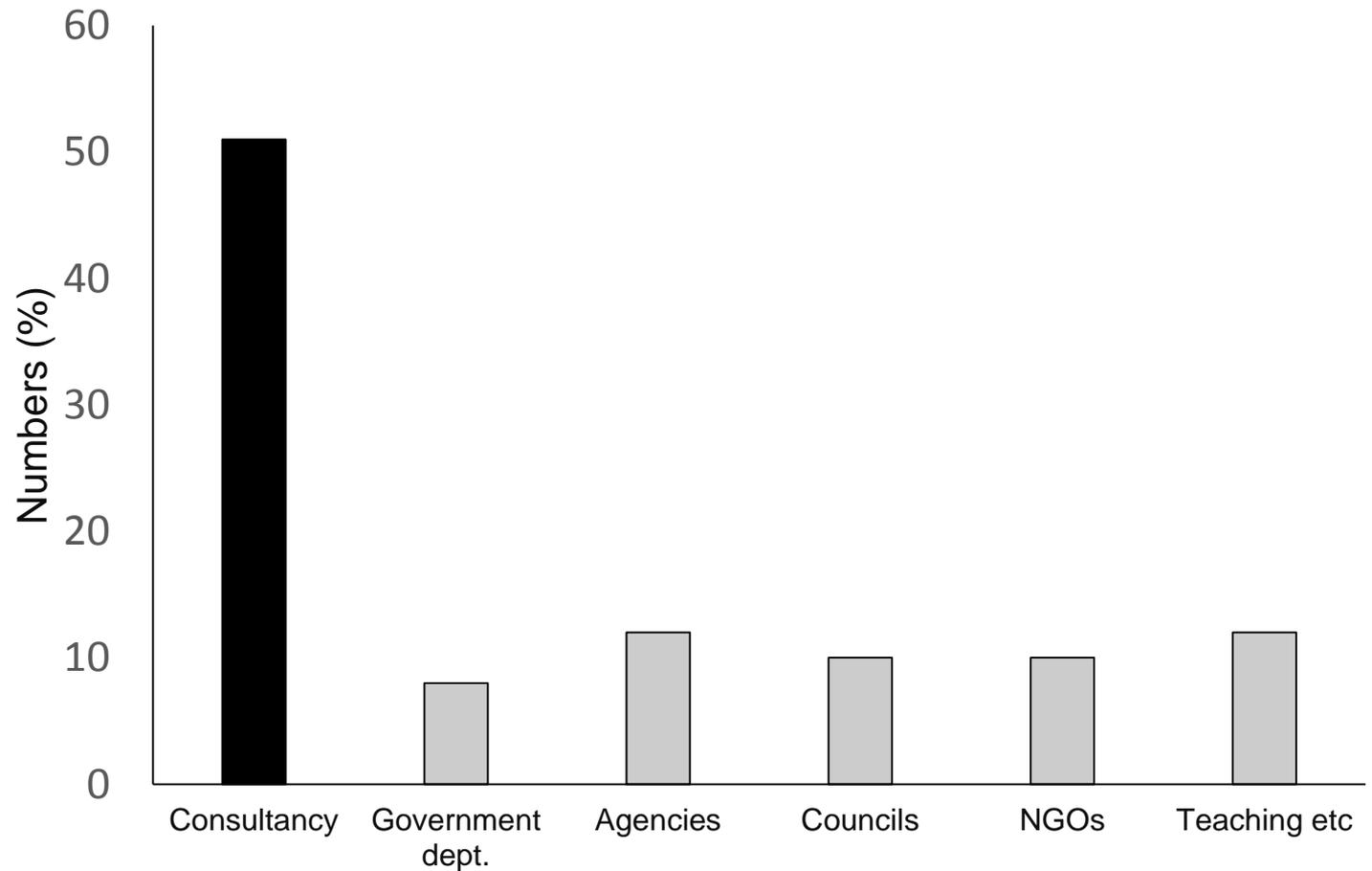


Life Science Careers: Environmental Sector

Sasha Dodsworth
Senior Ecologist



Where do ecologists work? (Membership of CIEEM)



Types of Consultancies

- Multi-disciplinaries
- Medium-sized mixed environmental
- Ecology specialists
- Sole traders

What Consultants Do

Field based – Phase 1, ecological scoping survey, hedgerow assessment, protected species surveys, site supervision.

