

Laurie Campbell

Student Placement 2027/2028
Geographic Information Science and Natural Capital Advisory

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. Through its commercial subsidiary, Natural Capital Advisory (NCA), the Trust also puts this science to work in the emerging natural capital market, supporting the Environmental Farmers Group (EFG), a farmer-led cooperative.

The Placement

In 2027/2028 we have one student placement available, based at Fordingbridge, to be split 50/50 between the Trust's GIS team and the NCA team. This is a unique opportunity, combining Science-based mapping and statistical analytical skills with experience of how natural capital trading can fund conservation work on farmland. By measuring and verifying environmental improvements such as biodiversity net gain, carbon and water quality, farmers can sell these outcomes to businesses and public bodies, creating a reliable income stream that rewards habitat creation and nature recovery alongside food production.

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 collates and analyses data from the Trust's long-running Sussex Study on the South Downs that investigates changes in the cereal ecosystem. In GIS, the successful candidate 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.

NCA is the Trust's commercial subsidiary, helping farmers and land managers turn environmental improvements into income through the emerging natural capital market. In NCA, the successful candidate will report to Rachel Ridd, Business Manager, and will be involved in all aspects of the business, helping with any projects the team is working on, as well as taking on specific projects assigned to them.

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 NCA/EFG team.

NATURAL CAPITAL ADVISORY

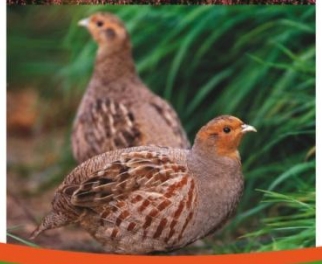
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www.gwct.org.uk/placements









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Requirements

Applicants 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. Training will also be provided in Land App, which NCA and EFG use to map farm habitats and plan and record environmental improvements. 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 candidate is 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. The placement is a great opportunity, offering a unique insight into conservation and wildlife management. The student will get involved in the day-to-day work required of the teams, but they will also be engaged in several 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 10th of January 2027. Interviews will be held online between the 18th and 29th of January 2027.

Contact

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

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