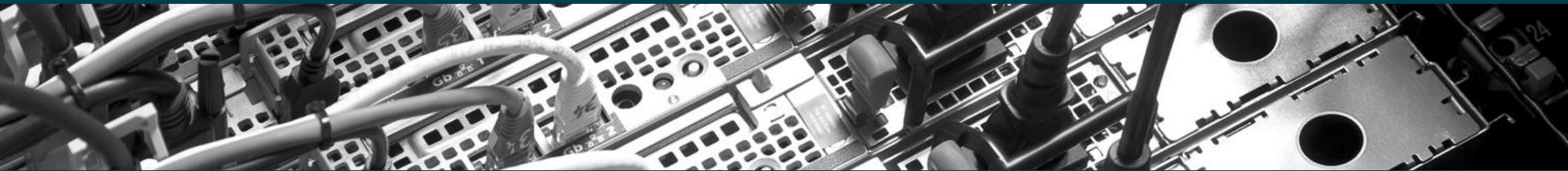


There and Back Again

Reflections on an RTP Management Journey

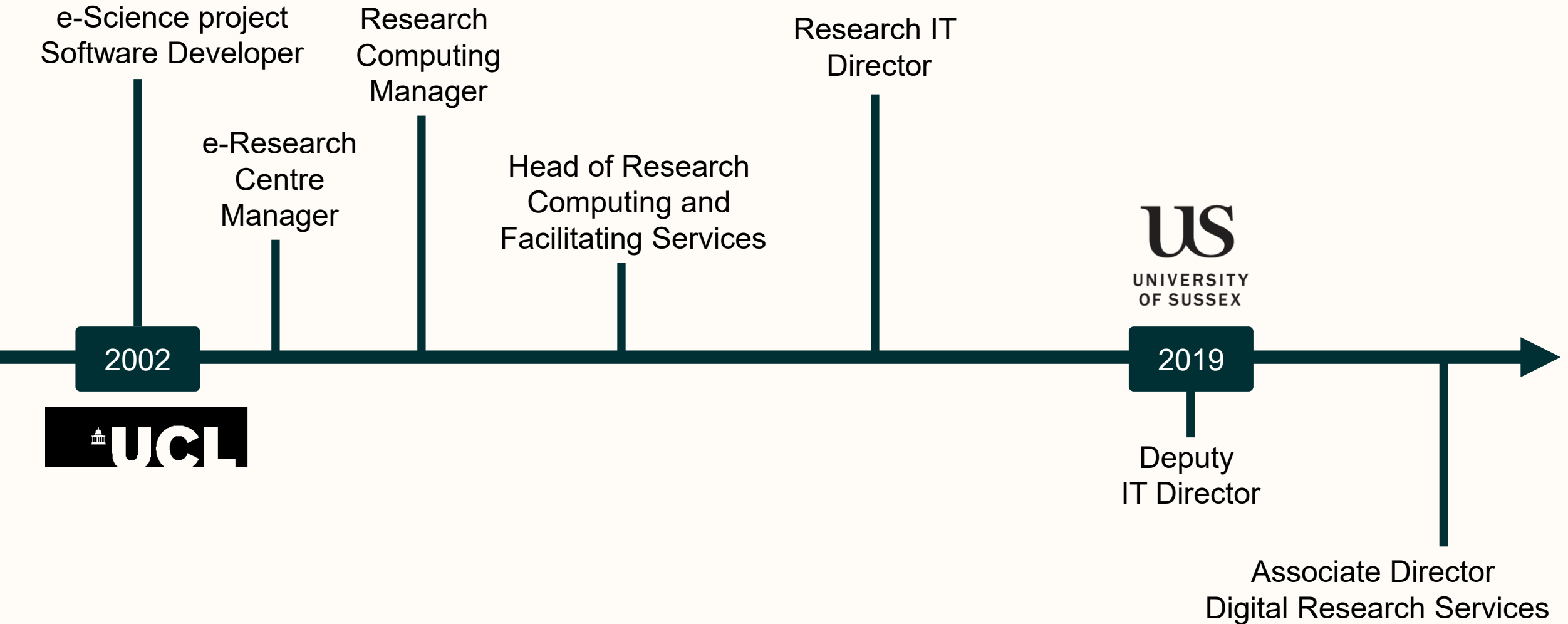
Clare Gryce



ACIT Hub Event
Bristol 8th July 2025

