

Kate O'Neill PhD, CEnv, MIEEM

Kate O'Neill is an Ecological Consultant with 15 years experience, and has worked in the public private and charitable sectors. Kate has extensive experience in site supervision and the provision of ecological advice as part of flood defence schemes, pipeline laying, road construction schemes, conservation projects and land development schemes. This work has involved the development and implementation of practical mitigation measures and close collaboration with interested stakeholders in the private and public sector. Kate also has a background in research and has been involved in research projects on mammals and amphibians in both England and Northern Ireland, including; smooth newts, white-clawed crayfish, bats, Irish hares and red squirrels.

She also has experience in the production of high quality reports including ecological assessments and species surveys for protected and notable species and has presented her work at international and national conferences.

KEY SKILLS

Licences bat (Natural England & CCW), great crested newt (Natural England & CCW), dormouse (Natural England) and white-clawed crayfish (Natural England).

Environmental awareness Experienced field ecologist and environmental consultant with experience of key protocols.

- Environmental Clerk of Works.
- Phase I Habitat Surveys.
- Ecological Impact Assessments.
- Environmental Statements.
- In-depth understanding of key ecological issues affecting biodiversity.

Knowledge of environmental legislation Familiar with EU and UK environmental legislation.

High level of computer literacy Experienced in all common applications of personal computing in addition to specialised knowledge of scientific software.

- Statistics – SPSS, Statview, Unistat.
- Sound analysis – Bat Sound.
- GIS applications – Maps in Action.
- Mathematical modelling of ecological parameters – Ranges V, Program Mark, Surge.
- Databases – Microsoft Access.

Report writing Record of high quality reports for public and private clients, in addition to co-authoring papers in academic journals.

Effective communicator Record of spoken presentation in formal academic seminars and conferences, planning appeals and to community groups.

Membership of Professional organisations

- Chartered Environmentalist (2005).
- Full member of The Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2003).

QUALIFICATIONS

PhD in Terrestrial Ecology: Dispersal and spatial ecology of wood mice *Apodemus sylvaticus* in pastoral farmland. 2001, Queen's University, Belfast.

MRes in Animal Ecology. 1998, Queen's University, Belfast.

BSc First Class Honours in Environmental Biology. 1997, University College Dublin.

EXPERIENCE & EDUCATION

August 2010 – Present Freelance Ecological Consultant – O'Neill Ecology

- Consultant Ecologist completing ecological assessments and protected species surveys. Production of site survey reports including species specific mitigation and recommendations.

May 2010 – November 2012 Conservation Officer, Buglife – The Invertebrate Conservation Trust

- Part-time ecologist with responsibility for the implementation and management of the south-west based project on the conservation of white-clawed crayfish.
- Completion of survey protocols, licence applications, crayfish translocations and liaison with statutory organisations.

November 2004 – May 2010 Senior Environmental Scientist, Halcrow Group Ltd

- Completion of newt, bat, otter, badger, reptile and dormouse surveys. Input into environmental statements and completion of ecological impact assessments.
- Input into the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges interim advice note for bats and for red squirrels. Production of research report which included analysis of survey results on the use of highway structures by bats, coordinated bat surveys of highway structures and completed a radio-tracking study of brown long-eared bats.
- Coordinated the production of environmental impact assessments involving the design of mitigation and enhancement measures for protected and notable species and the design of environmental protection measures to minimise potential environmental impacts during construction work.
- Environmental Clerk of Works during the construction phase for road schemes and flood defence schemes. Provided on site advice relating to construction and environmental issues. Provided advice on the design of environmental mitigation and implementation on site.
- Team coordinator and project management for a range of projects to ensure work completed on time and on budget. Involved in the quality assurance of reports to ensure work produced to a high standard.

July 2003 – October 2004 Post Doctoral Research Fellow, QUERCUS Centre for Biodiversity & Conservation Biology, Queen's University Belfast.

- Co-ordinated and conducted national newt survey. Responsible for data collection, analysis, client relations and reporting. Completed survey on time and on budget.
- Conducted major cross-border review of invasive alien species in Ireland. Analysed ecological impacts, vectors and control policy. Drafted recommendations to two Governments.

May 2000 – June 2003 Environmental Consultant, ATEC, Northern Ireland.

- Protected species surveys on behalf of public and private sector clients. Key species; badger, red squirrel, bats, otter. Badger sett exclusions.
- Phase I Habitat Surveys, Flora & Fauna Surveys, Ecological Assessments and Habitat Evaluations.
- Managed a large number of projects and liaised between clients, DOENI and Planning Service NI.

- Expert witness at Planning Appeals on several occasions and a court case.

February 2002 – March 2003 Post Doctoral Research Associate, Queen's University Belfast.

- Surveys to assess on the Status of Red and Grey Squirrels in Northern Ireland.
- Radio-telemetry and night-driven transects for the Northern Ireland Hare Survey.
- Final reports with recommendations for conservation of red squirrels and Irish hares to be implemented by DOENI.

October 2001 – February 2002 Consultant Field Ecologist, WM Associates, Belfast.

- Habitat assessments for potential Sites of Local Nature Conservation Interest (SLCNI) for incorporation in the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP).
- Digitised maps using GIS Maps in Action package.

January 1999 – May 2000 Freelance Mammal Surveyor

- Protected mammal species surveys on behalf of public and private sector clients.
- Managed projects and liaised between clients, DOENI and Planning Service NI.

1997 – 2001 PhD and MRes Student Queen's University Belfast

- Dispersal and spatial ecology of wood mice *Apodemus sylvaticus* in pastoral farmland.
- Intensive field work including live trapping, radio tracking and experimental manipulation.
- Extensive use of statistical computer packages.

1993 – 1997 BSc (hons), University College Dublin

- First class degree in Environmental Biology.
- Varied course containing modules on all aspects of botany and zoology.
- Summer student at Konnevesi Field Station, Finland.