



GALETECH
ENERGY SERVICES

Islandmore Wind Farm

Environmental Impact Assessment
Report

Annex 5.4: Mammal Surveys

Islandmore Wind Farm Limited

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1.1 INTRODUCTION

Islandmore Wind Farm Limited ('the Developer') has commissioned Galetch 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 non-volant mammals, to accompany **Chapter 5** (Biodiversity) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). The location of all protected mammal resting sites is provided within a confidential **Annex 5.5** and have not been provided here in order to protect these species and their breeding locations.

1.2 METHODOLOGY

A desktop survey was carried out to gather information on the likely occurrence of species and habitats in the general area prior to the site visits so that a targeted approach to surveying could be implemented. Information was gathered online from a variety of sources including the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC), National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) online databases. The following databases were used:-

- NBDC online map viewer and datasets¹;
- EPA online map viewer and datasets²;
- NPWS Map Viewer³;
- NPWS site synopses⁴;
- Bat Conservation Ireland (BCI)⁵;
- Invasive Species Ireland⁶;
- Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) online mapping⁷; and,
- Inland Fisheries Ireland - Water Framework Directive Rivers Fish Ecological Status 2008-2022⁸.

Records for important and protected species within proximity of the project site were obtained from the NBDC online database. This incorporates a number of databases for Ireland. The NPWS Article 17 datasets for Annex I habitats were downloaded from the NPWS website and reviewed. These datasets document Annex I habitats within the site, should they occur. Additionally, a data request was submitted to NPWS to gather records for protected species, which may occur in the Study area.

The project falls within two 10km grid squares (G60 and M69) and eight 2km grid squares (G60A, G60F, M69E, M69J, M69D, M69I, M69C and M69H).

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

² <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

³ <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/edf34d92e28040fd87d3d14f55d8d95f>

⁴ <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>

⁵ <http://www.batconservationireland.org>

⁶ <http://www.invasivespeciesireland.com/>

⁷ <https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0ab2fbde2aaac3c228>

⁸ <https://data.gov.ie/dataset/water-framework-directive-rivers-fish-ecological-status-2008-20221>

1.2.1 FIELD SURVEYS

Mammal surveys were conducted on 5, 6 and 27 March 2025 (**Table 1**) throughout the study area. The aim of surveys is to identify the resting places of protected mammals and focus on the project layout with appropriate buffers applied to account for disturbance distances for each species based on NRA (2009) guidelines, including for:-

- Otter: 150m up and down stream of the study area;
- Badger: 50m buffer applied to proposed construction corridor, which will increased to 150m should rock breaking or blasting be required;
- Pine marten: Suitable habitat (woodland) within 100m of proposed construction corridor, as well as felling zones required to create buffers around features which are deemed to be suitable for bat commuting and roosting; and,
- Red squirrel: Suitable habitat (woodland) within 50m of proposed construction corridor, as well as felling zones required to create bat feature buffers.

Survey Type	Survey Dates	Surveyors
Mammal Surveys	05/03/2025 06/03/2025 27/03/2025	D. Craig, A. Walsh
Trail Camera Deployment	06/03/2025 - 27/03/2025 27/03/2025 – 06/05/2025	D. Craig, A. Walsh

Table 1: Habitat and Mammal Surveys

1.2.2 TERRESTRIAL MAMMAL SURVEYS

Surveys have been conducted for targeted species protected under the Wildlife Act, species listed in Annex II, Annex IV and Annex V of the Habitats Directive, and Irish Red-listed species (Marnell et al. 2019). Particular focus was given to protected species such as badger (*Meles meles*) and their resting places/setts (Smal, 1995), and otter (*Lutra lutra*) and their resting places such as couches, layups or holts (Reid et al. 2013). Based on the types of habitats identified within the study area, surveyors looked for evidence of mammals which are likely to occur.

1.2.2.1 Badger (*Meles Meles*)

A thorough badger survey was conducted by experienced surveyors in March 2025. The primary focus of these surveys was to identify the presence of badger including latrines, snuffle holes, prints and/or their resting places/setts (Smal, 1995). **Table 2** details the different types of badger setts that can be encountered and criteria on how to define these in the field. Badgers are legally protected under the Wildlife Act, 1976 (and Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000).

The survey approach entailed a systematic walkover of suitable habitat within and adjacent to the study area. Surveys included the identification of suitable habitat, detection of field signs such as tracks, markings, feeding signs, droppings and scent points, as well as direct observation. All mammal target notes were accompanied by a photo and six figure grid reference.