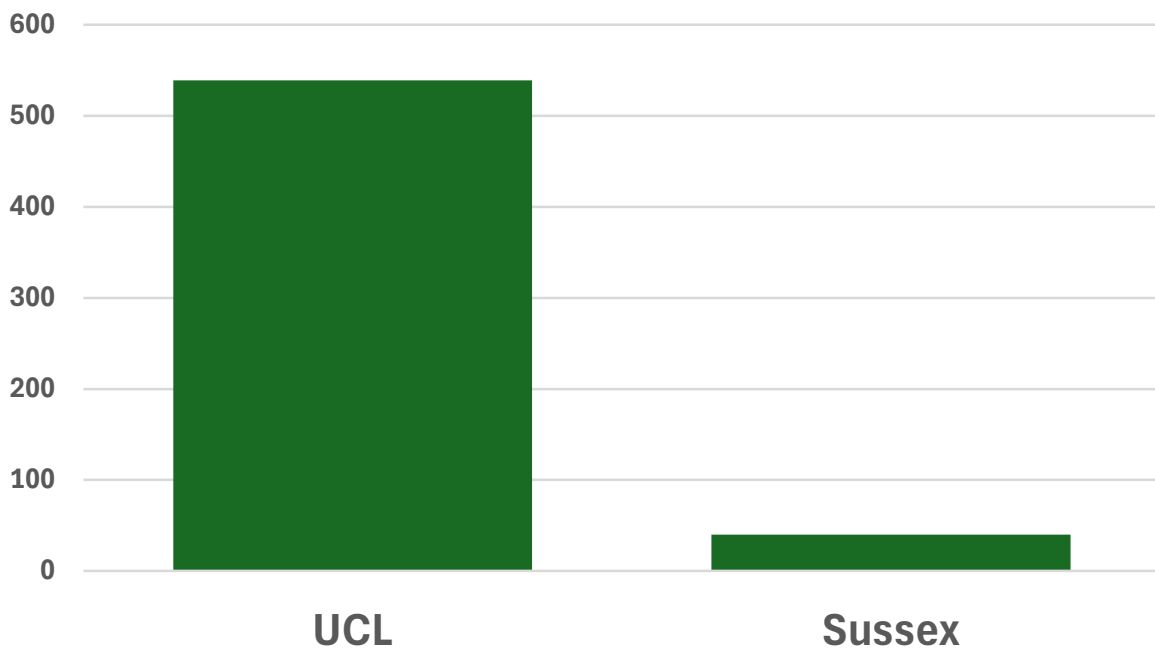
US
UNIVERSITY
OF SUSSEX

A Career History

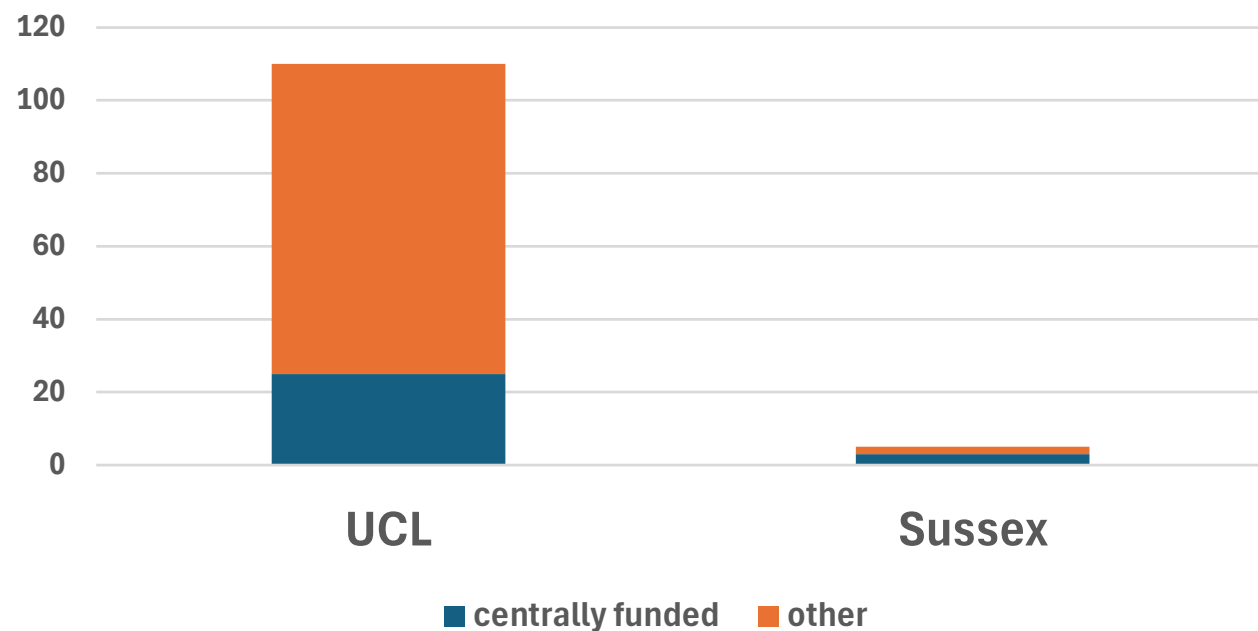


Two Universities ... Two Worlds

23/24 Research Income (m)

