

FSC Eco Skills Levels Framework (Natural History)

Assessment Level	Knowledge description (Natural History)	Skills description (Natural History)	Roles (Natural History)
Authority	Authoritative knowledge of subject, including detailed knowledge of specialist areas. Able to communicate subject to a range of audiences, including the academic or scientific community.	Demonstrates full competence across all subject skills and able to demonstrate these to all audiences. Authority on standards and guidelines relating to technical methods and use of specialist equipment.	Considered authority on subject.
Expert	Excellent knowledge of subject, including detailed knowledge of specialist areas. Able to communicate subject to a range of audiences, including the academic or scientific community.	Demonstrates full competence across all subject skills and able to demonstrate these to all audiences. Able to evaluate technical methods and use of specialist equipment to make recommendations.	Considered expert on subject, holding nationally important professional and/or volunteer roles specialising in subject.
Advanced	Very good knowledge of subject, including some specialist areas. Able to communicate subject to a range of audiences, including the academic or scientific community.	Considerable experience of subject skills and able to demonstrate these to less experienced individuals. Experience of undertaking highly technical methods. Highly competent with specialist equipment and able to advise others.	Holds professional and/or volunteer role specifically relevant to the subject. Minimum level for FSC associate tutor. Highly valued biological recorder for subject and records rarely or never queried by experts.
Improver/ Intermediate	Basic to good knowledge of subject, with good understanding of all basic terminology and concepts. Able to share knowledge with general population to Beginner-level audiences and communicate with Advanced and Expert-level individuals regarding subject.	Experience of applying range of subject skills and able to demonstrate competence in most relevant basic skills. Competent with using specialist equipment, though with limited or no competence regarding highly technical methods	Minimum level for applying subject knowledge and skills within professional and/or volunteer role without supervision. Active biological recorder for subject and contributes verifiable records to national scheme.
Beginner	Limited knowledge of subject, with understanding of some basic terminology and concepts. Able to communicate some basic concepts to general population audience.	Limited experience of applying basic skills and unable to demonstrate competence. Little or no experience of using any specialist equipment.	Requires further development (or supervision/guidance) in order to be able to apply subject knowledge and skills within professional and/or volunteer roles. Relevant recorder experience limited to entry level citizen science projects and initiatives, though may have some experience of records being accepted.
Introductory	Understands the importance of nature, but with little or no knowledge specific to the subject.	May be aware of the skills relevant to the subject but little or no experience of applying them and unable to demonstrate competence.	Little or no previous experience with relevant volunteer, recorder or professional roles relating to the subject.
General Population	General population (little or no knowledge of or engagement with natural history)		