APPENDIX 6-7

BIODIVERSITY SURVEYORS LIST AND BIOGRAPHIES

ECOLOGY PROJECT TEAM STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

Table 1 below identifies the relevant statements of authorities for all Ecology Project Team members including all who contributed to ecological surveys throughout the survey period (2020 to 2026).

Table 1 Ecology Project Team Biographies

Initials	Name + Role	Statement of Authority
Ecology Team Biographies		
AM	Amy McDermott, Ecologist	Amy is an Ecologist at MKO with over one year of professional experience on the General Ecology Team. She holds a BSc in Environmental Science from the University of Galway and joined MKO in June 2025. During her academic studies, Amy demonstrated a strong commitment to ecological research and conservation. In May 2024, Amy was awarded the Karzan d'Ahmed Research Bursary through the University of Galway and The CorncrakeLIFE project, where she developed valuable skills in scientific research, ecological surveying techniques and technical report writing. Since joining MKO, Amy has contributed to a wide range of projects including large scale wind farms. She is actively developing her expertise in ecological consultancy, with particular focus on survey methodologies, data collection, analysis, and technical report writing, including Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports, Natura Impact Statements, Ecological Impact Assessments and EIAR Biodiversity Chapters. Her field of expertise includes habitat and vegetation surveys, mammal surveys, bird surveys and Marsh Fritillary surveys. She has developed her surveying skills and gained new skills such as Odonata surveying and Peregrine falcon surveying during her time at MKO. Amy is a Qualifying member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and is committed to the continued development of her professional knowledge and skills. In addition to her consultancy work, Amy participates in the annual voluntary Irish Wetland Bird Surveys (IWeBS) to help grow her knowledge in ornithology and contribute to the monitoring and conservation of Ireland's wetland bird population.
AM	Amy Moriarty, Seasonal Bat Ecologist	Amy is a Seasonal Bat Ecologist with MKO with less than one years' experience, having joined the company in May 2026. She holds a BSc (Hons) in Wildlife Biology, where she focused her studies on plant and habitat surveying. Amy's key strengths and expertise are report writing, map design and general plant ID. Since joining MKO, Amy has been involved in a range of renewable energy projects and completed training in passive and active acoustic sampling, bat habitat appraisals, potential roost feature identification, nighttime vantage point, emergence and walkover surveys, along with data analysis and report writing. In her role as a bat ecologist, Amy works as part of a multidisciplinary team to help in the production of ecological reports and assessments. Amy has experience carrying out both daytime and nocturnal pollinator surveys and holds a moth trapping licence under MothsIreland.
BJ	Bea Jackson, Ecologist Practitioner	Bea is an Ecologist Practitioner with MKO and has over two years' experience in ecological consultancy. Bea holds a B.A. (Hons) in Botany and a Master's degree in Botany from Trinity College, Dublin. Prior to

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		taking up her position with MKO in December 2025, Bea worked as an ecological consultant with Scott Cawley Ltd. In her previous role, she managed a small team of seasonal bat ecologists, and delivered in-house training on plant identification, invasives species identification and grassland habitats. Bea has experience conducting a wide range of ecological surveys, including bat emergence and re-entry and roost suitability assessments, amphibian surveys, terrestrial mammal surveys, breeding and wintering bird surveys, as well as habitat and botanical surveys. Bea has experience with detailed habitat and ecological constraints mapping using QGIS. Bea has prepared Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports (AASR), Natura Impact Statements (NIS), Ecological Impact Assessments (EcIA), Biodiversity Chapters,Biodiversity Management Plans and other site-specific ecological reporting. Bea holds a Qualifying Membership with the CIEEM, and is a member of the British and Irish Bryological Society (BIBS), the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) and Birdwatch Ireland.
BF	Brídín Foster, Practitioner Ornithologist	Brídín Foster is a Practitioner Ornithologist with over 3 years of experience at MKO Environmental Consultancy. Brídín holds a B.Sc. (Hons) degree in Biological, Earth and Environmental Science (Zoology) from University College Cork. Prior to taking up her position with MKO in April 2023, Brídín gained experience in undertaking a behavioural research project at FOTA Wildlife Park on drill monkeys and a behavioural study on an oystercatcher population as part of her degree. She received a bursary from UCC and Fota to do a further 6 weeks of drill monkey behavioural research at FOTA, gaining experience in Statistical analysis (R studios), PowerPoint presentations and public speaking. Brídín's key strength and experience are in undertaking bird, bat and general ecology surveys, using administrative software for subconsultant management such as Microsoft Excel, Word, and Outlook, QGIS for data management, Kaleidoscope software for bat call identification and preparing Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports and Natura Impact Statements on the Coillte forestry team. Currently, Brídín manages the administration and subconsultant management on the ornithology team. She is also involved in data management, health and safety, project manager assistance, and training of new starters at MKO. She holds a Qualifying membership with CIEEM.
CG	Caoimhe Gillespie, Graduate Ecologist	Caoimhe Gillespie is a Graduate Ecologist with MKO with under one year of experience. Caoimhe holds a B.Sc. (Hons) in Environmental Science. Prior to taking up her position with MKO in June 2026, Caoimhe worked as a Fisheries Protection Officer with Inland Fisheries Ireland, where she ensured compliance with relevant environmental legislation, conducted research surveys, and provided education on freshwater topics. She also has a variety of experience in various ecological sectors and has undertaken surveys in conjunction with National Parks and Wildlife, Bird Watch Ireland, Bat Conservation Ireland, the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland and Donegal Bay Trust. Caoimhe's key strengths and areas of expertise are in ecological fieldwork, Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (AASR) and Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA). Since joining MKO Caoimhe has worked as an ecological consultant, undertaking surveys across Ireland for a wide range of projects in sectors including, renewable energy, residential and transport projects. Caoimhe has contributed to the preparation of a range of ecological reports, including Ecological Impact Assessments, Natura Impact Assessments and