The surveys were carried out in line with guidelines referenced in Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) (2013) *Competencies for Species Survey: Badger* and in line with Irish survey guidelines including *Guidelines for the Treatment of Badgers Prior to the Construction of National Road Schemes*

(National Roads Authority) (NRA, 2005). Where possible, every effort was made, through repeat visits, to assign the level of use and the status of a badger sett.

Wildlife trail cameras were deployed with a clear vantage point of burrow entrances that were identified as potentially active and/or inactive badger setts. Details of the burrows identified, and the cameras deployed at each are provided in **Table 3**.

Sett type	Definition
Main	• Larger well-established sett with several entrances (1 to 38, average 6 to 7). • Large spoil heaps and obvious paths from or between sett entrances. • Typically, in continuous use and where cubs are raised.
Annex	• Secondary large sett, generally smaller than the main sett. • Close to main sett (within 150), with several entrances (1 to 14, average 3 to 4). • Often linked to main sett by well-worn paths. • May not be in use all the time, but can be very active particularly during the spring when it may also be used for breeding.
Subsidiary	• Usually, >50m from main sett with 5 or less entrances (1 to 8, average 2 to 3). • No obvious paths to other setts. • May only be used intermittently, possibly on a seasonal basis.
Outlier	• Often only a single entrance (1 to 5, average 1 to 2). • May be located some distance from the main sett. • Little spoil visible, no obvious paths. • May only be used sporadically. • May also be used by foxes and rabbits.

Table 2: Types of Badger Setts

Sett Number	Deployment and Retrieval Dates	Description of Area	Image of Camera Setup
Sett 1	No Deployment (Considered an inactive sett approx. 95 m from the project)	Entrance 1	No camera set up at this location, as this entrance was considered inactive.
Sett 2	Deployment: 06/03/2025 to 27/03/2025	Entrance 1 Deployed in front of sett entrance in wooded area.	
Sett 3	Deployment: 06/03/2025 to 27/03/2025	Entrance 1 Deployed in front of sett entrance on raised bank.	

Sett 4	Deployment: 27/03/2025 to	Entrance 1 Deployed in front of sett under Horse chestnut tree.	
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Table 3: Trail Camera Deployments targeting Badger Features of Interest

1.2.2.2 Otter (*Lutra Lutra*)

Otter surveys took place in March 2025 by suitably experienced surveyors. Surveys were completed in line with NRA (2006) *Guidance on the Treatment of Otter Prior to the Construction of a Road Scheme* and NRA (2009b) *Guidance on Ecological Surveying Techniques for Protected Flora and Fauna*. This species is listed under Annex II and Annex IV of the EU Habitats Directive, and it is also a legally protected species under the Wildlife Act, 1976 (and Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000). Signs of otter were systematically searched for at each watercourse crossing and approximately 150m up and downstream of each crossing point, where accessible. Signs could include spraint, footprints, riparian paths/tracks through vegetation, slides and feeding signs. Both banksides of each watercourse were thoroughly checked for any evidence of a resting place or breeding place (a couch orholt).

Survey periods were selected to avoid periods of high flow rates in watercourses that follow heavy rain, which can wash away otter prints and spraints (droppings), and thus making it more difficult to survey for this species and collect evidence of otter.

To ensure a methodical approach and good coverage, along each of the watercourses, particularly within the vicinity of proposed watercourse crossings, the study area was covered by two surveyors, each of whom covered a separate stream or riverbank.

Wildlife trail cameras were deployed overlooking burrow entrances that were identified as potentially active and/or inactive otter holts. Details of the burrows identified, and the cameras deployed at each are provided in **Table 4**.

Holt Number	Deployment and Retrieval Dates	Description of Area	Image of Camera Setup
Holt 1	Deployment 1: 06/03/2025 to 27/03/2025	Entrance 1: Deployed in front of entrance on raised bank.	

			
Holt 2	No Deployment (Considered an inactive holt approx. 90 m from the project)	Entrance 1	No camera set up at this location, as this entrance was considered inactive.

