

Robert Aquilina

69 Richmond Park Avenue
Bournemouth
Dorset BH8 9DN
01202-302065
07879-201677

robert.aquilina@btopenworld.com
www.aquilina-environmental.co.uk

Key Skills	<p><u>Environmental knowledge</u></p> <p>Holder of Natural England licences for protected species:- sand lizard, smooth snake, great crested newt (including trapping and handling allowing swabbing for chytrid), white-clawed crayfish, Fairy shrimp (<i>Chirocephalus diaphanus</i>) and Tadpole Shrimp (<i>Triops cancriformis</i>). Also holder of CCW licence for GCN and white-clawed crayfish. Licenced bat roost visitor.</p> <p>Identification skills and survey/census techniques for botanical and entomological surveys. Species level identification of freshwater macroinvertebrates. Statistical analysis of results.</p> <p>PSYM, RIVPACS and RHS (accredited) survey techniques. Marine taxonomy and habitat survey course undertaken at Bournemouth University – an accredited course for intertidal survey, 4-7 May 2010.</p> <p>Electro-fishing certificate of competence.</p> <p>CSCS (ecologist) card holder.</p> <p>Freshwater Recorder for Dorset Environmental Records Centre.</p> <p>MSc Environmental Quality (with distinction).</p> <p>The course covered the methods and techniques for assessing and managing environmental quality whether for conservation or development. Particular attention was paid to local heathland and freshwaters. Course was jointly run with Bournemouth University and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (Winfrith).</p> <p>My dissertation was on habitat quality in Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and used a range of industry standard measures (RIVPACS, PSYM, BMWP) to measure and compare environmental quality of artificial and natural ponds. Multiple regression techniques were used to compare invertebrate and macrophyte scores across the sampled environments with the result that the artificial ponds were found to be as rich as the natural ponds.</p> <p>Full member of Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.</p>
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	<p><u>IT skills</u></p> <p>15 years experience of Microsoft Office products and general pc skills. MSc covered GIS using Mapinfo. Experience of statistical packages such as CANOCO, SPSS, Statistica and Minitab.</p> <p><u>Training</u></p> <p>Designed and delivered training courses on Freshwater macroinvertebrate id (IEEM), pond creation and management (Flora Locale) and in house courses on Great Crested newt surveying and Dragonfly id.</p>
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Work experience	<p>Full-time self-employed consultant carrying out protected species surveys, freshwater biodiversity assessments and macroinvertebrate species identification, pond design and management. Recently worked on reptile translocations, GCN surveys, the status of Fairy shrimp in Dorset and currently in the New Forest, macroinvertebrate surveys of the river restoration project on the Dorset Winterbornes (Dorset Wildlife Trust and EA), Ecological Clerk of Works at Holton Heath, and developing an invasive aquatic plant strategy for DWT.</p> <p>I am experienced in the National Pond Survey technique (plants and invertebrates) through working at Pond Conservation and have carried out surveys for them as part of the Important Pond Areas project in Wales.</p>	March 2007 – present.
Taxonomic experience	<p>I have 12 years experience of identifying aquatic invertebrates; higher plants (esp. aquatic); reptiles and amphibians; field signs for most protected species (mammals, Barn owl etc).</p> <p>I have attended aquatic macrophytes identification courses for River Surveyors (Richard Lansdown) and the EA (Nigel Holmes).</p>	
Dorset Ecological Consultancy, Brooklands Farm, Forston, Dorchester, DT2 7AA	<p>Part time ecological consultant working on protected species surveys and translocations (including Smooth snake and Adder), habitat and species assessments for planning applications and management plans, BREAAAM assessments. Examples of major projects - Purbeck Important Ponds Project surveying macroinvertebrates to species level in 41 ponds; reptile survey and subsequent Ecological Clerk of Works at Holton Heath; Biodiversity Mitigation Plans for variety of smaller development projects across Dorset.</p>	March 2007 – April 2012

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Pond Conservation, Oxford Brookes University, Gypsy Lane, Headington, Oxford, OX3 0BP	Freshwater ecologist working for Pond Conservation at Oxford Brookes University. Still recommended as an Associate on their website and undertake contracts for them. Examples of specific projects are given below.	Sept 2004- March 2007
	Ecological assessment and management recommendations for ponds in Farnham Country Park.	July 2006
	Evaluate the food potential of agricultural ditches to farmland birds using emergence traps (Defra-funded, joint project with RSPB in Leicestershire). Involved developing emergence traps and a sampling protocol, the identification of Diptera and aquatic insects to family level, counting and developing biomass estimates, evaluating emergence patterns against environmental factors using regression and factor analysis. Preliminary results presented at the West Midlands and North-west England Freshwater Group meeting (5 April 2006). Article on Stratiomyidae published in Bulletin of the Dipterists Forum. Poster for AAB conference on Arable Diversity.	Feb 2005 - March 2007
	Presenting training courses on PSYM survey methodology (Aug 2005 and 2006) and on Pond Creation and Conservation (July 2006). Presenting a freshwater ecology field trip for Oxford Brookes University Biology undergraduate course (Sept 2005 and 2006).	
	Providing ecological assessment and management recommendations for ponds surveyed as part of the Oxfordshire parish pond survey (May 2005 and June 2006).	May 2005 and June 2006
	Surveying, sorting and identifying invertebrates for a variety of projects including headwater streams in Midlands (March 2005 -April 2006), Windrush Valley (Oxon) gravel pits (Sept-Jan 2005), and the Montgomery canal (Oct 2004).	
	Independent contracts for the following organisations:-	2003 - present
ECOSA	Macroinvertebrate survey of Timsbury Lakes, Isle of Wight SINCS, River Kennet, Keston Common.	2008-present
RPS	RCS, RHS, and Crayfish surveys at Stansted (2007). Crayfish survey at Tadpole Farm (2008). Freshwater invertebrate and crayfish surveys for Head of Valleys road widening scheme R.Clydach.	2007-present

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Bourne Stream Partnership	Conservation assessment and River Habitat Survey for Water Level Management Plan of the Bourne Stream.	Sept 2005
Poole Borough Council	Baseline ecological survey of the freshwater environments at Alderney Recreation Ground.	Aug 2005
Dorset Ecological Consultancy	Survey and evaluate the biological integrity of a pond at Charing Cross, Alderholt.	July 2005
Poole Borough Council	Environmental problems review of the saline water Boating Lake, Poole Park.	June 2005
Bourne Stream Partnership	Baseline environmental survey for Bourne Stream Partnership (Coy Pond gardens).	Aug 2003
Digi-Data Technologies, Bournemouth	GIS digitisation for Irish river survey for Digi-Data Technologies.	Feb-Apr 2003
Membership and Affiliations	AIDGAP identification key testing panel for the Field Studies Council (1989 - present). Member of British Ecological Society (1979 – present). Member of Freshwater Biological Association. Full Member of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.	
Specialist interests and voluntary work.	Freshwater Recorder for Dorset and founder of Freshwater Recording Group. Aquatic Coleoptera – member of the Balfour-Browne Club. Dorset Amphibian and Reptile Network pond surveys (NARRS volunteer). Particular interest in heathlands and all their environmental components and history – member of Sopley Common Conservation working party and British Herpetological Society conservation team both undertaking habitat management on local heathland. Butterfly transect walks on Sopley Common (includes Dragonflies).	