







Laurie Campbell

Student Placement 2027/2028
Data Science in Wildlife Research

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 outstations throughout the country. The Trust's primary areas of interest encompass farmland, moorland, woodland, and river management for game and other wildlife. These areas of research generate a great deal of data, which needs to be collected, stored, processed, and analysed.

The Placement

For 2027/2028, we have one undergraduate student placement/year-in-industry internship available. The placement will provide real-life experience of applying their technological skills to solve practical problems and of working collaboratively with science professionals. The ideal candidate will be expected to work to a high standard, with attention to detail being very important. The student must be self-motivated, able to work independently, and research and solve problems within a team whose members have a varied background.

Our 2027/2028 placement will be based at Fordingbridge. The ideal candidate will apply solutions to a variety of wildlife research projects such as wildlife detection using AI computer vision, document analysis using natural language processing techniques, database construction, design, scripting, and application-development. The database work may require SQL database upgrades, maintenance, and necessary documentation. The student will use their skills to allow for more efficient and modern data collection and analysis, such as web-based data entry and help with automating standard statistical analysis of long-term datasets. Additional projects undertaken by previous students have involved manipulating and displaying spatial data from satellite-tagged woodcock (http://www.woodcockwatch.com), applying deep learning and statistics to reduce manual human effort by 90% for classifying extremely large image data sets (>1 million images).

The ideal candidate needs to be familiar with:

1. Relational database design, i.e., SQL (essential)
2. Python (Basic libraries and concepts- essential, Deep learning experience would be advantageous)

Benefits of the Placement

Free accommodation is provided on-site at Fordingbridge in self-catering student accommodation, as well as a stipend of £131 per week to cover basic necessities. The successful student will acquire a variety of skills that are increasingly desirable in the field of data science and its application through exposure to a variety of research. Former students have successfully pursued careers in computer science using both the technical and interpersonal skills acquired during their time at the GWCT.

To Apply

To apply please send a CV and cover letter explaining why you are interested in the placement and arrange to have your tutor send a reference to the contact below by the 10th of January 2027. Interviews will be held online from the 18th of January to the 29th of January 2027, with the successful candidate expected to start in September 2026.

Contact

Sabeeth Shoeb
Data Engineer/ Scientist
Email: sshoeb@gwct.org.uk

Game & Wildlife CONSERVATION TRUST

www.gwct.org.uk/placements