



Ecologist

Hannah Knight - Associate

● How long have you worked in the industry?

I've worked in ecology for just over ten years now, nine and a half of which have been with RPS.

● Which career path did you follow to get to where you are today?

I studied a BSc degree in Geography at university, followed by an MSc in Biodiversity Conservation, which gave me a lot of the skills needed for report writing, data analysis and map / figure production. Alongside this, I also volunteered with local wildlife groups (for reptiles, bats, birds etc), which allowed me to gain some valuable practical 'hands on' experience with species surveys.

● How would you explain your job to people?

A typical week for me involves a mixture of fieldwork and desk-based work. This usually involves an element of surveying potential development sites, followed by an analysis of the environmental / ecological constraints, and proposing mitigation to ensure that the developer can still achieve their aspirations whilst simultaneously protecting and enhancing the environment which it sits in.

● What role can your profession play in the fight against climate change?

My profession is key in fighting climate change. The schemes that we work on are extremely varied, from new office blocks right the way through to large-scale residential or infrastructure developments. Ensuring that all of these schemes can deliver biodiversity net gain is imperative – as it's this proposed landscaping that has the ability to reduce the impacts of climate change. Our work includes new tree planting to act as carbon stores, blue infrastructure to prevent flooding, or even green roofs to help cool the air temperature. When all of these nature-based solutions are factored into all new developments - even if they seem insignificant when looking at just one development – this will really make a positive difference to the impacts of climate change.



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