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**ADVANCING ECOLOGICAL PRACTICE: TRENDS, TOOLS AND INNOVATIONS  
IRELAND CONFERENCE PROGRAMME  
23RD APRIL 2026**

<b>SESSION 1. Chair: Ella McSweeney, Journalist</b>	
8:30-10:30	<b>Registration</b>
9:00-10:00	<b>CIEEM Freelance Practitioner Special Interest Group coffee morning</b>
9:30 – 10:00	<b>Live demonstration of conservation detection dogs in action</b> Ecology Detection Dogs Working Group of Britain and Ireland
10:30	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>
10:35	<b>Opening address: Senator Malcolm Noonan</b>
10:45	<b>Keynote: Owen Murphy, Senior Project Manager, Breeding Waders EIP</b>
11:05	<b>Aebhín Cawley CEnv MCIEEM, Managing Director, Scott Cawley Limited</b>
11:15	<b>Panel Discussion with Session 1 Presenters</b> Chaired by Ella McSweeney, Journalist
11:45	<b>Break</b>
<b>SESSION 2.</b>	
12:15	<b>Precision Ecology: Bridging the Gap Between Remote Sensing and the Vital Role of the Field Ecologist</b> <b>Dave Kilbey, CEO, Coreo by Natural Aptitude and Eleanor Thomson, Lead Technologist, Gentian</b>
12:30	<b>Lowering the Barrier: Open Source Software and AI as Catalysts for Ecology</b> <b>Paul Donaghey ACIEEM, Senior Ecologist, AECOM</b>
12:45	<b>EcoTech Showcase Lightning Talks</b> Updates from providers of new tech to support ecological work
13:00	<b>Q+A</b>
13:10	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>SESSION 3.</b>	
14:20	<b>An update on Rebuilding Nature: Good Practice Guidance for Nature Restoration</b>

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