

# **Working at NatureScot and skills gained from E3 DTP PhD**

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**PhD**

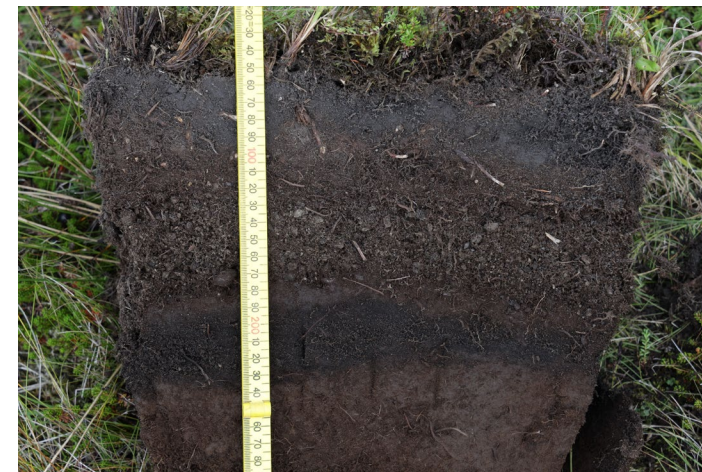
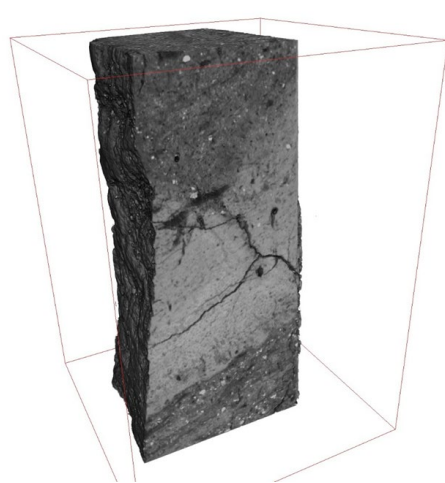


**Operations Officer at NatureScot**



PhD Project 2018-  
2022

Identifying  
environmental  
variability held  
within tephra layer  
morphology





## My Role at NatureScot

NatureScot's role is to protect and promote Scotland's natural heritage. NatureScot is the lead public body responsible for advising Scottish Ministers on all matters relating to natural heritage in Scotland.

Our purpose is to:

- **Promote, care for and improve our natural heritage**
- Help people to enjoy nature responsibly
- Enable greater understanding and awareness of nature
- **Promote the sustainable use of Scotland's natural heritage**

