

Ballyfeeny Green Energy Project



Environmental Impact Assessment Report Volume III

Appendix 6.2 - Desk Study
September 2025

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Ballyfeeny Green Energy Limited

Ballyfeeny Green Energy Project

Appendix 6.2: Desk Study Technical Appendix

September 2025

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2. DESK STUDY

A search of the following websites has been undertaken:

- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) website, including:
 - Status of Protected Habitats and Species Map Viewer¹;
 - Protected Flora Order 2022 Map Viewer – Vascular Plants²;
 - Flora Protection Order Map Viewer - Bryophytes³;
 - Review of NPWS Article 17 reporting⁴;
- National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) website (accessed 06/06/2025);
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website (accessed 06/06/2025);
- Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) website (accessed 06/06/2025);
- BirdWatch Ireland (BWI) website (accessed 06/06/2025);
- Irish Birding website (accessed 06/06/2025);
- Bat Conservation Ireland (BCI) website (accessed 06/06/2025); and
- Butterfly Conservation Ireland website (accessed 06/06/2025).

Additional sources of relevant data included the websites of An Coimisiún Pleanála (previously An Bord Pleanála) and relevant planning authorities (including Roscommon County Council) to review ecological data associated with other plans and projects occurring in the wider area, in addition to assessing such plans or project in relation to cumulative and in-combination effects.

Websites of relevant government departments and agencies were also reviewed, particularly in relation to current legislative requirements and guidance around EIARs and ecological assessments, such as the National Biodiversity Plan, local county development plans, etc.

2.1 Statutory Sites

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) spatial datasets for European Statutory Sites and Nationally Statutory Sites were downloaded from the NPWS. All European, Important Bird Areas (IBAs), RAMSAR and National Sites that could potentially be affected were identified using the SPR approach. The site synopses and conservation objectives of these sites, as per the NPWS website, were consulted, reviewed and outlined in **Section 6.6.2**.

2.2 Habitats

A search of the following information sources was undertaken and updated throughout the assessment process to ensure current data were incorporated into the assessment:

¹<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/edf34d92e28040fd87d3d14f55d8d95f> [Accessed 06/06/2025]

²<https://heritagedata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a41ef4e10227499d8de17a8abe42bd1e> [Accessed 06/06/2025]

³<https://dahq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=71f8df33693f48edbb70369d7fb26b7e> [Accessed 06/06/2025]

⁴ <https://www.npws.ie/publications/article-17-reports> [Accessed 06/06/2025]

- NPWS website (accessed 04/06/2025);
- Status of Protected Habitats and Species Map Viewer;
- Protected Flora Order 2022 Map Viewer; and
- NBDC website; (area searched includes the M97 and M98 10km grid squares within which the proposed Project is located, accessed 06/06/2025).

Satellite maps, available at <https://www.google.com/maps/>, were reviewed (last accessed on 06/06/2025) in addition to Fossitt's *A Guide to Habitats in Ireland* (Fossitt, 2000) and Geographic Information System (GIS) was used to identify the size of the survey area and the habitats present within and adjacent to the proposed Project. Information on plant species present within the proposed Projects was obtained from the NPWS data request sent in May 2022. A list of protected plant species recorded within the 10km grid squares in which the proposed Project was procured from the NBDC maps (See **Table 2.1**).

Aerial photography assisted habitat delineation and interpretation.

Table 2.1: NBDC records of designated invasive plant species within the M97 and M98 10km grid squares.

Common name	Scientific name	Record Count	Date of latest record	Designation
M97				
Canadian Waterweed	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	2	13/08/2008	Regulation S.I. 477
M98				
Canadian Waterweed	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	34	14/08/2017	Regulation S.I. 477
Curly Waterweed	<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	1	31/12/2000	Regulation S.I. 477
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	5	14/08/2008	Regulation S.I. 477
Japanese knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	7	28/08/2019	Regulation S.I. 477
Wall Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	1	16/08/2022	Regulation S.I. 477
Nuttall's Waterweed	<i>Elodea nuttallii</i>	3	14/08/2017	Regulation S.I. 477

2.3 Ornithology

A search of the following information sources was undertaken and updated throughout the assessment process to ensure current data were incorporated into the assessment:

- NPWS website (accessed 06/06/2025); and
- NBDC website; (area searched included the M97 and M98 10km grid squares within which the Project is located, accessed on 06/06/2025).

