Ecology Careers
Overview
The management of natural resources such as wildlife and fish comes under the broad heading of ecology. For an overview of the job role as an ecologist read Ecologist.

For this sector, it is important to demonstrate your key attributes in your job applications:
- **Subject Knowledge** - habitat management, environmental legislation
- **Hard Skills** - GIS, species surveys, practical skills such as a chainsaw licence or a driving licence
- **Soft skills** - communication, leadership, planning, analytical thinking

The job market
In this sector, you can work across industry and the non-for-profit sector so jobs and job titles will vary. For example: Natural Resource Manager, Wildlife Specialist, Field Ecologist, Nature Manager and Conservation Biologist. It is important to read the job content rather than just the job title to decide if a job is suitable for you.

**Not-for-profit**
A significant proportion of jobs are found here. However, as many organisations rely on a large volunteer workforce, a good first step is for you to volunteer too. Paid roles often go to people already volunteering and demonstrating their commitment to the organisations’ values.

**Consultancies**
You could find yourself working on projects alongside staff from diverse professional backgrounds. Your contribution may be in species identification skills.

**Large companies**
Some (often those with land interests) employ their own ecologist/conservationists. Knowledge of current issues, trends and legislation and how this affects the business is needed.

**Top Tips**
- Enrol on Carbon Literacy Training and learn the basic science behind climate change. The training could count towards your Futures Skills Award.
- Get voluntary experience with environmental organisations.
- Read the job content rather than just the job title to see if a job is suitable for you. Regularly read the Faculty newsletter ‘Manchester Met Biology News’ sent straight to your email address, every Monday.

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Nature Conservation

This is a national and global sector and spans a number of industries. Two examples being:

- Agriculture - where there is a trend to turn farming away from high intensity production down the route of sustainability.
- Construction industry - where most new building developments require an environmental impact assessment, of which, ecology and nature conservation is a significant part.

For an overview of the job roles in Nature Conservation read Nature Conservation Officer.

Tips

- Get lots of voluntary work experience with environmental organisations.
- Look for seasonal Ranger posts - these are a good entry route
- Link your dissertation to a live project - Natural England provides example dissertation projects

Key websites

Natural England - gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) - tcv.org.uk

English Heritage - english-heritage.org.uk

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group - fwag.org.uk

Institute of Chartered Foresters - charteredforesters.org

The National Trust - nationaltrustjobs.org.uk

Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management - ieem.net

Royal Forestry Society of England, Wales and Northern Ireland - rfs.org.uk

Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts - wildlifetrusts.org

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) - wwt.org.uk

Joint Nature Conservation Committee - jncc.gov.uk

Current vacancies and newsfeeds

Ecology jobs - ecologyjobs.co.uk

Barn Owl Trust - barnowltrust.org.uk - Volunteering opportunities and placements

Bat Conservation Trust - bats.org.uk - Volunteering

British Herpetological Society - thebhs.org
Volunteering

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) - naturenet.net/orgs/btcv.html

British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) - bto.org - Information on careers, jobs and volunteering opportunities

Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) - eia-international.org/about-eia/vacancies

John Muir Trust - johnmuirtrust.org - Volunteering opportunities

The Mammal Society - mammal.org.uk - Volunteering in London office

The Marine Conservation Society - mcsuk.org - Volunteering in Ross-on-wye

Monkey Sanctuary - monkeyssanctuary.org - Volunteering in Cornwall

National Birds of Prey - ncbp.co.uk - Volunteering in Gloucestershire

Sea Life Surveys - sealifesurveys.com - Volunteering opportunities in Isle of Mull, Scotland

The Tree Council - treecouncil.org.uk - Run a tree warden scheme

Woodland Trust - woodlandtrust.org.uk - Voluntary wardens and volunteering in botanical surveying

Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust - wwt.org.uk - Paid and voluntary work available. Eight regional centres includes Martin Mere

The Centre for Ecology & Hydrology - ceh.ac.uk - Research fellowships, studentships and volunteering

The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England - cpre.org.uk

Defra - defra.gov.uk

The Environment Agency - gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency

The Forestry Commission - forestry.gov.uk

Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group - fwag.org.uk - Provide environmental advice to the farming community