Table 4: Trail Camera Deployments targeting Otter Features of Interest

1.2.2.3 Pine Marten (*Martes martes*)

Pine marten surveys were completed as part of the overall non-volant mammal surveys in March 2025. Surveys were completed in line with NRA (2009) *Guidance on Ecological Surveying Techniques for Protected Flora and Fauna*. The pine marten is a semi-arboreal member of the mustelid family. It is typically associated with woodland habitats, however, in Ireland its range has been found to also encompass more open scrub habitats (O'Mahony *et al.*, 2006). This species is considered to be an opportunistic generalist predator with a diet that includes fruit, birds and rodents (Twining *et al.*, 2019). Pine marten is listed under Annex V of the EU Habitats Directive and is also a legally protected species under the Wildlife Act, 1976 (and Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000).

Surveys for this species primarily focused along the outskirts of conifer plantation and woodland areas present within the study area. Surveys included watching out for signs such as droppings, footprints, checking for tunnels and dens in conifer plantation, and checking piles of logs within the project footprint. Surveys included checking tree stumps, fallen trees, or boulders for droppings or other evidence of pine marten. Surveys also watched out for blocks of conifer that would have potentially higher value regarding any foraging and denning opportunities at the project site.

1.2.2.4 Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*)

Red squirrel surveys were completed as part of the overall non-volant mammal surveys in March 2025. Surveys were completed in line with NRA (2009) *Guidance on Ecological Surveying Techniques for Protected Flora and Fauna*. Red squirrel is a legally protected species under the Wildlife Act, 1976 (and Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000).

Surveys included assessing trees for dreys and signs of activity in the conifer woodland, checking tree stumps, fallen trees, or boulders for evidence of feeding within the project footprint.

1.2.2.5 Other Mammals

The surveys also included recording any incidental observations or detected evidence for other mammals of conservation concern which might be using the study area (e.g., Irish hare *Lepus timidus hibernicus*, Irish stoat *Mustela erminea hibernica* and hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*).

1.2.3 SURVEY LIMITATIONS

During surveys for otters, land access and obstacles to movement occasionally hindered the ability to survey the targeted 150m either side of watercourse crossing points. In these instances, a visual assessment of the 150m up and downstream of the watercourse crossing was made from a distance, using binoculars where needed, and an assessment of habitat suitability for otter was made for the respective aquatic feature.

The survey limitations detailed above are not considered to affect the validity of the overall survey results. Habitat suitability was assessed for the target species in instances where any access restrictions arose (i.e. upstream/north of watercourse crossing of the underground electricity line at 53.920455, -8.581385). Given that access restrictions across the project site were minor, it is therefore determined that the surveys do not have significant limitations or information gaps.

1.2.4 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGIES

The ecological impact assessment used for this technical appendix follows best practice guidance for the UK and Ireland as set out by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM, 2024). Those ecological features which occur within the zone of influence such as Natura 2000 sites, and threatened habitats or species, are then evaluated in geographic hierarchy of importance. An Important Ecological Features (IEF) is one that requires 'specific assessment', due to potential for a significant effect resulting from the project. These features may include protected sites, habitats, or species which are potentially vulnerable to significant effects as a result of the project. Detailed assessment is not required for ecological features that are common, not at risk, or those resilient enough to withstand the project's impacts while remaining viable (CIEEM, 2024).

1.3 BASELINE ECOLOGICAL CONDITION

The following section describes the existing ecological baseline, i.e. the survey results, within the study area, and in areas along the underground electricity line.

1.3.1 EXISTING ECOLOGICAL RECORDS

Records of protected species and species of notable conservation concern, within 2km of the study area are provided in **Table 5**.

Species ⁹	Scientific Name	Habitats Directive Annex II / IV ¹⁰	Wildlife Act ¹¹	Red List Status ¹²	Most Recent Record
Mammals					
Eurasian badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	N	Y	LC	2014
European otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Y	Y	LC	2005

⁹ Key to Red List Status: CR = Critically Endangered; NT = Near Threatened; VU = Vulnerable; LC = Least Concern; DD = Data Deficient

¹⁰ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/natura-2000/managing-and-protecting-natura-2000-sites_en

¹¹ <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1976/act/39/enacted/en/html#zza39y1976>

¹² <https://www.npws.ie/publications/red-lists>

Species ⁹	Scientific Name	Habitats Directive Annex II / IV ¹⁰	Wildlife Act ¹¹	Red List Status ¹²	Most Recent Record
Pine marten	<i>Martes martes</i>	Y	Y	LC	2021
Irish hare	<i>Lepus timidus hibernicus</i>	N	Y	LC	2011
Irish stoat	<i>Mustela erminea hibernica</i>	N	Y	LC	2018
European hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	N	Y	LC	2017
Invasive Alien Species					
European rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> [Medium impact]	N	Y	LC	2014

**Table 5: Species of Conservation Interest recorded within 2km of the Study Area
(Source: NBDC)**

1.3.2 BADGER

The desk study revealed six previous badger records from NBDC website with the eight 2km grid squares.