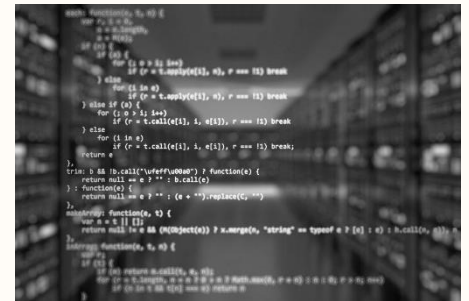
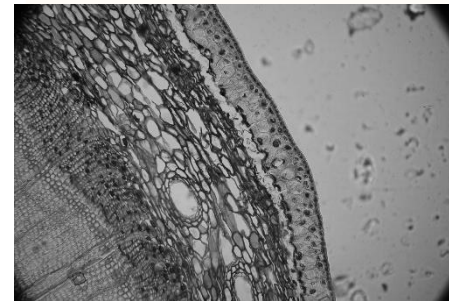
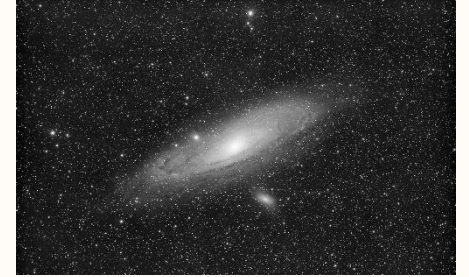
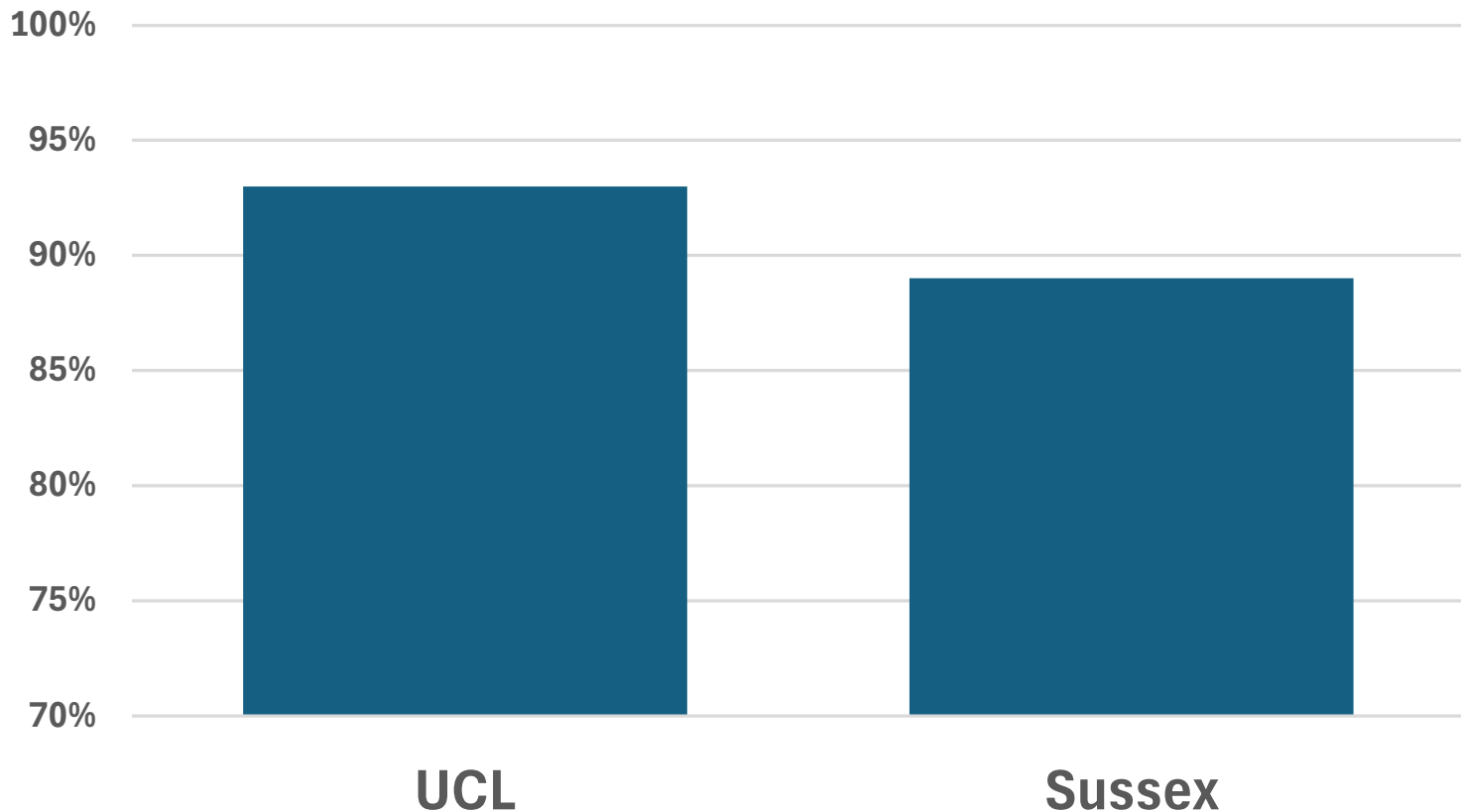