International opportunities

African Conservation Experience - conservationafrica.net

Amazon Conservation Association - amazonconservation.org

Conservation International - conservation.org

Galapagos Conservation Trust - savegalapagos.org
Habitat Management

Managing habitats in national or country parks, wildlife trusts or in private estates to improve habitats is a popular area. There are 12 national parks in England and Wales and two in Scotland. Each has volunteering opportunities. Nearest to Manchester are:

- Lake District National Park - lakedistrict.gov.uk
- North York Moors National Park - northyorkmoors.org.uk
- The Yorkshire Dales National Park - yorkshiredales.org.uk
- Northumberland National Park - northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk
- The Peak District National Park - peakdistrict.org

For details others go to Association of National Park Authorities (ANPA) nationalparks.gov.uk

Zoo Keeper

There are approximately 60 zoos and 100 wild animal collections in the UK with opportunities to work as zookeepers. As an intern at Chester Zoo, you are assigned to one of the animal keeping sections specialising in either birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, or fish and aquatic invertebrates. This kind of work experience is vital and you are advised to be flexible in your search both in terms of species and in terms of environment. Include zoos, animal charities and animal care organisations in your search for experience.

Tip

As well as skills with animals, you also need to demonstrate you can communicate with people. “Nearly all the ways to improve welfare or promote the benefits of the human animal bond arise from getting people to make changes. So being able to work well with people is vital, be they colleagues, partners or the general public.”

Caroline Kisko, Secretary and Communications Director for the Kennel Club

Key websites

British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums - biaza.org.uk

Yell - yell.com - Type zoo, wildlife park or safari parks into the search box

Association of British Wild Animal Keepers - abwak.org - Bi-monthly journal includes career information job vacancies links to zoos and other animal related sites. Includes a useful article
entitled "So you want to be a zoo keeper?"

Zoological Society of London (The Institute of Zoology) - zsl.org - London Zoo and Whipsnade Safari Park. Detailed information on applying to become a temporary keeper.

Chester Zoo - chesterzoo.org - Detailed information on working in zoos, the range of roles available and the qualifications or experience required.

Knowsley Safari Park - knowsleysafariexperience.co.uk/vacancies - Offer summer and 12 month internships.

Blackpool Zoo - blackpoolzoo.org.uk/education-corporate/courses/work-experience - Offer summer and 12 month internships.

Animal Care

Key websites

Guide Dogs for the Blind - guidedogs.org.uk - Includes information on jobs and volunteering at Guide Dogs

Kennel Club - thekennelclub.org.uk - Includes a recruitment section

Pet Industry Federation - petcare.org.uk - Includes a "find-it" directory of professional pet care and other related services that can be searched by county, town or postcode

Pets Locally - petslocally.co.uk - Find all local pet services, from Vets, Pet Shops to Dog Walkers

The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare - ufaw.org.uk - Online journal of animal welfare news includes information on grants, awards and scholarships

Lantra National Training Organisation - lantra.co.uk - Information on training including veterinary nursing, fish farming, agricultural, livestock, equine, and animal care

Animal Charities

Key websites

Blue Cross - bluecross.org.uk - Includes a "Work with Us" section on careers with Blue Cross, careers in veterinary nursing, and careers with horses. Also includes a job vacancies section

RSPCA - rspca.org.uk - Search for careers section, regional centres, veterinary and wildlife hospitals. Includes job profiles, and a link to current vacancies

PDSA - pdsa.org.uk - News links and locations of animal hospitals

RSPB - rspb.org.uk/vacancies - Includes a section on vacancies

Cats Protection - cats-careers.org.uk - Have vacancy and volunteering pages

World Wide Fund for Nature - panda.org - Includes a section on how you can help
Animal Behaviour

Key websites

Association of Pet Behaviour counsellors - apbc.org.uk/career.htm - Includes information on becoming a pet behaviour counsellor, as well as useful links and case studies

Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour - asab.nottingham.ac.uk - Has information on ASAB grants. Useful for finding out contact details of other societies and animal behaviour mailing lists

The Canine Behaviour and Training Society - tcbts.co.uk - Professional body for canine behaviourists in the UK. Has list of members and article on becoming a canine behaviourist

Animal Behaviour Centre - companyofanimals.co.uk

Society for Companion Animal Studies - scas.org.uk

Blue Cross - bluecross.org.uk - Charity which employs animal behaviourists

Animal Behaviour Careers Article (USA) - animalbehaviorsociety.org/web/education-careers.php

Veterinary Work

Vets and Veterinary nursing work is open to graduates. To become a vet, you need a degree in Veterinary Science. There are four-year courses for which graduates can be accepted at The University of Edinburgh and The Royal Veterinary College. To be a vet nurse you need either a degree in Veterinary nursing or a Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing. Funding for these could be difficult.

