



Ruby May Douglas

Director / Assistant Ecologist

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SPEEDWELL ECOLOGY LTD, 5 Canon Court, Institute Street, Bolton, BL1 1PZ

CERTIFICATION

CSCS Skilled Worker Qualified
Highways England Passport
BTO T Ringer Permit
SEQOHS Safety Critical Medical

City & Guilds NPTC

CS38 Tree Climbing & Aerial
Rescue

MEMBERSHIP

BTO Member

EDUCATION

Vocational Training

Windyside Meadows 2016-2023

GCSEs

King Edward VI, Morpeth

REFERENCES

REDACTED FOR PRIVACY

REFERENCES AVAILABLE
UPON REQUEST

SUMMARY

A focussed assistant ecologist with robust background knowledge and identification skills. I provide survey support on a range of projects and ensure things run smoothly in the background. I enjoy working in a dynamic environment and tailoring jobs to suit clients' specific needs.

ABILITIES

- Protected Species Surveys
- Environmental Sampling
- Wintering / Breeding Bird ID
- Habitat Management

EXPERIENCE

SPEEDWELL ECOLOGY LTD / DIRECTOR / PRESENT

I currently co-direct Speedwell Ecology with my husband and business partner Alex, and continue as an assistant ecologist in this role. We run and support species-specific surveys, supervision and management for several ecological consultancies and are increasingly delivering services directly to the client. We have worked on projects ranging from small residential and maintenance jobs to cross-country road schemes.

FREELANCE / ECOLOGIST / 2023-25

Initially my ecology career involved assisting two local ecological consultancies with their surveys across the North, including bats, great crested newts, reptiles, invasive plant species, soil sampling and more general ecological assessments. I also shadowed ECoW works. In 2024 I won a bursary from Forestry England to undertake my Tree Climbing & Aerial Rescue training, allowing me to assist with more practical ecology work.

MEADOW OPERATIVE / WINDYSIDE MEADOWS / 2016-24

During my time at the premier meadow seed producing farm in Northumberland, I worked in every aspect of the operation including meadow planning, creation, management and production. This role demanded intimate knowledge of species comprising the meadow and requirements for success as a habitat. To create meadow, careful planning and ongoing management similar to that of Biodiversity Net Gain were needed, inspiring my ecology career.

PREVIOUS PROJECT EXAMPLES

Below are a list of projects that I've worked on during my current and previous jobs – they do not encompass all works, but are intended to be representative of the range of my experience with a focus on the types of job I'm most competent at.

A66 DUALLING / SPEEDWELL ECOLOGY / RICHMOND & CUMBRIA / 2025

For these works assisting EcoNorth and Kier, Speedwell Ecology undertook 26 bat activity surveys along the A66 and routes for its planned development. Though I had undertaken many bat surveys before, the intense nature of the dusk/dawn scheduling allowed me to progress my ID skills significantly. Several survey methods were employed, including transects, vantage points and crossing points, and a variety of structures and areas were targeted. Working on this project also required me to become CSCS certified and achieve my Highways England passport, proving useful since then.

SOIL SAMPLING / SPEEDWELL ECOLOGY / COUNTY DURHAM / 2025

To determine suitability for new habitat creation, Speedwell Ecology undertook several soil surveys for a local consultancy in 2025. These involved preparing the survey equipment and locating sample points using GIS, collecting core samples to survey specifications and preparing samples for laboratory analysis. The jobs took place across a variety of sites and some involved significant client communication in order to gain access. New to me at the time, I enjoyed my training in this subject and am now confident in all aspects of this work.

NEST CHECK AND DEVEGETATION / ECONORTH x SPEEDWELL ECOLOGY / TYNEMOUTH / 2025

In this recent work, Speedwell Ecology conducted nest checks and same-day vegetation removal for EcoNorth on behalf of North Tyneside Council. A small courtyard in Tynemouth was overgrown with ruderal vegetation and required removal during peak nesting season. We ensured no nests were present within the site or surrounding buffer, devegetated with electric chainsaw, left the area safe and clear to client specifications, and provided a same-day report on the works. Both EcoNorth and NTC were very happy with the operation, us having taken far less time, planning and money than the conventional method.

REMOTE BAT SURVEYS / SPEEDWELL ECOLOGY / HEXHAM / 2024-25

This work involved us planning, managing, deploying and collecting a large number of remote bat detectors for a local consultancy. Though primarily in Hexham, a few smaller sites were in County Durham and Yorkshire. Using this technical equipment was informative for me, but of particular interest was the management side of the job and ensuring that things continually ran smoothly so that the client always had the equipment when they needed it and data was collected within best practice guidelines. Our client was pleased that even after long days under high workload, their delivery requirements were always met.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT / WINDYSIDE MEADOWS / NORTHUMBERLAND / 2023-24

Working in the meadows sparked my interest in ecology. The process of identifying suitable land for habitat development, creating that habitat and then continually managing it was very satisfying. Good species ID and knowledge of technical requirements for habitat types according to Biodiversity Net Gain was required. In developing habitat I also regularly undertook hedge planting, laying and several other management techniques.