APPENDIX 1

STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

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

Table 1 Ecology Project Team Biographies

Initials	Name and Role	Statement of Authority
MKO Ecology Team		
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.
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 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

Initials	Name and Role	Statement of Authority
		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 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,

Initials	Name and Role	Statement of Authority
		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.
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

Initials	Name and Role	Statement of Authority
		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). 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).
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 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

Initials	Name and Role	Statement of Authority
		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 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

Initials	Name and Role	Statement of Authority
		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.
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 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

Initials	Name and Role	Statement of Authority
		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 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

Initials	Name and Role	Statement of Authority
		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.
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

Initials	Name and Role	Statement of Authority
		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.
MKO Ornithology Team		
BB	Bernard Burke, Ornithologist	Bernard is a Field Ornithologist with 1 year of bird survey experience. He graduated from Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology in 2018 with a BA. Honours degree in Outdoor Education. Bernard has a wide knowledge regarding a variety of bird surveys for proposed windfarms developments including vantage point, winter/breeding walkovers, hen harrier and waterbird distribution surveys. Before joining MKO Bernard gained valuable hands-on experience working as a tree surveyor recording valuable data in difficult terrain. In his time in MKO he has refined his species identification skills and report writing skills as well as his proficiency in QGIS and data management. Bernard's role within the Ornithology team consists of performing ornithological surveys, data management and writing various reports including the interim and end of season reports.
CC	Cian Cahalin, Project Ornithologist	Cian is a Project Ornithologist with over 3 years of experience. He graduated from Munster Technological University in 2023 with a B.Sc. Honours degree in Wildlife biology achieving a second-class honours grade 1. Cian has a wide base of knowledge regarding various survey techniques including a Bird, Mammal, Vegetation, Habitat and Freshwater surveys. Before joining MKO Cian gained valuable experience working hands on in Wildlife rehabilitation working with various NGOs around the country and abroad. In his time in MKO he has refined his species identification skills and report writing skills as well as his proficiency using QGIS and data management. Cian's role within the Ornithology team consists of performing ornithological surveys, data management, large mapping projects and writing various reports including interim and end of season reports.
DMo/DM	Dónal Moriarty, Ornithologist	Dónal is an Ornithologist with MKO. Dónal holds a BSc in Zoology from UCC. Dónal has 3 years' experience as an ornithologist. Dónal has a wide knowledge regarding a variety of bird surveys for proposed windfarms developments including vantage point, winter/breeding walkovers, hen harrier and waterbird distribution surveys. Before joining MKO Dónal gained valuable hands-on experience working as an education officer at Fota Wildlife Park and as a Zoo Ranger/Falconer at Emerald Park.
FLM	Franck Le Moënner,	Franck is a Project Ornithologist and a field trainer with MKO. Having more than 30 years of experience in Brittany and Ireland, Franck holds a BEATEP as a wildlife guide. Before joining MKO in December 2022,