A search was made via NPWS for any Statutory Sites for nature conservation value (e.g., SPAs, Ramsar sites) with features of ornithological interest, and any other relevant protected and priority habitats. A search was also made for non-statutory Statutory Sites with features of ornithological interest. Important Bird Areas (IBAs) have also been considered alongside 'European sites' due to their importance to the conservation of bird populations at an international level.

NBDC records for the area in which the Project is located were consulted for observations of protected birds in the M97 and M98 10km grid squares (NBDC, 2025). The results are shown in **Table 2.2**.

Table 2.2: NBDC records bird species within the M97 and M98 10km grid squares.

Common name	Scientific name	Record Count	Date of latest record	Designation
M97				
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	2	29/02/1984	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex II; Annex III; Amber List
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	13	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex II; Red List
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	8	16/02/2021	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	11	28/04/2021	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	1	29/02/1984	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex II; Annex III; Red List
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	8	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex II; Annex III; Red List
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	16	28/04/2021	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	10	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; Red List
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	9	09/11/2020	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive - Annex II; Red List
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	3	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex II; Annex III; Amber List
Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	1	29/02/1984	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex II; Annex III; Amber List
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	7	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex I; Red List
Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	1	29/02/1984	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex II; Annex III; Red List
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	15	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	2	20/06/2020	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	3	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	7	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; Red List
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	6	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex I; Amber List
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	1	29/02/1984	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex I; Amber List
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	8	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	13	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	6	31/07/1991	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	8	28/04/2021	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex II; Annex III; Amber List
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	19	28/04/2021	Wildlife Acts; Red List
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	6	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	6	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive - Annex II; Red List
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	1	29/02/1984	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive - Annex II; Annex III; Amber List

Common name	Scientific name	Record Count	Date of latest record	Designation
Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	1	29/02/1984	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex II; Annex III; Red List
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex I
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	6	11/02/2021	Wildlife Acts; Red List
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	9	28/04/2021	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	8	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	6	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	3	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex II; Annex III; Amber List
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	4	18/11/2022	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive - Annex I; Amber List
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	20	28/04/2021	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
M98				
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	2	31/07/1991	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex I; Amber List
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	22	23/06/2024	Wildlife Acts
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	1	22/09/2019	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex I; Red List
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	13	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	18	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex II; Annex III; Amber List
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	4	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex II; Red List
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	8	02/05/2020	Wildlife Acts
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	10	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex I; Red List
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	5	24/06/2022	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	12	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	22	07/04/2020	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex II; Annex III
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	5	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex II; Annex III; Red List
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	5	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; Red List
Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	3	31/07/1991	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	20	14/05/2020	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex II; Annex III; Red List
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	27	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	7	23/06/2024	Wildlife Acts; Red List
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	29	22/09/2019	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex II; Annex III
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	1	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive - Annex I; Red List

Common name	Scientific name	Record Count	Date of latest record	Designation
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	9	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive - Annex II; Red List
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	7	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex II; Annex III; Amber List
Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	8	31/07/1991	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex II; Annex III; Amber List
Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	5	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive - Annex I; Red List
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	1	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive - Annex II; Amber List
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	19	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Great black-Backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	1	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	13	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	25	05/05/2019	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	4	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; Red List
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	10	09/04/2020	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	20	23/11/2019	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	6	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Little Egret	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	1	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive - Annex I
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	23	07/04/2020	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex II; Annex III; Amber List
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	26	21/04/2020	Wildlife Acts; Red List
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	31	19/04/2020	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	17	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive - Annex II; Red List
Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	2	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex II; Annex III; Red List
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	11	02/11/2019	Wildlife Acts; Red List
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	2	31/07/1991	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	8	11/08/2019	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	9	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	8	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; Amber List
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	14	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive – Annex II; Annex III; Amber List
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	5	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	11	31/12/2011	Wildlife Acts; EU Birds Directive - Annex I; Amber List
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	22	03/04/2021	Wildlife Acts; Amber List

Bird Sensitivity to Wind Energy by Birdwatch Ireland (McGuinness *et al.*, 2015) was consulted via the NBDC records (for the M97 and M98 10km grid squares) and subsequently used to inform the identification of species requiring detailed assessment of effects.

2.4 Bats

A search of the following information sources was undertaken and updated throughout the assessment process to ensure current data were incorporated into the assessment:

- BCI data search (received 22/07/2025);
- NPWS website (accessed 06/06/2025); and
- NBDC website; (area searched include M98 10km Grid Square within which the proposed Project is located, (accessed on 06/06/2025).