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		Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports. She has experience undertaking a variety of ecological surveys, including habitat mapping, aquatic assessments, Annex I habitat surveys, bat surveys, wintering bird surveys, invasive species surveys, mammal surveys and marsh fritillary surveys. Caoimhe is also a Qualifying Member of CIEEM.
CM	Caoimhe Myles, Practitioner Ecologist	Caoimhe is a Practitioner Ecologist with MKO, with 4 years of experience. Caoimhe holds a master's degree in Conservation Behaviour and a bachelor's degree in applied Freshwater and Marine Biology. Prior to taking up her position with MKO in April 2026, Caoimhe worked as a Junior Project Manager with EDAC, an Environmental Compliance Consultancy based in Cavan, Ireland. She has strong report writing and research skills; having completed two comprehensive dissertations during her time in academia. She is experienced in environmental compliance, carrying out site supervision, audits and toolbox talks to ensure adherence to regulatory frameworks and permits. Within MKO, Caoimhe works as part of a large multidisciplinary team to produce post-planning reports including pre-commencement survey reports, invasive species management plans and final audit reports for diverse developments across Ireland. She has experience as an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) across sites of varying scale including wind farms and residential developments during her time with MKO. Her survey experience includes pre-commencement surveys for bats, protected mammals and invasive species, and she has also been trained in surveying for white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) and narrow-mouthed whorl snail (*Vertigo angustior*). Caoimhe holds a membership with Bat Conservation Ireland and a qualifying membership with CIEEM. She is an active volunteer with Cavan Bat Group, participating in a variety of surveys including emergence, dusk/dawn, and harp trapping.
CW	Chandra Walter, Ecologist	Chandra is an Ecologist with MKO with over 5 years of experience in ecological consultancy. Chandra holds a BSc (Hons) in Ecology and a MSc in Organic Horticulture. Chandra has key strengths in botany and habitat surveying, including Annex I habitat identification in grassland and peatland contexts, pollinating insect identification, marsh fritillary surveys, invasive species surveying, mammal surveys as well as bat surveys. Prior to taking up her position with MKO in March 2025, Chandra worked as a Project Ecologist at Fehily Timoney and Company where she was co-ordinating and completing bat surveys and bat data analysis and also gained experience at completing AA-screening reports and Natura Impact Statements as well as appendix reports for EIAR, including ornithology baseline reports for proposed wind developments. Since joining MKO Chandra has been involved as an Ecologist on a significant range of energy infrastructure (including wind and solar farms), roads and greenway projects, as well as residential projects and educational infrastructure projects. Within MKO Chandra plays a role managing small to medium scale projects and is involved in helping manage some large scale projects as well. She is involved in planning and carrying out a range of ecological surveys, as well as writing Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports, Natura Impact Statements, Ecological Impact Assessments and Biodiversity Chapters, Invasive Species Management Plans and Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plans.

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CM	Clare Mifsud, Project Bat Ecologist	Clare Mifsud (PhD) is a Project Bat Ecologist at MKO with over 15 years' experience in bat and insect research, conservation and ecological fieldwork. Her PhD in Bat Conservation Biology focused on bat genetics, ecology and bioacoustics and included insect sampling and genetic analysis to investigate bat diet, resulting in scientific publications relating to bats and insects. Clare specialises in conducting bat surveys for wind farm and infrastructure developments, including static detector, transect, emergence and re-entry surveys, and also has experience designing and undertaking daytime pollinator and night-time moth surveys. Since joining MKO in February 2025, she has contributed to specialist bat reports, EIAR Biodiversity Chapters and the development of bat mitigation and monitoring measures. Clare holds an NPWS Bat Roost Disturbance Licence and a moth trapping licence under MothsIreland.
DM	Deepali Mooloo, Ecologist	Deepali Mooloo is an Ecologist at MKO with over 3 years of experience in ecological consultancy, specialising in terrestrial ecology and conservation. She holds an M.Sc. in Applied Coastal and Marine Management from University College Cork, where she focused on spatial ecology and drone photogrammetry. Since joining MKO, Deepali has contributed extensively to renewable energy and infrastructure projects, providing comprehensive ecological support from early-stage feasibility through to detailed impact assessment. Her expertise encompasses multidisciplinary ecological walkover surveys, habitat identification and classification in accordance with Fossitt's Guide to Habitats in Ireland, and detailed habitat assessments using the ERICA database. She has undertaken a wide range of specialist field surveys, including marsh fritillary larval web and habitat condition assessments, wintering bird, bat, mammal, and botanical surveys, as well as Annex I habitat condition assessments and surveys for rare and protected plant species. She is experienced in conducting detailed vegetation relevés and ecological constraints mapping. Deepali has prepared a broad suite of ecological reports, including Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports (AASR), Natura Impact Statements (NIS), Ecological Impact Assessments (EcIA), EIAR Biodiversity Chapters, Feasibility Studies, and Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plans. She is proficient in GIS-based mapping and spatial analysis using both QGIS and ArcGIS, supporting detailed habitat and constraints mapping. She also has experience in bat data analysis using Kaleidoscope software. Deepali is also a Qualifying Member of CIEEM, and is committed to continuous professional development, regularly undertaking training through organisations such as the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI), the National Biodiversity Data Centre, Irish Whale and Dolphin Group and BirdWatch Ireland.
DOL	Diarmuid O'Leary, Project Ecologist	Diarmuid O'Leary is a Project Ecologist with MKO with over 4 years' experience as a professional ecologist. Diarmuid holds a BSc (Hons) in Ecology and Environmental Biology received from University College Cork (UCC) in 2020. Diarmuid joined MKO in August 2026. Prior to that he had worked at Stantec Ireland (formerly Ryan Hanley) and Southern Scientific Services. Diarmuid has worked on a wide range of ecological reports including Environmental Impact Assessments, Ecological Impact Assessments (EcIA), Water Framework Directive Assessments, Appropriate Assessment Screenings and Natura Impact Statements (NIS).

