



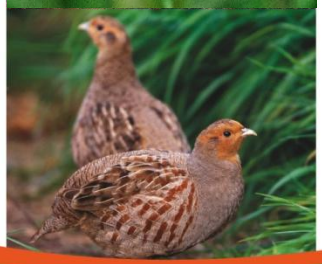






Peter Thompson





Laurie Campbell

Farmland Ecology Unit (FEU)
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

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 birds and bats of which many species have undergone severe declines in recent decades; 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 using either core funds or those received from external grants. The Trust always aims to ensure that the research findings are used practically and many of the options within the current agri-environment schemes are a consequence of our research. This work continues today as the schemes require further revision.

In 2027/28 students will be involved with our five long-term invertebrate monitoring studies, exploring the impact of different aspects of agricultural management, such as organic farming, regenerative practices or agri-environment schemes, on invertebrate populations. Other research is likely to follow similar themes, exploring farmland biodiversity at a landscape scale. Fieldwork could involve monitoring pollinators, arable plants and farmland birds such as Swallows or Barn Owls.

We have one undergraduate student placement available based at our HQ in Fordingbridge, Hampshire. Training will be provided in invertebrate taxonomy, bird surveying, the use of a range of techniques to measure biodiversity and ecosystem services, and gain experience in data analysis and reporting thereby fulfilling the roles expected of a research assistant.

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 would be expected to be physically fit and have a full manual driving licence. 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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