Badger activity was common throughout the study area with latrines, prints, scat, trails and feeding signs recorded. Four setts were identified across the study area, comprising two active setts and two inactive setts. As a species which is vulnerable to persecution, sensitive information in relation to active and disused setts should not be made available for public circulation.

The first sett (Sett 1) was identified at the edge of a treeline approximately 90m from the project footprint. This sett has one entrance and in March 2025 appeared to be inactive as leaf litter had collected at the entrance.

The second sett (Sett 2) was located approximately 15 m from the project. This sett is considered to be an annex sett with at least 2 entrances. The sett was identified in a mound of large boulders in a treeline of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), willow (*Salix spp.*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). The agricultural habitat and network of treelines and hedgerows in the area surrounding the sett provide good quality habitat for badger. Examination of the entrance showed it to be very well used, with much bare ground in the surrounding area. There was some mounding of earth showing previous excavation and some fresh scratch marks were observed in the vicinity. A trail camera was deployed on 06 March 2025. At least two badgers were observed using the sett entrance on numerous occasions during the deployment. The badgers were observed mating at the sett entrance. This sett is considered to be an **active** annex sett.

The third sett (Sett 3) was identified approximately 2 m from the project. The sett had two entrances with an active sett entrance located on the bank of peat under a treeline of birch (*Betula spp.*). A latrine was observed approximately 1 m from the active sett entrance. A trail camera was deployed on 06 March 2025 and one badger was observed using the sett throughout deployment. Judging from the size of this sett which has one apparent active entrance (and one inactive entrance), it is concluded that this is an **active** outlier badger sett in accordance with the characteristics summarised in **Table 2**.

The largest badger sett (Sett 4) was recorded approximately 45 m from the proposed grid connection route. The sett is located along a watercourse (Lung River) within a

treeline comprising mainly of ash, willow, birch and horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*). Examinations of the entrances showed bare ground in the surrounding area and little accumulated litter (for example, leaves and sticks) in the entrances. Other signs of mammal activity, such as trails were observed in the general vicinity of this sett. A trail camera was deployed on 27 March 2025, and no badgers were observed using the sett. Upon retrieval of the camera in May, it was apparent that vegetation had overgrown the sett area and no evidence of badger activity was observed at that time.

Judging from the size of this sett which has at least seven entrances, as well as the lack of activity recorded at this location during the trail camera deployment, it is concluded that this is a currently inactive main badger sett¹³.

The results of trail camera monitoring of badger setts are summarised in

¹³ Note: Pre-construction monitoring would be needed for mammal burrows, as activity can change over time.

, (**Appendix I**) and a description of all additional sett entrances identified during surveys, but not monitored with trail cameras, is provided in **Table 9 (Appendix I)**. The locations of all badger setts, active and inactive within the study area can be found in Confidential **Annex 5.5**. This should not be made publicly available in order to protect the resting sites of this species.

The study area and surrounding area provides suitable habitat for foraging and breeding badger, and usage of the study area corresponds with that which would be expected for this type of area. Given that badger is a protected species under the Wildlife Act (1976) as amended (2000) the badger population at the study area is considered to be a feature of Local (Higher) importance.

1.3.3 OTTER

The NBDC database for the eight 2km grid squares in which the study area is located revealed one previous record of otter from grid square, M69E, recorded from 1980.

Field surveys of the study area yielded occasional signs of otter activity, with field signs located on the Owengarve River in vicinity of turbine T1 (53.952696, -8.581969) and turbine T6. Recorded field signs indicative of otter activity included spraint, trails, slides and trail camera footage.

Two suspected holts were recorded during surveys. The first suspected holt (Holt 1) was located near turbine T1, approximately 20m from the project. The suspected holt consisted of an entrance in a peat ditch surrounded by scrub vegetation. Fresh spraint was observed outside the entrance, and a second entrance was recorded on the opposite side of the ditch. A trail camera was deployed on 06 March 2025, and provided evidence of otter presence at this site (see **Table 8, Appendix I**). However, no observations were made of otter entering or exiting the suspected holt entrance. This feature is a suspected holt and is considered to be a likely active holt.

