

ARDERSIER PORT ENERGY TRANSITION FACILITY PORT EXTENSION



November 2025

Appendix 12.6 Badgers

Haventus Ardersier Port

Technical Appendix: Badgers

JULY 2025 FOR HAVENTUS



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Document Revision History

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Issue date</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	12/08/25	MP

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Revised by</i>
1	31/07/25	N/A	MP
2	12/08/25	Corrected NGR NH 80037 85768 to NH 80037 57688	MP

<i>Circulation</i>	<i>No. Copies</i>
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1.0 Introduction

This technical appendix is commissioned by Haventus in respect of proposals for the expansion of the Ardersier Port redevelopment area. As part of a suite of Protected Species Surveys (PSS), a targeted badger survey was carried out to establish the extent of badger activity within the site area and surrounding 1km. The findings from the targeted badger survey are intended to inform a comprehensive assessment of the predicted impact on badger clan(s) associated with the proposed development.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Badger Survey Methodology

This survey adopted industry approved methods by Scottish Badgers (2018) involving a walkover of the proposed expansion area and a suitable buffer out with, where safe access allowed. The scope of this survey was to investigate the proposed expansion areas and 1km out with. The existing site was also surveyed, with a 30m buffer. The survey searched for badger field sign; setts, snuffle holes, footprints, latrines, and guard hairs. These field signs, indicative of badger activity, were recorded and georeferenced using the mobile application *Avenza Maps* and later mapped digitally using QGIS (*version 3.36.1*). The survey was undertaken over 5 days in March 2025 when boars are actively demarcating territorial boundaries and field signs are more prominent prior to summer foliage.

Where badger setts were encountered, the type and activity status of the structures were classified as per the guidance outlined in *Surveying for Badgers: Good Practice Guidelines (2018)* (see Tables 1 & 2).

Table 1: Sett types, as per Surveying for Badger. Good Practice Guidelines (2018).

Sett Type	Description
Main Sett	Comprises of several holes (average: 12) with large spoil heaps. There are often obvious paths and trails to and from the sett and between sett entrances. Most often all entrances will remain well used, but occasionally some will become dormant/disused.
Annex Sett	Often found close to the main sett in an area – usually less than 150m away. Connected to the main sett by one or two well worn

	paths. Usually there are several holes (average: 8) but the sett may not be in use at all times.
Subsidiary Sett	Usually at least 50m from the main sett and do not have an obvious path connecting with another sett. They are not continually active
Outlier Sett	These often have little spoil outside of the holes, and have no obvious paths connecting them with other setts.

Table 2: Sett activity status, as per *Surveying for Badger: Good Practice Guidelines (2018)*

Activity Status	Description
Well Used	Regularly used by badger, Clear of debris and vegetation, sides worn smooth, may have signs of recent excavation or spoil removal.
Partially Used	Not in regular use by badger. May have debris / vegetation e.g., twigs and leaves covering the entrance. Importantly, they could be used again after a minimal amount of clearance.
Disused	Not in used for some time. Partially or fully blocked (e.g., collapsed) and could not be used again without considered effort.

2.2 Limitations

Ecological surveys are limited by several factors that affect the presence of flora and fauna (weather, climate, animal behaviour, etc). Evidence of protected species and/or invasive species is not always found during a survey; this does not confirm that species are absent from an area or will not be present in the future.

Some sections of the survey area were not assessed due to access restrictions at the time of the survey. These areas are shown in Figure 1, with areas numbered and further described below.

- 1 - The far western extent of the survey area was not accessed due to its location within a live military firing range/MOD training area.
- 2 - Access was not granted to the land surrounding the property at grid reference 280161 857230.
- 3 – This is a live construction site and was not surveyed due to safety concerns.

Omitting these areas from the survey effort is not considered to have significantly impacted the overall survey findings, based on the current land use and habitat quality of each area. The ongoing port construction site is subject to high levels of disturbance from construction activities and from heavy plant and machinery, making it highly unlikely to support active badger setts. Additionally, the habitat here is of low suitability, offering little to no foraging potential for badgers. Similarly, the MOD training area is expected to experience frequent disturbance. The fields surrounding the retreat and well-being centre were observed to contain several free-roaming dogs during each survey visit. This reduces the likelihood of badgers establishing setts in the area. However, as these areas were not physically assessed, the possibility remains that badger setts or other ecological features may have been missed.

