

Field & Laboratory Technician



ROLE DESCRIPTION

GRADE

Grade 4

LOCATION

Sighthill, Edinburgh

LINE MANAGER

Jennifer Dodd, Associate Professor, School of Applied Sciences

ROLE SUMMARY

This post is for a field and laboratory technician to support the project Minding the Gap for Biodiversity based within the Centre for Conservation and Restoration Science (CCRS). The post involves the collection, collation and organisation of information collected from various field sites across the Central Belt of Scotland. Information in this context covers data collected from multiple sources, for example, passive acoustic recording, camera-traps, invertebrate traps, vegetation surveys and environmental DNA. The role holder will be required to liaise with the project funder to gain access to field sites (with support from the project team).

LINE MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR:

This role does not have any line management responsibilities currently.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The main duties for this role will be to support the collection of field data from multiple sources (e.g., passive acoustic recordings, camera traps, vegetation surveys, invertebrate surveys, and environmental DNA), and the associated processing of these collected data (e.g., taxonomic identification, aural and automated processing of acoustic information, visual assessment of camera trap data).

- Field data collection, including:
 - Deployment of passive acoustic recording devices and camera traps
 - Vegetation surveys
 - Invertebrate surveys
 - Soil sampling
 - Samples from various sources for environmental DNA analysis
- Laboratory data processing, including:
 - Aural processing of acoustic soundscapes
 - Visual processing of camera trap images
 - Taxonomic identification of invertebrate samples
 - Laboratory preparation of samples for genomic analysis
- Routine visits to field sites across the Central Belt of Scotland

The post holder will also undertake a broad range of jobs including:

- Conducting desk-based literature searches and report generation
- Supporting PhD and other research in field and laboratory-based projects
- Supporting other small and large grant work which the CCRS will generate.
- Liaising with academics and external companies when required
- Writing COSHH and risk assessment documents including for the safe disposal of hazardous solutions and chemicals (Training will be provided if not already having working knowledge of safety procedures in the lab and field)
- Any other duties as may be required
- Role model for the University's values & behaviours
- Be responsible for ensuring that the information and data collected and processed on behalf of the project are managed in compliance with ALL applicable legislation, codes, and policies e.g., [Data Protection](#), [Information Security](#) and [Records Management](#).

This role presents an excellent opportunity for a recent graduate in ecology to develop the skills in a wide range of practical field and lab-based methods and experience working on large and small collaborative research projects. The role holder will become an active member of the new Centre for Conservation and Restoration Science and benefit from the network and links already established within the Centre, and develop their own professional network.

Please contact Dr Jennifer Dodd – j.dodd@napier.ac.uk – for more information.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL

DESIRABLE

EDUCATION / QUALIFICATIONS

- | | ESSENTIAL | DESIRABLE |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| • Masters degree in subject or related subject, or equivalent professional experience. | ✓ | |
| • Employment experience in both field and laboratory settings. | | ✓ |

SKILLS / EXPERIENCE

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| • Experience of identifying invertebrates (to a minimum of the taxonomic level of "family"). | ✓ | |
| • Experience of working in a laboratory. | ✓ | |
| • Experience of working in the field | ✓ | |
| • Experience of working in field environments | ✓ | |
| • Ability to work with minimal supervision as well as working as part of a team | ✓ | |
| • Excellent numeric, written and communication skills | ✓ | |
| • Knowledge of laboratory equipment and procedures (e.g. the use of taxonomic identification keys and stereo microscope) | ✓ | |
| • Good organisational skills with ability to manage own workload with a structured timetable. | ✓ | |
| • Good problem-solving skills. | ✓ | |
| • Ability to liaise with academics and external companies. | ✓ | |
| • Well-developed IT skills, including experience of using MS Excel and R. | ✓ | |
| • Interest in conservation and restoration | ✓ | |
| • Full, clean UK (or equivalent) driving licence | ✓ | |
| • Knowledge of field sampling equipment and procedures (e.g. the use of passive acoustic recorders, camera traps) | | ✓ |
| • Knowledge of safety procedures, including COSHH and risk assessments. | | ✓ |