The second suspected holt (Holt 2) is approx. 95m from the project. It consists of an entrance in proximity to a watercourse. There were no signs of otter in the vicinity and the suspected holt is considered inactive.

There was evidence of otter presence in the study area, in particular around the Owengarve river in the vicinity of turbine T1. No evidence of otters breeding within the study area was found during field surveys.

Given the evidence of otter activity on this site, otter has been valued as Local (Higher) importance and will be brought forward to the impact assessment stage.

1.3.4 PINE MARTEN

The NBDC database for the eight 2km grid squares in which the study area is located revealed one previous record of otter from grid square, M69D, recorded from 2021.

Presence of pine marten was recorded at one location in the north of the study area by a trail camera. Pine marten faeces were recorded at the edge of forestry in the central portion of the study area. There were no direct sightings of pine marten and no evidence of breeding (e.g. dens) within the study area during field surveys.

Elevated arboreal cavities are preferred structures in which to construct their dens, as they offer pine marten effective insulation and protection from predators such as foxes (Birks *et al.* 2005). While there is ample woodland habitat within the study area, most of this comprises conifer plantations which typically do not possess many tree cavities/hollows etc. that are preferable for pine marten dens.

Given that pine marten was recorded within the study area, the presence of some areas of suitable woodland habitat within the study area, and its Annex IV protected status, it is considered likely that the study area and surrounding area supports a population of pine marten that is of Local (Higher) importance. As such, pine marten is a key ecological feature and will be brought forward into the impact assessment stage.

1.3.5 RED SQUIRREL

There are no NBDC records of red squirrel with the eight 2km grid squares in which the study area is located. There is one record within 10km grid square M69 from 2001.

Dedicated red squirrel surveys were undertaken, including walked transects through coniferous plantation forestry. Feeding signs were recorded in the form of a stockpile of discarded pinecones at the edge of forestry in the central portion of the study area (see **Plate 5**,

APPENDIX II). No individuals were observed and no confirmed active dreys were recorded within the study area during the surveys.

Although potential evidence of red squirrel was recorded within the study area, no evidence of populations of squirrel being significant at more than a local level was recorded. Based on the low number of squirrel records for the site, squirrel has been assessed as of Local Importance (Higher value). It will not be brought forward to the impact assessment stage.

1.3.6 OTHER MAMMALS

1.3.6.1 Irish Hare (*Lepus timidus hibernicus*)

There were no sightings of Irish hare during field surveys in 2025, nor were any field signs recorded. However, the study area is considered as having suitable resting and breeding habitat for this species.

1.3.6.2 Irish Stoat (*Mustela erminea Hibernica*)

There were no sightings of Irish stoat during field surveys in 2025 nor were any field signs recorded. However, the study area is considered as having suitable resting and breeding habitat for this species.

1.3.6.3 Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

Signs of fox primarily in the form of scat and numerous mammal trails were recorded across the study area during mammal surveys in March 2025.

1.4 SUMMARY

Mammal activity was recorded frequently throughout the study area during surveys. A summary of mammals recorded within the study area and their ecological evaluation are shown in **Table 6**.

Important Ecological Features (IEF's) identified	Highest Evaluation/ Importance	Basis of Evaluation	IEF brought forward into impact assessment stage? Y/N
Badger	Local (Higher)	Two active and two inactive badger setts recorded across the study area.	Y – will be brought forward into impact assessment stage.
Otter	Local (Higher)	Two suspected otter holts recorded across the Study area. These are considered to be potentially active based on evidence of otter in the vicinity of these features. On basis of habitat suitability and presence of otter on trail camera footage, the study area is considered to contribute to the local otter population.	Y – will be brought forward into impact assessment stage.
Pine marten	Local (Higher)	Pine marten foraging within the study area. On basis of habitat suitability and trail camera footage, the study area is considered to contribute to the local pine marten population.	Y – will be brought forward into impact assessment stage.
Red squirrel	Local (Higher)	The project has the potential to result in direct and indirect effects on this receptor. Given the extent of suitable habitat in the	N – will not be brought forward into

		area for the species, the small footprint of the proposed infrastructure and the fact that the project will not result in any fragmentation of red squirrel habitat, red squirrel has not been included as an Important Ecological Feature (IEF).	impact assessment stage.
Irish hare	Local (Lower)	No evidence of Irish hare recorded during field surveys or within the desk study records. However, the site does support suitable habitat for this species.	N – will not be brought forward into impact assessment stage.
Irish stoat	Local (Lower)	No evidence of Irish stoat recorded during field surveys or within the desk study records. However, the Study area is considered as having suitable resting and breeding habitat for this species.	N – will not be brought forward into impact assessment stage.
Fox	Local (Lower)	The wider area provides an abundance of suitable habitat for fox. Not specifically protected under wildlife legislation.	N – will not be brought forward into impact assessment stage.