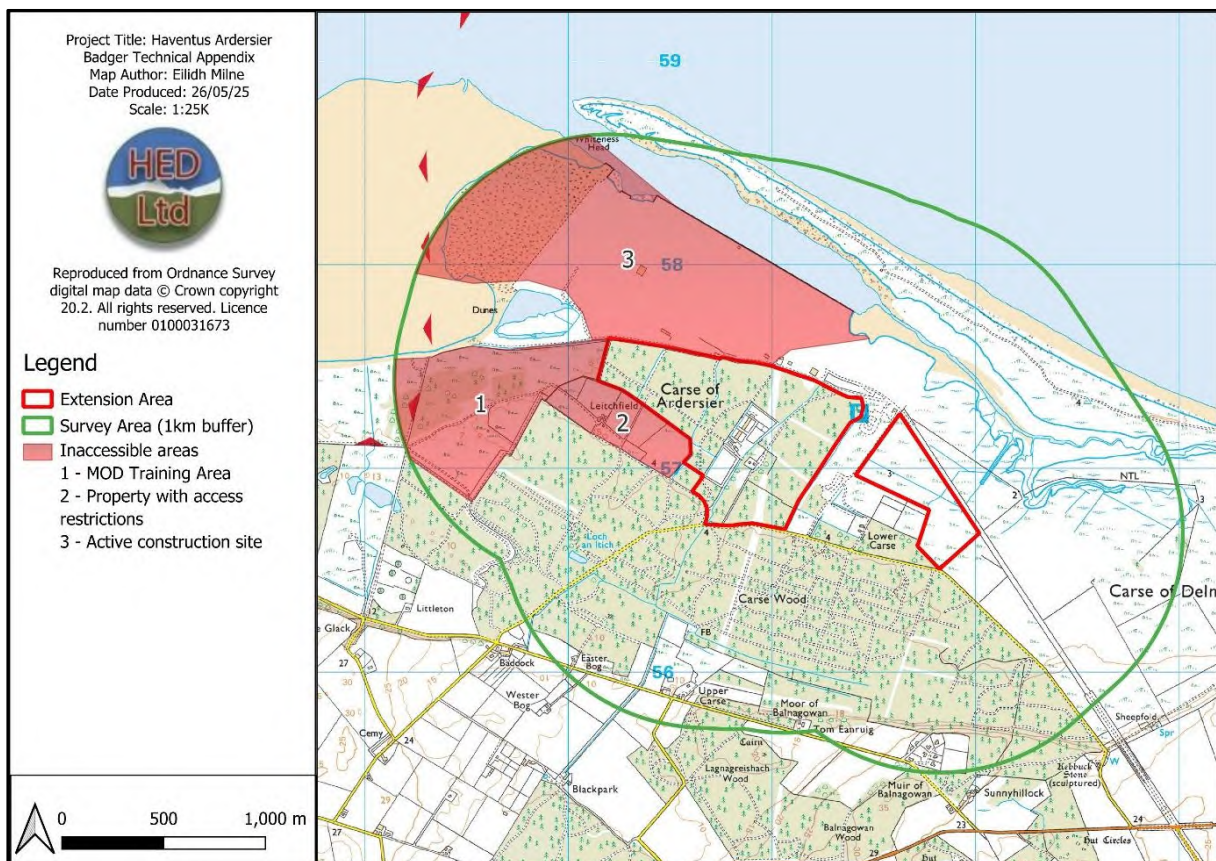


Figure 1: Inaccessible zones within the survey area.

3.0 Results

3.1 Badger Survey

Badger setts identified within the survey area are shown in Figure 2 and Table 3. Further maps showing setts labelled with associated target notes and showing activity status are given in Appendix 1. Photographs from the survey are given in Appendix 2. Data on setts/field signs gathered from other survey efforts outside the survey area have been included where available for completeness.