Research IT Headcount



... but with similar ambitions

REF 21 percentage 4* and 3* outputs



T⁵ I² M³ E¹

F² O³ R⁸

C⁴ H⁶ A² N² G⁴ E¹

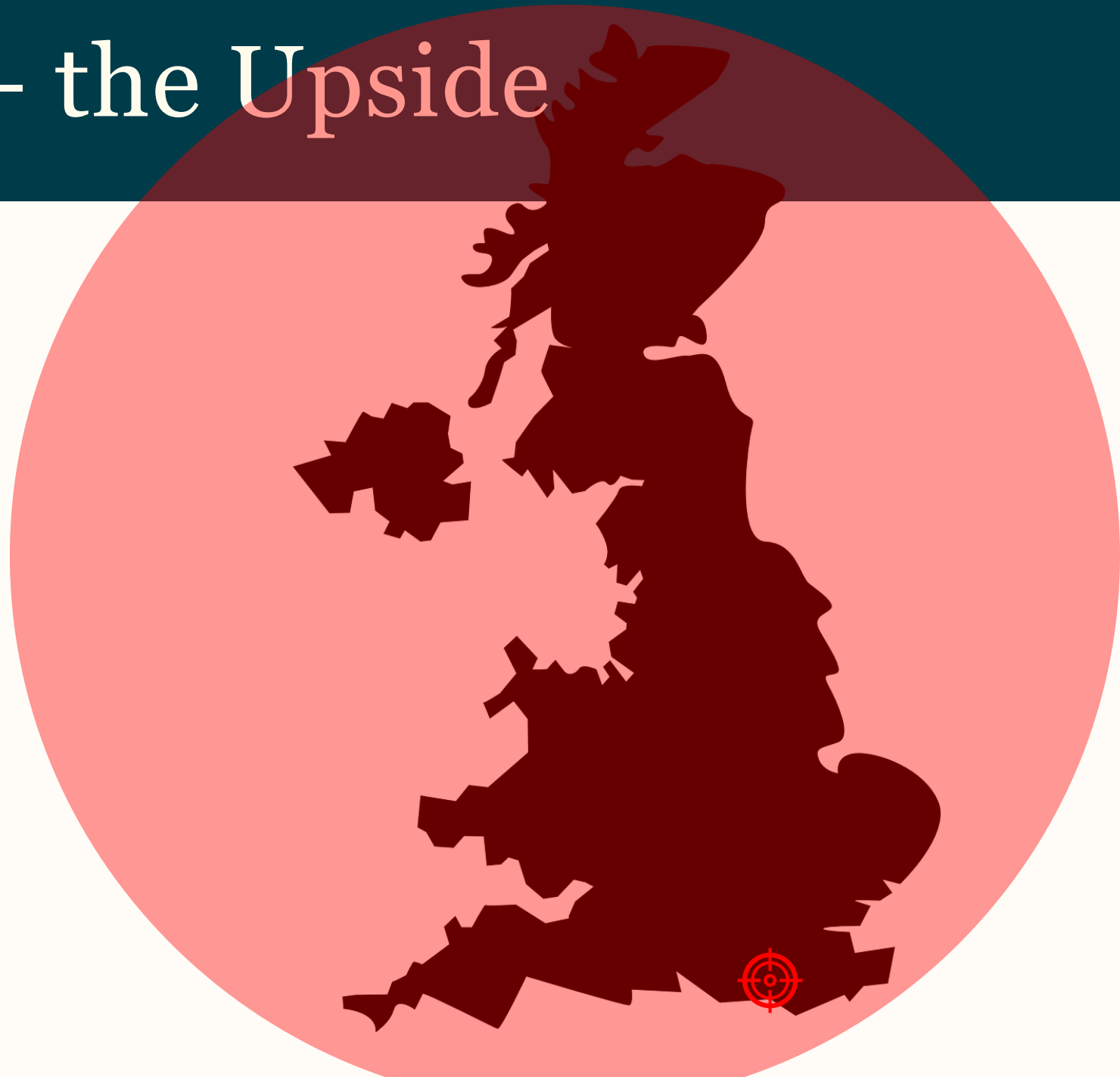
Big Pond



Small Pond



Post pandemic – the Upside



Evolving Job Descriptions

☒ Proven experience supporting or working with High Performance Computing (HPC) systems

☒ Familiarity with HPC schedulers

☒ TCP/IP and high-performance networks (Infiniband)

☒ Familiarity with MPI libraries and programming

☒ Solid experience with Linux system administration in a research environment

☒ Experience installing and administering Linux Operating Systems

☒ Familiarity with HPC schedulers

☒ Hands-on experience of Cloud computing technologies

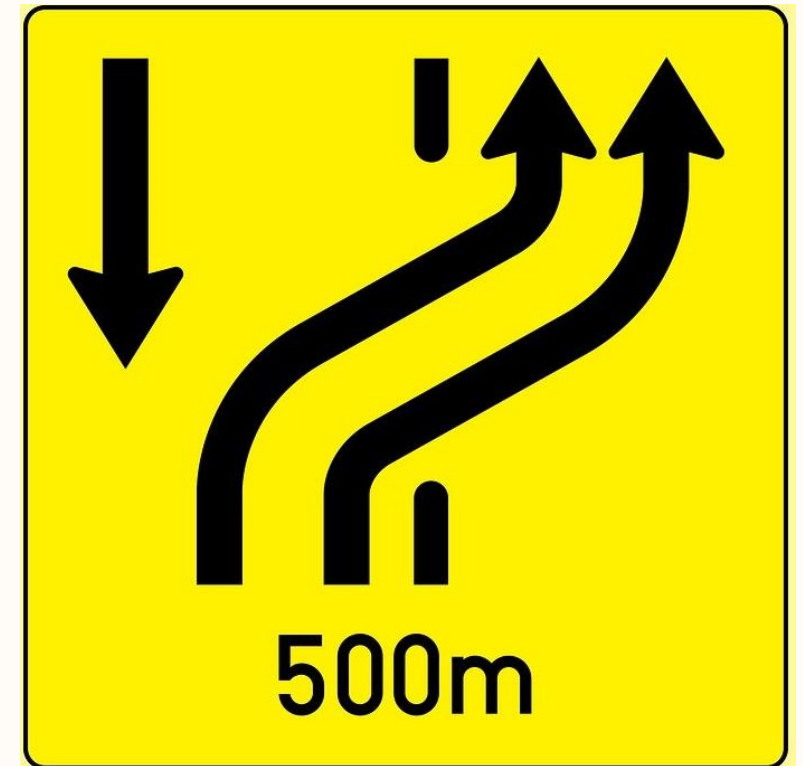
☐ General knowledge of High Performance Computing and related technologies (parallel computing, parallel file systems)

☐ Experience working in a service-oriented environment

.. .but you're hiring a *person*

Personal Attributes	Essential	Desirable
Strong interest in University research activities	Y	
Highly service-focused	Y	
Reliable, dependable, trustworthy	Y	
Proactive and self-motivated learner; able to assimilate knowledge and acquire new skills whilst working	Y	
Willingness to share skills and knowledge with the team	Y	
Problem solving and analytical skills	Y	

Knowledge of agile development methodologies		Y
Knowledge of agile planning tools (e.g. JIRA, Confluence)		Y



‘Research Computing Modernisation’

Build a modern, scalable HPC infrastructure:

Replace legacy HPC cluster with cloud-native HPC system, combining performance with flexibility of software-defined infrastructure