A search was made via NPWS for any Statutory Sites for nature conservation value (e.g., SACs, pNHAs), and any other relevant protected and priority habitats for bats.

National landscape suitability maps for Irish bat species and species-specific roosting characteristics (Lundy *et al.*, 2011), along with the National Bat Database of Ireland (Bat Conservation Ireland, 2025) were reviewed using the Map Viewer of the National Biodiversity Data Centre, accessed on 06/06/2025. Records of known bat species within OS 10 km grid squares (M97 and M98) of the proposed Project were obtained from the NBDC maps at the outset of the Project (see **Table 2.3**).

Table 2.3: NBDC records of bat species within the M97 and M98 10km grid squares.

Common name	Scientific name	Record Count	Date of latest record	Designation
M97				
Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	75	17/08/2019	EU Habitats Directive- Annex IV; Wildlife Acts
Daubenton's Bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	4	28/06/2018	EU Habitats Directive- Annex IV; Wildlife Acts
Leisler's Bat (Lesser Noctule)	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	276	17/08/2019	EU Habitats Directive- Annex IV; Wildlife Acts
Nathusius' Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	1	16/07/2015	EU Habitats Directive- Annex IV; Wildlife Acts
Soprano Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	46	04/08/2018	EU Habitats Directive- Annex IV; Wildlife Acts
M98				
Brown Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	1	17/07/2006	EU Habitats Directive- Annex IV; Wildlife Acts
Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	56	19/07/2019	EU Habitats Directive- Annex IV; Wildlife Acts
Daubenton's Bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	3	04/07/2018	EU Habitats Directive- Annex IV; Wildlife Acts
Leisler's Bat (Lesser Noctule)	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	35	04/08/2018	EU Habitats Directive- Annex IV; Wildlife Acts
Natterer's Bat	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	1	31/07/2018	EU Habitats Directive- Annex IV; Wildlife Acts
Soprano Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	71	19/07/2019	EU Habitats Directive- Annex IV; Wildlife Acts

Separately to the NBDC search, the BCI search yielded 933 records associated with bats (although some of these may overlap with those from the NBDC). Of these, sixteen were within 5km of the proposed Project (see **Table 2.4**).

Table 2.4: BCI records of bat species within 5km of the proposed Project.

BCI Source	Coordinates	Details of observations
Private	200000, 285000	Plecotus auritus
Private	197000, 282000	Myotis nattereri
Carrowclogher Transect	192900, 278100	Myotis daubentonii
M87 (5) 2003-	202100, 286400	Pipistrellus pipistrellus (45kHz), Pipistrellus pygmaeus, Nyctalus leisleri, Pipistrellus spp. (45kHz/55kHz), Myotis spp., Plecotus auritus, Unidentified bat
M87 (6) 2003-	198400, 284000	Pipistrellus pipistrellus (45kHz), Pipistrellus pygmaeus, Myotis spp., Nyctalus leisleri, Unidentified bat, Pipistrellus spp. (45kHz/55kHz)
M87 (7) 2003-	194700, 279500	Nyctalus leisleri, Pipistrellus spp. (45kHz/55kHz), Pipistrellus pipistrellus (45kHz), Pipistrellus pygmaeus, Unidentified bat, Pipistrellus nathusii
Consultancy Surveys	192900, 280900	Pipistrellus pipistrellus (45kHz)
BATLAS 2010	201200, 286500	Pipistrellus pygmaeus
BATLAS 2010	193800, 276300	Unidentified bat, Pipistrellus pipistrellus (45kHz), Nyctalus leisleri, Myotis spp.
BATLAS 2020	195226, 279488	Pipistrellus pipistrellus (45kHz), Pipistrellus pygmaeus
BATLAS 2020	197943, 284200	Pipistrellus pipistrellus (45kHz), Pipistrellus pygmaeus, Nyctalus leisleri, Myotis daubentonii
BATLAS 2020	201769, 278436	Pipistrellus pygmaeus, Nyctalus leisleri, Myotis spp.
BATLAS 2020	200987, 281407	Pipistrellus pipistrellus (45kHz), Myotis spp.
BATLAS 2020	201374, 283072	Pipistrellus pipistrellus (45kHz), Pipistrellus pygmaeus, Nyctalus leisleri
BATLAS 2020	201261, 286389	Pipistrellus pipistrellus (45kHz), Pipistrellus pygmaeus, Nyctalus leisleri, Myotis spp., Pipistrellus spp. (45kHz/55kHz)
National Biodiversity Data Centre Bat Records	199400, 283700	Pipistrellus spp. (45kHz/55kHz)