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		Diarmuid has particular expertise in bird, bat and terrestrial mammal surveying. Additionally, Diarmuid has extensive professional experience in Habitat assessment surveys, Invasive species surveys, marsh fritillary surveys and water quality assessments. Diarmuid has successfully applied for derogation licenses for a number of protected species. Diarmuid is listed on the directory of professional Ecologists for Forestry Projects produced by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM).
JR	Jo Ruane, Ecology Administrator	Jo Ruane is an Ecology Administrator with MKO. She holds a BSc in Environmental Science & Technology, a First Class Honours MSc degrees in Conservation Behaviour (2022) and Quality (2011). Jo has approximately 2 years of relevant ecological experience, including academic research and field survey work, and has undertaken professional pollinator and moth monitoring surveys since joining MKO in April 2025. Prior to joining MKO in April 2025, Jo worked as a Forest Project Management Technologist with the Teagasc Forestry Development Department, supporting climate change-related research projects. Before returning to higher education to pursue a career in ecology, she spent over two decades working in the medical device industry in Regulatory Affairs/ Quality Assurance roles where she developed extensive experience in project management, quality systems, regulatory compliance, technical reporting and stakeholder engagement. Jo's key strengths and areas of expertise include project coordination, research delivery, technical documentation, ecological data management, process improvement and stakeholder engagement. Within MKO, Jo supports the Ecology team through tender preparation, project administration, ecological data management, biodiversity research and ecological field survey activities. She has supported the delivery of day pollinator and moth monitoring projects, including developing survey methodologies, field procedures and data management systems. She has undertaken pollinator surveys for local authorities, coordinated large ecological datasets and contributed to biodiversity engagement initiatives through citizen science and public outreach events. Jo is currently supporting research on climate change impacts on biodiversity and the ecological value and protection of hedgerows in Ireland, helping to develop evidence-based recommendations for biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation and policy development. She also supports the development of tender resources, internal systems and data management processes to enhance project delivery across the Ecology team. Jo is a Qualifying Member of CIEEM.
KJ	Kate Johnson, Ecologist	Kate Johnson is an Ecologist with MKO and has over 1 years' experience working in environmental consultancy. Kate holds a B.Sc. (Hons) in Ecology and Environmental Biology. Prior to taking up her position with MKO in June 2025, Kate worked as a student ecologist in Cabragh Wetlands where she contributed to habitat and invertebrate surveying and environmental education. Kate's key strengths and areas of expertise are in ecological fieldwork in particular terrestrial ecology and mammal surveying. Since joining MKO, Kate has worked as a n ecological consultant, undertaking surveys at sites across Ireland for a wide range of projects in sectors including residential development, renewable energy and wastewater treatment projects. Kate has contributed to the preparation of a range of ecological reports, including Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports, Natura Impact Statements, and Ecological Impact Assessments. She has experience undertaking a variety of ecological

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		surveys, including habitat mapping, aquatic assessments, Annex I habitat surveys, bat surveys, wintering bird surveys, invasive species surveys, mammal surveys and marsh fritillary surveys. She is a Qualifying Member of CIEEM.
KOD	Kate O Donnell, Senior Ecologist	Kate is a Senior Ecologist with MKO with over 7 years of experience in ecological consultancy. Kate holds a BSc (Hons) in Ecology and Environmental Biology from University College Cork and has also completed a Level 8 Special Purpose Award in Digital Mapping and GIS. Kate's key strengths and areas of expertise are in terrestrial ecology, including vegetation surveys, habitat identification, invasive species surveys, mammal surveys, Appropriate Assessment and Ecological Impact Assessment. Prior to taking up her position with MKO in February 2022, Kate worked as an Ecologist with RPS where she gained experience in Ecological Impact Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and multidisciplinary ecological surveys for a range of projects including IDA developments, flood relief schemes, road network improvements and greenway developments. She is trained in carrying out non-volant mammal surveys, freshwater pearl mussel surveys, bat surveys and in taking vegetation relevés of vascular plants. Kate has extensive experience in habitat identification and habitat mapping. Since joining MKO, Kate has been responsible for the management, co-ordination and undertaking of flora, fauna and habitat surveys in accordance with NRA Guidelines for projects including wind farm developments, Greenways and housing developments and for the preparation and review of Ecological Impact Assessments, Stage 1 and Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment reports and EIA inputs. Kate is the Lead Ecologist on several large-scale renewable energy and infrastructure projects and manages a team of Ecologists within MKO. She is an Associate member of CIEEM.
KB	Katy Beckett, Project Ecologist	Katy is a Project Ecologist with MKO with over three years' experience in ecological consultancy. Katy holds a B.A. (Hons) in Environmental Science from Trinity College Dublin during which she researched the potential hybridisation of invasive plants with Irish native flora. She also holds an M.Sc. in Biodiversity and Conservation from Trinity College Dublin. During these academic studies she focused on conservation, gaining field and desk skills, and completing a thesis on the impact of wind farms on Irish pollinators with the Nature+ energy research group. Katy's main focus and expertise are in terrestrial ecology and conservation, largely focusing on renewable energy projects since joining MKO. Field skills are a key strength, from high-level constraints mapping to completing detailed multidisciplinary ecological walkover surveys, habitat mapping, mammal surveys and vegetation analyses, as well as specialist surveys for rare and threatened plant species, Annex I habitat condition assessments, marsh fritillary larval web and habitat condition assessments, Odonata and pollinator surveys and both wintering and breeding bird surveys. Katy is also skilled in QGIS mapping, data analysis and scientific communication, preparing detailed Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports, Stage 2 Natura Impact Statements, Ecological Impact Assessments, EIAR Biodiversity and Ornithology Chapters, Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plans and other site-specific ecological reporting. As project manager leading a team of ecologists on a number of small, medium and large-scale projects across a number of sectors, she is experienced in handling complex projects and working in interdisciplinary teams. She is a

