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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	<b>Drop-in workshops with sponsors and exhibitors (In-person only)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Breaking Down Silos: Addressing Evidence Gaps in Biodiversity Net Gain Delivery</b> – AiDASH</li> <li>2. <b>What's New From Wildlife Acoustics</b> – Wildlife Acoustics</li> <li>3. <b>Using Thermal Imaging for Wildlife Surveys</b> - Wildcare</li> <li>4. <b>The UKHab and BNG Survey - Collecting and managing high quality data for Biodiversity Net Gain projects</b> - Coreo by Natural Aptitude</li> <li>5. <b>Real World use of Thermal Imaging in Wildlife Observation</b> - with BBC Springwatch's Wildlife Researcher, Jack Baddams - Hikmicro</li> </ol>
<b>SESSION 3. WORKSHOPS</b>  <b>HANDS-ON EVIDENCE: PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS</b>	
14:00	<p><i>Delegates will be asked to choose workshop choices three weeks before the conference. Choose <b>one</b> 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"> <li>1. <b>Applying Biodiversity Net Gain on solar farms: building an evidence base, metric application and collaborative practice</b> Adèle Remazeilles ACIEEM and Hannah Montag MCIEEM, Clarkson &amp; Woods, and Finn Goddard, Natural England</li> <li>2. <b>Did the Condatis software help Local Nature Recovery Strategies to improve the connectivity of habitat networks?</b> Dr Jenny Hodgson, University of Liverpool, and Daneen Cowling, Nature Data Solutions</li> <li>3. <b>Trees: Arboriculture OR Ecology? Amenity or biodiversity? Specialising and delegating across disciplines for better outcomes [HYBRID]</b> Julian Morris MArborA MICFor, Julian A Morris Professional Tree Services</li> <li>4. <b>A new approach to ecological decision support: lessons learned from creating a software platform assisting with BNG across a third of England</b> Dr Claire Tancell MCIEEM, Helen Nyul, and Dr Matthew Brown, Verna</li> </ol> <p><i>Online</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. <b>Filling knowledge gaps to improve conservation practice [ONLINE]</b> Dr Rebecca Smith and Dr Vanessa Cutts, Conservation Evidence, University of Cambridge</li> <li>6. <b>"Location Links Almost Everything": embedding spatial evidence into decision-making [ONLINE]</b></li> </ol>

	Matt Davies, Maplango; Jessica Elliot, Tyler Grange; and Elina Foui, Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC
<b>15:00</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>SESSION 4. SCALING UP: DATA, ASSESSMENT AND POLICY FUTURES</b>	
<b>Chair:</b> Ellie Strike CEnv FCIEEM, CIEEM Honorary Secretary	
<b>15:30</b>	<b>Big picture, small picture: a case study of developing evidence-led methods and guidance for otter survey</b> Dr Patrick White FCIEEM, Edinburgh Napier University
<b>15:55</b>	<b>Unlocking the opportunities of biodiversity data integration in the UK</b> Dr Catherine Burton CEcol MCIEEM MRSB Mem.RES, Joint Nature Conservation Committee
<b>16:20</b>	<b>The Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment programme: an unprecedented trove of national scale environmental data for England</b> Dr Elizabeth Mitchell, Natural England
<b>16:45</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>16:50</b> – <b>17:30</b>	<b>England's Planning and Infrastructure Bill</b> An update on the Planning and Infrastructure Bill followed by panel discussion and Q&A with Ben Kite MSc CEcol PISEP MCIEEM, Chair of the Strategic Policy Panel, CIEEM, Craig Bennett, Chief Executive of The Wildlife Trusts, Chris Gerrard CEnv MCIEEM, CIEEM Vice President (England) and CIEEM's CEO, Sally Hayns CEcol FCIEEM, chaired by Dr Mark Nason CERP MCIEEM M.I. Soil Sci, CIEEM Head of Professional Practice
<b>CONFERENCE DINNER (Ticket to be purchased separately)</b>	
<b>18:30</b>	<b>Drinks Reception</b> <b>Sponsored by Embankment Group: Ecology Recruitment</b>
<b>19:30</b>	<b>Conference Dinner</b> 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	<b>What evidence gaps are affecting ecological work?</b> 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	<b>Rebuilding Nature – evidence-based good practice guidance for ecological restoration</b> Dr David Parker CEcol CEnv FCIEEM
10:30	<b>'Do Noise Buffers Work? Assessing Key Factors in Effective Badger Disturbance Mitigation'</b> Stephen McAuliffe, University of Brighton
10:40	<b>Building the evidence base: embedding research into ecological consultancy</b> Prof Richard Delahay CEcol MCIEEM, RSK Biocensus
10:55	<b>Filling knowledge gaps to improve conservation practice</b> 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 <b>one</b> 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"> <li><b>Evidence-based guidelines in the ecology industry via formal and informal data collection: “Consultant Science”</b></li> </ol>

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

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