are considered to be functionally linked to the off-site main setts, providing opportunities for seasonal shelter, commuting and access to foraging resources.

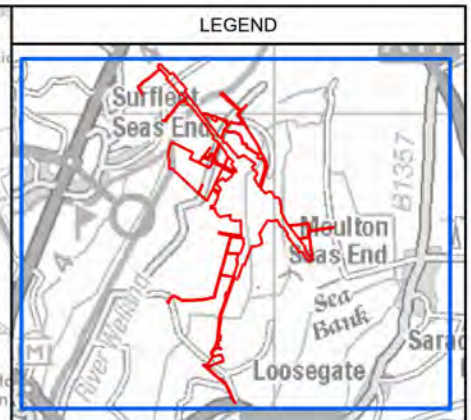
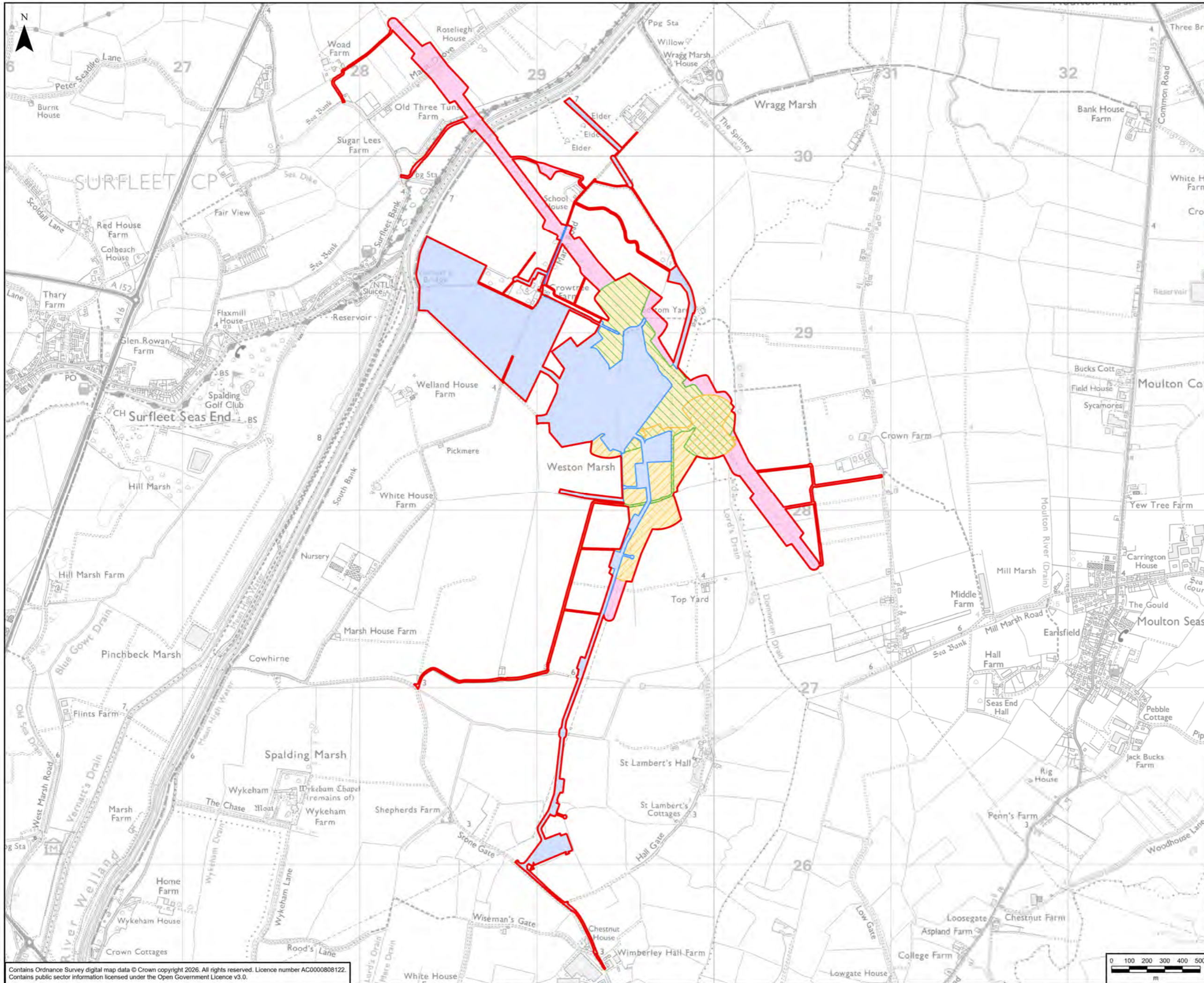
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Figures

