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CIEEM 2025 AUTUMN CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

BRIDGING THE EVIDENCE GAP IN ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER

08:45 Registration & Tea / Coffee

SESSION 1. EVIDENCE AT THE POLICY FRONTLINE

Chair: Penny Lewns CEcol CEnv MCIEEM, CIEEM President

09:30 **Welcome and Introduction** - Penny Lewns CEcol CEnv MCIEEM, CIEEM President

09:35 **Keynote:**
Evidence Everywhere All At Once: how ecological evidence can support a thriving society
Dr Ruth Waters, Director of Evidence, Natural England

10:00 **The role of evidence in holding government and public authorities to account**
Ellie Strike CEnv FCIEEM, Head of Regulatory Programmes, and Andy Gill, Head of Insight Operations, Office for Environmental Protection

10:20 **So whose evidence gap is it, anyway?**
Nigel Doar, Head of Science and Research, The Wildlife Trusts

10:40 Panel Q&A with Session 1 speakers

11:00 Break

SESSION 2. INNOVATING ECOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Chair: Sally Hayns CEcol FCIEEM, CIEEM CEO

11:30 **Invertebrate assemblage analysis: a data-rich approach for informing, delivering and sustaining habitat creation**
Richard Wilson CEnv MCIEEM Mem.RES, Richard Wilson Ecology

11:55 **Can conservation detection dogs identify honey waxcap, *Hygrocybe reidii*, through scent in the field as a new innovative approach to surveying waxcaps**
Kirsten Oliver ACIEEM, Steve Pullan CEcol CEnv FCIEEM(rtd), Severn Trent Water, and Kat Janczur, Canine Detection Solutions

12:20 **From research to reality: implementing novel water vole mitigation strategies at The Moors at Arne**

	Dr Merryl Gelling CEcol MCIEEM, Spires Ecology
12:45	Lunch
13:15 – 14:00	Drop-in workshops with sponsors and exhibitors (In-person only) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Breaking Down Silos: Addressing Evidence Gaps in Biodiversity Net Gain Delivery – AiDASH 2. What's New From Wildlife Acoustics – Wildlife Acoustics 3. Using Thermal Imaging for Wildlife Surveys - Wildcare 4. The UKHab and BNG Survey - Collecting and managing high quality data for Biodiversity Net Gain projects - Coreo by Natural Apptitude 5. Real World use of Thermal Imaging in Wildlife Observation - with BBC Springwatch's Wildlife Researcher, Jack Baddams - Hikmicro
SESSION 3. WORKSHOPS HANDS-ON EVIDENCE: PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS	
14:00	<p><i>Delegates will be asked to choose workshop choices three weeks before the conference. Choose one workshop. Attendees joining online should choose workshops marked either as online or hybrid.</i></p> <p><i>In-person</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applying Biodiversity Net Gain on solar farms: building an evidence base, metric application and collaborative practice Adèle Remazeilles ACIEEM and Hannah Montag MCIEEM, Clarkson & Woods, and Finn Goddard, Natural England 2. Did the Condatis software help Local Nature Recovery Strategies to improve the connectivity of habitat networks? Dr Jenny Hodgson, University of Liverpool, and Daneen Cowling, Nature Data Solutions 3. Trees: Arboriculture OR Ecology? Amenity or biodiversity? Specialising and delegating across disciplines for better outcomes Julian Morris MArborA MICFor, Julian A Morris Professional Tree Services, and Callum Throw N.Dip Arb MArborA PTI, Arb Innovators 4. A new approach to ecological decision support: lessons learned from creating a software platform assisting with BNG across a third of England Dr Claire Tancell MCIEEM, Helen Nyul, and Dr Matthew Brown, Verna <p><i>Online</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Filling knowledge gaps to improve conservation practice [ONLINE] Dr Rebecca Smith and Dr Vanessa Cutts, Conservation Evidence, University of Cambridge

	6. “Location Links Almost Everything”: embedding spatial evidence into decision-making [ONLINE] Matt Davies and Jessica Elliott, Maplango
15:00	Break
SESSION 4. SCALING UP: DATA, ASSESSMENT AND POLICY FUTURES Chair: Ellie Strike CEnv FCIEEM, CIEEM Honorary Secretary	
15:30	Big picture, small picture: a case study of developing evidence-led methods and guidance for otter survey Dr Patrick White FCIEEM, Edinburgh Napier University
15:55	Unlocking the opportunities of biodiversity data integration in the UK Dr Catherine Burton CEcol MCIEEM MRSB Mem.RES, Joint Nature Conservation Committee
16:20	The Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment programme: an unprecedented trove of national scale environmental data for England Dr Elizabeth Mitchell, Natural England
16:45	Break
16:50 – 17:30	England’s Planning and Infrastructure Bill An update on the Planning and Infrastructure Bill followed by panel discussion and Q&A chaired by CIEEM’s CEO, Sally Hayns CEcol FCIEEM
CONFERENCE DINNER (Ticket to be purchased separately)	
18:30	Drinks Reception Sponsored by Embankment Group: Ecology Recruitment
19:30	Conference Dinner Three course dinner featuring guest speaker Craig Bennett, Chief Executive, The Wildlife Trusts

