

Advice for starting out in Ecology, Ornithology or Environmental Consultancy

Jobs

The busy time of year for ecology and ornithology jobs is from March to September, so ideally you should start looking around the end of January.

Try recruitment websites such as Countryside Jobs, Conservation Careers and Environment Jobs.

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 may offer voluntary work placements.
- [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](#).
- [RSPB](#)
- [Scottish Ornithology Club](#)
- [Marine Conservation Society](#)

The following websites have company directories:

- [Environment Analyst](#)
- [Scottish Renewables](#)

Training Courses

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

Other Tips

- A full driving license for manual vehicles is essential. Ideally some 4x4 driving experience, but training can usually 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 basic botanical knowledge underpins the Phase 1 surveys and NVC. 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 important - if you complete a volunteer placement, the above organisations may provide both.
- All the organisations listed above have the option to sign up for e-mail updates on new legislation, training courses, events.
- Follow these same organisations on LinkedIn and other social media for other useful updates and information.