



CURRICULUM VITAE

SIMON BARRON

B. Sc. (Hons), MCIEEM, CEnv

EDUCATION

1991 – 1994 University of Plymouth
Grade 2:1, B.Sc. (Hons.) in Geography. Modules studied include Biological Conservation, Environmental Impact Assessment, Vegetation Patterns and Processes and Surveying and Cartography.

CAREER HISTORY

Director of Ecology, BEC Consultants.

July 2004 – Present

Project manager and senior ecologist for many projects carried out at national, regional and site specific scales. These include the Pilot Survey and Phases 1-4 of the National Survey of Upland Habitats (2008 – 2014) and the National Survey of Irish Sea Cliffs (2011). I have also been project manager and lead ecologist for a number of rare plant translocation and monitoring projects. I have completed a number of Appropriate Assessments (AA), Ecological Impact Assessments (EclA), Alien Invasive Species Surveys (AIS) rare plant surveys and habitat restoration projects. I have worked on a number of Local Biodiversity Action Plans and am a proficient habitat surveyor and botanist and have excellent report writing skills. As Director of Ecology I also have responsibility for company development, staff management and recruitment, and sit on the Senior Management Team, Project Management Team and Health and Safety Committee. A selection of projects I have worked on recently with BEC is listed below:

- *Local Biodiversity Action Plans (2020)*: Project Ecologist. Conducting a review of the existing biodiversity interest of three areas: Omeath, Co. Louth, Navan Co. Meath, Griffeen River and Lucan Co. Dublin. Completing habitat surveys and preparing recommendations which could be implemented by local community groups to improve biodiversity and enhance engagement of local communities with biodiversity.
- *Heathland study of Howth Head (2019-2020)*: On behalf of Fingal County Council a study of the Dry Heath habitat on Howth Head was conducted with recommendations for the management of the habitat. Also grazing experiments on heath were conducted to ascertain the effectiveness of this management approach.
- *Duhallow Bog Restoration Feasibility Study (2019)*: Conducting a restoration feasibility study for four blanket bog areas in Co. Kerry.
- *Blackrock Biodiversity Plan (2019)*: Project Ecologist. Conducting an update of the Blackrock Ecology Report prepared in 2006 and developing site specific management recommendations for the Blackrock Tidy Towns Committee.
- *Resurvey of the People's Millennium Forests (2019)*: Field ecologist. Conducted fieldwork assessing the structural changes within woodlands which have been left to regenerate naturally after being taken out of conifer production. Also setting and collecting beetle pitfall traps.
- *Fiddandarry Ecohydrology (2018-2021)*: Project Manager. Leading a multidisciplinary team monitoring the effects of drain-blocking on Fiddandarry Bog, part of Ox Mountains Bog SAC. The project is carried out on behalf of BirdWatch Ireland and working with hydrologists from RPS Ireland Ltd.

- *Scientific Assistant for Blanket Bogs (2015-2018)* – Ecologist. In this three-year role I worked full-time for NPWS assisting with the development of a management system for turf-cutting areas within Blanket Bog SACs. Current and historic turf-cutting within the designated areas was identified using remote sensing methods, field survey approaches were piloted and the use of LiDAR data in the assessment of impacts to blanket bog was trialled. I was part of the Irish Blanket Bog Delegation which met with the EU Commission in September 2016 and assisted with the preparation of the presentation
- *National Survey of Upland Habitats (2009-2014)*: Project Manager. The aims of the Pilot survey were to devise an efficient strategy for conducting the National Survey of Upland Habitats and these methods have been applied to almost 1000 km² of upland habitat in Ireland.
- *Loughshinny Invasive Species Survey (2018)*: I conducted a spring survey for invasive species on this pipeline route, specifically surveying for Spanish Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*) and Three-cornered Leek (*Allium triquetrum*).
- *Kiltiernan Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report (2018)*: Project Manager/Ecologist. This project up-dated an earlier report considering the potential for impacts on designated areas in the south Dublin area.
- *Portrane sand dunes survey Co. Dublin (2014)*: Project Manager. This project involved the preparation of habitat maps to assist with the assessment of proposed re-profiling works within the Rogerstown Estuary SAC. I prepared tender documents for this project, compiling a team with the expertise to complete the project. I was also involved in the completion of the report.
- *Screening for Appropriate Assessment – Templeogue, Dublin (2014)*: Project Manager/Ecologist. I conducted a site visit for this screening report and prepared the report which was submitted as part of the planning application for this development.
- *Assessment of the conservation status of the Great Island Channel SAC, Cork (2014)*: Survey manager. BEC Consultants were appointed by Cork County Council to conduct surveys of the Qualifying Interests of the Great Island Channel SAC in Cork harbour. I coordinated the field team and survey work which involved intertidal surveys of the sandflats, collection of relevé data, habitat mapping and assessments of saltmarsh habitat and consideration of the main pressures on these habitats. I completed some of the saltmarsh habitat mapping, assisted in the collection of sediment samples from the sandflats, and liaised with the client for this project.
- *Galway City Outer Bypass preliminary Marsh Fritillary surveys (2013)*: Project Manager/Lead Ecologist. The aim of these surveys was to identify ecological constraints associated with the Galway City Outer Bypass. Habitat mapping within a section of the Lough Corrib SAC was completed and survey work for larval webs of Marsh Fritillary was carried out. I liaised with the clients, organised and led one of the field teams had overall responsibility for report compilation.
- *Mitigation measures for rare plants, Limerick Tunnel and southern ring-road* – Project Manager/Lead Ecologist. Construction of the Limerick tunnel and outhern ring-road involved impacts on three legally protected plants: Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Opposite-leaved Pondweed (*Groenlandia densa*) and the nationally scarce Triangular Club-rush (*Schoenoplectus triqueter*). The project involved the development and implementation of effective mitigation measures to minimise impacts on these plants.
- *Assessment of Opposite-leaved Pondweed within the Grand Canal (2010)*: Project Manager/ Lead Ecologist. I conducted bathyscope surveys for the legally protected plant species Opposite-leaved Pondweed on behalf of Roughan O'Donovan Consulting Engineers in connection with the development of a board-walk and cycle path over a part of the canal.
- *National survey of Irish sea cliffs (2010-2011)*: Project Manager/ Ecologist. This NPWS funded project assessed the current conservation status of sea cliffs in Ireland and provided baseline information, which will allow trends in conservation status of this EU Annex I habitat to be monitored into the future. I conducted fieldwork for this survey including the development of a protocol of photo-based relevés, and wrote the final report for the survey.