Key websites

The British Small Animal Veterinary Association - bsava.com - Excellent links to animal welfare websites UK and worldwide covering all aspects of animal care

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons - rcvs.org.uk - Includes veterinary nursing and links to related websites

British Veterinary Association (BVA) - bva.co.uk

British Equine Veterinary Association - beva.org.uk

Vet Times Jobs - jobs.vettimes.co.uk - A trusted resource for recruitment in the industry with jobs in charities, surgeries, and universities. Also offer resources such as How to Answer the Interview Question: “Why Do You Want to be a Vet?”

In Practice (for vets) – inpractice.bmj.com

Fisheries
This sector includes Fish Farming, Fisheries Inspectors, water bailiffs (law enforcement work) and Fisheries Scientists.

This is a small sector with the bulk of jobs in Scotland. There are about 500 Fish Farms in the UK, mostly SME companies. Many in this sector are employed by consultancies or government agencies such as the Environment Agency, DEFRA and Local Authorities.

**Key websites**

Fresh Water Biological Association - [fba.org.uk](http://fba.org.uk/)

The Scottish of Office Agriculture - [gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture](http://gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture)

Scottish Environment Protection Agency - [sepa.org.uk](http://sepa.org.uk)

Centre for Environment, fisheries and aquaculture science (CEFAS) - [cefas.co.uk](http://cefas.co.uk)

P1 Marine Foundation - [p1marinefoundation.com](http://p1marinefoundation.com) - safeguarding and restoring the marine and coastal environment

Scottish Association for Marine Science - [sams.ac.uk](http://sams.ac.uk)

**Job Vacancies**

Fish Farmer - [fishupdate.com/category/aquaculture/fish-farmer-magazine](http://fishupdate.com/category/aquaculture/fish-farmer-magazine)

Intra Fish - [intrafish.com/aquaculture](http://intrafish.com/aquaculture)

OFWAT - [ofwat.gov.uk](http://ofwat.gov.uk) - About the work of the water regulator, with current vacancies and a graduate scheme

Water UK - [water.org.uk](http://water.org.uk) - Links to all UK water and wastewater suppliers

United Utilities - [unitedutilities.com](http://unitedutilities.com) - North West water company

Canal River Trust - [canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk) - Entrusted with the care of 2,000 miles of waterways

Marine Scotland - [gov.scot/topics/marine](http://gov.scot/topics/marine) - Responsible for marine and fisheries issues in Scotland

CiWEM - [ciwem.org](http://ciwem.org)

Fresh Water Biological Association - [fba.org.uk](http://fba.org.uk)

Institute of Fisheries Management - [ifm.org.uk](http://ifm.org.uk) - The IFM leaflet; Careers in Fisheries’ has a full list of Fishery Related Courses

Also, look in Angling Press.

**Animal Technicians**
A controversial area combining work with animals and scientific and medical research but one where the industry adheres to a high level of animal welfare. There are jobs in this area in most parts of the UK, particularly in large cities. The work is mostly rats and mice, but other species are also used.

Institute of Animal Technology (IAT) - iat.org.uk

For an overview of the job role of Animal Technician read prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/animal-technician

Education

Science museums, zoos, aquariums, parks, and nature centres all have roles for education officers. Often, at the “front line” of the organization you may be involved in tasks such as designing exhibits and educational programs, teaching special classes or leading tours and nature hikes. It is important to be a good communicator both orally and in writing; in order to communicate complex biological information to the public and write grant proposals to fund new programs and exhibits. Teamwork is also essential as you may be working with community partners to leverage resources and gain exposure on local and national levels.

For an overview of the job role in Environment Education read prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/environmental-education-officer

Biomimicry

This sector involves finding sustainable solutions to problems in the built environment. You could work alongside engineers, builders, architects and designers to look at the natural world to see how nature has solved a problem. Learn more about how biological research helps to inform societal issues on the AIBS Website actionbioscience.org.