Figure 1 Scheme Site Boundary



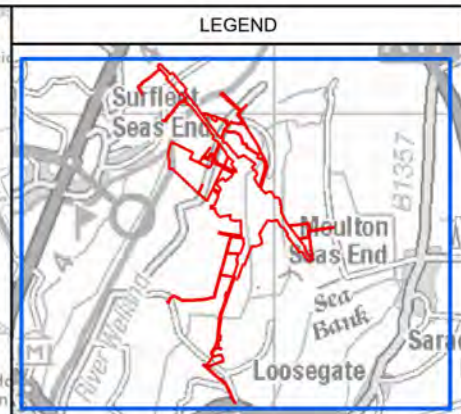
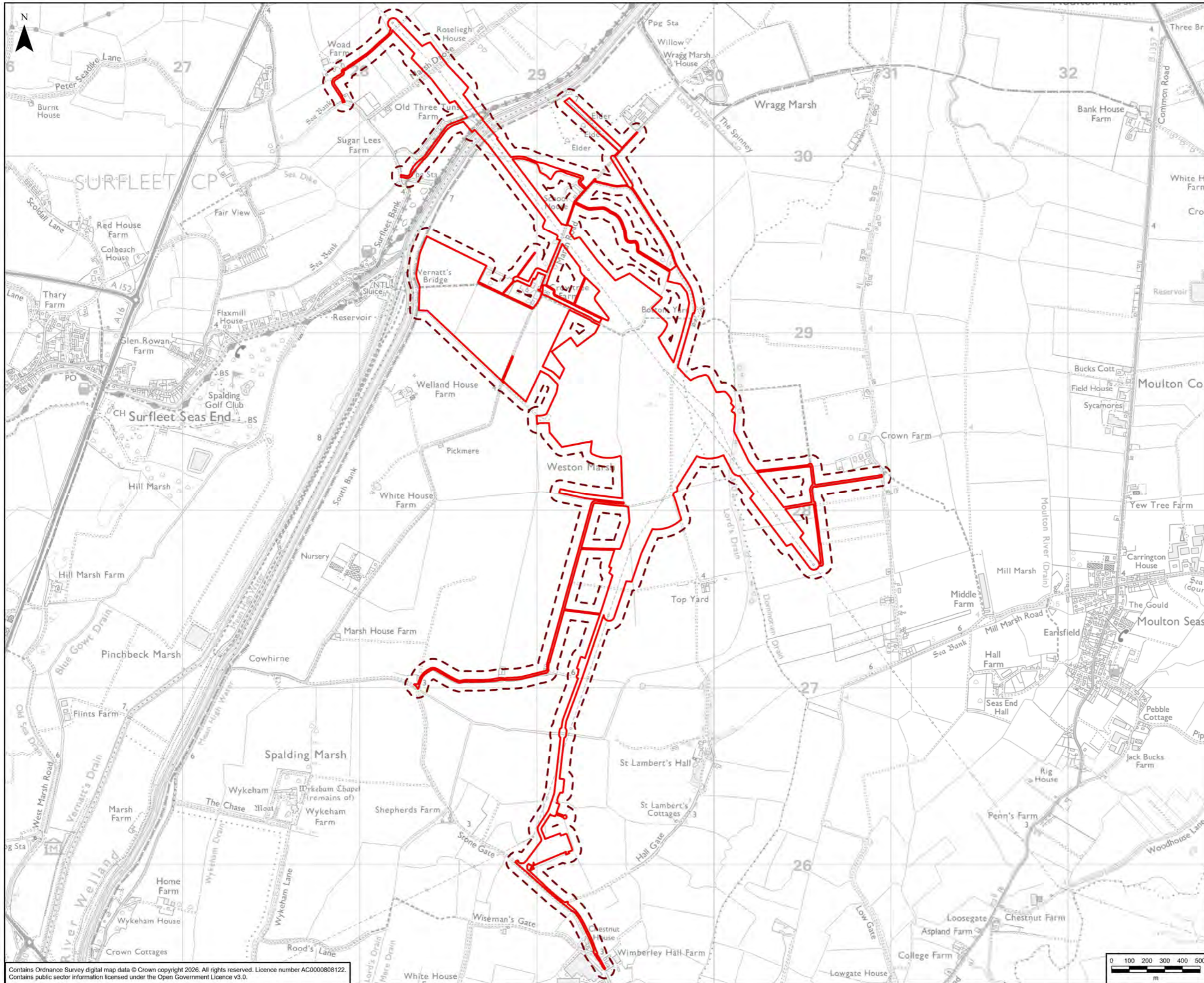
- LEGEND**
- ▬ Scheme Site Boundary
 - ▬ Substation Works
 - ▭ S37 OHL Works Site Boundary
 - ▭ Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary
 - ▭ S37 - 2WS - OHL Works Site Boundary
 - ▭ S37 - 4ZM - OHL Works Site Boundary

