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| **Life Planner** | |
| **Career – Ecological Consultancy** | |
| **Timescale** | **Actions/Aims** |
| 5 years | Senior Ecologist – earning £40k pa, expert in bats, Level 4 license. Expert botanist, ornithologist, herp worker, mammalogist. Expert in badgers with extensive experience in badger work. Competent in all aspects of ecological consultancy including botany, herps, birds, Phase 1. Several staff under me including trainees. Attend conferences x 2. |
| 4 years | Ecologist - Level 3 bat license. Botany training in grasses, sedges, mosses, rushes, water plants. Consolidating EPSL and BREEAM experience. Attend conferences x 2. |
| 3 years | Promoted to Ecologist. Know most plants, trees, common grasses, ferns. Know most birds. Bird song course. Started doing European Protected Species Level 2 license for bats, licenses for dormice and great crested newts. Know enough plants to ID most flowering plants, trees, common grasses and ferns. Attend conferences x 2. |
| 2 years | Gain Level 1 bat license. Done 3 badger licenses myself. Know 500 plants, 50 trees, 20 grasses, 10 ferns. Mitigation courses on bats and badgers. Out bird-watching every week in own time with local group, bird ID course. Reading bird books. Attend conferences x 2 |
| 1 year | Promoted to Assistant Ecologist. Involved in first badger licence. Gaining bat experience. Great Crested Newt course. Know 250 plants, 30 trees, 5 grasses. Got dormouse and great crested newt licence. Going out on scoping surveys unaccompanied. Writing own reports. Invasive species course, bat conference. |
| 9 months | Learn 100 more plants and 10 more trees. Go out on one badger job and discuss with colleagues. Learn badger ecology and field signs (read Ernest Neal) and do a course. Great crested newt and dormouse surveys x 6. Read GCN and Dormouse Conservation Handbooks. Do dormouse course. Read 2x bat books – ID and ecology. Writing reports to include advice. |
| 6 months | Learn 90 more plants (one a day) and 10 more trees. Go out at least once weekly outside work doing bat work. Great crested newt and dormouse surveys x6. Start to read Bat Worker’s Manual – conservation, law, health and safety, bat ecology and surveying. Do a bat ecology course. Learn to do bat sound analysis. Start writing reports. Doing simple surveys on my own. |
| 90 days | List the skills I need. Book training on Phase 1 habitat, and surveying for protected species. Carry out as many surveys as possible for a variety of species – bats, dormice, badgers, great crested newts, reptiles, Phase 1. Learn 20 trees and 60 plans (two every 3 days). Join local bat group and go to events. Read Phase 1 handbook. |
| Current | I have done a degree and have just secured my first job as a trainee ecologist but have no experience. I have poor ID skills, especially plants. |
| Assumptions made | I am intelligent, hard working, committed, and enthusiastic. I have every reason to succeed. I love ecology and I am really interested in wildlife. |
| **Instructions:** Write down your aim for where you want to be in 5 years time and write it in the first section under Actions/Aims. Write down your current situation and assumptions made. Then think of the milestones you would expect to be at for each of the timescales given and write them down. What can you do in the next 90 days to start your journey? You need to start NOW! Enjoy the process then TAKE ACTION!  Review every 90 days. | |