

Appendix 7.2 Surveyor Experience

Dr Eleanor Ballard BSc (Hons) DPhil CEnv MCIEEM

Eleanor is Associate Director of Ecology in Belfast and has over 20 years' post-doctoral experience in the delivery and execution of ecological projects, including project design and management. Eleanor has been involved with major infrastructure projects including the strategically important DBFO2 in Northern Ireland, taking the role of Scheme Principal Ecologist in 2008. Eleanor has worked previously in academia and as a manager delivering biodiversity projects in a large conservation charity. Eleanor has excellent client interface, leadership, communication and team-building skills along with a comprehensive working knowledge of current ecological best practice and legislation. These skills combine to give a proven track record in major project delivery. Eleanor has extensive experience in a consultative capacity working in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and Great Britain conducting a range of protected species surveys, habitat surveys in aquatic, marine and terrestrial environments, producing EclA and writing Habitat Regulation Assessments/ Natura Impact Assessments. Eleanor excels in implementing environmental design into reality, working with both construction and design teams within AECOM and externally. Eleanor has held Northern Ireland Environment Agency smooth newt, reptile, red squirrel, otter, bat and badger licences. Eleanor is also a JNCC accredited Trained Marine Mammal Observer and is on the EPA certified SSRS surveyor list. She has been the SQE or validating ecologist for over 30 BREEAM\CfSH assessments.

Dr Paul Lynas BSc (Hons) MRes PhD CEnv MCIEEM

Paul is a Principal Ecologist in the Belfast office with over 15 years' post-doctoral experience in carrying out a range of habitat and species surveys. He has worked on numerous major infrastructure development schemes and ecological assessments from small to large scale, incorporating species specific surveys, mitigation design and monitoring. He is skilled in protected habitats and species surveys and has held NIEA licenses for newt, bat and reptile survey, bat roost visits, and roost destruction for development and badger sett destruction. He regularly surveys linear infrastructure schemes to assess their ecological impacts during their construction and operation phases and has contributed to, and authored, Environmental Statement Ecology Chapters for road schemes and other major developments.

Dr Emma Boston BSc (Hons) PhD MCIEEM MRSB

Emma is a Principal Ecologist in the Belfast office with over 14 years' experience in research, conservation and consultancy. She has published 16 peer-reviewed publications from her research conducted across a number of international research institutions. Emma has lectured and delivered training at a range of levels (citizen scientists to graduates). She has experience in a variety of ecological survey methods and has worked independently and as part of a multidisciplinary environmental team as consultant. She has significant experience in the delivery of projects from their development to completion. Emma's primary expertise is in the survey methods for bats using a range of survey methods, techniques and equipment. She has held protected species survey licenses to catch bats using hand nets, mist nets, a harp trap and licenses to radio-track bats in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Emma has ample experience dealing with the issues regarding bats and development and is well versed in the latest survey guidelines and mitigation methodologies.

Jenny Jones BSc (Hons) MSc AMRSB

Jenny is a Consultant Ecologist with over five years' professional experience of ecological consultancy. She has worked as part of multidisciplinary and dedicated ecological teams contributing to projects in power and energy, infrastructure, industrial and commercial, and property and development across the UK and Ireland. Jenny has extensive field experience of a variety of species and habitat survey techniques. She is proficient in Phase 1 Habitat surveys across a variety of habitats including detailed hedgerow assessments. She has extensive experience of protected species surveys for badger, otter, pine marten, smooth newt, and wintering aquatic and seabirds. Jenny has held licences for smooth newt, and has assisted in licensed activities for badger and bat exclusions. Jenny's key expertise is bat ecology. Professionally, she has conducted numerous bat surveys, including bat activity, emergence / re-entry, assessments of trees and structures for roost suitability, assessment of habitats for commuting and foraging suitability, and subsequent acoustical call analysis using a range of programmes. Jenny has also provided in-house training on bat surveys and analysis to junior colleagues. Jenny has extensive experience surveying for invasive species, in

addition to prescribing recommendations for control and writing Knotweed Management Plans. She has also acted as an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) for a number of projects, including during Japanese knotweed excavation, and pre-construction vegetation checks for road schemes. Jenny is also a pioneer in the use of mobile mapping technology (ToughPad®) for high quality data collection in the field. She is constantly reviewing the use of this technology and training her colleagues in its use. To complement this, she is proficient in GIS.

Ashleen Higgins BSc (Hons) MSc GradCIEEM

Ashleen is a Consultant Ecologist with three years' professional experience in ecological consultancy. She has worked as part of multidisciplinary and dedicated ecology teams contributing towards projects in education, commercial, residential and transport sectors in Northern Ireland in both large- and small-scale developments. Ashleen has experience in undertaking Phase 1 habitat surveys, protected species surveys including bat, otter and badger, and invasive species surveys. She has experience classifying Potential Roosting Features for bats in trees and structures and classifying habitats for their potential to support foraging and commuting bats.

Rachel Whyte BSc (Hons) MSc GradCIEEM

Rachel is a Graduate Ecologist with AECOM. Prior to joining AECOM, Rachel volunteered with several environmental charities, becoming experienced in freshwater invertebrate surveys, habitat management for protected species, and botanical surveys. Since starting with AECOM, Rachel has been involved with both large and small projects across a number of sectors including power, transportation, industry and property and development. She has gained experience with protected species surveys for badger, otter, red squirrel and wintering birds, in addition to habitat suitability surveys for smooth newt. Rachel has been involved in a number of bat emergence / re-entry surveys and has assisted with preliminary roost assessment surveys. Rachel has assisted with a number of Phase 1 Habitat surveys and has carried out surveys for invasive species. Since starting with AECOM Rachel has been involved with a large invasive species data capture and treatment program across Northern Ireland, she provided assistance with data management and designing the treatment program, as well as providing training to the client and contractor who would be carrying out the treatment of invasive species.

Scott McCollum BSc (Hons) GradCIEEM

Scott is a Graduate Ecologist who has been with AECOM since August 2017. Scott has gained experience in a wide variety of ecological surveys including surveys for animals such as bats, badger, otter, birds, and reptiles, as well as habitat surveys. Previous to starting with AECOM, Scott studied at Queen's University Belfast, graduating with B.Sc. (Hons) in Environmental Biology. For his honours project, Scott investigated the response of *Culicoides* midges to insect repellents, and has done further work with insects, surveying butterflies on a voluntary basis. Scott has also spent some time with CEDaR, Northern Ireland's biological records centre, where he mostly worked on preparing moth and lichen records for upload, and also on making corrective edits to records.

Paul Donaghey BSc (Hons)

Paul is a Student Ecologist currently on placement with the Belfast ecology team. During his placement he has assisted on several bat activity transects under the guidance of experienced ecologists. Paul is currently involved with carrying out butterfly transects for the cryptic wood white. He is mapping adult flight areas and food plant locations using mobile mapping technology. Paul is a volunteer for the Belfast Hills Partnership, and assisted in the mapping of badger setts across Divis Mountain. Coupled with this, he has begun to assist the partnership with bat activity monitoring. Previous to starting his placement with AECOM Paul studied at the University of Southampton, graduating with BSc (Hons) in Biological Sciences. For his honours project he looked at the application of island biogeography theory to urban green spaces and their potential utilisation as biodiversity havens. Paul is currently studying for his MSc in Ecological Management and Conservation Biology.

Ben Hunter

Ben is studying for a BSc (Hons) in Horticulture and is qualified in tree-climbing and aerial rescue. He has experience in assessment of trees for bat roost suitability under supervision, climbing trees to achieve this. Ben also has experience in ecological survey, including wintering swan, bat activity, and badger survey.