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		Full member of CIEEM and continues to upskill through internal trainings as well as external courses and volunteer opportunities with Atlantic Technological University, the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland, National Biodiversity Data Centre, Birdwatch Ireland and the British Trust for Ornithology.
KL	Kate Leahy, Bat Ecologist	Kate is a bat ecologist with MKO with over 2 years of professional ecological consultancy experience. Kate holds a B.Sc. (Hons) in Zoology from University of Galway and a Level 6 Certificate in Irish Wildflower Identification from ATU Sligo. Kate's key strengths and areas of expertise are in bat ecology, surveying and call analysis, and report writing. She also has experience in various ecological surveys, such as mammal and habitat surveys, and mapping using GIS. Since joining the bat team in 2023, Kate has been involved as a bat ecologist on a number of wind energy projects, solar energy projects and large residential developments and works as part of a large multi-disciplinary team to produce ecological reports and assessments. Kate is a Qualifying Member of CIEEM, and a member of the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) and BirdWatch Ireland. She holds a current Bat Roost Disturbance licence (DER-BAT-2026-121) and photography licence.
LJ	Lucy Jenkins, Seasonal Bat Ecologist	Lucy Jenkins is a Seasonal Bat Ecologist with MKO with a first-class master's degree in Biodiversity and Conservation from Trinity College Dublin and a BA in Animation Production. Prior to taking up her position with MKO in March 2026, Lucy worked within the Trinity College Dublin Herbarium, helping to preserve the collection of 500,000 plant specimens. Lucy has 7 months' consultancy experience and a wide variety of field experience with a 3-month work placement with the National Parks and Wildlife Service Conservation Rangers in Killarney National Park. Here she undertook the Daubenton's Waterways survey for Bat Conservation Ireland and gained experience with botanical habitat assessments, pollinator transects, hoverfly, dragonfly and bumblebee surveys and invasive species monitoring. Lucy also has experience with nighttime pollinator surveys and holds a moth trapping licence under MothsIreland. Due to her technical background Lucy has strong skills in spatial analysis and producing engaging map outputs. Since joining MKO Lucy's work has included remote bat detector deployment, Night Bat Walkover surveys, structure inspections and bat dusk emergence surveys. She works as part of a wider multidisciplinary team to help in the production of ecological reports and assessments for a variety of large-scale infrastructure projects. Lucy is a member of Bat Conservation Ireland, CIEEM, and the BSBI. She holds a Trainee Bat Roost Disturbance Licence issued by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).
MK	Mairead Kavanagh, Practitioner Ecologist	Mairead Kavanagh is a Practitioner Ecologist with MKO with over three years' professional experience in ecological consultancy. Mairead holds a B.Sc. (Hons) in Science from the University of Galway where she specialised in Botany and Plant Science. Mairead's strengths are in field surveying and report writing, including Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA), Natura Impact Statements (NIS), biodiversity management and enhancement plans, and invasive species management plans. Mairead possesses excellent field survey and plant identification skills, with experience in dedicated invasive species surveys, Annex I habitat surveys, Phase I habitat surveys, breeding bird surveys, bat surveys, mammal

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		surveys and marsh fritillary surveys. Since joining MKO Mairead has worked on a number of public infrastructure projects, including housing, public amenity and roads projects. She also has experience with large scale energy infrastructure projects, including windfarms, in addition to working in the forestry sector.
MK	Matthew Kieran, Ecologist	Matthew is an Ecologist at MKO with over two years of experience in ecological consultancy. He holds a BA in Environmental Science with Ecology from ATU Sligo. Since joining MKO, Matthew has worked as an ecological consultant, surveying sites across Ireland for a wide range of projects in sectors including residential development, renewable energy, public realm enhancement and sports facilities. Matthew has contributed to the preparation of numerous ecological reports, including Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports, Natura Impact Statements, Ecological Impact Assessments and biodiversity chapters for Environmental Impact Assessment Reports. Matthew has extensive experience carrying out a variety of ecological surveys, including habitat mapping, aquatic assessments, Annex I habitat surveys, bat surveys, breeding and wintering bird surveys, invasive species surveys, mammal surveys and marsh fritillary surveys. Matthew's key strengths and areas of expertise include ecological fieldwork, ecological impact assessment, and GIS analysis using ArcGIS and ESRI software. He is a Qualifying Member of CIEEM.
NL	Niamh Leahy, Graduate Ecologist	Niamh is a Graduate Ecologist with MKO and has over one year of experience in ecological consultancy. She holds a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Science from the University of Galway. Since joining MKO, Niamh has worked as an ecological consultant, undertaking surveys at sites across Ireland for a wide range of projects in sectors including residential development, renewable energy and public realm enhancement. Niamh has contributed to the preparation of a range of ecological reports, including Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports, Natura Impact Statements, and Ecological Impact Assessments. She has particular experience undertaking a variety of ecological surveys, including habitat mapping, aquatic assessments, Annex I habitat surveys, bat surveys, wintering bird surveys, invasive species surveys, mammal surveys and marsh fritillary surveys. Prior to joining MKO, Niamh was awarded a summer bursary position with ACRES West Connacht an Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme. In this role, Niamh gained hands-on experience surveying diverse landscapes using agricultural scorecards to assess land health, biodiversity, and ecological conditions. Niamh's key strengths and areas of expertise are in terrestrial ecology, including vegetation surveys, habitat identification, invasive species surveys and mammal surveys, as well as Appropriate Assessment, Natura Impact Statements and Ecological Impact Assessment. She is a Qualifying Member of CIEEM.
PD	Pádraig Desmond, Project Ecologist	Pádraig is a Project Ecologist with MKO with 6 years post graduate ecological experience, over 5 years of which have been in ecological consultancy. Pádraig holds a BSc (Hons) in Ecology and Environmental Biology from University College Cork. Pádraig took up his position with MKO in December 2021, prior to which he worked as a Junior Ecologist with Envirico. Prior to the above roles, Pádraig worked as a field ecologist for the Department of Conservation in New Zealand, where he developed a strong field-based skill set. Through these roles Pádraig has gained