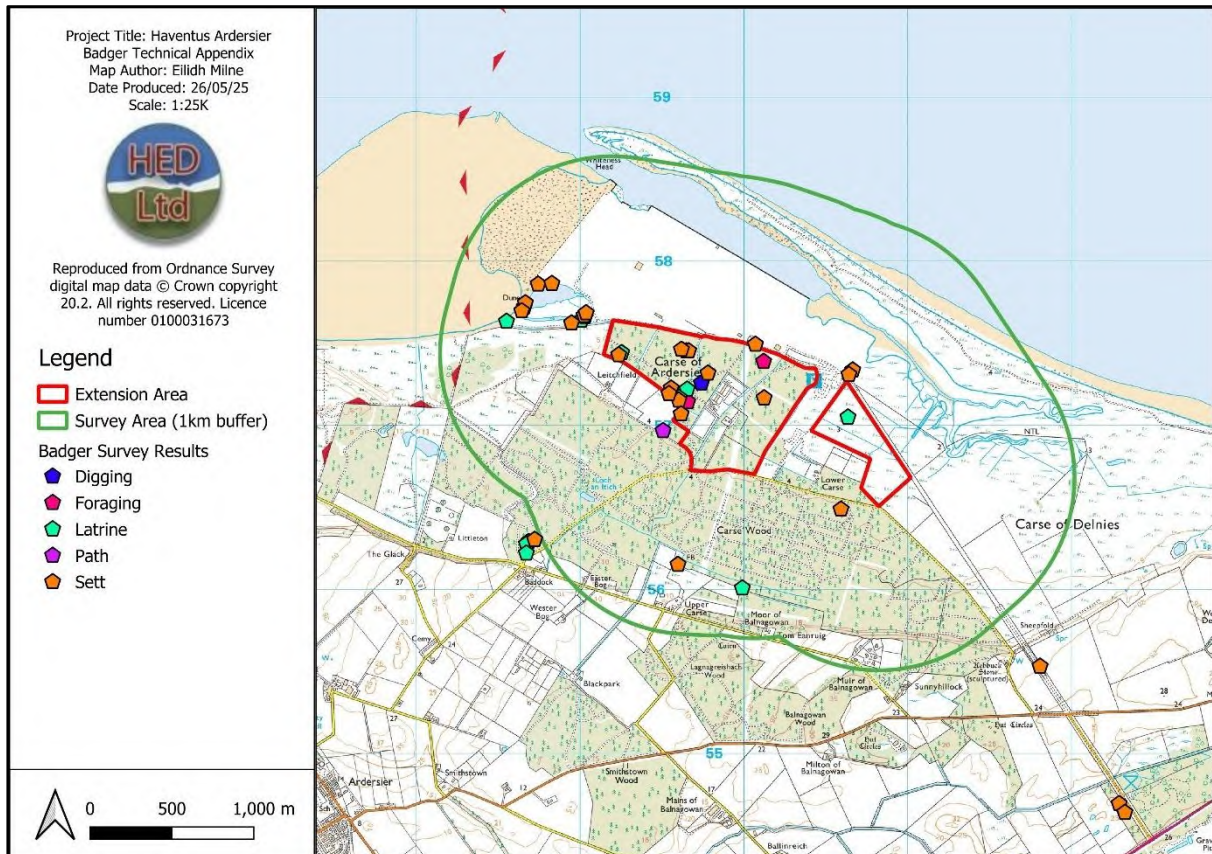


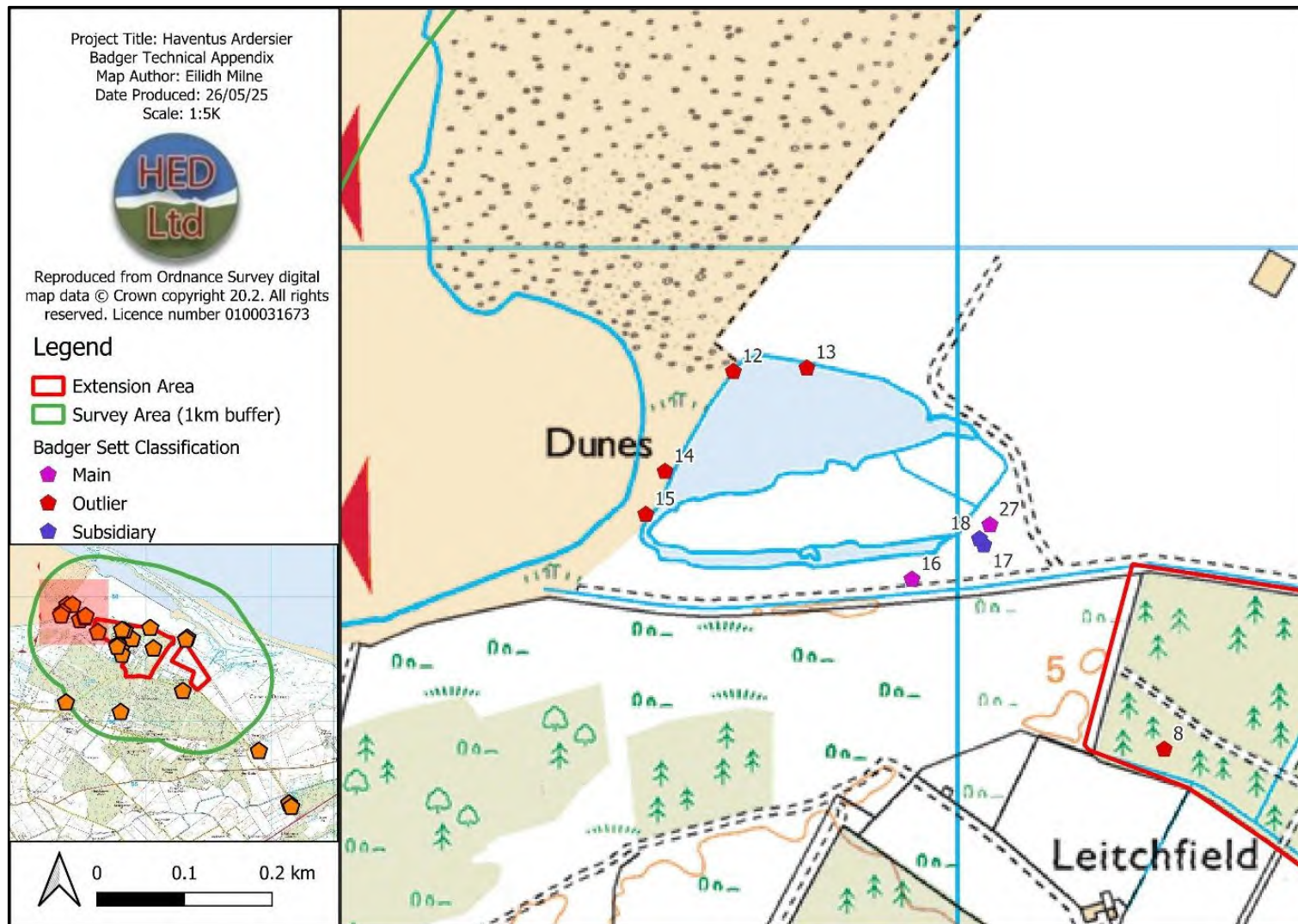
Figure 2: Badger survey results

Table 3: Summary of badger setts identified on site, sett type and activity status.

Ref	Sett Type	Activity Status	Grid Reference
001	Subsidiary	Well Used	NH 80616 57067
002	Subsidiary	Well Used	NH 80602 57151
003	Subsidiary	Partially Used	NH 80556 57224
004	Outlier	Well Used	NH 80781 57316
005	Subsidiary	Partially Used	NH 80663 57451
006	Subsidiary	Partially Used	NH 80648 57452
007	Subsidiary	Partially Used	NH 80619 57461
008	Outlier	Well Used	NH 80236 57428
009	Outlier	Partially Used	NH 81592 56485
010	Annex	Partially Used	NH 81124 57165
011	Subsidiary	Partially Used	NH 80543 57191
012	Outlier	Partially Used	NH 79744 57858
013	Outlier	Disused	NH 79831 57862
014	Outlier	Partially Used	NH 79665 57745
015	Outlier	Disused	NH 79643 57697
016	Main	Well Used	NH 79948 57623 - NH 80066 57637
017	Subsidiary	Well Used	NH 80030 57662
018	Subsidiary	Well Used	NH 80025 57669
019	Outlier	Well Used	NH 79723 56302
020	Outlier	Partially Used	NH 80598 56156
021	Main	Well Used	NH 82744 55630 - NH 82852 55463
022	Main	Partially Used	NH 83292 54688 – NH 83292 54703

023	Outlier	Partially Used	NH 83327 54636
024	Subsidiary	Well Used	NH 83327 54636
025	Outlier	Well Used	NH 81665 857335
026	Outlier	Well Used	NH 81642 857308
027	Main	Well Used	NH 80037 57688

Appendix 1: Badger Setts Classification

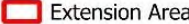
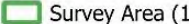