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Scheme: PROPOSED ELECTRICITY SUBSTATION AND OVERHEAD LINE WORKS AT WESTON MARSH					
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FIGURE	1:20,000	A3	1 OF 1	A	

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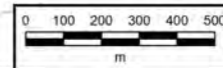
Figure 2 Survey Area



LEGEND

— Scheme Site Boundary
- - - Survey scope

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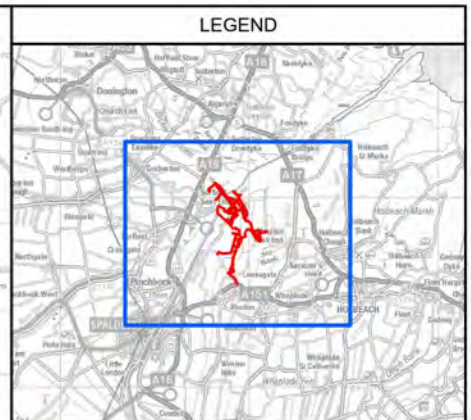
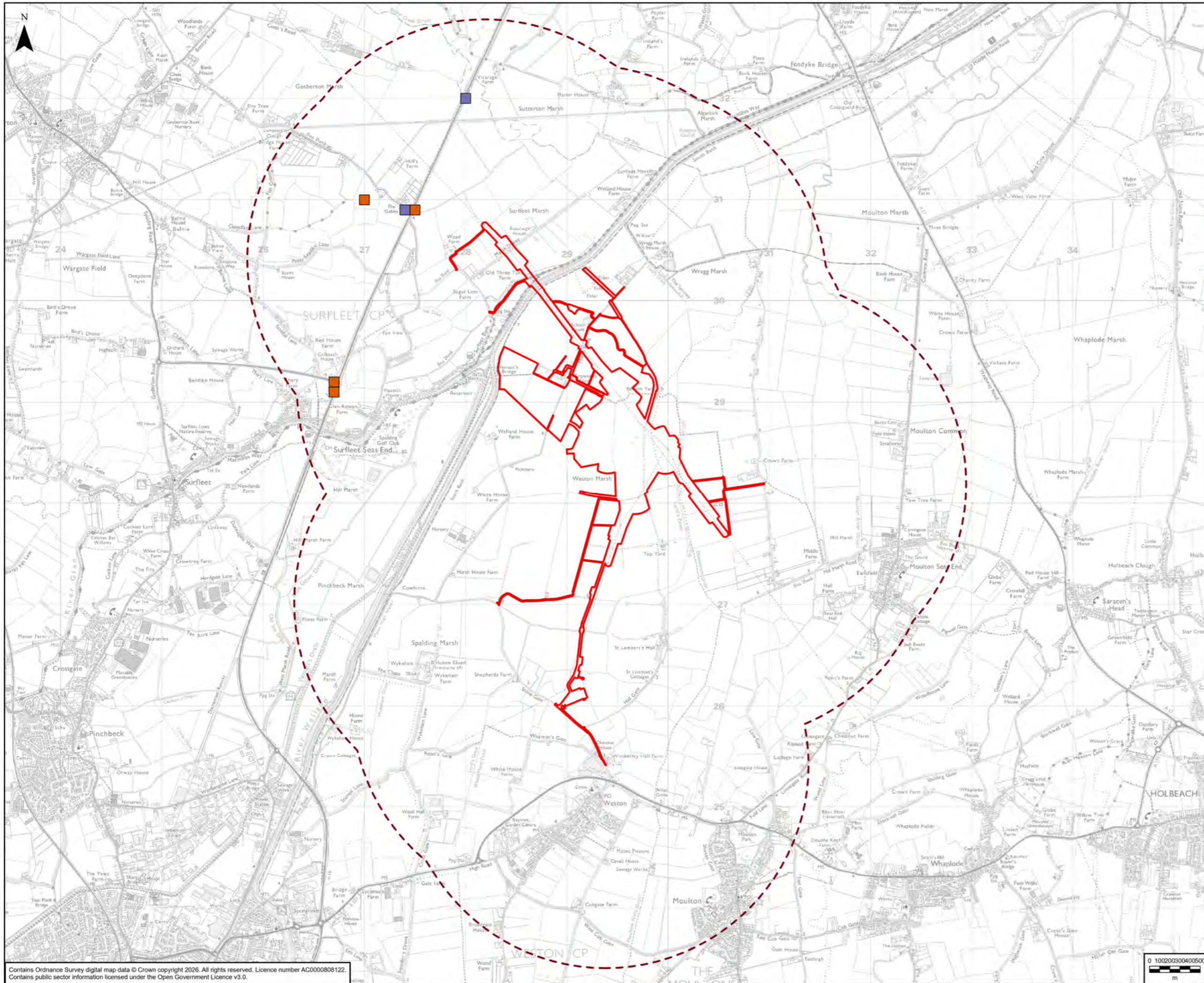
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Document Title: FIGURE 2 SURVEY SCOPE