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THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER	
08:45	Registration & Tea / Coffee
AGM 09:00 – 09:55	
SESSION 5: BUILDING THE EVIDENCE BASE FROM RESEARCH TO PRACTICE	
Chair: Dr Mark Nason CERP MCIEEM M.I. Soil Sci, CIEEM Head of Professional Practice	
10:05	What evidence gaps are affecting ecological work? Prof Debbie Bartlett CMLI FCIEEM SFHEA, University of Greenwich and Dr Gemma Harding MCIEEM, Natural England, both members of the CIEEM Academia Special Interest Group
10:20	Rebuilding Nature – evidence-based good practice guidance for ecological restoration Dr David Parker CEcol CEnv FCIEEM
10:30	Evidence-based guidelines in the ecology industry via formal and informal data collection: “Consultant Science” and a case study on badgers Speaker TBC, Bakerwell
10:40	Building the evidence base: embedding research into ecological consultancy Prof Richard Delahay CEcol MCIEEM, RSK Biocensus
10:55	Filling knowledge gaps to improve conservation practice Dr Rebecca Smith, Conservation Evidence, University of Cambridge
11:10	Break
SESSION 6. WORKSHOPS	
CO-CREATING EVIDENCE	
11.40	<p><i>Delegates will be asked to choose workshop choices three weeks before the conference. Choose one workshop. Attendees joining online should choose workshops marked either as online or hybrid.</i></p> <p><i>In-person</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence-based guidelines in the ecology industry via formal and informal data collection: “Consultant Science”

	<p>Fiona Baker MCIEEM, and Donna Popplewell ACIEEM, Bakerwell, and Stephen McAuliffe, University of Brighton</p> <p>2. Filling knowledge gaps to improve conservation practice Dr Rebecca Smith and Dr Vanessa Cutts, Conservation Evidence, University of Cambridge</p> <p>3. “Location Links Almost Everything”: embedding spatial evidence into decision-making Matt Davies and Jessica Elliott, Maplango</p> <p>4. How to address the evidence gaps affecting work in ecology and environmental management Prof Debbie Bartlett CMLI FCIEEM SFHEA, University of Greenwich and Dr Gemma Harding MCIEEM, Natural England, both members of the CIEEM Academia Special Interest Group</p> <p><i>Online</i></p> <p>5. A new approach to ecological decision support: Lessons learned from creating a software platform assisting with BNG across a third of England [ONLINE] Dr Claire Tancell MCIEEM, Helen Nyul, and Dr Matthew Brown, Verna</p> <p>6. Applying Biodiversity Net Gain on solar farms: building an evidence base, metric application and collaborative practice [ONLINE] Adèle Remazeilles ACIEEM and Hannah Montag MCIEEM, Clarkson & Woods, and Finn Goddard, Natural England</p>
12:35	Lunch
13:05 – 13:35	<p>Becoming an Evidence Champion (In-person only)</p> <p>Dr Rebecca Smith, Conservation Evidence, University of Cambridge</p>
<p>SESSION 7: EVIDENCE INTO ACTION: COMMUNICATION, INDUSTRY AND PRACTICE</p> <p>Chair: Chris Gerrard CEnv MCIEEM, CIEEM Vice President (England)</p>	
13:35	<p>From tender to impact: elevating evidence through proactive consultation and communication</p> <p>Dr Katie Medcalf CEnv MCIEEM M.I. Soil Sci, Environment Systems</p>
14:00	<p>Balancing afforestation with curlew conservation in the uplands: the need for evidence-based decision making</p> <p>Lisa Kerslake CEnv FCIEEM, Forestry and Land Scotland, and Dr Patrick White FCIEEM, Edinburgh Napier University</p>
14:25	<p>From evidence to impact: knowledge frameworks supporting offshore wind development (OWEKH and OWEER)</p> <p>Gillian Sutherland CEnv, The Crown Estate</p>

14:50	Break
SESSION 8: CASE STUDIES IN EVIDENCE-LED CONSERVATION Chair: Penny Lewns CEcol CEnv MCIEEM, CIEEM President	
15:20	Using the biodiversity audit and species assemblage approach to apply forest wilding interventions Chris Panter MCIEEM, Footprint Ecology, and Neal Armour-Chelu, Forestry England
15:45	Delivering healthy ecosystems: rethinking monitoring for Scotland's protected freshwaters and wetlands Dr Richard Gosling, University of Dundee
16:10	When aquatic Invasive Non-native species (INNS) start to invade! Jenny Stephenson MCIEEM, RSK Biocensus
16:35	Summary and Close