

Role Description



Post Details

Post Title:	Research Assistant, Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust
Type of appointment:	9-month contract starting April 2025, with a possibility of extension dependent on funding.
Reporting to:	Principal Scientist – Head of Farmland Ecology
Location:	Fordingbridge, Hampshire, UK
Hours of work:	Full time, 37.5 hours per week over 5 days. Annual leave allowance is 25 days plus public holidays.
Salary:	£24,000 - £26,000, dependent on experience.
Closing date:	14 February 2025
Applications to:	Please send a CV and cover letter outlining your suitability for the role to Dr. Niamh McHugh, nmchugh@gwct.org.uk

Job Purpose

We are seeking a graduate ecologist (BSc/MSc) with excellent insect pollinator identification skills to organise and conduct pollinator surveys in the South and East of England as part of the Healthy Soil, Healthy Food, Healthy People, 'H3', project. 'H3', aims to evaluate the benefits of regenerative agriculture in terms of improved soil, biodiversity and food quality. The successful applicant will also be involved in our long-term sampling projects, sampling invertebrates in the field and further ID work of specimens collected in the laboratory. The role will involve working with other FEU staff, placement students, farmers and land managers, and will include data entry and report writing.

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Our vision

The Farmland Ecology Unit of The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust uses robust science to improve management of the countryside. We typically investigate the ecology of insects and birds, conducting long-term insect monitoring on multiple sites, as well as working with external partners on other large-scale agroecology projects. Our research team also collaborates with other research organisations to co-supervise MSc and PhD projects within these research areas.

Who will you be working with?

Key members of Farmland Ecology Unit:

Niamh McHugh (Principal Scientist – Head of Farmland Ecology)

Lucy Capstick (Senior Scientist)

Steve Moreby (Senior Entomologist)

Ellie Ness (Research Assistant)

Rachel Nicholls (Research Scientist)

Current undergraduate placement students

Other members of GWCT:

Andrew Hoodless (Director of Research)

Directors outside of the Research Team with interests in GWCT research and results from long-term datasets, in particular Roger Draycott (Director of Advisory & Gamebird Policy), Amber Hopgood (Interim Director of Communications, Marketing & Membership), Jeremy Payne (Director of Fundraising), Alastair Leake (Director of Policy & Public Affairs).

Key Accountabilities and Responsibilities

1	Conducting pollinator fieldwork reliably using standardised protocols.
2	Collection of D-vac samples for long-term monitoring projects.
3	Accurately record and collate field data for a variety of projects.
4	Processing and identification of invertebrate samples in the lab.
5	Produce data summaries for reports and feedback to project stakeholders.
6	Working closely with FEU Research Assistant/students.
7	Working with internal/external partners and land managers.
8	Assistance with report/paper writing for Farmland Ecology contracts.
9	Assistance and supervision of undergraduate Farmland Ecology placement students.
10	Attendance of internal/external meetings as required.

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Person Specification

1	Advanced pollinator identification skills with experience in the identification of bumblebees and butterflies to species, and solitary bees and hoverflies to family.	Essential
2	Ability to identify hedgerow and hedge bank/field margin plants in flower.	Essential
3	Excellent computer skills, including MS Office. Extensive knowledge of MS Excel, MS Word, MS Teams.	Essential
4	Experience in data entry, data handling.	Essential
5	Experience of report writing.	Essential
6	A team player; approachable, flexible, enthusiastic and welcoming to all.	Essential
7	Experience of different insect survey methods and experience in identifying invertebrates to family level.	Preferrable
8	An interest in insects as well as other farm wildlife and land management.	Preferrable