







Laurie Campbell

Student Placement 2027/2028
Wetlands

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

The Wetland team primarily undertakes research on wading birds such as woodcock, lapwings and curlew, and issues relating to the habitats they utilize. Our work involves a combination of intensive fieldwork, typically during the spring and summer, and desk-based work throughout the year: chiefly consisting of data handling and analysis. The latter provides opportunities to learn and hone transferrable analytical skills such as the use of GIS for data visualisation and manipulation. The Wetlands team is currently undertaking a range of tracking studies (e.g. dispersal movements of head-started curlew, migratory movements of snipe) and the placement will include the opportunity to experience working with large spatial datasets.

Our fieldwork schedule varies from year to year, but in Spring 2027 is likely to involve surveying breeding lapwing, conducting dusk woodcock surveys, and undertaking a range of other ornithological surveys, among other tasks. This is likely to also include assisting our ornithologists with nest-finding or bird-handling work e.g. ringing. Candidates should be prepared for fieldwork that may involve long days, travel and unsociable hours (including fieldwork at night).

We are looking for an enthusiastic, motivated individual to be involved in our varied programme of avian research. You will gain instruction and experience in survey methods, common field techniques, study design, data management, data analysis and GIS, although some prior in experience in any of these areas would be beneficial. Current possession of UK manual driving licence (i.e. at time of interview, Jan 2027) is an essential requirement.

Benefits of the Placement

In return, accommodation will be provided on-site, at Fordingbridge, in free student housing, as well as a stipend of £131 per week to cover basic necessities. GWCT placements offer a unique insight into practical conservation and wildlife management, as well as research. Practical training provided as part of the placement includes First Aid training and a 4x4 driving course. This placement would suit someone who wishes to pursue a career in field-based ecology, providing skills necessary for a post-graduate education.

To Apply

To apply, please send a CV, a covering 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 January 2027. Interviews will be held from January 18th – January 29th.

Contact

Lizzie Grayshon, Wetlands Ecologist
Email: lgrayshon@gwct.org.uk

Game & Wildlife CONSERVATION TRUST

www.gwct.org.uk/placements