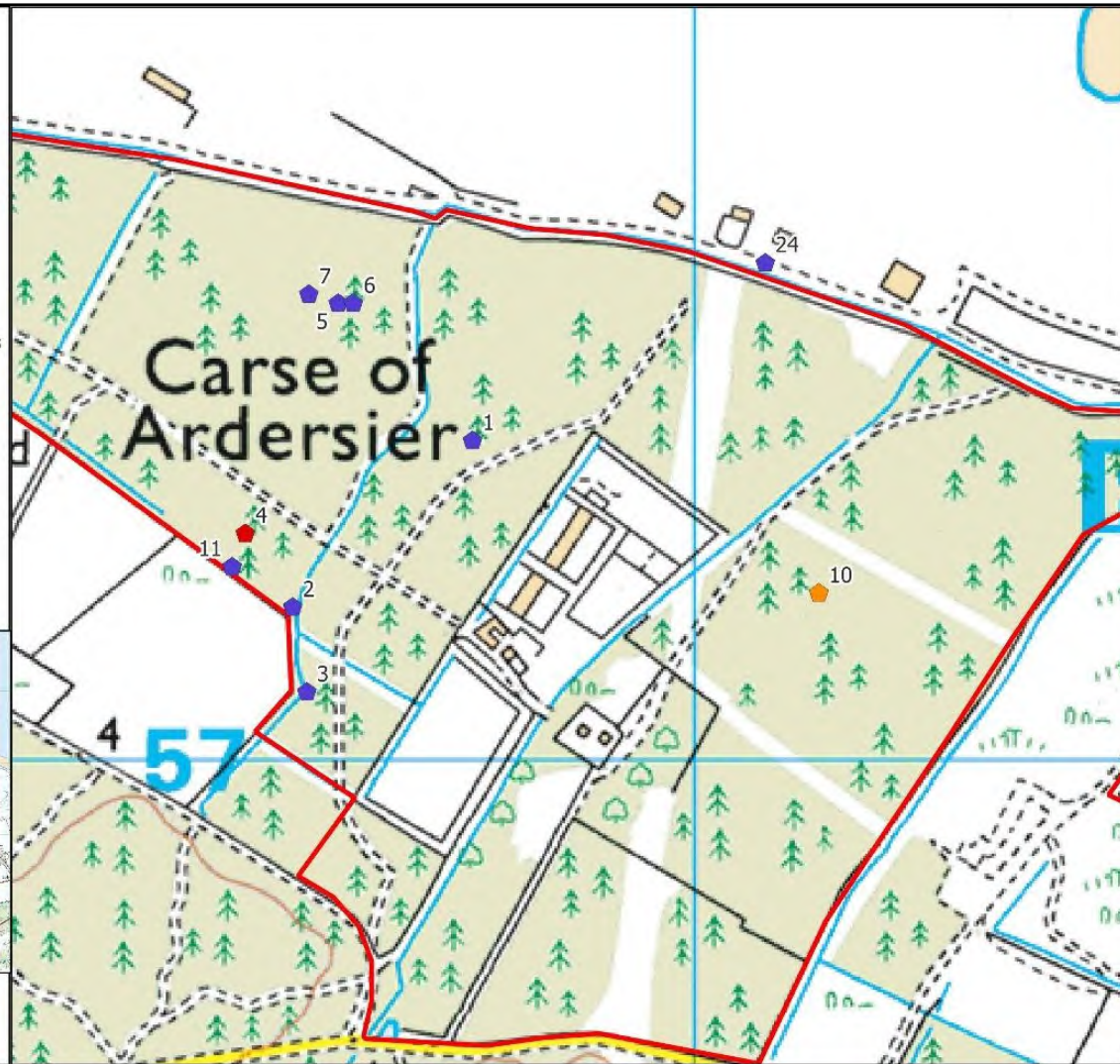
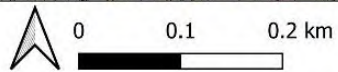
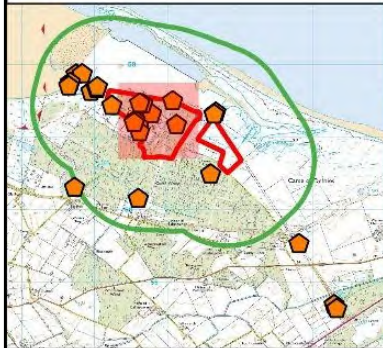
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Badger Technical Appendix
Map Author: Eilidh Milne
Date Produced: 26/05/25
Scale: 1:5K



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Legend

-  Extension Area
-  Survey Area (1km buffer)
- Badger Sett Classification**
-  Annex
-  Outlier
-  Subsidiary



Project Title: Haventus Ardersier
Badger Technical Appendix
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Scale: 1:5K



