

Student Placement 2026/2027

Geographic Information Science alongside the Environmental Farmers Group

Background

The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) 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 outstations 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 2025/2026 we have one student placement available, based at Fordingbridge, to be split between the Trust's GIS team and Environmental Farmers Group (EFG). This is a unique opportunity, combining mapping, and statistical analytical skills with experience working on a novel funding mechanism to support conservation work on farmland.

The GIS team, headed by Dr Julie Ewald, is an active team involved in all aspects of spatial data analysis within the Trust. The team collate and analyses data from the Trust's long-running Sussex Study on the South Downs that investigates changes in the cereal ecosystem. In GIS, successful candidates will assist with map creation, data entry and data analysis in support of various projects, especially work associated with the grey partridge and our national Partridge Count Scheme project, managed by the GIS team.

The GIS team provides mapping and monitoring services to the Environmental Farmers Group (EFG), a cooperative of farmers. EFG enables farmers to work collaboratively, enhancing their ability to deliver environmental goods and services while securing fair financial returns.

During the placement, the student will gain first-hand experience of how green financing mechanisms operate to support both farmland biodiversity and the economic resilience of farming in the future. Time spent with the GIS team will develop practical skills in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and data management, which will also support the outreach and engagement activities of the EFG team.

Students should be proficient in Microsoft office software for report-writing and data manipulation. Training will be given in GIS software (ArcGIS) and where necessary QGIS. Experience with this software, as well as statistical analysis or computer programming (e.g., R, SPSS), would be an advantage but not mandatory. The successful candidates are expected to work to a high standard, with attention to detail being very important. A full driving licence, prior to starting the placement, is preferable.

Benefits of the Placement

In return, accommodation will be provided on-site, at Fordingbridge, in **free** student cottages, as well as a stipend of £131 per week to cover basic necessities. Each placement is a great opportunity, offering a unique insight into conservation and wildlife management. Each student will get involved in the day-to-day work required of the teams, but they will also be engaged in a number of additional projects that arise during the year. This placement would suit someone who wishes to pursue a career in ecology, green finance or land management, providing GIS, analytical tools, and experience working with land managers.

To Apply

To apply please send a CV and letter explaining why you are interested in the placement and arrange to have your tutor send a reference to the contact below by the 6th of January 2025. Interviews will be held online from the 20th Jan and 31st Jan 2025.

Contact

Leyla Hunn
GIS / Biometrics Analyst
Email: lhunn@gwct.org.uk