



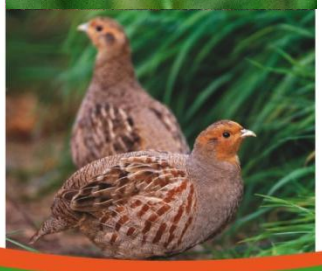








Peter Thompson



Laurie Campbell

Farmland Ecology Unit (FEU)/ Wetland Undergraduate student placement 2027/2028

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 2027/2028 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 2027/28 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 swallows 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 in Spring 2028 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.

Across both teams training will be provided 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 experience in any of these areas would be beneficial.

The successful candidates will be expected to start in September 2027. Free accommodation and a stipend of £131 per week will be provided to cover basic necessities. 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 C.V. and a cover letter explaining why you are interested in the placement to the contact below by the 10th January 2026. Interviews will be held online between the 18th and 29th of January 2027.

Contact:
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