Initials	Name and Role	Statement of Authority
	Project Ornithologist	Franck worked as a wildlife guide and ornithologist in various sanctuaries of the Breton coast he has also been an active member at Birdwatch Ireland in Sligo, Galway and Dublin before setting up the Meath branch in 2011. Franck's key strengths are bird identification sight and sound and the completion of various and complex surveys. Franck also has experience in bird ringing, conservation and ethology and has very good communication skills. Since joining MKO, Franck worked on several projects around the country and has recently joined the ornithology Field Training group. In his role as an ornithologist, Franck works mostly in the field on ornithological surveys both private practice and local authorities.
HOD	Hannah O'Donoghue, Ornithologist	Hannah is an Ornithologist with MKO with 1 year of experience. Hannah holds a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Science from University of Galway. Prior to joining MKO, she has worked in a variety of hospitality positions which has provided her with valuable skills in teamwork, communication and public engagement. Hannah has experience in Irish Wetland Bird Surveys (I-WeBS). Hannah was awarded a research bursary in University of Galway in May 2025. This was a continuation of Hannah's undergraduate thesis and involved acoustic monitoring of overwintering waterbird species across three turloughs and a raised bog along the Galway/Mayo border. Through this, Hannah developed a keen interest in birds as well as gaining valuable skills in bird ID, data management and scientific report writing.
JCH	James Corcoran Hodgins, Graduate Ornithologist	James is a Graduate Ornithologist with MKO with over 3 years of experience. James holds a BA in International Relations from Dublin City University and an MSc in Applied Coastal and Marine Management from University College Cork. Prior to taking up work with MKO in February 2026, James has worked in outdoor education, photography, and fisheries conservation. Prior to joining MKO, James worked as a Fishery Officer with Inland Fisheries Ireland from April to October 2023. He has also worked extensively in outdoor education, including as an Outdoor Education Practitioner at Shielbaggan Outdoor Education Centre and as a freelance outdoor instructor with various outdoor providers around Ireland. James has experience working in coastal and marine environments, supported by qualifications including Surf Instructor, Beach Lifeguard, Level 2 Kayak Instructor and Level 4 Sea Kayak Skills. During his MSc programme in UCC, James completed the most comprehensive survey of puffin chick diet in Ireland to date and has continued to monitor diet trends at a number of puffin colonies around Ireland for the past three years. James' key strengths include communication, field survey methods, data management, and report writing. Since joining MKO, James has gained experience in a full suite of ornithological survey methods, as well as the completion and delivery of interim and end of season reports, data management and elements of project management for specific sites.
KS	Kathryn Sheridan, Senior Ornithologist	Kathryn Sheridan is a Senior Ornithologist with MKO with over 8 years of experience in ornithological field surveys. Kathryn holds a BA (Hons) Zoology, and a MSc (Hons) in Wildlife Conservation and Management where she focused her studies on breeding hen harrier. Prior to joining MKO in November 2020, Kathryn has worked as a research assistant with UCD, in private consultancy as a sub-consultant with Scott Cawley, and has also worked with BirdWatch Ireland and the NPWS Curlew

Initials	Name and Role	Statement of Authority
		Conservation Programme. Kathryn's key strengths and expertise are bird identification, GIS, data collation and report writing. In her role as a project ornithologist, Kathryn has worked on wind farm projects, residential developments, county council projects and conservation projects including the preparation of EIAR chapters and seasonal reports.
LDV	Louis de Vries, Ornithologist	Louis is an Ornithologist with MKO with over 3.5 years of experience in wildlife conservation. Louis holds a MSC in Ecology and Ethology. Prior to taking up his position with MKO in March 2023, Louis worked as a project manager on cetaceans' conservation for 2.5 years. Louis's strengths and areas of expertise are in ornithological and ecological field survey techniques, scientific data collection and management and report writing. Since joining MKO, Louis has been involved in carrying out ornithological surveys for a variety of projects such as wind farms. Within MKO Louis plays a role in conducting ornithological field surveys, collecting and managing scientific data from field surveys, writing interim and end of season reports.
NMH	Niall McHugh, Ornithologist	Niall is an Ornithologist with MKO with over 5 years of experience in practical survey work, principally in ornithology. Niall holds BSc (Hons) in Applied Freshwater and Marine Biology where he focused his studies on applied aquatic biology, zoology, and wetland ecology. Prior to taking up his position with MKO in January 2021, Niall worked as an ecologist with Scott Cawley Ltd for 2 years. There he was actively involved in a wide range of ecological surveys for planned developments and infrastructural routes in the Greater Dublin area. These surveys included extensive bat surveys, habitat and flora surveys and extensive breeding bird surveys. Since joining MKO, Niall has been involved in extensive ornithological surveys across the country, with this being his key strength. Niall is highly competent with outdoor survey work and has contributed consistently to a range of infrastructure and alternative energy projects. Within MKO, Niall has significantly developed his communication and interpersonal skills as he is actively involved as part of a large multi-disciplinary team with many moving parts and deadlines. He also takes immense pride in his work, has a high diligence and attention to detail and is always eager to learn. Niall is enthusiastic about everything to do with the outdoors and has a wealth of knowledge and personal experience due to his many keen interests and passions, including hiking and mountaineering, kayaking and botany.
PC	Padraig Cregg, Principal Ornithologist	Padraig is a Principal Ornithologist with MKO and has over 11 years of experience working in environmental consultancies. The natural world has been a lifelong passion for Padraig. He has pursued this passion from boyhood through his academic study and career with MKO. In his role, he acts as technical advisor for the ornithology team, helping to take projects through their entire lifecycle, from site selection through survey design, constraints studies, impact assessment and lodgement of the planning application. He is responsible for training the ornithology team and keeping his colleagues updated on all emerging guidance, legislation, policies, initiatives, industry best practices, emerging trends, and market opportunities.

