

## Aisling Walsh

*Ash Ecology & Environmental Ltd (AEE)*



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Over the years, Aisling's entrepreneurial streak was in evidence. It was this spirit of enterprise, combined with her passionate love of wildlife and nature, and her desire to protect the environment, that led her to set up Ash Ecology & Environmental (AEE).

With degrees in Aquatic Science (GMIT) and Zoology (NUIG), along with an MSc in Biodiversity and Conservation (TCD), Aisling has also gained extensive experience working in various related consultancies since 2007.

Aisling began as a sole trader carrying out small ecological surveys, while working in academia. After completing several business courses and seeing demand for her services grow, she decided to go full-time and set up the limited company in 2018.

Aisling, who hails from Mayo, established a permanent office at her home in East Limerick, nestled in the foothills of the Ballyhoura Mountains.

Her main customers are individuals building or extending their homes, who require ecological surveys such as bat surveys (Aisling is a licensed bat ecologist) and other assessments for their planning applications. Some of her services include Screening for Appropriate Assessment, Natura Impact Statement, Ecological Impact Assessment and Flood Risk Assessment.

Aisling is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and also acts as a subcontractor for local authorities, the OPW and larger companies. AEE is a registered practice of the CIEEM and supporter of the 'All Ireland Pollinator Plan'.

Being in ACORNS allowed Aisling to meet like-minded women who see that "anything is possible, and your limit is only where you set it". She feels being in ACORNS allowed her to dream bigger and her business is growing, having taken on its first employee in 2020.

*Providing early stage female entrepreneurs, living in rural Ireland, with the knowledge, support and networking opportunities to meet and even exceed their current aspirations.*



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine