



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

I joined BEC Consultants in 2004 as a Consultant Ecologist and, having worked as an Ecologist, Senior Ecologist and Principal Ecologist, I have held the position of Director of Ecology since 2017. I have been involved in many of the projects which the company has conducted including project manager of the Woodland Reassessment Survey (2021-2023), 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 and act as the company Environmental Policy Officer. A selection of projects I have worked on recently with BEC are listed below:

- *Wicklow woodlands Management Plans (2024-2026)*: The woodland properties owned by NPWS within Co. Wicklow are being surveyed with restoration plans developed for each of them. These include the Nature Reserves at Deputy's Pass, Tommnafinnoge, Vale of Clara and Glen of the Downs, as well as the woodlands within Wicklow Mountains National Park. Long-term woodland management plans will be developed with a strategy developed similar to that completed for the woodlands of Glenveagh National Park.
- *Moore's Horsetail monitoring (2025)*: Project Ecologist. A survey for the presence of the legally protected plant Moore's Horsetail was conducted at a proposed development site in Co. Wicklow. The occurrence of the plant was mapped and population were estimates made. Management recommendations which fitted with the proposed development timeline were developed.
- *Woodland monitoring survey (2022-2024)*: I conducted a number of field surveys for this project in addition to collating and processing all data. This is the third round of woodland monitoring and I have worked on each of these phases.
- *Woodland Reassessment Survey (2021-2023)*: Project Manager. BEC Consultants are reassessing a selection of woodland sites that were previously proposed for designation as Natural Heritage Areas to assess their conservation value, to map the habitats and survey site boundaries. Monitoring criteria for Ash dominated woodland and field criteria for assessing the impacts of Ash Dieback were developed.

- *Ecology Support for the Irish National Land Cover Map (2019-2022)*: On behalf of the EPA and working closely with the OSI Remote Sensing Team BEC Consultants have provided assistance with the interpretation and validation of the national land cover map. This has involved review of interpretation documents, training in the recognition and interpretation of land cover classes and validation of the mapping.
- *Local Biodiversity Action Plans (2019-2021)*: Project Ecologist. Conducting a review of the existing biodiversity interest of four areas: Omeath, Co. Louth, Navan Co. Meath, Skerries Co. Dublin and the Griffeen River 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.
- *Goat grazing monitoring (2021-2023)*: Project Manager. On behalf of Fingal County Council, a monitoring programme is being implemented to record the effects of a managed herd of goats on the heathland and scrub on Howth Head.
- *Survey of NPWS woodland properties in the south western region (SWOOP) (2022-2023)*: This project forms work package 2 of an NPWS funded project and entails survey of woodlands, including Killarney National Park and Glenveagh Nature Reserve. Habitat mapping, species list compilation, relevé recording and a conservation assessments were conducted at five nature reserves and 40 sites within Killarney National Park. Site descriptions were compiled for each site together with a review of threats and impacts and necessary conservation measures.
- *Glenveagh National Park Woodland Strategy (2020-2023)*: BEC Consultants are currently developing a woodland management strategy to improve the conservations status of the oak woodlands within the National Park. This will involve consultation with various parties, review of the existing management strategies for deer and invasive species, quantifying and assessing woodland parcels, and developing parcel specific management measures.
- *Adaptive Management Plan for Rockforest Co. Clare (2020-2024)*: Project Ecologist. Rockforest has a unique population of Scots Pine which is considered to be native Irish stock. NPWS commissioned BEC Consultants to develop an adaptive management plan for the conservation of the woodland at the site. The plan sets out the conservation measures, experimental trials and monitoring necessary for the development and implementation of this plan.
- *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.
- *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.
- *Rhododendron Ground Survey, Killarney National Park (2018)*: Conducting a monitoring count of Rhododendron plants in different categories within, and adjacent, to ten woodland sites within Killarney National Park.
- *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.

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 deer counts. 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 QGIS.

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.** (2025) Report on a survey of a woodland at Dromone, Co. Meath. Unpublished report.
- Perrin, P.M., Barron, S.J. & Daly, O.H. (2025) Survey of NPWS woodland properties in County Wicklow. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 1xx. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Ireland.
- Barron, S.J.** (2024) A biodiversity report on Julianstown Community Garden, Julianstown, Co. Meath. Unpublished report.
- Barron, S.J.** (2024) Monitoring the effects of a goat grazing programme on vegetation at Howth Head, Co. Dublin. A report to Fingal County Council.
- Perrin, P.M., and **Barron, S.J.** (2023) Old-growth Forest Review. A report for National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- Daly, O.H., O'Neill, F.H., & **Barron, S.J.** (2023). The monitoring and assessment of four EU Habitats Directive Annex I woodland habitats. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 146. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Ireland.
- Perrin, P.M., O'Neill, F.H. and **Barron, S.J.** (2023) Reassessment of selected undesignated woodland sites 2021-2023. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 1xx. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Ireland.
- O'Neill, F.H., **Barron, S.J.**, Daly, O.H. and Purser, P. (2022) Draft Glenveagh National Park Woodland Management Strategy. A report for National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- Barron, S.J.** (2021) Community Biodiversity Action Plan for Omeath, Co. Louth. A report for Omeath District Development.
- Barron, S.J.** (2021) Navan Community Biodiversity Action Plan. A report for Wild About Navan.
- Barron, S.J.** (2019) Feasibility study of bog restoration at four Blanket Bog sites, Co. Kerry. Unpublished report for IRD Duhallow.
- 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.