

Environmental Statement: Chapter 7

Technical Appendix 7.15: Otter and Water Vole Survey

Land East of Blackmore Farm, Melksham

Gleeson Land Ltd

March 2026

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1 Methodology

1.1.1 Two otter and water vole surveys were undertaken in accordance with survey guidelines published by Strachan and Moorhouse (2006) and Chanin (2003). The first survey was undertaken on 19 April 2021; the second was undertaken on 12 August 2021. Two further update surveys were undertaken on 24 May 2024 and 14 August 2024.

1.1.2 All waterbodies within the survey area (refer to Figure A7.15.1) were surveyed for the following signs:

Otter:

- Holts/couches.
- Riparian pathways, tail slides and footprints.
- Feeding signs (tables).
- Spraint and jelly.

Water vole:

- Burrows and lawns.
- Riparian pathways.
- Feeding signs.
- Latrines.

2 Limitations

2.1.1 There were no limitations to the surveys.

3 Results

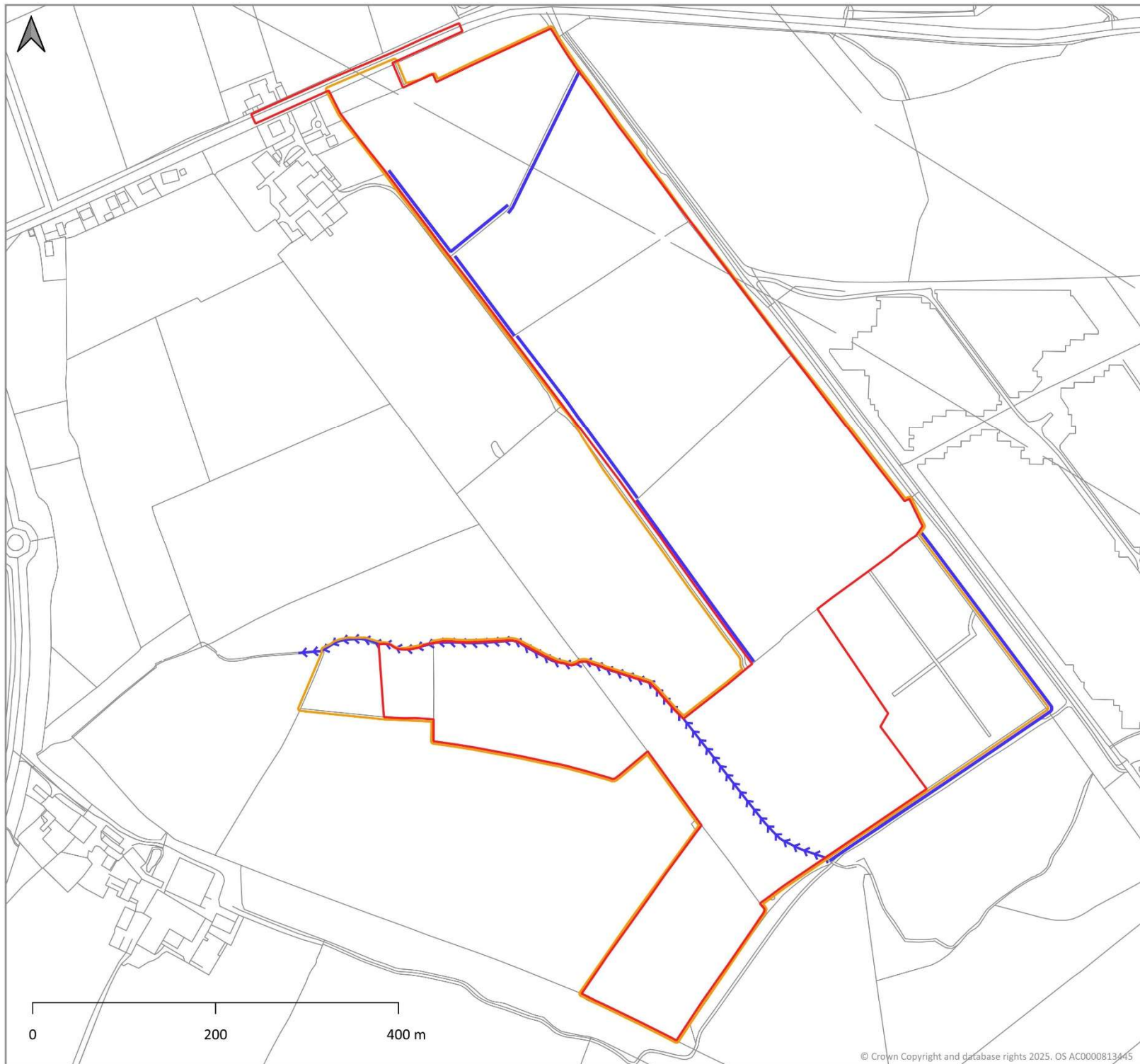
3.1.1 No evidence of otter or water vole was recorded during the surveys; refer to Figure A7.15.1.

4 References

Chanin P (2003) *Monitoring the Otter Lutra lutra*. Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers Monitoring Series No.10. English Nature, Peterborough.

Strachan R, Moorhouse T and Gelling T (2011) *Water Vole Conservation Handbook*. WildCRU, Oxford & 3rd Edition.

Figure A7.15.1: Otter and Water Vole Survey Plan



Key

- Site boundary
- Survey boundary
- ↔ Running water
- Wet ditch



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