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| ADVANCING ECOLOGICAL PRACTICE: TRENDS, TOOLS AND INNOVATIONS IRELAND CONFERENCE PROGRAMME 23RD APRIL 2026 | |
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| 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 | Q+A |
| 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 |

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| 13:10 | Lunch |
| SESSION 3. Chair: Dr. Ciaran Fallon, Managing Director, NatureCo | |
| 14:20 | An update on Rebuilding Nature: Good Practice Guidance for Nature Restoration Dr Declan Little MCIEEM , Biodiversity Project Delivery Manager, Coillte |
| 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 |