Initials	Name and Role	Statement of Authority
PM	Patrick Manley, Project Director of Ornithology	Patrick Manley is a Project Director of Ornithology at MKO with over 10 years of experience in environmental consultancy. Patrick holds BSc (Hons) in Geology from University College Dublin. Since joining MKO, Patrick has worked on wind farm projects, solar farm projects, residential developments, data centres, county council projects and National Parks and Wildlife Service Projects. He specialises in ornithological consulting, including Environmental Impact Assessments and has specialist knowledge in designing, executing and project managing ornithological assessments, primarily in the renewable industry. Prior to joining MKO in August 2016, Patrick gained experience through his involvement in several bird conservation projects, including protected curlew, seabirds and waders. Within MKO, Patrick plays a large role in the management and confidence building of junior members of staff and works as part of a large multi-disciplinary team to produce EIAR chapters.
SD	Susan Doyle, Senior Ornithologist	Susan Doyle is a Senior Ornithologist at MKO. She completed her primary degree in Zoology (moderatorship in Natural Science) at Trinity College Dublin in 2013 and her master's degree in Ecological Assessment in University College Cork in 2014. Susan has 7 years' experience in ecological consultancy and has worked on wind farm projects, solar farm projects, residential developments, data centres, county council projects and National Parks and Wildlife Service projects. She specialises in ornithological consulting, including Environmental Impact Assessments and operational monitoring. Prior to joining MKO in October 2020, Susan gained experience through her involvement in several bird conservation projects, including protected curlew, seabirds, waders and waterfowl, as well as research into breeding hen harrier, satellite telemetry in migrant birds and avian diseases in Ireland, providing her with extensive experience in a wide variety of bird survey methods, data management and reporting.
SD	Shawn Dowdall, Project Ornithologist	Shawn Dowdall is a Project Ornithologist with MKO, with 3 years' experience delivering ornithological surveys and assessments for renewable energy and infrastructure projects throughout Ireland. Shawn holds an MSc in Biodiversity and Conservation from Trinity College Dublin and a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Biology from University College Dublin. Prior to taking up his position with MKO in January 2024, Shawn gained field ornithology experience through work and volunteering with BirdWatch Ireland, the Golden Eagle Trust and the Hen Harrier Project, including countryside bird, breeding red kite and breeding hen harrier surveys. Shawn has specialist knowledge in the design, delivery and management of multi-season ornithological survey programmes for renewable energy developments. His experience includes vantage point, breeding wader, breeding raptor, waterbird distribution and abundance, winter walkover, wintering golden plover and hen harrier roost surveys. He is also developing experience in passive acoustic monitoring for ornithological applications, including survey design, data management and the development of standardised survey methodologies. Since joining MKO, Shawn has progressed to Project Ornithologist and is responsible for managing a range of ornithological projects, particularly wind and solar energy developments. His role includes survey scoping and design, programme and resource management, client liaison, data quality control and technical review. He

