

Feral pig /Wild boar hybrids

Sus scrofa

Invasive: High impact

Species profile

- Habitat:** Terrestrial.
- Distribution in Ireland:** Widespread but localised, not currently reported from the North of the country or the far west.
- Reproduction:** Can have large litter sizes, piglets have a characteristic striped appearance.
- Status:** Established.
- Family name:** Suidae.

Identifying features

- Colour:** Dark brown/brindle coat which is coarse in appearance.
- Build:** Powerfully built with body weight carried forwards on strong shoulders, tapering down to a small rump.
- Tail:** Straight with long hairs, tassled at tip.
- Ears:** Stiff and upright.
- Young/piglets:** Have lighter brown and cream stripes lengthwise over their bodies. The stripes fade by the time the piglet is about 6 months old.



Feral pig showing its powerful build, humped back as well as a short rough coat
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Feral pig in Ireland
© D. Scanlon



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Threats

Can be destructive and become agricultural pests if they are widely established.

Can uproot vegetation and disturb ground.

Can predate upon ground-nesting bird eggs and young as well as small mammals.

Feral pigs could also become a reservoir for certain diseases which could possibly impact negatively upon domestic livestock.

Similar species

Domestic pig (*Sus scrofa domesticus*) – certain breeds of domestic pig (such as tamworths or mangalitsas) could possibly be confused with a feral pig/wild boar hybrid.



Showing their characteristic humped back
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Feral pigs are often brindled but can often appear darker due to dirt and vegetation
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An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



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View Ireland's distribution of this
species on <http://maps.biodiversityireland.ie>

National Biodiversity Data Centre fact sheet.
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