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		excellent experience in producing ecological reports such as Natura Impact Statements, Ecological Impact Assessments, Biodiversity chapters, Invasive Species Management Plans, and Constraints Reports for a wide range of projects including small private developments to housing developments and renewable energy projects such as solar and wind farms. Padraig also has strong ecological survey skills and is competent in all terrestrial and freshwater survey requirements. Within MKO, Pádraig leads a team of Ecologists and works as part of a large multi-disciplinary team to produce planning application for larger developments.
PR	Pat Roberts, Principal Ecologist	Pat is Principal Ecologist with MKO with over 21 years post graduate experience of providing ecological services in relation to a wide range of developments at the planning, construction and monitoring stages. Pat holds B.Sc. (Hons) in Environmental Science. Pat has extensive experience of providing ecological consultancy on large scale industrial and civil engineering projects. He is highly experienced in the completion of ecological baseline surveys, impact assessments and Appropriate Assessment reporting. He has worked closely with construction personnel at the set-up stage of numerous construction sites to implement and monitor any prescribed best practice measures. He has designed numerous Environmental Operating Plans and prepared many environmental method statements in close conjunction with project teams and contractors. He has worked extensively on the identification, control and management of invasive species on numerous construction sites. Pats key strengths include his depth of knowledge and experience of a wide range of ecological and biodiversity topics and also in his ability to understand the requirements of the client in a wide range of situations. He is currently responsible for staff development, training and ensuring that the outputs from the ecology team are of a very high standard and meet the requirements of the clients and relevant legislation and guidelines. He is a full member of the CIEEM. Pat sits on the Irish Policy Group of the CIEEM and reviews and comments on Irish and European Policy and legislation in this capacity. He is also an assessor for CIEEM membership applications.
	Rachel Walsh, Senior Ecologist	Rachel (B.Sc. Env., MCIEEM) is a Senior Ecologist with over six years' experience in professional ecological consultancy. She is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and holds a First-Class Honours BSc in Environmental Science. Rachel's key strengths lie in terrestrial flora and fauna ecology, including Irish Vegetation Classification surveys, Annex I habitat surveys, mammal surveys, invasive species surveys and the preparation of invasive species management plans. She also has extensive experience in designing biodiversity and habitat management plans for a range of development and conservation-focused projects. She is highly experienced in scoping and leading ecological baseline surveys and undertaking ecological impact assessments at the planning stage. Rachel has extensive experience in preparing and reviewing Appropriate Assessment reports, Ecological Impact Assessments and ecological inputs to Environmental Impact Assessment Reports. She has worked across renewable energy, wastewater and transport infrastructure, extractive industry and residential development projects, and has acted as lead ecologist on numerous large-scale private and public-sector contracts. She also manages a team of ecologists, with responsibility for ensuring high-quality technical outputs and supporting their training and professional development.

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RG	Rudraksh Gupta, Ecologist	Rudraksh Gupta is an Ecologist with MKO with 5 years of experience in ecological constultancy. Prior to joining MKO in 2021, he pursued a BSc (Hons)degree in Botany, an MSc in Environmental Sciences and an MSc in Biodiversity and Conservation. Rudraksh's key strengths are in undertaking and leading ecological surveys across Ireland and conducting in-house trainings for upland, grassland, woodland and peatland habitats. He is well versed with Irish flora and is a specialist in fern and bryophyte identification. Rudraksh provides technical support and advice to the ecology team at MKO where required in respect to bryophytes and pteridophytes and is called upon to evaluate sites and identify samples collected by other team members. He has also compiled bryophyte identification manuals. Since joining MKO, Rudraksh has worked on the Coillte Eco Services 2020-2026 Project preparing high quality Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports (AASR) and Natura Impact Statements (NIS) for felling, reforestation, thinning, and forest road licenses for Coillte. In addition to the above, he regularly undertakes Ecological Impact Assessments for a variety of developments and prepares high-quality Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports (AASR) and Natura Impact Statements (NIS). He also has supervised a team of three graduate ecologists which involved clearing doubts and reviewing their reports. Rudraksh is the Vice County Recorder for Southeast Galway for the British and Irish Bryological Society (BIBS) and is a member of the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI). He is also an Associate member of CIEEM.
SM	Sarah Mullen, Project Director (Ecology)	Sarah is a Project Director (Ecology) with MKO with 10 years' experience in ecological consultancy. Sarah holds a B.Sc. (Hons) in Botany, an M.Sc. in Biodiversity and Conservation and a Ph.D. in Botany. Since joining MKO Sarah has been responsible for the management, co-ordination and undertaking of flora, fauna and habitat surveys for a range of projects including large-scale energy infrastructure projects, residential and commercial developments, tourism projects and biodiversity monitoring and restoration projects. She has overseen the preparation of ecological reports to accompany planning applications including Ecological Impact Assessments, Stage 1 and Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment reports, Invasive Species Management Plans and Biodiversity/Habitat Management Plans. She currently assists in the management of the general Ecology team at MKO. Sarah's key strengths and areas of expertise are in terrestrial flora and fauna ecology, including vegetation surveys, habitat mapping, invasive species surveys, mammal surveys, Appropriate Assessment and Ecological Impact Assessment. She holds membership with CIEEM.
Bat Team Biographies		
AT	Alice Twiss, Seasonal Bat Ecologist	Alice is a seasonal Bat Ecologist with MKO with one year of experience, joining the team in March 2026. Alice holds an honours degree in Ecology and Environmental Biology from University College Cork. Alice previously worked as a Habitat Surveyor for the Commonage team at ACRES West Connacht. Alice has also worked in Ifakara, Tanzania where she completed an internship conducting a forest survey. Alice has plant ID skills and habitat survey experience, specialising in peatlands. Within MKO Alice works as part of the Bat Ecology team. She carries out deployment of static detectors, night bat walkovers, dusk and dawn transect surveys, roost