Benefits for users

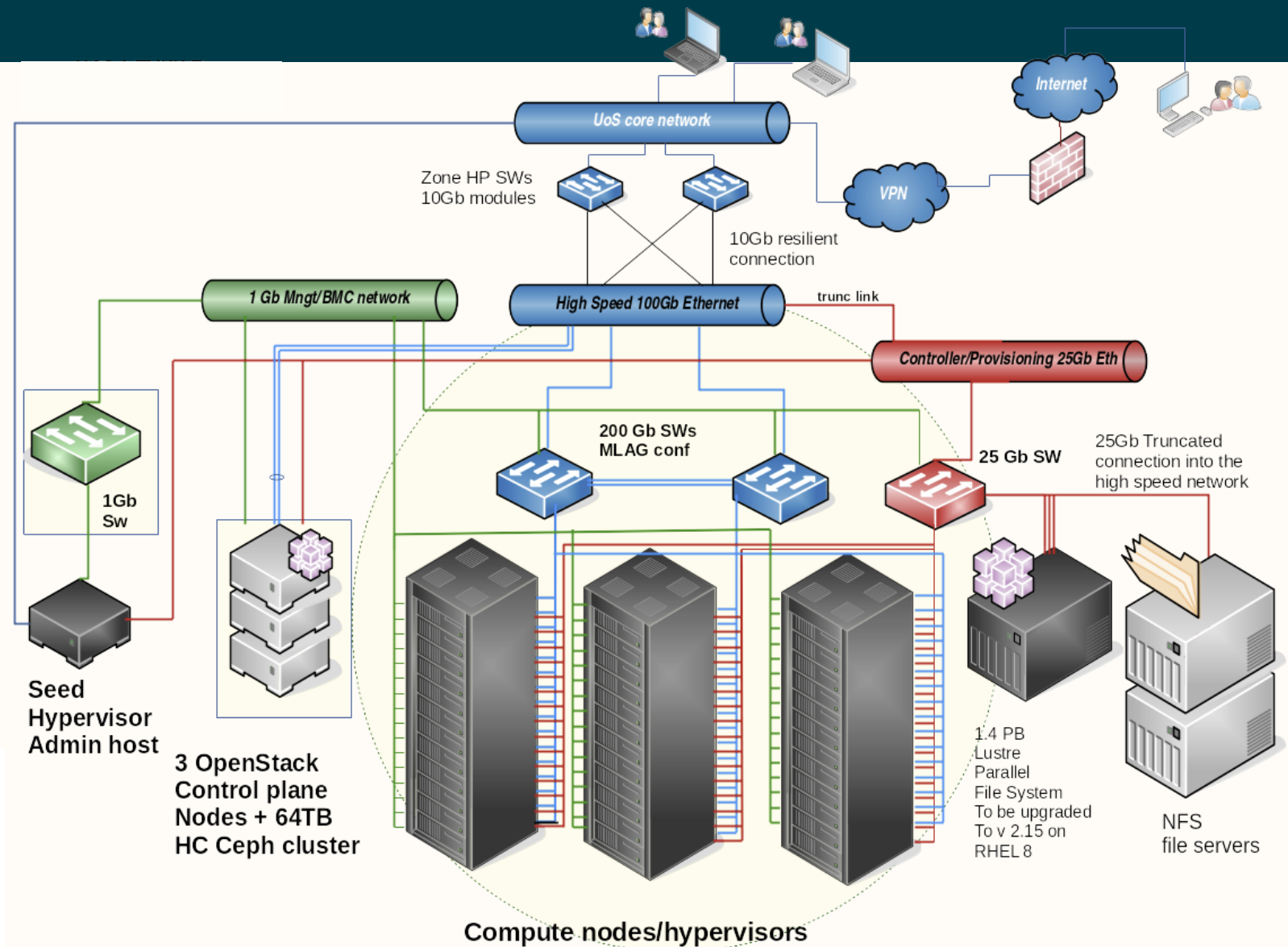
- ✓ Simplified HPC workload management
- ✓ User-friendly interfaces
- ✓ Self-service capabilities



Objectives for administrators

- Adopt DevOps & Continuous Integration practices
- Automation

Artemis OpenStack cluster



Moving Forwards ... Lessons to Learn



- PI co-investment
- Shadowing integrations & major SW updates
- Continuing OpenStack learning > application hosting
- Ceph storage

- Do not **over** prize technical skills
- Be open to different approaches
- Select technology partner carefully
- Don't neglect your non-tech skills
- Train others to hone your own skills
- Understand the organisational context

