







Laurie Campbell

Student Placement 2027/2028

Geographical Information Science (GIS) and Wildlife Recovery 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 main areas of interest encompass farmland, moorland, woodland, and river management for game and other wildlife.

The Placement

In 2027/2028 we have one student placement available, based at Fordingbridge. The placement will be split between the Trust's GIS and Wildlife Recovery departments.

The GIS team, headed by Dr Julie Ewald, is involved in all aspects of spatial data within the Trust. This team runs the Partridge Count Scheme, which informs the Trust's work on grey partridge conservation. The team also collate and analyses data from the long-running Sussex Study, investigating changes in the cereal ecosystem using mapping software. Successful candidates will assist with data entry and analysis in various projects, especially with Grey Partridge recovery and our national Partridge Count Scheme project.

The Wildlife Recovery department, headed by Dr Francis Buner, researches practical solutions that help recover lowland wildlife, particularly on farmland. The successful placement student will be involved in a kestrel, barn owl and starling nest box project using camera traps across the Selborne Landscape Partnership in East Hampshire, as well as a large-scale farmland biodiversity recovery project involving a range of farmland wildlife species including the grey partridge, should a current project application be successful. The student will further assist with project administration, deliver a project communication strategy (including social media), participate in site visits across the UK, bird ringing for a BTO House Sparrow Recapture for Adult Survival project, habitat mapping in the field and GIS as well as other map-based tasked to deliver the Hampshire Avon Environmental Farmers Group Conservation plan.

Students should be proficient in Microsoft office software for report-writing and data manipulation. Training will be given in ArcGIS Pro, Microsoft Access and QGIS where necessary. Experience with this software, as well as in statistical analysis programming (e.g., in R), would be an advantage, alongside good field skills in ornithology and general wildlife. A driving licence is necessary for fieldwork. The student will be expected to work flexible hours, when necessary, drive to study sites on a regular basis and be happy to travel across the UK, together with work colleagues.

Benefits of the Placement

Accommodation will be provided on-site at Fordingbridge in **free** student cottages, as well as a stipend of £131 per week. Each placement is a great opportunity, offering a unique insight into conservation and wildlife management. This placement would suit someone who wishes to pursue a career in ecology, providing GIS, statistical analysis, and field skills necessary for a post-graduate education.

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 2026. Interviews will be held online from the 18th of January to the 29th of January 2027.

Contact:

Leyla Hunn
GIS & Biometrics Analyst
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Game & Wildlife CONSERVATION TRUST

www.gct.org.uk