Initials	Name and Role	Statement of Authority
		regularly undertakes ornithological data analysis, GIS and viewshed analysis, collision risk modelling and cumulative assessment, and contributes to the preparation and review of EIAR ornithology chapters and technical reports. Shawn also supervises and coordinates ornithological surveyors within MKO, providing technical guidance and training on survey methodologies, data collection and health and safety requirements. He liaises regularly with clients, landowners, site managers, contractors and other environmental specialists throughout project delivery. Shawn is a Qualifying Member of the CIEEM.
ZE	Zuzana Erosova, Project Ornithologist	Zuzana Erosova is a Project ornithologist with MKO with 3.5 years of experience in ecology and environmental sector. Zuzana holds a BSc (Hons) in Wildlife Biology from the Institute of Technology Tralee. Prior to taking up her position with MKO in January 2022, Zuzana worked as a temporary consultant ecologist for Scott Cawley Ltd., environmental sampling technician for CLS, and graduate ecologist for Envirico. Zuzana's key strengths and areas of expertise are in ornithological and ecological field survey techniques, scientific data collection, sample collection, and report writing. Since joining MKO, Zuzana has been involved in a range of wind energy development projects. In her role as an ornithologist, Zuzana has experience in undertaking various bird surveys, collecting, and managing scientific data from field surveys, and writing interim and end of season reports. Zuzana is a Qualifying member of CIEEM.
Ornithological Subcontractors		
AL	Alan Lauder, Ecologist	Alan Lauder is a professional ornithologist, ecologist, habitat management and nature conservation specialist with over 30 years' experience working across state and non-governmental wildlife and conservation organisations in the UK and Ireland. He has extensive experience of a wide range of ecological and ornithological research, survey and monitoring techniques, is a highly skilled field worker as well as being experienced in habitat, visitor/tourism and wildlife management projects. As a senior level leader and manager in a range of organisations he developed extensive skills and experience in project and team management, organisational and strategic development, communications and policy as well as in planning and development casework on designated sites.
DM	Declan Manley, Ornithologist	Diploma in Commercial Horticulture from Warrenstown College and large interest in bird watching and ringing. Experience contributing to RAS Studies, CBS, Atlas Survey's and IWebs counts. Holds a BTO C Licence and an Irish Ringing Licence from the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Declan has over 50 years' experience in bird monitoring and surveying.
HK	Hannah Keogh, Ornithologist	Hannah holds a BSc in Environmental Science from IT Sligo and a PGDip in Geographic Information Systems from Ulster University. Hannah has over 12 years of experience as an ecological consultant in the renewable energy sector and has specialised as a field ornithologist for the past seven years. She is proficient in standard and species-specific survey methodologies with an aptitude for collecting reliable and meticulous data and reporting while in the field.

Initials	Name and Role	Statement of Authority
KB	Kate Bismilla, Ornithologist	Kate holds a BSc (Hons) in Wildlife Biology from the Institute of Technology Tralee which she graduated from in 2014 and has over four years of experience as an ornithologist. She has experience carrying out surveys, monitoring breeding birds, swift surveys, and conducting practical habitat management.
NB	Neil Bourke, Field Ecologist	Neil has over 10 years' experience and Long-standing involvement in birds, nature, and local natural heritage. While living in the Netherlands, active association with Vogel- en Natuurwacht Flevoland and participation in bird migration counts uploaded to trektellen.nl, assisting at the Ijmeerdijk count site with Jan Boshuizen and Henk KoU'ijberg. Additional involvement in the national Broedvogelmonitoringproject (BMP) under SOVON, including attendance at workshops introducing computer-based data logging. Occasional support provided to Vogelwerkgroep Meijendel, the oldest bird group in the Netherlands. Personal sightings were recorded on waarnemingen.nl. Since returning to Ireland in 2013, active participation in BirdWatch Ireland Kildare Branch activities, including walks, talks, and nest-box projects. Progression from member to Secretary and subsequently Chairman (2019–present). Regular use of BirdTrack for logging sightings, with enhanced access to the Kildare dataset. Participation in national monitoring schemes including CBS (Countryside Bird Survey) and iWeBS for Kildare. As Branch Chair, responsibilities include coordinating monthly walks and talks, maintaining nest-box schemes (Barn Owl, Kestrel, Swift, small passerines, Dipper), supporting ground-nesting wader projects (Curlew, Lapwing, Ringed Plover), preparing grant applications, and overseeing project funding and development. Representation of the branch on the Kildare Heritage Forum under Kildare County Council. Was part of the working group for the latest Kildare Biodiversity action plan and Heritage action plan. First confirmed breeding record of Great Spotted Woodpecker in Co. Waterford (2021). Field videos and observations are shared publicly via the social media. Experienced freelance field ecologist working on vantage point surveys, walkovers, hen harrier dawn and dusk surveys (Naturescot) Hen harrier monitoring, and habitat assessment across Kildare, OU'aly, Laois, Tipperary and Waterford. Recent work as Wader Project OU'icer with the Breeding Waders EIP, delivering nest-finding, site surveys, landowner engagement, predator-control coordination, and habitat enhancement planning under standardised NPWS protocols. Found 4 curlew eggs which were head-started in Fota and released on Lough Corrib in 2025. Long-term involvement with the Ardmore Head SAC, including monitoring of Annex I habitats (vegetated sea cliU's, dry heath) and Annex I species (Chough), along with botanical recording for the National Biodiversity Data Centre. Active contribution to community engagement through guided nature walks and public biodiversity outreach.
SA	Sheriene Acun, Ecologist	An enthusiastic and passionate field ecologist with a broad knowledge on Irish flora and fauna. Friendly and outgoing demeanour. Always respectful towards colleagues and stakeholders. Skilled and experienced in surveying and identifying plants and small mammals in a variety of habitats. Competent in habitat ID. Main expertise is in ornithology. Accomplished in bird species ID and surveying. Capable and experienced in bird and small mammal handling. Equally skilled working

