



GALETECH
ENERGY SERVICES

Islandmore Wind Farm

Environmental Impact Assessment
Report

Annex 5.11: Invertebrate Baseline

Islandmore Wind Farm Limited

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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 invertebrates 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

Invertebrate surveys focused on Marsh fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*) and included habitat condition assessments and larval web surveys undertaken on 27 August 2024 and 19 September 2024. Surveys targeted areas supporting Devil's-bit scabious (*Succisa pratensis*), the larval foodplant of Marsh fritillary, and included systematic searches for larval webs within suitable habitat.

1.3 INVERTEBRATES

The desktop survey identified records of Marsh fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*) and Large heath (*Coenonympha tullia*) within the 10km grid squares encompassing the project site (**Table 1**).

Marsh fritillary is listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive and is categorised as Vulnerable on the European Red List of Butterflies. The most recent record of Marsh fritillary was from 14 June 2020 within grid square M69.

Habitat condition assessments and larval web surveys were undertaken within areas of suitable habitat during August and September 2024. Suitable marsh fritillary habitat was identified (0.7 ha) east of turbine T1 and at turbine T10, where devil's-bit scabious (*Succisa pratensis*), the species' larval foodplant, was recorded as frequent to abundant.

During the surveys of suitable habitat, no marsh fritillary larval webs were identified within the habitat east of turbine T1. However, 4 no. larval webs were recorded within suitable habitat at turbine T10, confirming the presence of marsh fritillary within the project site.

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

Large heath is classified as Vulnerable on the European Red List of Butterflies. The species was identified within the desktop study records, with the most recent record of Large Heath was from 12 June 2016 within grid square G60. Suitable blanket bog habitat occurs throughout the project site. Large heath is therefore considered likely to occur within the project site; however, the species was not recorded during field surveys.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Most Recent Record	Grid Square
Marsh fritillary	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>	14/06/2020	M69
Large heath	<i>Coenonympha tullia</i>	12/06/2016	G60

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



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