



## Game & Wildlife Scottish Demonstration Farm

### Student Placements 2019/2020

#### 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 Trust recently took over the management of a hill-edge farm in Aberdeenshire which it now runs as a demonstration project.

#### The Placement

We undertake research at GWSDF and ongoing monitoring of a wide array of wildlife on the farm and on some sites nearby. The research is usually applied and based on a programme of data collection in the field.

We have two openings at our new project in Aberdeenshire. This comprises GWSDF and several landowners nearby. These areas combine to provide a huge study site supporting a wide diversity of habitats and wildlife. Throughout we are working on several projects but focusing currently on investigating the ecological and economic impacts of rabbits, factors influencing the breeding success of waders and thrushes, documenting the distribution of breeding raptors, monitoring soil invertebrate populations and experimenting with 'Agrilasars' as a means to control the movements of an array of mammal pests as part of an EU LIFE project.

The research team consists of two permanent staff plus several seasonal students and volunteer staff. The placements would be based at GWSDF where we have an office and accommodation, plus a 4x4 for use if necessary. We could pay a stipend of £100 per week of the placement and all accommodation bills would be covered.

We could accommodate the students for up to a year if required, or shorter periods as necessary. The successful candidates would be involved mostly with field work but also some data handling and analysis. Overall you should be able to expand your experience in ecological experimental design, database construction and data analysis, field work techniques including wildlife surveys, maybe using GPS and GIS. We would endeavour to match your interests to the project as far as possible. There may be the opportunity to work on more than one project within the Scottish Lowland Research department, or between departments within The GWCT as a whole.

We require confident and able students with an interest in ecology and in working outdoors for a placement in 2019/20. You must be happy to be based in a remote, rural location. Some data handling and analysis skills might be useful as would bird ID or other field skills.

#### 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 7th January 2019. Interviews will be held in January/February 2019.

#### Contact:

Dr Dave Parish  
Head of Scottish Lowland Research  
The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust  
Direct Line: 01382 581 111  
Mobile: 07889 891956  
Email: dparishgwct.org.uk

Laurie Campbell



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