Initials	Name and Role	Statement of Authority
		solely and within a team. Adept in data recording and analysis. Well versed in outdoor navigation. Adaptable and organised for a variety of fieldwork conditions. Experienced in working in agriculture. Understands the basics of agricultural science and the previous and current roles of species conservation tied to it within Ireland. Throughout 9 years of experience as working as a field ornithologist, a wide range of essential skills were acquired. A deep insight was obtained into both the well known and secretive ecology of the Hen Harrier. Skill was developed by being able to judge and pick the most suitable and likely habitats for breeding and roosting. With a firm grasp of understanding the broad range of Hen Harrier behaviour, the nesting locations and current status of a nesting attempt were well interpreted. Such experiences have brought me a firm understanding of the wide range of bird life and the habitats they live within. Species and behaviour Identification skills on Irish Birds have as a result become reliably accurate.
SF	Shay Fennelly, Ecologist	With over 10 years of experience, Shay has experience surveying birds, fish, raptors, marine mammals and bats and worked in aquaculture, coastal construction projects, renewable energy (wind farms) and the fisheries sector in Ireland. Shay has professional experience as a falconer, photojournalist, videographer and several months experience at sea as a Marine mammal observer (MMO) for the Marine Institute, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Irish Whale and Dolphin Group on fisheries surveys and marine mammal surveys. They graduated with a BSc Honours (2.1) in Freshwater and Marine Biology from GMIT in 2012, with a research thesis on the Diet of Herring (*Clupea harengus*) and Sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) in the Celtic Sea.
Previous MKO Employees		
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 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.
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

Initials	Name and Role	Statement of Authority
		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.
CB	Conor Berney, Ornithologist	Conor Berney worked as an Ornithologist with MKO with 2 years of experience in ornithological field surveys, having joined the company in April 2022. Conor holds a BSc (Hons) in Zoology, and an MSc (Hons) in Biodiversity and Conservation where he focused his studies on avian diversity in forestry plantations in the Wicklow Mountains. Prior to taking up his position with MKO in April 2022, Conor volunteered as a research assistant with Wildlife and Ecological Investments and Operation Wallacea assessing avian diversity and bird community ecology in the Fynbos biome in South Africa. Conor's key strengths and areas of expertise are in ornithological field survey techniques and species identification, scientific data collection and management, and report writing. Since joining MKO Conor has been involved in conducting ornithological surveys for a variety of large-scale infrastructure projects, including onshore wind farms, landfall sites for offshore windfarms, and coastal erosion and flood relief schemes. Within MKO Conor plays a role in carrying out ornithological field surveys, collecting and managing scientific data, and writing interim and end of season reports. Conor is a qualifying member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.
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 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.

