

Amanda Awbi

Graduate Ecologist, Qualifying Member of CIEEM

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Amanda Awbi is a graduate ecologist currently undertaking a part time PhD in applied ecology. She focuses on ecological policy and research, and brings experience in field surveys, ecological monitoring techniques and experimental design, and data analysis.

Amanda has expertise in assessing the ecological impacts of solar developments and knowledge of applying findings to develop evidence-based recommendations. Amanda also has practical experience in protected species surveys and GIS habitat mapping. She is currently completing a PhD in ecology at the University of Exeter evaluating the risks and opportunities to biodiversity

and ecosystem services from UK solar developments, with particular expertise in assessing soil health and invertebrate communities. Amanda has developed experience in experimental design, advanced data analysis and interpreting ecological evidence to support mitigation and ecological enhancements. She has contributed to published works with the University of Plymouth and the Environment Agency.



Key Skills

- Skilled in survey design and applied ecological research methodologies.
- Proficient in report writing and the interpretation of ecological data sets, including statistical analysis.
- Skilled in synthesising scientific research and environmental policy.
- Experienced in bat emergence and night-time bat walkover surveys, preliminary roost assessments and bat sound and video analysis.
- Practiced in QGIS mapping of habitats and Phase 2 survey results.
- Proficient in operating ecological monitoring equipment and associated analysis software.

Professional Experience

Assistant Ecologist, Burton Reid Associates

- Conducted botanical and protected species surveys and data analysis to contribute to PEA and EclA reports.
- Supported members of the team with desk studies and legislative research to support accurate reporting and advice.

Freelance QGIS Mapping Technician

- Produced high quality digital maps using QGIS, ensuring accuracy, clarity, and adherence to project specifications with a focus on NVC habitat maps and breeding bird survey data.

Freshwater Invertebrates Research Assistant, University of Exeter

- Followed ecological census methodologies to collect and identify freshwater invertebrate samples from Exmoor National Park.
- Data collected contributed to an Environment Agency report.

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Selected Experience

Torbay Local Plan

Contributed to the evidence base for the Torbay Local Plan by collating and analysing Greater Horseshoe bat survey data to map key data hotspots to allow for comparison with commuting routes, foraging areas and dark corridors. Research will contribute to the identification of potential ecological pinch points to support the Torbay Local Plan.

Protected Species Surveys- Various Sites

Experienced in conducting night-time bat walkover, emergence surveys and preliminary roost assessments alongside bat acoustic data analysis and dormouse footprint tunnel checks to contribute to ecological report writing.

UK Solar Developments Research

Conducting research to address knowledge gaps in the effects of UK solar farm developments on biodiversity. Adapting research methods to monitor key environmental receptors, including soil health, invertebrate communities and bat and bird diversity, within UK solar developments over a 6-year study. Experimental vegetation treatments are being developed to assess how land under solar can be maximised for biodiversity benefits, carbon sequestration and soil health and to help inform best-practice guidelines.

Wetland Restoration Research

Conducted field sampling and laboratory analysis of soil cores across multiple re-wetted sites in Devon to assess carbon sequestration capacity and the associated ecosystem service benefits.

Higher Education

PhD in Ecology,
University of Exeter - Current
Thesis- Biodiversity and Solar Farms:
Risks and Opportunities

MSc Environmental Consultancy,
Distinction,
University of Plymouth- 2023-2024
Thesis- Comparing Temporal Carbon
Storage in Re-wetted Wetlands across
the Southwest of the UK as a Co-Benefit
of Natural Flood Management.

BSc (Hons) Geography, 2.1,
University of Plymouth- 2006-2009

Publications and Awards

Water Conservation Trust, Dissertation
Prize 2024.

Hanley, M. E., Awbi, A. J. and Franco,
M. (2014) 'Going native? Flower use by
bumblebees in English urban gardens',
Annals of Botany, 113(5), pp. 799-806.

Glendell, M. and Brazier, R.E. (2014)
'Evaluating the benefits of catchment
management for multiple ecosystem
services', Horizon House, Deanery Road,
Bristol, BS1 5AH: Environment Agency.
(Acknowledged Contributor).