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
- Conservation
- Zoology
- Botany
- Biology
- Environmental Science

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

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 multi-disciplinary 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