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Figure 3 Desktop Study Results

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LEGEND

Legend

- Scheme Site Boundary
- Desk Study Area

Badger Sightings

- Field observation
- Field observation (dead on road)
- Field observation (dead)

NOTES

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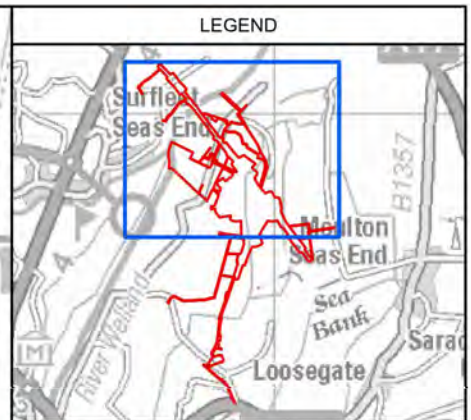
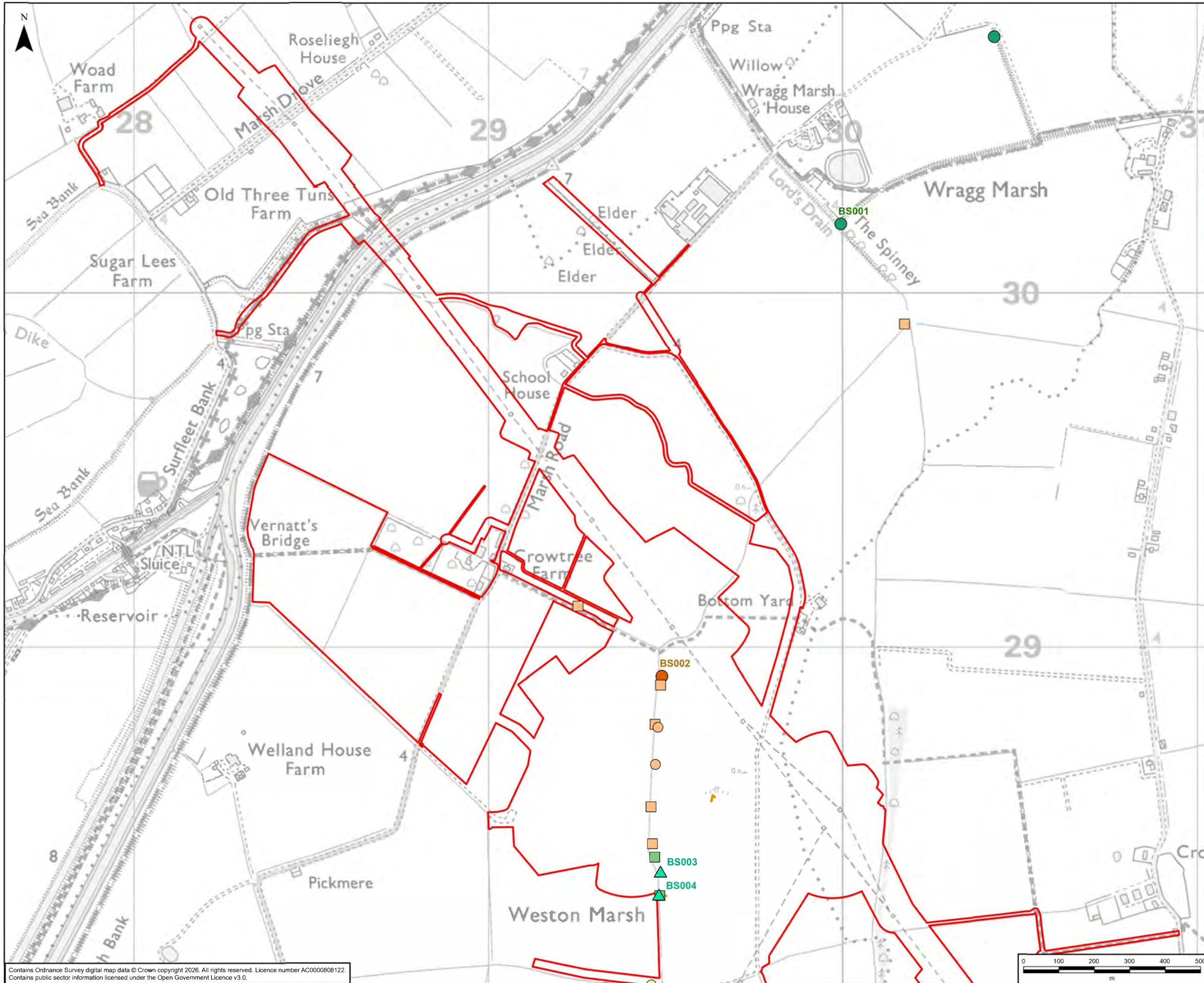
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Figure 4 Field Survey Results

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- LEGEND**
- Legend
- Scheme Site Boundary
- Signs
- Footprint
 - Foraging signs
 - Outlier sett
 - Dung pit
 - Latrine
 - Mammal path
- Badger Field Signs Set
- Main sett
 - Subsidiary sett