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		assessments, sonogram analyses, mapping and report writing. She holds a Trainee Bat Roost Disturbance Licence (NPWS) and has experience supporting licensed bat survey and mitigation programmes.
AJ	Aoife Joyce, Project Director and Senior Ecologist	Aoife Joyce is a Project Director and Senior Ecologist with over seven years' experience specialising in bat ecology and the assessment of renewable energy developments having joined MKO in 2019. She leads MKO's specialist bat team, managing the design, delivery and quality assurance of complex bat survey programmes for wind farm, infrastructure and planning projects throughout Ireland. Aoife has extensive experience in the planning, coordination and interpretation of baseline bat surveys for wind energy developments, including static detector surveys, manual activity surveys, roost assessments, acoustic monitoring and sonogram analysis. She has acted as Lead Ecology Specialist on numerous wind farm and large-scale infrastructure projects, overseeing survey strategy, impact assessment, mitigation design and the preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIARs), Natura Impact Statements and Appropriate Assessment documentation. Her expertise includes the assessment of bat activity and collision risk associated with wind energy developments, the identification and evaluation of roosting habitat, and the development of practical mitigation and monitoring strategies in line with Irish and international best practice guidance. Aoife regularly works within multidisciplinary teams to integrate ecological considerations into project design and environmental assessment processes, ensuring compliance with relevant wildlife legislation and planning requirements. Aoife has completed specialist bat training in bat survey techniques, acoustic analysis, bat handling and identification, and regularly applies current industry guidance and best practice methodologies in the delivery of complex projects. She holds relevant Bat Roost Disturbance and bat photography licences, is a member of Bat Conservation Ireland, and is a full member of the CIEEM.
MOH	Molly O'Hare, Project Bat Ecologist	Molly O'Hare is a Project Bat Ecologist with MKO with over 4 years of experience in ecological consultancy. Molly holds a B.Sc. in Ecology and Environmental Biology and an M.Sc. in Marine Biology from University College Cork. Prior to taking up her position with MKO in February 2025, Molly worked as Lead Bat Ecologist for Inis Environmental Consultants Ltd. and held a previous post as Research Assistant with African Bat Conservation in Malawi. Molly has specialist experience in bat field survey techniques including mist netting, harp trapping, hand netting, radio tagging and tracking, exclusion works, transect surveys, emergence surveys, re-entry surveys and roost assessments. Molly also has experience carrying out multidisciplinary field surveys such as habitat assessments, general mammal surveys, bird surveys and acting as an ecological clerk of works. Molly's key strengths and areas of expertise are in bat ecology, field survey techniques, project management and survey scope design, bioacoustics analysis and training and education. Since joining MKO, Molly has been an integral part of the bat division of the ecology team. Within MKO she works as part of a multidisciplinary team, Molly is a qualifying member of CIEEM and holds relevant Bat Roost Disturbance licences.

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SF	Saoirse Fitzsimons, Bat Ecologist	Saoirse Fitzsimons is a Bat Ecologist, with 4 years of experience and a strong background in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), having joined the company in January 2022. She holds a MSc. in Coastal and Marine Environments from the University of Galway, Ireland and was awarded The Prof. Micheál O'Cinnéide Award for Academic Excellence. She has a range of experience from bat roost identification, active and passive acoustic sampling, sound analysis, GIS and production of LVIA chapters of Environmental Impact Assessment Reports for large infrastructure developments.
SM	Sophie Moore, Seasonal Bat Ecologist	Sophie is a Seasonal Bat Ecologist with MKO, having joined in April 2026. Sophie holds a bachelor's degree in Geography and Philosophy from Trinity College Dublin. Sophie has 1 year of experience as an ecologist. Sophie previously worked as a Habitat Surveyor for the Commonage team at ACRES West Connacht and has completed a Conservation Internship in Zambia and a Sustainable Tourism Internship in the UK. Sophie has survey and habitat classification skills as well as peatland species identification and is experienced in GIS and data handling. Within MKO, Sophie works as part of the Bat Ecology team on roost assessments, remote bat detector deployment, Night Bat Walkover surveys, sonogram analyses, mapping, impact assessment, mitigations, and report writing. She is licensed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) under a Trainee Bat Roost Disturbance Licence.
TM	Tim Murphy, Project Bat Ecologist	Tim is a Project Bat Ecologist with MKO and has over two years' experience in ecological consultancy. He holds a B.Sc. (Hons) in Environmental Biology and originally joined MKO in 2020, working as an Ecologist for 18 months before rejoining the company in January 2026. Tim has experience in undertaking bat roost assessments, acoustic surveys, sonogram analysis, impact assessments, and technical report writing. He is proficient in conducting dusk emergence and dawn re-entry surveys to determine bat presence and species identification and has contributed to a wide range of multidisciplinary ecological surveys for habitats and protected species across Ireland. Prior to rejoining MKO, Tim worked as an Operations Manager for 3 years in Australia, where he coordinated logistics and day-to-day activities across the company. The role involved working with multiple teams and stakeholders to manage resources, timelines and the delivery of work. Since rejoining MKO, Tim has worked as part of multidisciplinary project teams delivering ecological assessments and reports across a range of sectors, with a particular focus on bat ecology. He currently holds a Bat Roost Disturbance Licence issued by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).
Statements of Authority for those who no longer work at MKO		
CF	Caití Farren, Practitioner Ecologist	Caiti worked as a Practitioner Ecologist with MKO from September 2023 to July 2026, with three years of experience at the time. Caiti holds BA (Hons) in Biological and Biomedical sciences in TCD, with a specialisation in Botany. Prior to taking up her position with MKO in September 2023, Caiti worked as an Intern with Farm ZeroC in west Cork, a project with the aim of creating a carbon neutral dairy farm. During this time, Caiti helped to design, and then executed independently, plant and pollinator surveys of the farm. These surveys were designed to analyse the effect of