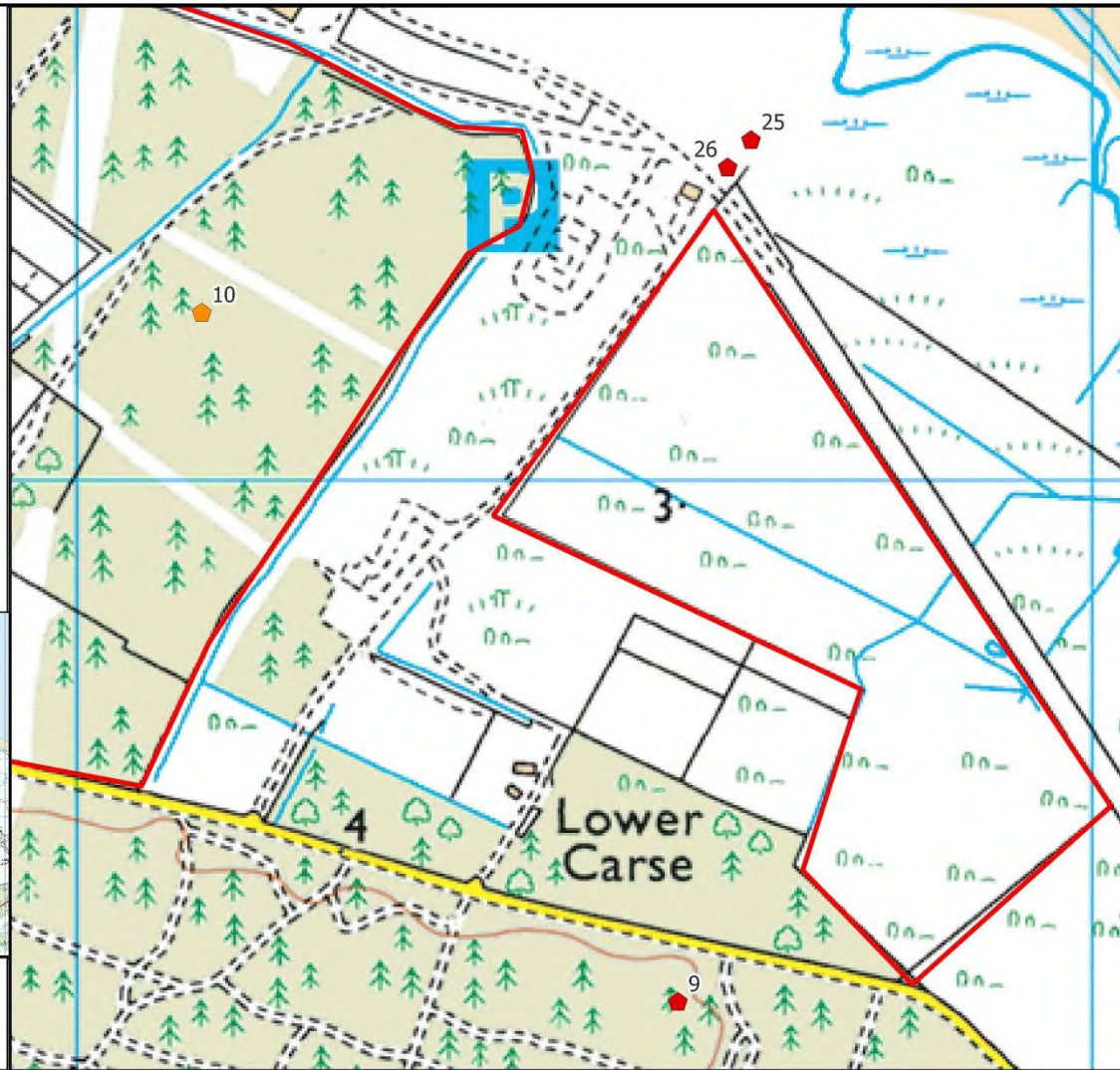
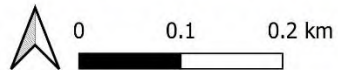
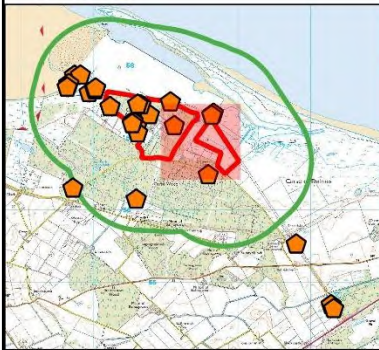
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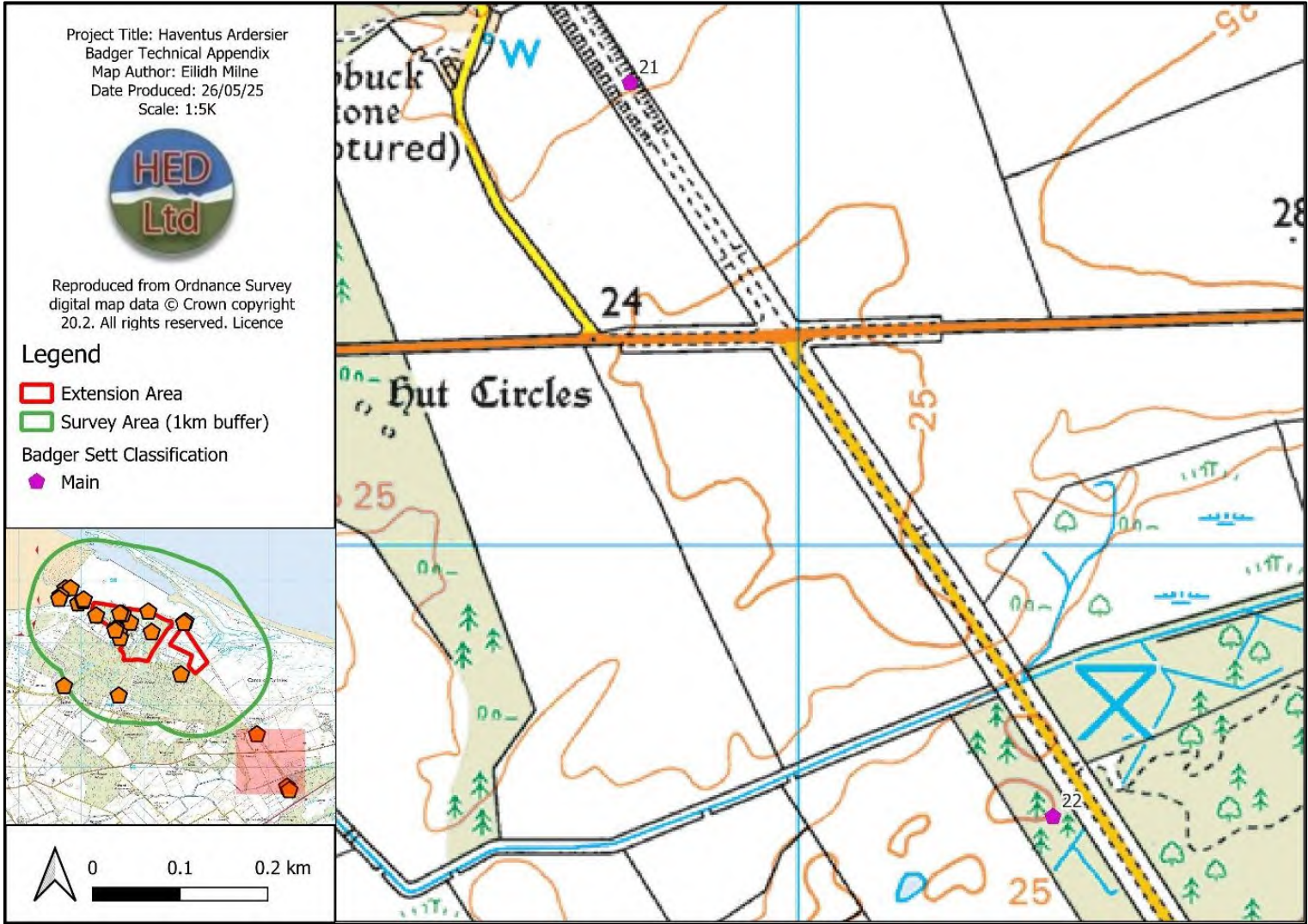
Legend

