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ADVANCING ECOLOGICAL PRACTICE: TRENDS, TOOLS AND INNOVATIONS IRELAND CONFERENCE PROGRAMME 23RD APRIL 2026	
8:30-10:30	Registration
9:00-10:00	CIEEM Freelance Practitioner Special Interest Group coffee morning
9:30 – 10:00	Live demonstration of conservation detection dogs in action Ecology Detection Dogs Working Group of Britain and Ireland
SESSION 1. Chair: Aebhin Cawley, CIEEM Vice President (Ireland)	
10:30	Welcome and Introduction
10:35	Opening address: Paul Scott CEcol CEnv MCIEEM, Head of Ecological Guidance and Advisory Unit, National Parks and Wildlife Service
10:45	Keynote: Advancing National Conservation Strategies for Breeding Waders Owen Murphy, Senior Project Manager, Breeding Waders EIP
11:15	The Independent Advisory Committee on Nature Restoration Kate Ruddock, Consultant, Independent Advisory Committee on Nature Restoration
11:35	An update on Rebuilding Nature: Good Practice Guidance for Nature Restoration Dr Declan Little MCIEEM, Biodiversity Project Delivery Manager, Coillte
11:45	Break
SESSION 2. Chair: Aebhin Cawley, CIEEM Vice President (Ireland)	
12:15	Precision Ecology: Bridging the Gap Between Remote Sensing and the Vital Role of the Field Ecologist Dave Kilbey, CEO, Coreo by Natural Aptitude and Eleanor Thomson, Lead Technologist, Gentian
12:30	Lowering the Barrier: Open Source Software and AI as Catalysts for Ecology Paul Donaghey ACIEEM, Senior Ecologist, AECOM
12:45	EcoTech Showcase Lightning Talks Greg Birdthistle, Founder, Dulra Dr Fran Tattersal, Business Development Consultant, Wildlife Acoustics Meg Brennan, Founder, Polliknow
13:00	Q+A

13:10	Lunch
SESSION 3. Chair: Dr. Ciaran Fallon, Managing Director, NatureCo	
14:30	Is Nature a blocker to development - the provision of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive when delivering restoration? Dr. Caroline Chapman FCIEEM , Director, DTA Ecology
14:45	Integrating Nature into Business: the Critical Role of Ecologists Dr. Catherine Farrell MCIEEM , Assistant Professor in Business and Nature, Trinity Business School, Trinity College Dublin
15:00	Judicial Developments - why Ecology Experts should be Court ready Leonora Mullet , Partner on the Environmental and Planning law team, Philip Lee
15:15	Q+A
15:25	Break
SESSION 4. Chair: Dr. Ciaran Fallon, Managing Director, NatureCo	
15:55	Developing a Bespoke Biodiversity Metric for Linear Infrastructure Projects in Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Dr Sarah-Jane Phelan , Environmental Scientist, Greenways & Active Travel, TII and Hannah Sheridan , Ecologist, Arup
16:10	Validation of eDNA for Invasive Species Monitoring Dr. Tom Hall , eDNA Research Lead, Zinto Labs
16:25	Detection Dogs as a Tool for Ecological Surveys in Ireland Dr. Caroline Finlay , Director, Conservation Detection Dogs NI
16:40	Q+A
16:50	Summary and Close: Paul Scott CEcol CEnv MCIEEM , Head of Ecological Guidance and Advisory Unit, National Parks and Wildlife Service
17:00	Finish