2.5 Mammals and Other Receptors

2.5.1 Terrestrial Mammal Ecology

Utilising satellite maps available at <https://www.google.com/maps/>, accessed on 28/11/2024). A desktop review was undertaken to identify suitable habitat for rare and protected mammals within the Project and receiving environment. A data request was also sent to NPWS GIS division in February 2022 for a full inventory of all protected and rare species recorded within the M97 and M98 10km square overlapping the Site boundary. The database of the National Biodiversity Data Centre was also consulted accessed on 05/06/2025 to assess the presence of rare mammal species and records of protected species reported within the 10km grid squares overlapping the Project (see **Table 2.5**).

Table 2.5: NBDC records of protected and invasive animal species within the M97 and M98 grid squares.

Common name	Scientific name	Record Count	Date of latest record	Designation
M97				
Terrestrial Mammals				
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	16	25/07/2014	Wildlife Acts; EU Habitats Directive – Annex II; Annex IV
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	62	31/12/2016	Wildlife Acts
Pygmy Shrew	<i>Sorex minutus</i>	1	30/05/2011	Wildlife Acts
Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	3	26/09/2016	Wildlife Acts
Pine Marten	<i>Martes martes</i>	7	29/06/2021	EU Habitats Directive - Annex V; Wildlife Acts
Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	11	18/08/2023	Wildlife Acts
Amphibians and Reptiles				
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	8	08/02/2015	EU Habitats Directive - Annex V; Wildlife Acts
Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	1	03/10/2020	Wildlife Acts
Invasive Species				
American Mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>	2	04/04/2015	High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477
Fallow Deer	<i>Dama dama</i>	1	29/05/1991	High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	1	29/05/1991	Medium Impact Invasive Species (Regulation S.I. 477)
M98				
Terrestrial Mammals				
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	9	21/09/2010	Wildlife Acts; EU Habitats Directive – Annex II; Annex IV
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	57	31/12/2016	Wildlife Acts
Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	10	26/07/2015	Wildlife Acts
Pine Marten	<i>Martes martes</i>	6	28/07/2015	EU Habitats Directive - Annex V; Wildlife Acts
Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	3	22/06/2020	Wildlife Acts
Amphibians and Reptiles				
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	6	04/03/2020	EU Habitats Directive - Annex V; Wildlife Acts
Smooth Newt	<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>	1	11/04/2020	Wildlife Acts
Invasive Species				
American Mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>	4	03/05/2013	High Impact Invasive Species (Regulation S.I. 477)
Zebra Mussel	<i>Dreissena polymorpha</i>	3	10/08/2011	High Impact Invasive Species (Regulation S.I. 477)
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	2	08/07/2015	Medium Impact Invasive Species (Regulation S.I. 477)
Invertebrates				
Marsh Fritillary	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>	4	01/06/2023	EU Habitats Directive - Annex II

2.5.2 Terrestrial Invertebrates – Desktop Review

A search of the following websites was undertaken:

- NPWS website (accessed 04/06/2025);
- Status of Protected Habitats and Species Map Viewer¹;
- Protected Flora Order 2022 Map Viewer²;
- National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) website; (area searched includes the M97 and M98 10km grid squares within which the proposed Project is located, accessed on 06/06/2025.
- Environmental Protection Agency website (EPA), accessed on 03/12/2024; and
- Butterfly Ireland website.

2.5.3 Amphibians and Reptiles – Desktop Review

The database of the National Biodiversity Data Centre was consulted and accessed on 05/06/2025 to assess the presence of amphibian and reptile species reported within the grid squares overlapping the Project. Satellite mapping was also consulted to assess suitable habitat for reptiles and amphibians within or adjacent to the Project.

2.6 Aquatic Ecology

Whilst there are no watercourses on site, two freshwater watercourses which could be impacted directly or indirectly by the proposed Project and associated infrastructure were considered as part of the current assessment. This included sites in the vicinity of the Site boundary and proposed turbine array in addition to watercourse crossings along the GCR of the Project. Thus, a total of 13 riverine sites and two lacustrine sites were selected for detailed aquatic assessment (**Appendix 6.7**). The courses and nomenclature for the watercourses surveyed followed Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mapping.

A comprehensive desktop review of available data from the NPWS, NBDC, Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI), National Crayfish Plague Surveillance Programme (NCPSP), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Triturus databases for the 10km grid squares containing and adjoining the project (i.e. M07, M08, M17 & M18) was undertaken for the identified watercourses.