



Genesis

Lisdaran Housing Development
Mammal Survey

Document Details

Client:	Genesis Planning
Project Title:	Lisdaran Housing Development
Project Code:	FF808
Document Title:	Mammal Survey
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Rev	Status	Date	Author(s)	Approved by
01	ISSUE	21/05/2026	BF	MMA

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1. Introduction

1.1. Document Summary

This document details the findings of a mammal survey carried out by Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants on behalf of Genesis Planning. This was requested as part of a request for further information by Cavan County Council.

1.2. Relevant Legislation/Context

The relevant legislation is generally the Wildlife Acts, 1976 to 2018 as amended as well as the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC).

2. Development/Project Details

The development will consist of the provision of a total of 109 no. residential units along with provision of a crèche. Particulars of the development comprise as follows:

- (a) Site excavation works to facilitate the proposed development to include excavation and general site preparation works.
- (b) The provision of a total of 65no. residential dwellings which will consist of 23 no. 2 bed units, 26 no. 3 bed units and 16 no. 4 bed units.
- (c) The provision of a total of 44 no. duplex apartment units consisting of 8 no.1 bed units, 18no. 2bed units and 18 no. 3 bed units.
- (d) Provision of a two storey creche with associated parking, bicycle and bin storage.
- (e) Provision of associated car parking at surface level via a combination of in-curtilage parking for dwellings and via on-street parking for the creche and duplex apartment units.
- (f) Provision of electric vehicle charge points with associated site infrastructure ducting to provide charge points for residents throughout the site.
- (g) Provision of associated bicycle storage facilities at surface level throughout the site and bin storage facilities.
- (h) Utilising the existing access point from Loreto Road with associated works to provide for internal access roads, footpaths and associated site works.
- (i) Provision of internal access roads and footpaths and associated works to include for regrading of site levels as required.
- (j) Provision of residential communal open space and public open space areas to include formal play areas along with all hard and soft landscape works with public lighting, planting and boundary treatments to include boundary walls, railings & fencing.
- (k) Internal site works and attenuation systems which will include for provision of a hydrocarbon and silt interceptor prior to discharge.

(l) All ancillary site development/construction works to facilitate foul, water and service networks for connection to the existing foul via a rising main and provision of a foul pumping station, water connections and ESB network connections.

A drawing showing the proposed development is given below.



Fig. 1. Site Layout Drawing

The proposed housing development site is situated north of Cavan General Hospital. To the north and south-east of the site, there are residential properties as well as small and medium-scale industrial buildings. Agricultural land surrounds the site to the west and east, and the site itself is predominantly agricultural. A small woodland area is located at the north-east section of the site. The site is currently used for agriculture. The site is delineated with treelines and hedgerows. Two buildings exist to the west the site (outside of the site boundary).

3. Methodology

3.1. Mammal Surveys

Mammal survey was primarily carried out by direct survey during daylight hours. In addition to this, trail cameras were used to detect mammal activity. All signs of mammal activity, which include prints, tracks, hairs, droppings, odour, digging and evidence of feeding were noted. Any mammal refuges such as setts were also recorded. Where encountered, evidence of mammal activity such as well-used paths, tracks and latrines etc were also recorded. Guidelines by the National Roads Authority (2010) were employed for the survey. Surveys were carried out workers in teams of 2 no. persons.

3.2. General /Habitat Assessment/Nomenclature

Where relevant, habitats were identified, mapped and classified and dominant plant species noted in accordance with the guidelines given by the JNCC (2010) and The Heritage Council (2011). Habitats were classified as per Fossitt (2000).

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Results

A total of 4 no. mammal species were recorded within the site. The species recorded and their location and other details are given in the table below.

Species Common Name	Species Name	Detail of Findings	Protected Species Y/N	Location
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	Active sett occurs in woodland. Multiple Badger feeding signs recorded throughout the site. Droppings, including latrine recorded.	Y	Sett location shown in fig. below. Multiple field signs throughout site
Pine Marten	<i>Martes martes</i>	Recorded on trail camera to the north of the site. Droppings recorded.	Y	Droppings recorded to south of site. Recorded on trail camera to the north of the site.
Irish Stoat	<i>Mustela erminea Hibernica</i>	Recorded on trail camera to the north of the site.	Y	Recorded on trail camera to the north of the site.
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Recorded on trail camera to the north of the site. Prints and odour.	N	Occurs throughout the site.
Domestic Cat	<i>Felis domesticus</i>	Recorded on trail camera to the north of the site.	N	Recorded on trail camera to the north of the site.

4.2. Discussion

A total of 5 no. mammals were recorded as part of this survey. Of these, 3 no. are protected by the Wildlife Act. The remainder are Red Fox and domestic cat. A single Badger sett occurs within the site under survey. The location of this is within woodland toward the north of the site. This is an active sett with a minimum of 2 no. active entrances. It is not believed to be a breeding sett at time of writing. Multiple field signs of badger activity were found.