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		improving habitats for nature under the new CAP eco-scheme 2024 on plant and pollinator species richness and abundance. Caiti's current key strengths and areas of expertise are in plant and pollinator identification, experimental design, survey design and writing. Since joining MKO, Caiti has become a member of the MKO Forestry Team which work on producing high quality Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports and Natura Impact Statements for a variety of clients. Caiti has since joined the General Ecology team and carries out fieldwork and produces high quality Natura Impact Statements and Ecological Impact Assessments for the General Ecology team. She also carries out Ecological Clerk of Works site visits. She is also a member of the MKO Ecology Training Committee.
CM	Charlie Meehan, Seasonal Bat Ecologist	Charlie worked as a Seasonal Bat Ecologist for 5 months within MKO's bat team, from March 2024 to August 2024, and supported the delivery of bat surveys for wind farm developments and other ecological projects. At the time of this project, Charlie had less than a years' experience. He holds a B.A. in History and Classical Studies and an M.Sc. in Sustainable Environments from the University of Galway. Charlie completed internal specialist training in bat habitat appraisal, manual activity surveys, structure and tree inspections, emergence and re-entry surveys, endoscope use and acoustic analysis using Kaleidoscope Pro. His experience included undertaking manual transect surveys, assisting with static detector programmes and supporting bat survey data collection for renewable energy developments. Charlie providing field survey support and assisting in the collection of data used to inform bat impact assessments and reporting. He held a Trainee Bat Roost Disturbance Licence issued by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) during his time with MKO.
CLS	Ciara Lynn Sheehan, Ecologist	Ciara Lynn worked as a Graduate Ecologist with MKO from September 2023 to April 2025and had two years' experience at the time. Ciara holds a B.Sc. (Hons) in Ecology and Environmental Biology from University College Cork where she focused on ecology, field skills and invertebrate identification in her final year. Ciara's key strengths and expertise are in ecology, including field surveys as well as habitat assessment and identification using Fossitt's 'A Guide to Habitats in Ireland'. Since joining MKO, Ciara has carried out multidisciplinary walkover surveys and protected species surveys. She has also been involved in preparing reports, including Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports and Ecological Impact Assessments, and creating maps using QGIS and ArcGIS.
CT	Cora Twomey, Practitioner Ecologist	Cora worked as a Practitioner Ecologist with MKO, from June 2022 to July 2025 and had three years' experience at the time. Cora holds a First-Class Honours BSc degree in Ecology and Environmental Biology from University College Cork. Cora's key strengths and areas of expertise are in fauna ecology, including breeding raptor and waterbirds, mammal surveys including bat emergences, transect surveys, appraisals and roost assessments for Appropriate Assessment Screening reporting, Ecological Impact Assessments and Condition Compliance monitoring. Cora has expertise in Ecological Clerks of Works for site supervision in both construction phase and operational monitoring of small to large scale projects and in completing Final Audit Reports and Annual Monitoring Reports. Within MKO, Cora worked widely on energy infrastructure, commercial, recreational and residential projects and plays a role preparing Ecological Impact Assessment reports and Appropriate Assessment

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		reports. She also has experience in taking vegetation relevés of vascular plants, habitat identification and habitat mapping in addition to establishing Invasive Species Management Plans. Cora continued to hone in on her skillset and upskill within MKO by taking part in internal trainings on drone surveying, winter tree identification and bryophyte identification training. Cora took part in external trainings such as Stage 1 and Stage 2 Freshwater Peral Mussel training, I-WeBS counts for the Inner Galway Bay region, BSBI training days, and Birdwatch Ireland trainings, in addition to attending conferences such as Salmon Watch Ireland. Cora is a member of Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland. Cora holds a Certificate for Freshwater Pearl Mussel Surveying (Stage 1 and 2), Irish Aviation Authority Drone A1 & A3 A1 & A3 licenses, a NPWS license to film and photograph wild animals and a full clean drivers license.
CF	Cuan Feely, Ecologist	Cuan Feely worked as an ecologist with MKO. From June 2024 to September 2026 and had two years of experience at the time. He holds a B.Sc. in Environmental Science. Prior to taking up his position with MKO in June 2024, Cuan carried out aerial invertebrate identification and grassland vegetation identification as part of his final year project on Irish machairs, where he compared the biodiversity of grazed and ungrazed machair habitats. Cuan has experience in report writing, as well as the usage of various ecological survey methods such as habitat assessments, freshwater and terrestrial invertebrate surveys, bat surveys, vegetation surveys and small mammal surveys. Cuan's key strengths and areas of expertise are in scientific writing, GIS mapping and identification of vascular plants. Cuan is a qualifying member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.
ET	Ellen Tuck, Practitioner Ecologist	Ellen worked as a Practitioner Ecologist with MKO from May 2022 to July 2024 and had two years' experience at the time. Ellen holds a BSc in Environmental Science where she focused her studies on ecology, field skills, and ecological conservation and wind energy in her final year. Ellens key strengths and expertise are in field surveying, mammal surveying, invasive species surveys, including vegetation surveys, and QGIS mapping. Within MKO, Ellen was involved in a range of windfarm, restoration, and SHD projects. Ellen took part in a course on Badgers and other Mustelids with the Field Studies Council and undertook in house training with MKO for bryophyte identification and training in Irish habitats including peatlands and karst environments, Pearl Mussel training, and winter woodland identification training. Ellen held membership with Irish Whale and Dolphin Group (IWDG) and Birdwatch Ireland.
FM	Frederick Mosley, Seasonal Bat Ecologist	Frederick worked as a Seasonal Bat Ecologist for over 9 months within MKO's specialist bat team, from March 2024 to December 2024, and had less than 1 year of experience at the time. During this time, he contributed to the delivery of bat surveys for a range of wind farm and renewable energy projects. His work included undertaking manual transect bat activity surveys, dusk emergence and dawn re-entry surveys, static detector deployment and collection, acoustic data processing, thermal imagery review and bat call analysis using Kaleidoscope Pro. Frederick also assisted with the interpretation of survey results and data preparation for technical reporting and impact assessment. He received specialist bat survey training through MKO's structured training programme, including bat habitat assessment, endoscope use, detector deployment and acoustic analysis.

