

## Student Placement 2018/2019 Farmland Ecology Unit (FEU)

### 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 2018/2019 we have two undergraduate student placements available, based in the Farmland Ecology Unit (FEU) at our HQ in Fordingbridge, Hampshire. The FEU 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.

Many specialist studies have also been conducted in recent years and include projects on contribution of semi-natural habitats to biological control and pollination; value of agri-environment scheme habitats for invertebrates, farmland birds and bats; long-term monitoring of farmland, ecotoxicology, gamebird and songbird diets, ecology of predatory insects and bumblebees.

There are four permanent staff with a broad range of entomological, ornithological and botanical expertise. MSc students will also be based in the department during the summer. The successful candidate will be expected to start in September 2018. Applicants would be expected to be physically fit and possess a driving licence.

### Benefits of the Placement

The successful candidates will be part of the team and participate in a variety of research projects. Training will be provided in project planning and management, field studies, insect identification, statistics and report writing. Free accommodation and a stipend of £100 per week will be provided.

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018.

### Contact

Dr Niamh McHugh  
Post-doctoral Scientist  
Farmland Ecology Unit  
Direct Line: 01425 651 057  
Email: [nmchugh@gwct.org.uk](mailto:nmchugh@gwct.org.uk)

Laurie Campbell



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