- Extension Area
- Survey Area (1km buffer)

Badger Set Classification

- Annex
- Outlier





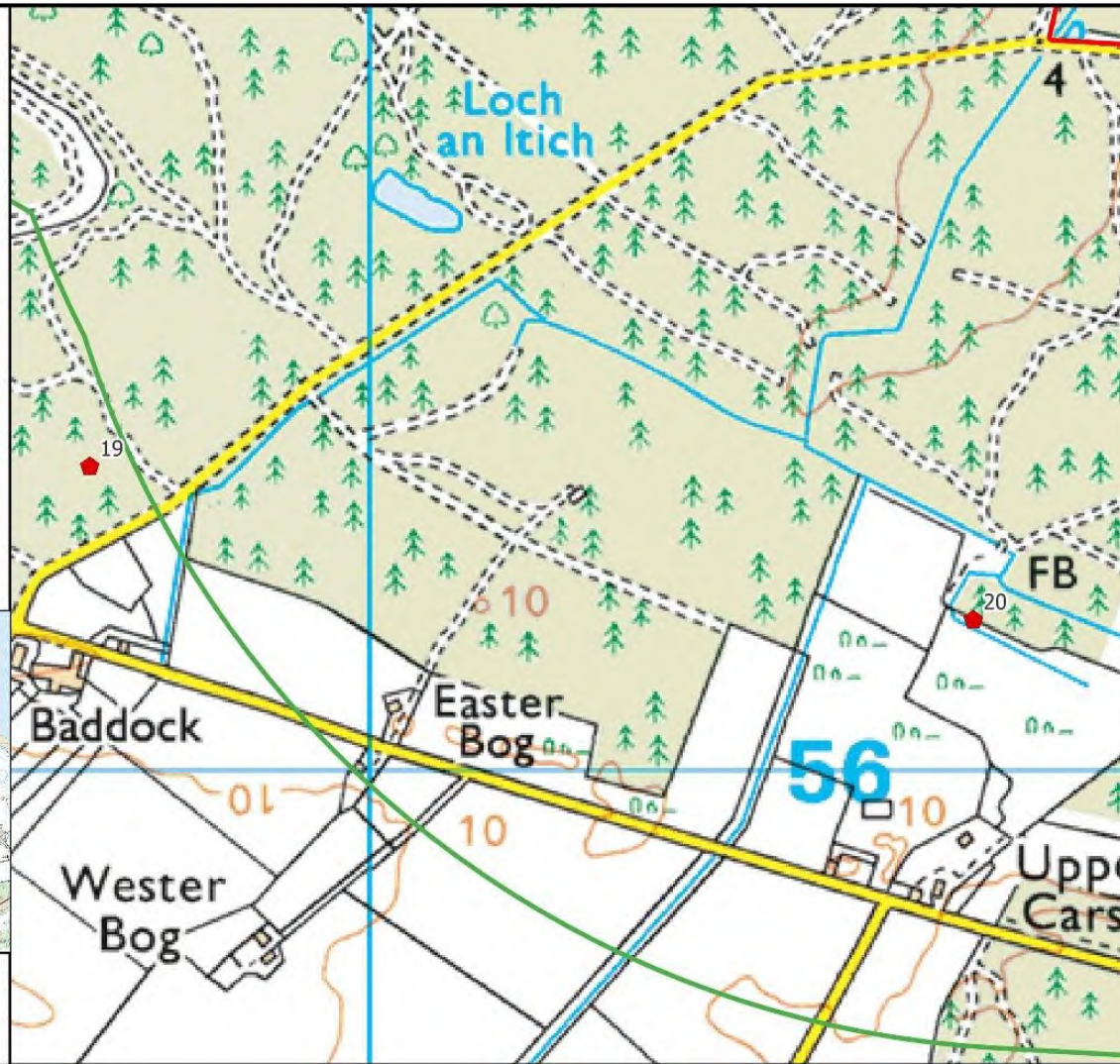
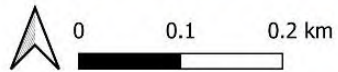
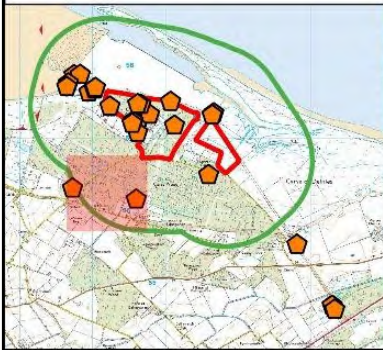
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Scale: 1:5K






