



CURRICULUM VITAE

Aoife Embleton

B.Sc. (Hons.), M.Sc. (Res.)

EDUCATION

2022 – 2024 University of Galway, MSc (Research) Plant Ecology

Thesis title: “Assessing Tree Diversity and Ecosystem Services in Kylemore Abbey”

2017 – 2021 Munster Technological University, B.Sc. (Hons) 2.1 in Wildlife Biology

Final year thesis title: An Investigation of the Factors affecting plant & bryophyte communities on stone walls in the Tralee Town and Bay Area

CAREER HISTORY

Ecologist, BEC Consultants Ltd

(2025 – present)

I joined BEC Consultants in 2025 and have been involved in the following projects:

- National Fen Survey (June 2025, September – December 2025): Assisted in fieldwork for the final field season of the National Fen Survey. The project aimed to assess fen habitats on a national scale and fieldwork involved mapping Annex I habitats, on often difficult terrain, as well as recording monitoring stops and relevés.
- Assessment of habitats Mt Brandon (August 2025): This project was a largely field based role conducting relevés and monitoring plots in a variety of Annex I upland habitats.
- Monitoring of Annex I grassland habitats within the Farm Plan scheme (2025-): Assisted in fieldwork, data management and report writing. Completed relevés and monitoring stops in a variety of Annex and non-Annex grassland habitats.
- Assessment of Annex I sand dune habitats at Kilpatrick Sandhills (December 2025): This project involved the mapping of Annex I sand dune habitats within the SAC and collection of relevé and monitoring stop data. Duties also included report writing and GIS.

Field Botanist, UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology

(April 2024 – September 2024)

Full-time seasonal position working on the Northern Ireland Countryside Survey in collaboration with the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI). Field botanist role, collecting relevé data and soil samples across all habitat types and inputting into Survey123 software. Leading and coordinating a team of two and liaising with landowners for site access on a daily basis.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Galway**(2022 – 2024)**

An occasional position assisting in the delivery of modules including Field Techniques in Ecology and Conservation to undergraduate students. This role included teaching the practical use of botanical field keys and the explanation of key botanical terminology, tree measuring techniques and correct recording of ecological data. The role also involved managing large groups of students in the field and supervising fieldwork for undergraduate projects.

Graduate Ecologist, Oakwin Ltd**(2021 – 2022)**

A diverse role including habitat assessments to inform NIS reports for forestry operations nationwide and for community biodiversity assessments. Work included Phase 1 walkover survey and recording of floral and faunal species identified during the survey. I conducted invasive species surveys for 3rd schedule invasive species (SI: 477/2011) and completed management plans. I created habitat and other types of digital maps on QGIS to a high standard.

Student Ecologist, Envirico Ltd**(Aug 2020 - Sept 2020 / May 2021 – June 2021)**

Assisted with habitat assessments to inform NIS reports for forestry operations nationwide. Work included Phase 1 walkover survey and recording of any floral and faunal species identified during surveys. Assisted with habitat and toad surveys for Natterjack Toad breeding surveys (NPWS) in County Kerry. Work also included inputting data into excel sheets. Assisted with field work on the Blasket Islands gathering data for a biosecurity review of the islands. Work included laying out baited sample cups to determine invasive mammal species presence on the islands. Further fieldwork was conducted to assess the breeding populations of ground nesting Storm Petrels and Manx Shearwaters.

SKILLS & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**Technical skills**

- Experience in ecological field survey techniques particularly botanical identification
- Experienced in field survey techniques and botanical identification, particularly producing Fossitt (2000) habitat maps, vegetation community mapping and the mapping and assessment of EU Annex I habitats.

Computer skills

- Strong skills in using Excel, SPSS and basic proficiency in the use of R Studio for data analysis. Experience using GIS applications particularly QGIS.

Professional Memberships

- Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI), current member of the committee for Ireland.
- British Bryological Society (BBS)
- Working towards CIEEM membership