The other protected mammals found were Pine Marten – believed to be active throughout the site and Irish Stoat – only occurring rarely within the site. It should be noted that no evidence of Otter activity within the site was found throughout the survey period.

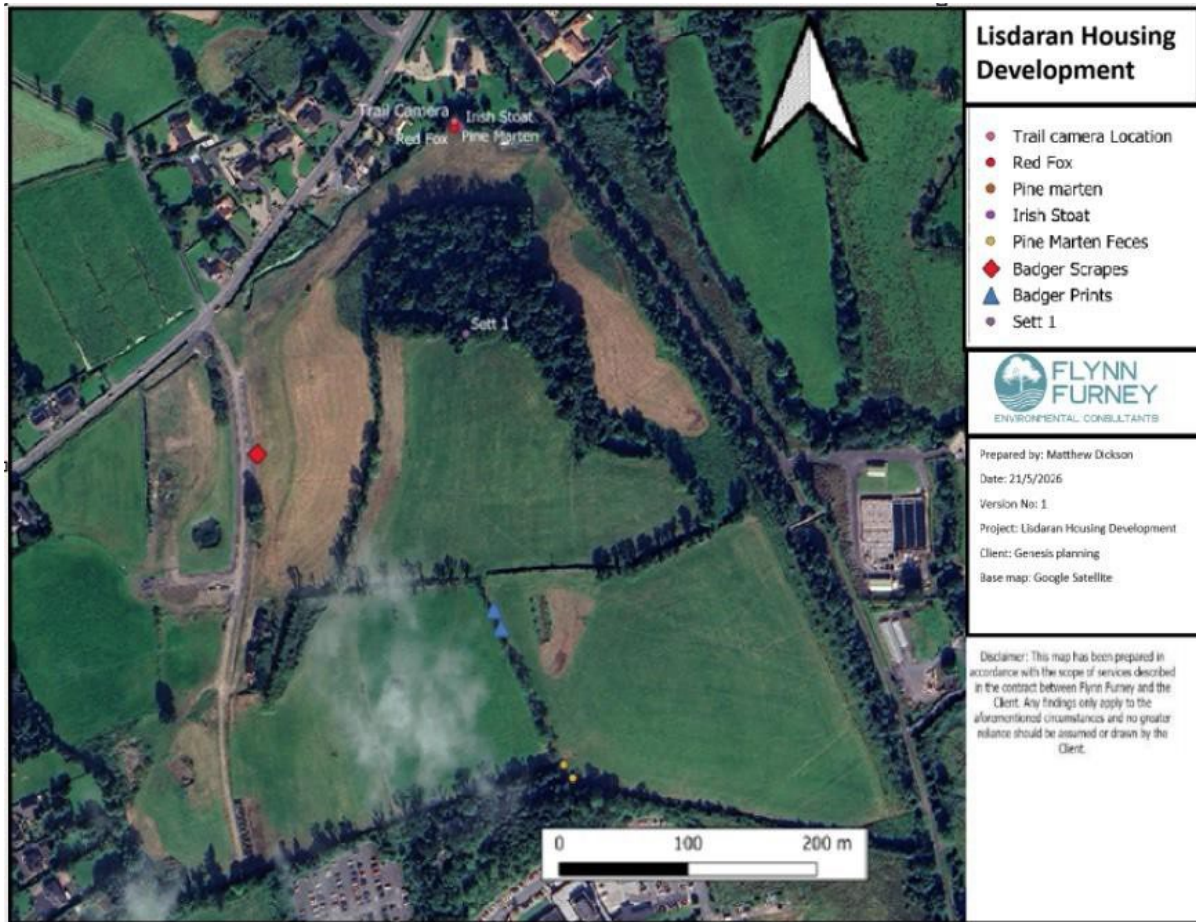
5. Conclusion

The site offers extensive foraging and feeding habitat for a number of species. A Biodiversity Management Plan has been drawn up which will allow the conservation of the protected species to be allowed in conjunction with the development of the site. It is considered that the proposed development will not serve to isolate the Badger sett here although there will be a reduction in the amount of feeding/foraging area for this species.

6. References

- Highways Agency (1999) Nature Conservation Advice in Relation to Otters: Design Manual for Roads and Bridges. Volunteer 10, Section 4, P4. HA 81/99. UK.
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) (2010) .Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey – a technique for environmental audit. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough (UK).
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- Smith, G. F., O'Donoghue, P., O'Hora, K., & Delaney, E. (2011) *Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping*. The Heritage Council, Kilkenny.

Appendix I - mammal survey findings



Appendix II - trail camera footage



Fox



Irish Stoat



Fox



Pine Marten