



Peter Thompson

Laurie Campbell

Farmland Ecology Unit (FEU)/ Wetland Undergraduate student placement 2026/2027

Background

The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust is an independent wildlife conservation charity. Its 60 scientists carry out research into game, associated species and habitats, from its HQ at Fordingbridge, Hampshire and at out-stations throughout the country. The Trust's main areas of interest encompass farmland, moorland, woodland and river management for game and other wildlife.

The Placement

In 2026/2027 we have one undergraduate student placement available, based at our HQ in Fordingbridge, Hampshire, which will be split between the Trust's Farmland Ecology and Wetlands research teams.

The Farmland Ecology Unit investigates the ecology and management of wildlife within farmed areas, with an emphasis on entomology and ornithology. Insects perform many functions on farmland but three of the most important are: 1) their value as food items for farmland bird species; 2) their contribution to biological control of crop pests; 3) in pollination of crop and wild plants. Much of our research focuses on these subjects. In 2026/27, students will be involved with our five long-term invertebrate monitoring studies. Fieldwork is likely to involve monitoring invertebrates, arable plants and farmland birds such as corn bunting or barn owls.

The Wetland team primarily undertakes research on wading birds such as woodcock, lapwings and curlew, but also on issues relating to the habitats they utilize. The work involves a combination of intensive fieldwork, typically during the spring and summer, and desk-based work: chiefly consisting of data-handling and analysis. Our fieldwork schedule varies from year to year, but Spring 2027 is likely to involve undertaking a range of ornithological surveys, among other tasks. This is likely to also include assisting our ornithologists with nest-finding or bird-handling work, e.g. ringing.

Training will be provided across both teams in invertebrate taxonomy, bird surveying, bird handling and the use of a range of field techniques to measure biodiversity and ecosystem services. Students will also gain experience in data analysis, mapping, and reporting. Some prior in experience in any of these areas would be beneficial.

The successful candidates will be expected to start in September 2026. Free accommodation and a stipend of £131/week will be provided. Applicants are expected to be physically fit and have a full manual driving licence. Some of the fieldwork will involve long days, travel and unsociable hours (including fieldwork at night). To apply, send your CV and a cover letter explaining why you are interested in the placement to the contact below by 9th January 2026. Interviews will be held from the 19th January to the 30th January 2026.

Contact:

Dr Lucy Capstick
The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust
Fordingbridge
Hampshire
SP6 1EF

Tel. 07708476234
Email. lcapstick@gwct.org.uk



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