

Phillip Blaen

Project Manager
Yorkshire Water

It's part of our
Blueprint for Yorkshire



YorkshireWater

Education

- BSc Geography (2005-08)

Birmingham



- MSc Environmental Science and Management (2008-09)

York



- PhD Hydrology/Ecology (2009-13)

Birmingham



Career history

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (2013-2014)
Conservation scientist



University of Birmingham (2014-2017)
Hydrology research fellow



Current role

- Yorkshire Water (2018-present)
Project manager
- Wide range of projects
Environmental, Innovation, IT, Procurement, etc...



Current role

- Yorkshire Water
Project manager



Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meaningful and interesting work• Responsibility• Work-life balance• Opportunities for training and development• Merit-based progression• Supportive culture• Job security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Often office based• Few travel opportunities (at the moment)• Less autonomy to develop own ideas• Some bureaucracy

Transferable skills

Skill	Academic experience
Planning and organisation	Running experiments, fieldwork, organising conferences, sharing tasks within research team, meeting funding and journal deadlines
Communication and stakeholder engagement	Writing papers, funding applications, conference presentations, posters, journal clubs, press releases, open days, collaborating with industry partners
Influencing, managing and motivating	Working with other researchers, supervising junior researchers/students, arranging access to shared facilities
Financial management	Managing spend on research grants, budgeting for grant applications, obtaining quotes from suppliers
Health and safety awareness	COSHH forms, lab work, fieldwork, first aid courses

General advice

- Decide (roughly) what you want to do. Be pragmatic.
- Focus on obtaining specific qualifications, skills, and experience required for this.
 - e.g. PRINCE 2 Project Management qualification
- Use industry language in your CV and covering letter. Don't undersell yourself. Consider your USP.
- Be prepared to work your way up.
- Give it a chance - at least 6 months.

Questions?

Thanks for listening!

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