SKILLS & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ecological field survey work and report writing, including ecology sections of Environmental Impact Statements, Appropriate Assessments, Phase 1 Habitat Surveys, sample collection and analysis of the ecological distribution of mammals, invertebrates, birds and vegetation patterns. Interpretation of aerial photographs and the digital mapping of habitats using GIS mapping. Experienced in faunal surveys including surveys for badger, otter, marsh fritillary, kingfisher and white-clawed crayfish. Also desktop analysis of data and digital presentation of results showing population dynamics and behavioural ecology. Experienced in applied conservation techniques such as rare plant translocations and long-term monitoring. Presentations at national conferences and occasional lecturing at Trinity College Dublin. A high level of computer proficiency including Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point and ArcMap GIS.

Membership of Professional Organisations

Full Membership of the Chartered Institute of Ecologists and Environmental Managers and a Chartered Environmentalist. As such, I work under a professional code of conduct and I am committed to a programme of professional development through my career.

SELECTED RECENT REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Barron, S.J.** (2019) Feasibility study of bog restoration at four Blanket Bog sites, Co. Kerry. Unpublished report for IRD Duhallow.
- Barron, S.J.** and Perrin P.M. (2019) Heathland Study, Howth Head, Co. Dublin. A report to Fingal County Council.
- Martin J. and **Barron S.J.** (2019) Ecological support for the National Landcover Map. A report to the EPA.
- Barron, S.J.** and Brophy, J. (2019) Ecology Report for Trabeg River, Ballyphehane, Co. Cork. Unpublished report to Cork City Council.
- Barron, S.J.**, & Daly O.H. (2018) Revised alien invasive species survey for the proposed Loughshinny Pumping Station and Rising Main Project. Unpublished Report for J.B. Barry Ltd, by BEC Consultants Ltd., Dublin.
- Barron, S.J.** (2018) Survey Report for Killarney National Park Rhododendron Ground Survey, Killarney National Park, Co. Kerry Unpublished report to National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- Barron, S.J.** (2018) Year 3 overarching report of the scientific work to inform a system for the management of turf-cutting in designated blanket bog SACs and NHAs. Draft Report. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland.
- Barron, S.J.** (2017) Turf-cutting GIS Review Volumes 1 & 2 - Draft Reports. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Dublin, Ireland.
- Barron, S.J.**, & Perrin, P.M. (2014) National Survey of Upland Habitats (Phase 4, 2013-2014), Summary Report. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland.
- Perrin, P.M., **Barron, S.J.**, Roche, J.R. & O'Hanrahan, B. (2014) Guidelines for a national survey and conservation assessment of upland vegetation and habitats in Ireland. Version 2.0. *Irish Wildlife Manuals*, No. 79. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin, Ireland.
- Barron, S.J.**, Daly, O.H., Seale, E.G. & Brophy J.T. (2013) Galway City Outer Bypass Marsh Fritillary survey report. Report to Arup and Scott Cawley.
- O'Neill, F.H. and **Barron, S.J.**, Smith G.F. & Brophy J.T. (2013) A preliminary habitat corridor map of Co. Waterford. Report to Waterford County Council.