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		Frederick contributed to wind farm surveys and reporting programmes where he undertook field surveys and acoustic data analysis as part of multidisciplinary assessment teams. He held a Trainee Bat Roost Disturbance Licence issued by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) during his time with MKO.
IR	Inga Reich, Project Ecologist	Inga worked as a Project Ecologist with MKO from October 2020 to July 2022, with two years' experience at the time. She holds a German Diploma in Biology and a PhD in Applied Ecology focused on e.g., the impact of forestry operations on the Kerry slug. Prior to taking up her position with MKO, Inga had worked as a postdoctoral researcher investigating the biological control potential of ground beetles for slugs and other invertebrate pests in Oregon and Ireland and as a sampling technician for Complete Laboratory Solutions. She has previously worked for MKO in a temporary matter, aiding to prepare a UNESCO report and has conducted Kerry slug surveys and written accompanying reports on a freelance basis for Feehily, Timoney & Co and RPS Consulting Engineers. Inga's key strengths and areas of expertise are in Kerry slug and terrestrial invertebrate surveys, data analysis and report writing. Within MKO, Inga was involved in conducting multi-disciplinary ecological surveys and in preparing Stage 1 and Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment reports and Ecological Impact Assessments.
JOS	Julie O'Sullivan, Ecologist	Julie worked as an Ecologist with MKO from July 2016 to August 2021, with 5 years' experience at the time. She holds a BSc (Hons) in Biology from University College London and a Masters in Ecological Assessment from University College Cork. Prior to taking up her position with MKO, Julie gained experience in practical habitat management and developed a range of field skills in plant, habitat, bird and bat surveying through working with several conservation organisations in the UK and Ireland including the RSPB, Cumbria Wildlife Trust and Bat Conservation Trust. Julie has experience surveying birds through her involvement with the RSPB in Northern Ireland. Julie is trained in bat survey, terrestrial invertebrate and freshwater macroinvertebrate sampling and in taking vegetation relevés of vascular plants and bryophytes. She also has experience in habitat identification, habitat mapping, Annex I habitat quality assessment and Phase 1 habitat survey. Julie has worked within our Ornithology Team on several renewable energy developments, utilising a broad range of bird survey methodologies including vantage point surveys, breeding raptor, adapted brown & shepherd and waterfowl distribution surveys. Julie was part of a team of bird usage surveyors working on the Shannon/Fergus Estuary. Within MKO Julie was responsible for independently carrying out and planning Ornithological field surveys in accordance with required Scottish Natural Heritage standards as part of the ornithology team, and for carrying out bat surveys, habitat surveys, and Appropriate Assessment screenings as part of the ecology team.
KG	Kate Greaney, Ecologist	Kate worked as an Ecologist with MKO from March 2022 to September 2024, with over 2.5 years' experience supporting bat surveys and ecological assessments associated with renewable energy developments. She holds a B.Sc. (Hons) in Botany and Plant Science and an M.Sc. in Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security from the University of Galway. During her time with MKO's bat team, Kate undertook bat habitat appraisals, structure

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		and tree inspections, manual activity surveys, emergence and re-entry surveys and acoustic analysis using Kaleidoscope Pro. She contributed to bat survey programmes for wind farm developments, including acoustic surveys, species identification, data interpretation and report preparation. Her experience also included analysis of static detector data, preparation of survey outputs and participation in post-construction monitoring and compliance surveys for operational wind farms. Kate worked as part of multidisciplinary teams delivering bat assessments in accordance with current industry guidance and best practice. She has held a number of NPWS bat disturbance licence and was a member of Bat Conservation Ireland.
KMcD	Kevin McElduff, Ecologist	Kevin worked as an Ecologist with MKO, from June 2021 to September 2022 and had one year of experience at the time. Kevin holds a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Science where he focused his studies on wildlife and ecology. Kevin's key strengths and expertise are flora and fauna identification, report writing and mapping. Within MKO, Kevin was involved in a range of projects such as wind farm, residential and commercial developments, as well as site supervision. In his role as an ecologist, Kevin worked with large multidisciplinary teams including members from MKO's Environmental, Planning, Ecological and Ornithological departments as well as sub-contractors from various fields in the preparation and production of maps and reports such as Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports (AASR), Natura Impact Statements (NIS), Ecological Impact Assessments (EcIA), Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR), Invasive Species Management Plans (ISMP) and briefing notes.
LME	Laura McEntegart, Ecologist	Laura worked as an Ecologist with MKO from March 2021 to October 2024, with three years' experience in ecological consultancy and extensive experience in bat survey work associated with renewable energy developments. She holds a B.Sc. (Hons) in Botany and Plant Science from the University of Galway. Laura has undertaken bat habitat appraisals, preliminary roost assessments, static detector deployment, manual activity surveys, acoustic analysis, impact assessment and technical reporting for both small and large-scale developments, including wind farm projects undertaken in accordance with NatureScot (2021) guidance. She has provided inputs to EIARs, Ecological Impact Assessments and mitigation strategies and has experience supervising ecological works on site. Laura is proficient in bat acoustic analysis using Kaleidoscope Pro and has completed specialist training in bat survey techniques, impact assessment and mitigation. She is a member of Bat Conservation Ireland and held an NPWS Bat Roost Disturbance Licence during her time with MKO.
NC	Neil Campbell, Ecologist	Neil worked as an ecologist with MKO from July 2020 to August 2023, with three years of experience at the time. Neil worked on large projects in the renewable energy sector, in addition to smaller projects in the civil, social and leisure sectors. Neil holds a B.Sc. and an M.Sc. in Botany and Plant Sciences from the National University of Ireland, Galway. Neil's expertise in MKO was as a terrestrial ecologist, specialising in monitoring Ireland's native bat species. Neil had experience in providing ecological assessments for large and small scale projects, on-site supervision of works, invasive species management, data analysis and report writing. Neil's main achievements in, and contributions to MKO included assisting in the

Initials	Name + Role	Statement of Authority
		completion of reports and bat surveys for wind farm projects and assisting in the management of Rhododendron in Killarney National Park. Regarding the latter, Neil was responsible for the mapping of Rhododendron throughout Killarney National Park on behalf of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and was vital in the creation of the new management plans to combat the spread of invasives. Neil also has experience in conducting habitat assessments, terrestrial mammal surveys, freshwater ecology, water quality testing and ornithological surveys.
RC	Ryan Connors, Bat Ecologist	Ryan worked as a Bat Ecologist with MKO from March 2023 to October 2025, with over 2.5 years' experience delivering bat surveys and ecological assessments for a range of renewable energy, infrastructure, commercial and residential developments. He holds a B.Sc. in Zoology from the University of Galway and an M.Sc. in Conservation Behaviour from Atlantic Technological University, Galway. Ryan has undertaken extensive bat survey work for wind farm developments, including survey scoping, bat habitat appraisals, roost inspections, static detector deployment, manual activity surveys, acoustic analysis, impact assessment and technical reporting. He has experience contributing to Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIARs), ecological compliance documentation and derogation licence applications. Ryan is proficient in acoustic data analysis using Kaleidoscope Pro and has prepared and reviewed bat survey reports for renewable energy projects in accordance with current best practice guidance, including NatureScot (2021) and Collins (2023). Ryan has held a number of NPWS bat disturbance licence and was a member of Bat Conservation Ireland.