

CAREERS IN ECOLOGY:

The Consultant Ecologist

Barbara Macfarlane, MSc, MRSB

A CONSULTANT ECOLOGIST IS SOMEONE WHO...

- provides a comprehensive range of survey work which is often required to progress a planning application to gain SNH/NE or Local Authority consent
 - reports on survey findings
 - applies for necessary licences on behalf of clients
 - acts as an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) to provide input throughout the construction phases of projects advising on how to avoid or minimise on-site ecological impacts through, for example, the design and supervision of ecological mitigation and compensation measures



WHAT KIND OF SURVEYS?



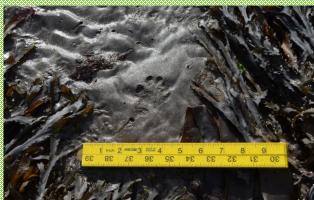
Habitat surveys:

Phase 1 Habitat/Baseline
Extended Phase 1 Habitat/Baseline
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal









WHAT KIND OF SURVEYS?





Protected species surveys:

Bats

Otters

Badgers

Birds

Pine Marten

Great Crested Newts

Red Squirrels

Butterflies

Water Voles

Reptiles





QUALIFICATIONS



Relevant degrees

Ecology

Conservatio n

Zoology

Botany

Biology

Environmental Science

Post graduate diplomas/certificates in relevant disciplines and specific certified courses

CORE SKILLS

QGIS



Knowledge of species
Knowledge of legislation
Computer literacy
Mapping
Excellent report writing
Excellent communication
Driving licence





ATTRIBUTES

Enthusiasm

Motivation

Stamina!

Team player

Ability to work alone

Willingness to learn and adapt

Ability to work with clients, colleagues and multidisciplinary agencies

Passionate about our natural environment



EXPERIENCE

Internships within consultancies

Survey work

Wildlife groups

Conservation groups

Schools

Short on line courses

Membership of professional bodies

Networking

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM A CAREER IN ECOLOGY



- Long (often antisocial) hours
- Lots of time outdoors in all weathers
- Tremendous job satisfaction (and some frustration)
 - Learning to adapt to change
 - Working on interesting projects
- Getting up close and personal with the natural world
- Knowing that you are playing your part in habitat conservation
 - Basically.....expect the unexpected!





THE BEST BITS