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Legend




- Extension Area
- Survey Area (1km buffer)
- Badger Sett Classification**
- Outlier



Appendix 2: Badger

Target Note	Description	Image
001	<p>Sett – Subsidiary – WU</p> <p>2 entry holes</p> <p>Width c.20cm</p> <p>Depth >1m</p> <p>Located on the bank of a drainage ditch.</p>	
002	<p>Sett – Subsidiary – WU</p> <p>Fresh spoil evident at entrance</p> <p>No prints observed</p> <p>Nearby latrine and foraging (<20m)</p>	
003	<p>Sett – Subsidiary – PU</p> <p>Width c.20cm</p> <p>Depth >0.5m</p> <p>No recent spoil some foraging and shallow digging nearby.</p>	

<p>004</p>	<p>Sett – Outlier – WU</p> <p>Width c.20cm</p> <p>Depth >1m</p> <p>Foraging surrounding entrance. No paths or setts within 50m.</p>	
<p>005</p>	<p>Sett – Subsidiary – PU</p> <p>Depth >0.5m</p> <p>No recent spoil, some surrounding trails and nearby sett (006).</p>	
<p>006</p>	<p>Sett – Subsidiary – PU</p> <p>Width c. 18cm</p> <p>Depth >0.5m</p> <p>Surrounding foraging.</p>	


<p>007</p>	<p>Sett – Subsidiary – PU</p> <p>Width c. 18cm</p> <p>Depth >0.5m</p> <p>No recent spoil</p> <p>Some foraging surrounding.</p>	
<p>008</p>	<p>Sett – Outlier – WU</p> <p>Recent spoil</p> <p>Snuffles and latrine nearby</p> <p>Approx. 10cm width</p> <p>Depth >0.5m</p>	
<p>010</p>	<p>Sett – Annex – PU</p> <p>No recent spoil.</p> <p>Evidence of foraging nearby (snuffle holes).</p>	

022

Sett – Main – PU

9 sett entrances recorded. The majority of these had a build of leaf litter at the entrance. No recent spoil piles or latrines nearby. Evidence of foraging nearby.



023	Sett – Outlier – PU. No recent spoil. Width 20cm. Depth >0.5m.	
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Appendix 3: References

NatureScot (2018a) *Guidance for the Creation of Artificial Setts*. NatureScot, Perth. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2018-04/Guidance-Badgers-artificial-sett-construction.pdf>

NatureScot (2018b) *Guidance: Managing land as a foraging resource for badgers*. NatureScot, Perth. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-managing-land-foraging-resource-badgers>

Scottish Badgers (2020) *Surveying for Badgers: Good Practice Guidelines (Version 1)*. Scottish Badgers. Available at: https://www.scottishbadgers.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Surveying-for-Badgers-Good-Practice-Guidelines_V1-2020-2455979.pdf

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UK Public General Acts. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/51/contents>

