



GALETECH
ENERGY SERVICES

Islandmore Wind Farm

Environmental Impact Assessment
Report

Annex 5.10: Amphibians and
Reptiles Baseline

Islandmore Wind Farm Limited

Contents

1.1	Introduction.....	1
1.2	Methodology	1
	1.2.1 Desktop Surveys.....	1
	1.2.2 Field Surveys	1
1.3	Amphibians and Reptiles	1

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Islandmore Wind Farm Limited ('the Developer') has commissioned Galettech Energy Services (GES) to manage the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the proposed Islandmore Wind Farm ('the project') in County Roscommon. APEM Group Woodrow has been commissioned by GES to prepare a technical appendix which presents the baseline data for amphibians and reptiles to accompany **Chapter 5** (Biodiversity) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

1.2 METHODOLOGY

1.2.1 DESKTOP SURVEYS

A desktop survey was undertaken to gather information on the likely occurrence of species in the general area prior to the site visits so that a targeted approach to surveying could be undertaken. Information was obtained online from the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC)¹.

Records for important and protected species within proximity of the study area were obtained from the NBDC online database. This incorporates a number of databases for Ireland.

The study area falls within 2 no. 10km grid squares (G60 and M69).

1.2.2 FIELD SURVEYS

Amphibian and reptile records were collected as part of multidisciplinary ecological surveys undertaken between August 2024 and March 2025. Direct observations of Common frog (*Rana temporaria*), Smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*) and Common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) were recorded during field surveys and subsequent site visits. The extensive network of pools, drains and peatland habitats present within the project site were assessed for their suitability to support amphibian and reptile species.

1.3 AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

The ecological desk study identified records of Common lizard, Common frog and Smooth newt within the 10km grid squares encompassing the project site (**Table 1**). The most recent Common lizard record was from 23 July 2015 within grid square M69. The most recent Smooth newt record was from 17 August 2020 within grid square M69. The most recent Common frog record was from 10 June 2019 within grid square G60.

Direct observations of Common frog, Smooth newt and Common lizard were recorded during multidisciplinary ecological surveys and subsequent site visits. Dedicated amphibian and reptile surveys were not undertaken, as the survey approach was considered sufficient to establish the presence of these species within the project site.

Common frog is listed on Annex V of the Habitats Directive. Common frog, Smooth newt and Common lizard are protected under the Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended).

¹ <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie>

Common frog was observed at 2 no. locations within the project site, with frog spawn recorded at 6 no. additional locations. The species was assessed as a feature of local (lower) importance.

One (1 no.) common lizard record was identified within the project site in Cutover Bog (PB4) habitat located north of turbine T2. Given the availability of suitable habitat within the project site, it is considered likely to support a population of local (higher) importance.

Two (2 no.) records of smooth newt were identified within the project site, including observations within Cutover Bog (PB4) habitat located south of turbine T10. Suitable breeding habitat occurs throughout the project site in the form of pools, drainage features and other wetland habitats. The project site is considered likely to support a population of local (higher) importance.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Most Recent Record	Grid Square
Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	23/07/2015	M69
Smooth Newt	<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>	17/08/2020	M69
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	10/06/2019	G60

Table 1: NBDC records for target amphibian and reptile species from 10km national grid squares M69 and G60



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