



Ecologist

Miles Newman - Principal Ecologist

● How long have you worked in the industry?

I have been working in the ecology industry for over 13 years in a wide variety of positions including university lecturer, freelance consultant, bumblebee surveyor, volunteer director of an NGO, committee member of a professional body, and as an ecological consultant.

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

I began with a BSc honours degree in Environmental Management. After this I wanted to specialise in ecology, so I completed an MSc in Biodiversity and Conservation where I focused my dissertation on classifying the vegetation communities of raised bogs. I caught the research bug and then completed a PhD in botany, examining the impacts of deer grazing on ancient oak and yew woodlands in Ireland. The recession directed me towards ecology consultancy work in England for several years before I took an early career break and travel-volunteered for over a year. I returned to Ireland in 2017 and have been employed as an ecologist ever since.

● How would you explain your job to people?

I usually explain the fundamentals of my job as assessing the impact of projects, such as roads, rail, and wind energy, on wildlife. I feel that the public understanding of what an ecologist does has greatly increased over the last 5 years. Where ecology used to be seen by many as a fringe profession required for a project to obtain planning permission, there is now a public consensus on the importance of protecting biodiversity for our own wellbeing.

Although a typical week may not exist, the basics of my role include problem solving, time and people management, critical thinking, technical wildlife knowledge, and communication.

● What role can your profession play in the fight against climate change? How can your profession make a difference?

The ecology profession can assist in the fight against climate change through early engagement with project design, incorporation of protective and enhancement measures, and through effective communication. Assessments such as No Net Loss (NNL) for biodiversity and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) can greatly aid this.

I am confident that ecologists can be central to making a difference in the biodiversity and climate change crises.



The ecology profession can assist in the **fight against climate change** through early engagement with project design, incorporation of protective and enhancement measures, and through effective communication. Assessments such as No Net Loss (NNL) for biodiversity and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) can **greatly aid this.**”