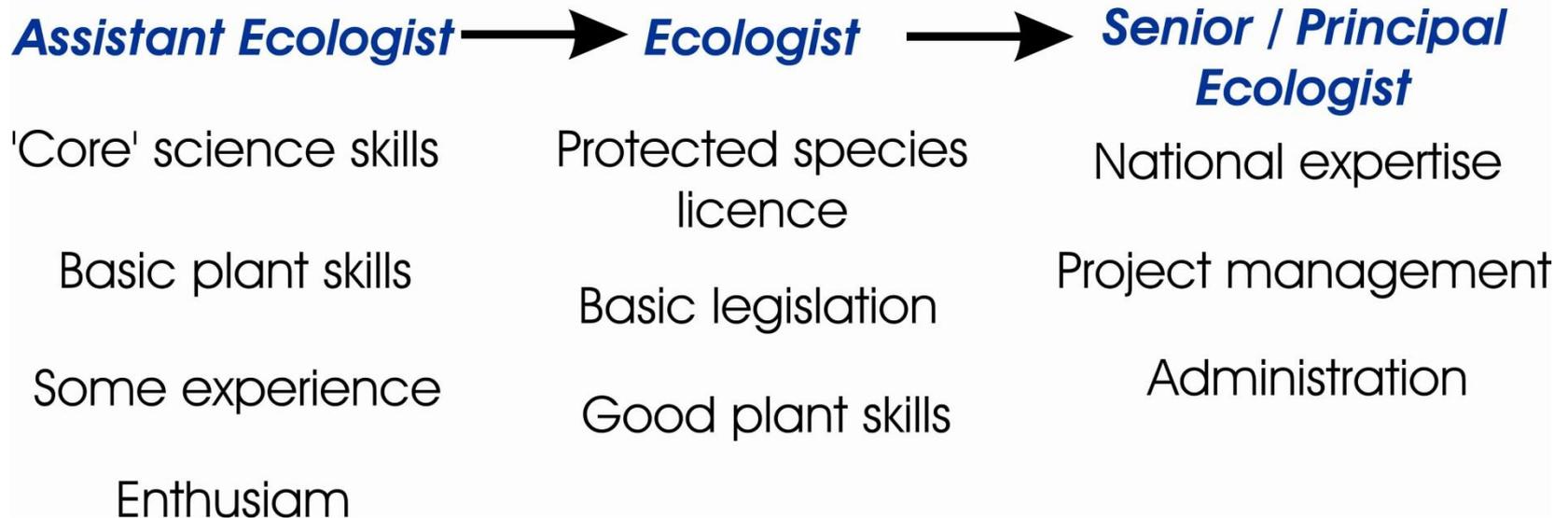
Office based – EIA, ES, HRA, management plans, client liaison, public inquiries

Mitigation

- Habitat protection
- Habitat enhancement and/or restoration
- Translocation
- Offsetting
- Development licences

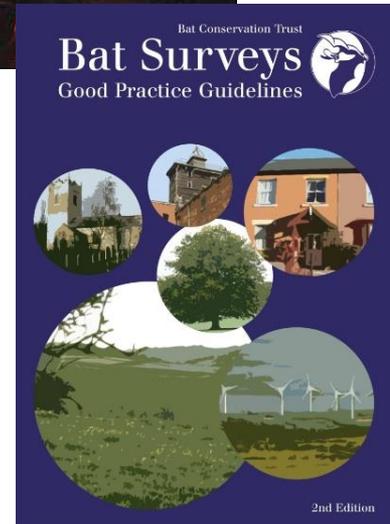
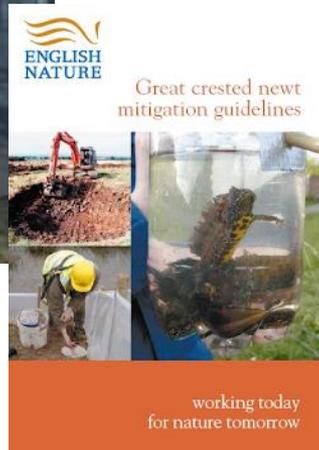


Skills Progression





Baseline Surveys I



Baseline e Surveys II



'Higher' level work

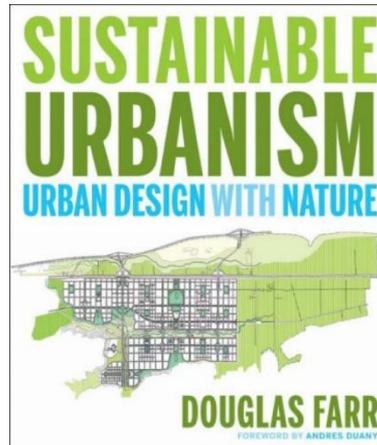


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High Court battle over marshland habitat



Other Employers

- **Government Departments & Agencies.** Regulation (check development licences) / Monitor sites / Policy work
- **NGOs (charities).** Practical work / Information gathering and campaigning / Advocacy.
- **Local Government.** Advice and supporting local planning process.

Pay Scales

- Assistant Ecologist **£14-20k**
- Ecologist **£20-25k**
- Senior Ecologist **£27-36k**
- Principal Ecologist **£38-45k**

Pro's

- Worthwhile
- Varied
- Get to meet some interesting people
- Working outside

Con's

- Hard work
- Anti-social hours
- The pay
- Stressful



Foot in the Door: cv advice

- Enthusiasm
- Perseverance
- Extracurricular interest: minimum botany levels and in-depth knowledge of species – join a local group
- Survey licence
- Obscure ecological groups
- MSc, PhD?
- **Cross-discipline skills:** project management; GIS; communication; person skills; statistics and maths; machinery; law; planning; archaeology; hydrology.

Summary & Conclusions

- Can be hard to get your foot in the door, but the jobs *do* exist
- Sell yourself – enthusiasm, willingness to learn
- Unique skill
- Taxonomic specialism
- Broad range of transferable skills