



# UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH..

Dr. John Staunton | Senior Project Manager  
& Environmental Scientist

*Environment & Planning*



**TOBIN**  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

## Tell us about yourself.

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I'm from Eyrecourt in East Co. Galway, which is a rural area. I studied Environmental Science in NUI Galway, and continued on to do a PhD in the subject there too.

I have been working in Professional Environmental Consultancy since 2014, and joined TOBIN Consulting Engineers in 2020.

## Why did you want to go into this field?

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I always had an interest in the outdoors, nature and science, so when it came to the time to choose a career path after school, Environmental Science (Env. Sc.) in Galway was a pretty easy choice.

I studied Env. Sc. for 4 years as an undergraduate and got on well, and was lucky (considering the economic crash at the time) to get some funding to start a PhD afterwards.

I had some part-time work during my time in the University which I enjoyed, and when I finished the PhD the economy was improving, so I found a job in environmental consultancy.

# What is the most interesting project you've worked on?

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It's hard to give an answer to this really as there have been a few!

I found Castlebanny Wind Farm to be a very interesting project, and we were delighted to see it get through the planning process recently with a positive outcome.



## What is one thing that you wish people knew about your job?

People tend to think that, as Environmental Scientists, we are only dealing with assessments for plants and animals but, in reality, we look at a vast range of topics from human beings, aviation and landscape to archaeology, waste and hydrology.

We look for ways to provide sustainable development so that our society can progress while minimising the impacts on the environment.



## What advice would you give someone who's thinking of pursuing science as a career goal?

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I would say to find an area of science that you are really interested in and try to learn as much as you can about that, but I also think it is important to understand as much as you can in other areas of science.

In my undergraduate degree, I studied a wide range of topics from environmental chemistry and hydrology to waste management and ecology. I feel this wider knowledge has really helped me in my work.

Once you are interested in the topic it will be much easier to learn.