Initials	Name and Role	Statement of Authority
		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 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.
DW	Donnacha Woods, Senior Ornithologist	Donnacha worked as a Senior Ornithologist with MKO with over 9 years of experience in both private consultancy and public conservation work. He holds a BSc (Hons) in Zoology, and a MSc (Hons) in Biodiversity and Conservation where he focused his studies on feather morphology and its implications on bird flight. Donnacha's key strengths and expertise are bird surveying and identification, survey design, data analysis and report writing. Prior to joining MKO in August 2020, Donnacha has worked in private consultancy as an ecologist with Mott MacDonald and Enviroguide and has also worked with BirdWatch Ireland and equivalent conservation organisations in France and Canada. During his time at MKO, Donnacha was involved in a range of wind energy projects, in addition to projects in housing, education, afforestation, fishing and other sectors. In his role as a project manager, Donnacha worked with and co-ordinated a team within MKO's Ornithological department, as well as sub-contractor ornithologists, in the collection and analysis of data for the production of EIAR Bird chapters, Natura Impact Statements and other reports as required. Donnacha is also experienced in impact assessment and in the writing of EIAR Bird Chapters for large-scale wind energy projects.
EOB	Eamonn O'Brien, Ornithologist	Eamonn worked as a Field Ornithologist with 4 years of experience at MKO. Eamonn worked (6 months) as a seasonal ecological consultant in 2022 – to perform terrestrial grassland and shoreline bird surveys on large infrastructural and transport projects. Eamonn currently performed extensive wetland and terrestrial bird surveys on peatland, estuarine and agricultural habitats at (solar and windfarm) pre-planning and operational renewable energy sites. Specialising in target species identification such as Hen Harrier, Golden Plover, Lapwing and Curlew. Eamonn subsequently collected and digitises his bird survey data and informs management of his results in timely manner. Eamonn completed a GIS and peatlands course at UCD.
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

Initials	Name and Role	Statement of Authority
		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.
FOD	Fionn O'Donoghue, Ornithologist	Fionn worked as an Ornithologist with 1 year of experience at MKO. Keen Birder and wildlife enthusiast for the last 15 years with 4 years' experience in the field in Wildlife filming, along with completing many bird surveys professionally. He has gained a considerable amount of knowledge with bird ID skills & animal tracking by spending many hours in the field. Also involved in Several Wildlife Productions as a Camera Operator/Assistant & Field Researcher. Studied Environmental Science at NUI Galway between 2020 and 2024.
IH	Ian Hynes, Ornithologist	Ian Hynes worked as an Ornithologist with MKO. Ian Graduated with an Honours Degree in Environmental Science from National University of Ireland, Galway in 2017 and joined the Ornithology team in December of the same year. Ian has a broad knowledge of ecology including SNH bird surveys and identification, invertebrate surveys and identification, vegetation surveys, mammal surveys and habitat identification. Ian also has over 6 years of experience using GIS software systems including ArcGIS and QGIS and MapInfo to present ecological data. Ian's key strengths are in Data management and GIS/MapInfo software. As part of the Ornithology team at MKO, Ian was involved in several windfarm projects, utilizing his skills to undertake bird surveys, compile data, write reports and create maps for surveys and figures Ian has also gained experience in report writing through his final year thesis and assisting in the production of EIARs and ornithological reports.
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.

Initials	Name and Role	Statement of Authority
JG	Jonah Gaine, Ornithologist	Jonah Gaine worked as a Field Ornithologist with MKO with 2.5 years of experience in ornithological field surveys. Jonah holds a second-class BSc (Hons) in Field Biology and Wildlife Tourism, from the Institute of Technology Tralee (ITT). Prior to taking up his position with MKO in May 2021, Jonah had an internship working as a research assistant for an independent ecologist on habitat surveying and mapping of invasive alien species (IAS) along a river course. Jonah's key strengths and areas of expertise are in ornithological and ecological field survey techniques, scientific data collection and management, and report writing. During his time at MKO, Jonah was involved in carrying out ornithological surveys for a variety of development projects such as wind farms and greenways. Within MKO, Jonah played a role in conducting ornithological field surveys, collecting and managing scientific data from field surveys, writing interim and end of season reports.
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.
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