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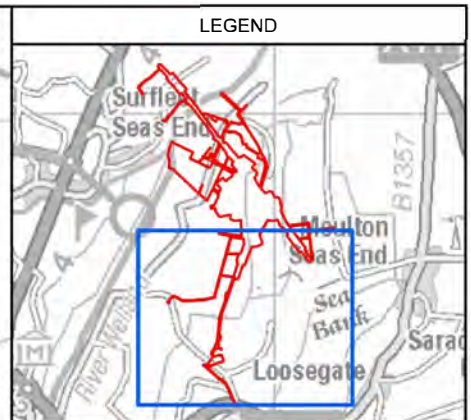
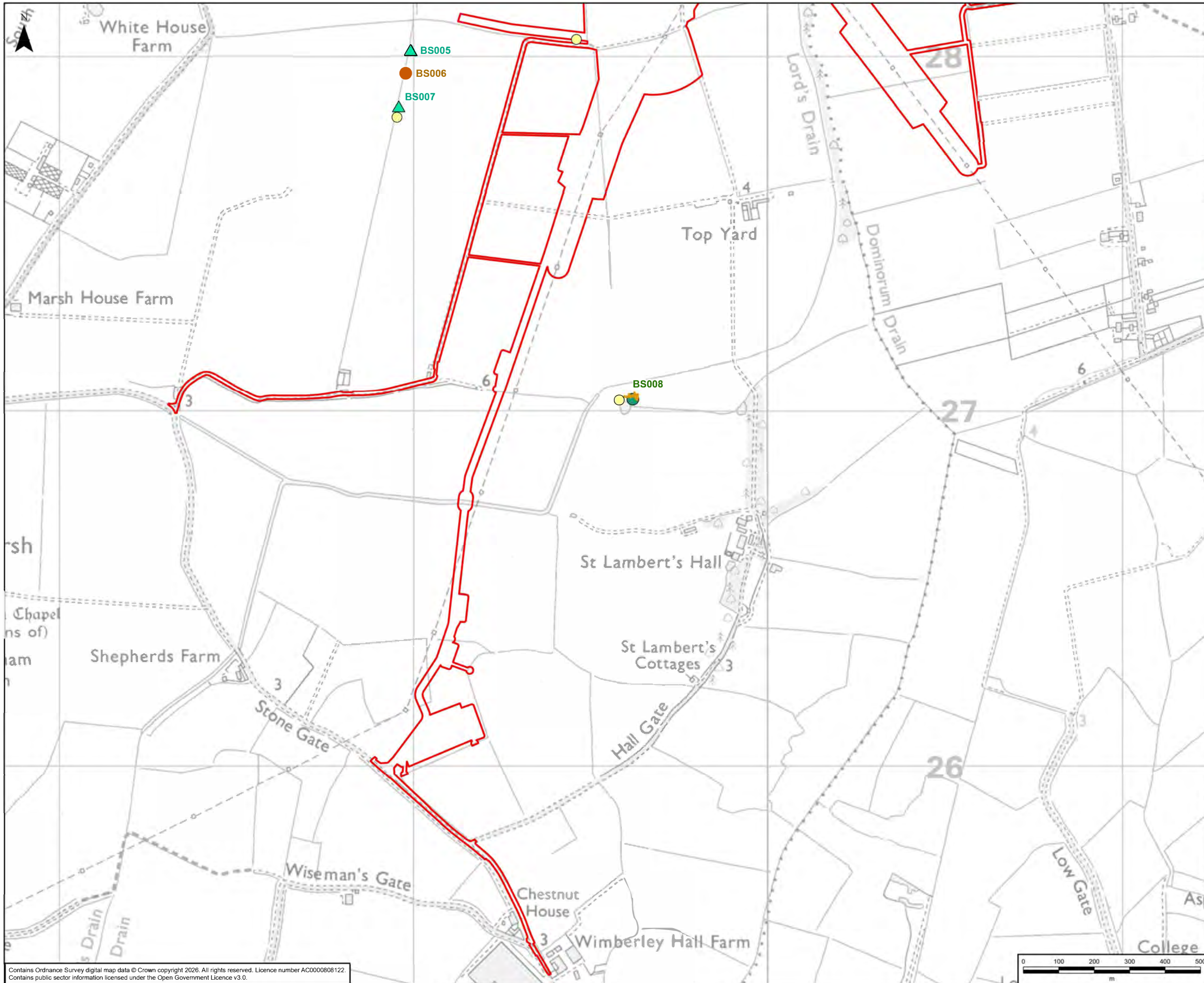
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- LEGEND**
- Scheme Site Boundary
 - Signs**
 - Foraging signs
 - Outlier sett
 - Mammal path
 - Badger Field Signs Set**
 - Main sett
 - Subsidiary sett