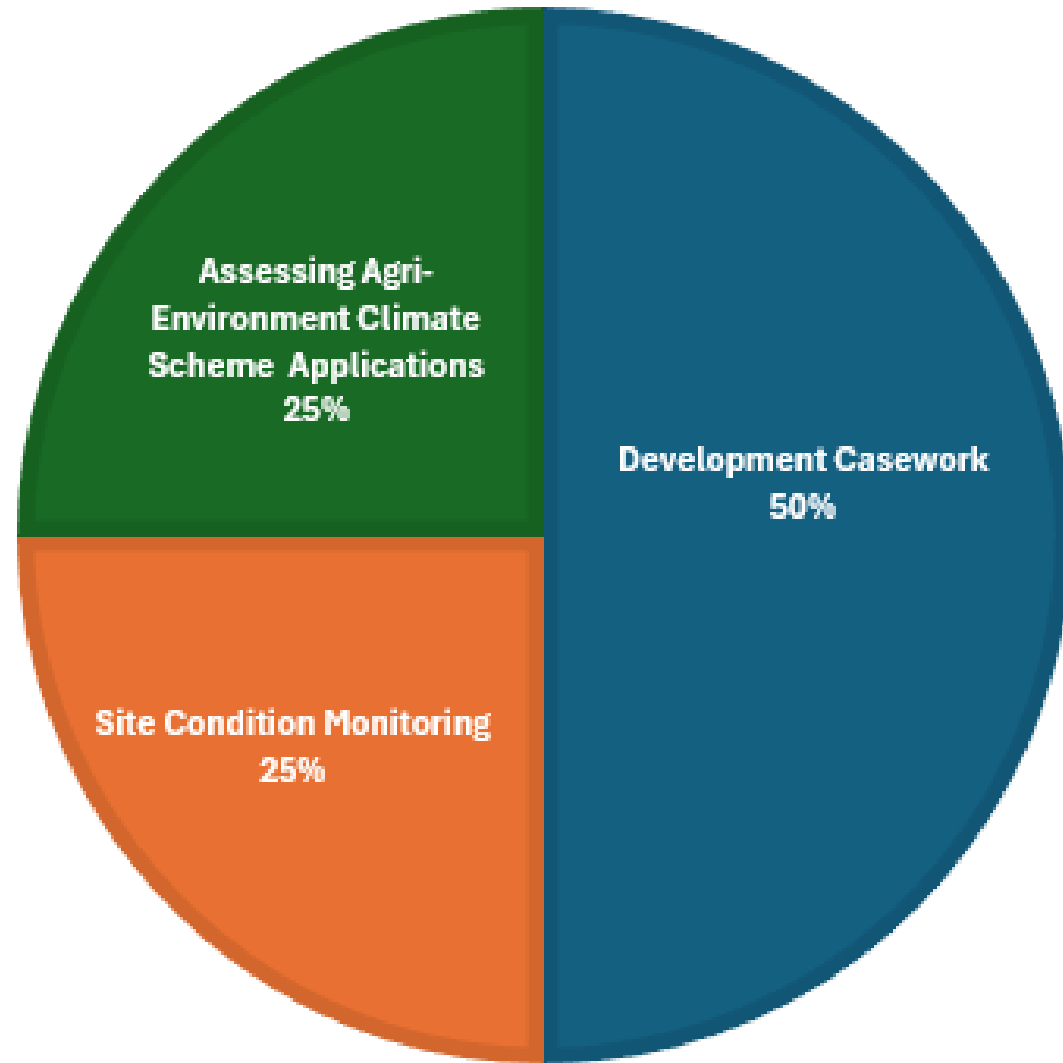
# My Role at NatureScot

Operations officers at NatureScot provide advice, respond to external consultations and are involved in monitoring designated sites.

Designated sites:

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) – National Designation
  - Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
  - Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- ] European Designation

These sites are protected because they contain important habitats, species or a combination of both.



## Transferrable skills gained from my PhD that I use in my job




- Field skills, data collection and report writing
- **General research skills** to learn about habitats, species, policies and legislation that I have little prior knowledge about – **don't be afraid to apply for things that aren't directly connected to your PhD subject**
- Learning while on the job
- Ability to pick new things up quickly
- Multitasking and working to competing deadlines
- Communication skills

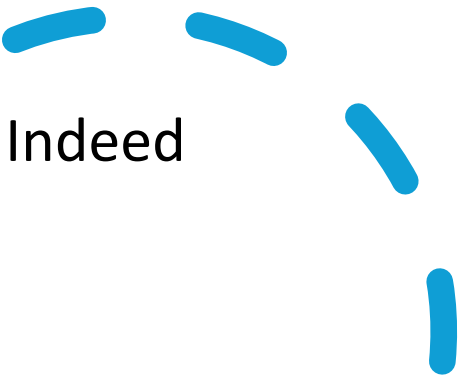




## Making use of wider opportunities offered while doing a PhD

- I did a 3-month policy internship placement at Natural England during the final year of my PhD
  - This gave me insight into what it was like working at an organisation like NatureScot and what having a non-academic job would be like. It helped to determine what sort of jobs I looked for once I finished.
  - I recommend making the most of this (and any other placement or training opportunities) – it's good to have a break from your PhD!
    - Having this experience on my CV helped with getting my current job
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- I found my current job on the NatureScot website, but also used LinkedIn, Indeed and other organisational job pages in my search
  - I applied for a lot of roles before I was successful...

### **Pros:**

- Every day is different and varied
- I'm learning lots, even though I'm now a year into the role I'm still learning new things
- Training opportunities
- Mix of being in the office and out on sites and doing fieldwork
- Good work-life balance

### **Cons:**

- You are not your own boss anymore
  - No research element in my role
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