Initials	Name and Role	Statement of Authority
		Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR), Invasive Species Management Plans (ISMP) and briefing notes.
LG	Laura Gránicz, Ecologist	Laura worked as an Ecologist with MKO with 4.5 years of experience in ecological consultancy. Laura holds an MSc in Biology from the University of Pecs. Laura has experience in undertaking a variety of ecological surveys and bat sound analyses.
LME	Laura McEntegart, Ecologist	Laura worked as an Ecologist with MKO with 3 years of experience in ecological consultancy. Laura joined MKO in March 2021 as Graduate ecologist. Laura holds a BSc (Hons) in Botany and Plant Science at National University of Ireland, Galway for which she studied the species richness, abundance and diversity of pollinators and flowering plants in High Nature Value (HNV) farmland in a Results Based Agri-environment Payment Scheme (RBAPS). She was involved with a variety of projects including wind-farms planning applications and Habitat Restoration. Laura has experience carrying out bat survey requirements for both small and large scale developments. She has a wide range of experience from bat habitat appraisal and roost assessments, manual/static surveys through acoustic sampling, data analysis, to mammal and habitat surveying to GIS, Ecological Impact Assessments (EcIAs) and mapping techniques. During her time at MKO, Laura was involved in habitat appraisals, deploying static bat detectors and weather stations nationwide, dawn and dusk bat detection surveys, sonogram analysis, habitat mapping, impact assessment, mitigation and report writing. She attended Bat Conservation Ireland (BCI), Wildlife Acoustics and CIEEM courses on performing advanced survey techniques and identification on bats, the use of Kaleidoscope Pro Software and on assessing the impact of developments on bats. Within MKO, she worked as part of a multidisciplinary team to help in the production of ecological reports and assessments. Laura is a member of Bat Conservation Ireland and Bird Watch Ireland and holds a current Bat Roost Disturbance licence from the NPWS.
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 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.

Initials	Name and Role	Statement of Authority
NM	Niall Murray, Ornithologist	Niall Murray worked as a Graduate Ornithologist with MKO with 1 year of experience at MKO. He graduated from Munster Technological University with a B.Sc. Honours degree in Wildlife biology.
OC	Oisin Casasin, Graduate Ornithologist	Oisín worked as a Graduate Ornithologist with MKO with 1 year of experience in both environmental consultancies and NPWS. He graduated from Munster Technological University in 2024 with a B.Sc. Honours degree in Wildlife biology achieving a First Class Honours grade. Oisín has experience in various survey techniques including bird, mammal, vegetation, habitat and freshwater surveys. Prior to taking up his position with MKO in September 2024, Oisín worked as a hen harrier Warden with NPWS and previously undertook a 6 month work placement as a Student Ecologist at MWP. He has experience using QGIS and Excel and holds a Manual Handling certificate.
PW	Padraig Webb, Graduate Ornithologist	Pádraig worked as a Graduate Ornithologist with MKO who completed 4 months work experience with the ornithology team at MKO prior to taking up his position in June 2020. Pádraig graduated with a first-class B.Sc. Honours Degree in Wildlife Biology from the Institute of Technology Tralee in 2020. His undergraduate thesis focused on waterbird and boat interactions and involved extensive use of GIS software including home range estimations. Pádraig has a wide range of volunteer experience with a number of NGO's in Ireland involved in habitat management, conservation and public engagement. He also has previous experience bird surveying as part of the Countryside Bird Survey and the Irish Wetlands Birds Survey. As part of the ornithology team at MKO, Pádraig gained experience in a wide range of bird surveys for windfarm developments.
TR	Tom Ryan, Project Ornithologist	Tom worked as a Project Ornithologist with MKO with over 10 years practical experience in field research. Tom holds a BSc (Hons) in Environmental & Natural Resource Management and at the time was working towards a master's in environmental management with GIS. Prior to taking up his position with MKO in September 2016, Tom worked as part of the Wildlife Unit of the Department of Agriculture as part of his degree. Tom has taken part in voluntary bird surveys as well as ongoing recording of mammal species. Tom's key strengths and areas of expertise are in bird ecology & identification, GIS, project planning, mammal ecology & identification and fieldwork skills. During his time at MKO, Tom was involved as an Ornithologist on over 20 wind energy developments, utilising a broad range of bird survey methodologies including breeding raptor, adapted brown & shepherd and waterfowl distribution surveys. He is very skilled at detecting Annex 1 and red listed bird species in a broad range of habitats. Within MKO Tom played an important role as part of the Ornithology team, working independently, managing several projects and planning field surveys in accordance with required standards. Tom has managed the ornithological surveying at wind energy developments, engaging with and reporting to clients as well as liaising with sub-contractors and management.