Biomimicry - biomimicry.org

Centre For Alternative Technology (CAT) - cat.org.uk

Financial Times - Special reports about the environment

Sustainable Technology Forum - Looks at technologies to improve cities

Environmental Consultancies

ENDS - ends.co.uk

Naturenet - naturenet.net/people/careers.html

AMEC - amec.com/careers

Acre - acre.com - Services company offering recruitment, search and business intelligence

Allen & York - allen-york.com - Specialist recruitment company serving the sustainability industry

Business Green - businessgreen.com - The latest news and best-practice advice on how to become more
environmentally responsible

**Change Agents** - changeagents.org.uk

**Countryside Jobs Service (CJS)** - countryside-jobs.com

**Earthworks Jobs** - earthworks-jobs.com

**EnvironmentJob** - environmentjob.co.uk/jobs

**Environment Jobs (ADC Environment)** - environmentjobs.co.uk

**Environmental Analyst** - environment-analyst.com

**Environmental Data Interactive Exchange (Edie)** - edie.net

**Ethical Careers** - ethicalcareers.org

**Ethical Performance** - ethicalperformance.com

**Green Jobs** - greenjobs.co.uk

**Green Jobs Online** - greenjobsonline.co.uk

**Green Roles** - greenroles.co.uk

**NatureJobs** - nature.com/naturejobs/science

**Agenda Life Sciences** - agendalifesciences.co.uk/jobs

**S3 Science** - s3science.com/browse-jobs

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**Professional Bodies**

**Key websites**

**British Ecological Society (BES)** - britishecologicalsociety.org

**Canal & River Trust** - canalrivertrust.org.uk

**Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management (CIEEM)** - cieem.net

**European Network of Environmental Professionals (ENEP)** - efaep.org

**International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** - iucn.org

**Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA)** - iema.net

**Marine Biological Association of the UK (MBA)** - www.mba.ac.uk/

**Marine Conservation Society (MCS)** - mcsuk.org
Marine Management Organisation (MMO) - gov.uk/government/organisations/marine-management-organisation

Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) - nerc.ac.uk

The Rivers Trust - theriverstrust.org

Society for the Environment (SocEnv) – socenv.org.uk

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) - thesca.org

Institute of Chartered Foresters - charteredforesters.org

Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management - ieem.net

Royal Society of Biology - rsb.org.uk

Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Animal Therapy - acpat.org

The Pirbright Institute - pirbright.ac.uk/careers-and-training - Includes postgrad opportunities and vacancies.

Journals, Magazines and Newspapers

Key websites
ADAS (Agricultural Development & Advisory Service) - adas.uk/ADAS-careers

Animal Jobs - animal-job.co.uk - Information and advice about working with animals. We have details of all types of jobs with animals worldwide, including current animal care vacancies

Nature Jobs - nature.com/naturejobs/science - Jobs Board plus blog for scientists who seek guidance in developing their careers

British Wildlife - britishwildlife.com

New Scientist - newscientist.com

The Biologist – thebiologist.rsb.org.uk/biologist

The Environmentalist - environmentalistonline.com

The Guardian – theguardian.com/uk

Water and Environment Manager (log in through MMU Library portal) - onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1747-6593

Farmers’ Weekly - jobs.fwi.co.uk

Horse and Hound Online - horseandhound.co.uk - Magazine with news, guide to careers and vacancies, with college and training directory Need to subscribe for vacancies
Pressure Groups

Key websites
Friends of the Earth - foe.co.uk
Green Alliance - green-alliance.org.uk
Greenpeace International - greenpeace.org
Rainforest Action Network - ran.org
Compassion in World Farming - ciwf.org.uk

Careers & Employability Service Support
The Careers & Employability Service offers a range of support to Manchester Met students and graduates:

- **Detailed careers guides**: Access our full range of careers guides on our website.
- **Ask a Careers Question Online**: Get online advice through My Career Hub, ask your question at any time and receive support via email.
- **Careers Consultant Appointments**: Book a 30 minute appointment to discuss preparation for upcoming teacher training interviews or review your performance with a Careers & Employability Consultant.

For more information visit: mmu.ac.uk/careers