

## **Advice for starting out in the Ecology/Environmental Consultancy Field**

### **Jobs**

The busy time of year for ecology and ornithology jobs is from March to September. So you ideally want to get looking around the end of January.

Try recruitment websites such as Countryside Jobs, Conservation Careers and Environment Jobs. There are lots of others too!

You may want to try recruitment consultants, but please be aware some companies do not accept CVs from recruitment consultants as they charge the employer a fee.

Don't be afraid to contact employers direct with a well thought out covering letter and CV tailored to the company and type of role they may be looking for.

### **Volunteering**

Volunteering is a great thing to do, if you can afford it. Here are some organisations

- SNH, RSPB, Froglife, National Trust, The Conservation Volunteers and Scottish Wildlife Trust offer voluntary work.
- [Scottish Environment Link](#) has a useful list of member organisations which could potentially offer voluntary experience or placements
- Volunteer roles/placements are also often advertised on [Environment Job](#)
- The following websites have good directories for finding potential companies:
  - [Environment Analyst](#)
  - [Scottish Renewables](#)
- [The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds](#)
- [Scottish Ornithology Club](#)
- [Marine Conservation Society](#)

### **Training Courses**

- [British Trust for Ornithology](#)- offers some good training such as BBS and WeBS
- [Joint Nature Conservation Committee](#)
- [Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland](#)
- [CIEEM](#)

### Other Tips

- A full driving license is key (not just automatic vehicles, and ideally some 4x4 experience, but training can be provided)
- Consider becoming a Graduate Member of CIEEM. They have some good support as well as useful training courses, some of which are free.
- Just get outside and look at what is around you, be it in the park, in the garden, even waste ground can have odd things growing in it! Having that basic botanical knowledge underpins the Phase 1 surveys and NVC so the rest would follow. Same goes for animal/bird identification. Borrow some identification books from your local library and get out and take notes and compare.
- Field experience and good references are import- the above volunteering suggestions may provide both.
- All the organisations listed above have the option to sign up for e-mail updates on new laws, training courses, events.
- Follow these same organisations on LinkedIn and Twitter and Facebook for their frequent titbits of information.