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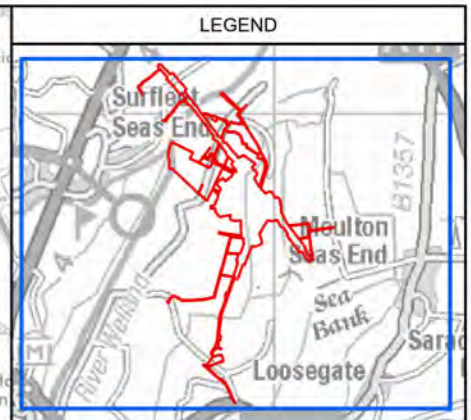
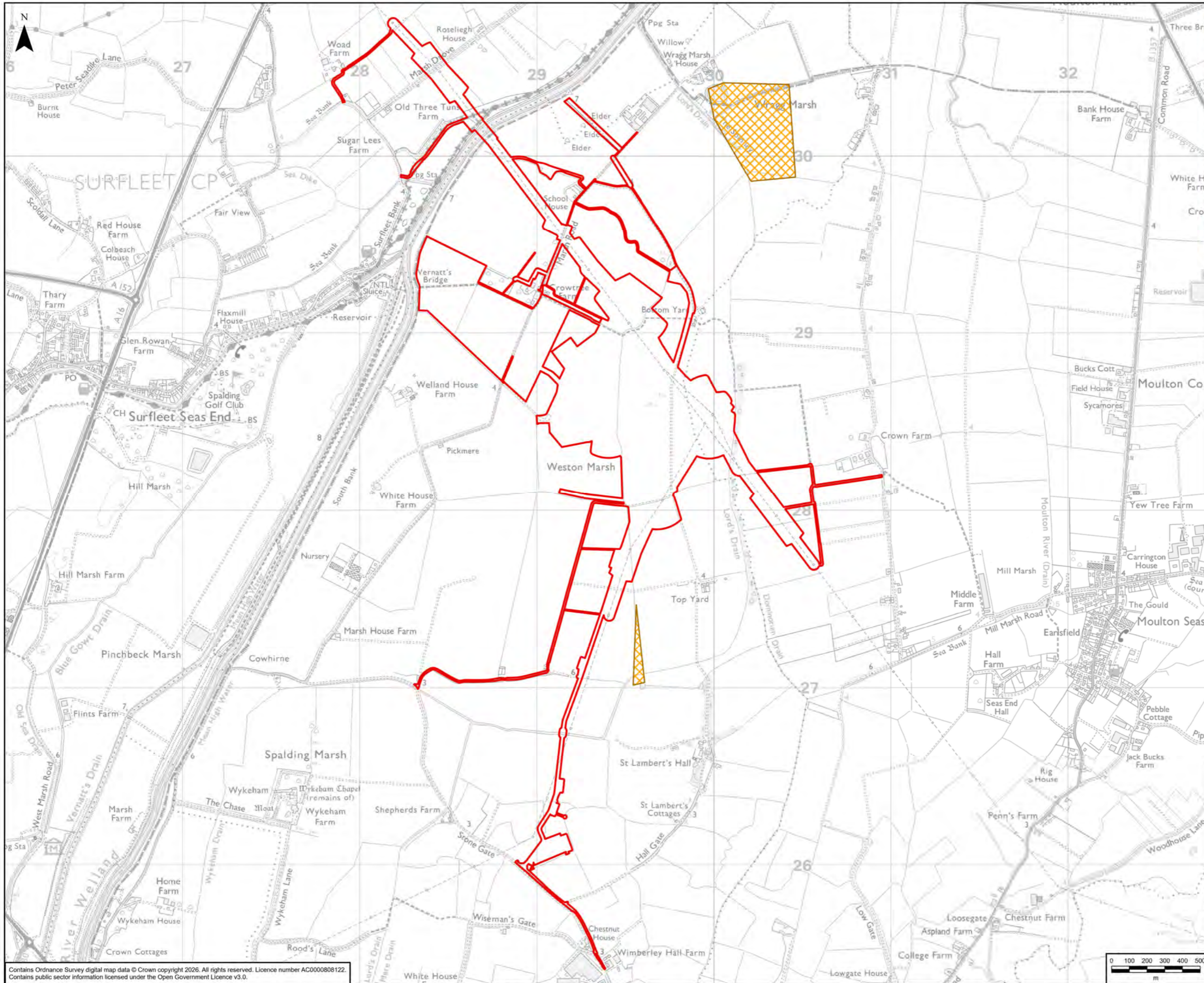
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Figure 5 Badger Territory Mapping

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LEGEND

- Scheme Site Boundary
- Badger Territory

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Document Title: FIGURE 5 TERRITORY MAPPING

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Appendices

Appendix A Badger Setts Photographs

Table A.1 Representative Photographs of Setts Recorded within the Study Area

Sett ID	Sett type and status	Representative photo
BS001	Main Sett – Active	No Photograph
BS002	Subsidiary Sett – Active	
BS003	Outlier Sett – unknown use	
BS004	Outlier Sett - Active	

BS005

Outlier Sett – Active



BS006

Subsidiary Sett – Active



BS007

Outlier Sett – Active



BS008

Main Sett – Active



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