Table 6: Ecological Evaluation of Mammals in Study Area

Guidelines followed for assessment: CIEEM (2024)

1.5 DISCUSSION

Key ecological constraints that have been identified as a result of the surveys and that may be impacted by the project are as follows:-

- Terrestrial mammal surveys confirmed the presence of two active (an annex and an outlier sett) badger setts within the study area. Appropriate exclusion buffer zones of 50m (150m if blasting or pile driving are to be carried out) around confirmed badger setts will need to be implemented during construction to avoid disturbance to these species (NRA, 2005). If this is not possible it will be necessary to consult with the local authority in relation to specific mitigation for the protection of badgers at this site;
- Otter surveys indicated the presence of two otter holts within the study area; considered to be one active and one inactive holt. An active holt may require an exclusion zone (up to 150m if breeding females or cubs present) in accordance with TII Guidelines (2006);
- Pine marten and otter were confirmed to be utilising the study area for foraging however, no confirmed breeding or resting sites were identified for either species; and,
- Several inactive mammal burrows were recorded across the study area, therefore it will be necessary to conduct pre-construction inspection surveys on these features to determine possible re-excavation and occupancy. If mammals, particularly badgers and/or otter are found to be using these burrows prior to construction, a mitigation strategy will need to be employed in accordance with TII Guidelines (2009), CIEEM guidelines (2013, 2018) and under NPWS licenses (NPWS, 2025) where applicable

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APPENDIX I – RESULTS OF MAMMAL SURVEYS (CAMERA MONITORING)



Species Recorded	Notes	Image
Badger	Sett 2 Entrance 1 Two badgers recorded mating outside sett entrance –67 badger observations, 21 confirmed sett entries and 23 sett emergences. Active sett	 07/03/2025 20:40 05°C SPYPOINT FORCE-DARK
Badger	Sett 3 9 badger observation, 1 confirmed entry, no exit recorded during trail camera monitoring. Active sett	 13/03/2025 08:24 PM -01°C SPYPOINT FORCE-DARK
Badger	Sett 4 Entrance 1 No badger observations. Inactive sett	 11/04/2025 11:33 12°C SPYPOINT FORCE-DARK

Table 7: Results of Badger Sett Trail Camera Monitoring

Species Recorded	Notes	Image
Otter, Badger, Pine Marten (all recorded on trail camera)	Holt 1 Entrance 1 One observation of otter. One observation of badger. Three observation of pine marten. No mammals recorded entering or exiting burrow, however due to spraint near entrance, this is considered a potentially active otter holt following the Precautionary Principal (CIEEM, 2018).	 21/03/2025 19:54 04°C SPYPOINT FORCE-DARK

None, no trail camera deployed at this holt	Holt 2 Entrance 1 Inactive holt entrance	
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Table 8: Identified Otter Holt including Trail Camera Monitoring.

Notes	Image
Sett 1 Entrance 1 Inactive sett entrance.	
Sett 2 Entrance 2 Inactive sett entrance.	
Sett 3 Entrance 2 Inactive sett entrance c. 2 m west of entrance 1 within same treeline.	

Sett 4 Entrance 2 Inactive sett entrance.	
Sett 4 Entrance 3 Inactive sett entrance.	
Sett 4 Entrance 4 Inactive sett entrance	
Sett 4 Entrance 5 Inactive sett entrance	

Table 9:Additional Badger Setts identified in the Study Area

APPENDIX II - PLATES



Plate 1: Badgers mating in front of active sett 2 entrance



Plate 2: Pine marten present at holt entrance 1



Plate 3: Otter spraint in vicinity of holt 1



Plate 4: Badger prints on muddy trail



Plate 5: Squirrel feeding signs



Plate 6: Badger latrine near Sett 3.



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