



Research Assistant



Role Description

GRADE

Grade 4

LOCATION

Sighthill, Edinburgh

LINE MANAGER

Dr Pat White, Associate Professor

Role Summary

Increasing woodland cover is a critical part of strategies in UK nations including England, to help tackle climate change, biodiversity decline and provide sustainable sources of hardwood and softwood timber and woody products, but new, developing and mature treescapes require careful management.

Edinburgh Napier University's Centre for Conservation & Restoration Science is working with The Forestry Commission (FC) on a project that will look at tree protection options to mitigate against the impacts of mammals on trees. This project seeks to: (i) Outline mammal impacts in trees, woods, establishing woodlands and treescapes; (ii) Advise on effective tree protection options for woodland owners and managers.

We are already undertaking a systematic literature review focusing on the impacts of mammals on trees, woods, establishing woodlands and treescapes. Your role will be to assist in creating guidance, webpage content and case studies, providing a comprehensive guide on how to assess damage, specifications and which tree protection option(s) could be implemented.

Line Management Responsibility for:

This role does not have any line management responsibilities currently.



Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research and Scholarship

- Conduct literature and database searches.
- Assist with administration and analysis of a questionnaire survey of woodland managers
- Write up results as project report in the form of a technical guidance document
- Source images for inclusion in technical guidance document and manage copyright permissions
- Continue to update knowledge and develop skills.

Communication

- Write up results of own research, as part of a guided process
- Contribute to the production of research reports and publications.
- Present information on research progress and outcomes to bodies supervising research, e.g. steering groups.
- Prepare papers for steering groups and other bodies.

Liaison and Networking

- Liaise with research colleagues and support staff on routine matters.
- Make internal and external contacts to develop knowledge and understanding, identify case studies to be considered for inclusion in technical guidance document and form relationships for future collaboration.

Teamwork

- Actively participate as a member of a research team.
- Attend and contribute to relevant meetings.

Initiative, Problem-Solving and Decision-Making

- Make use of standard research techniques and methods.
- Deal with problems which may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines
- Contribute to decisions affecting the work of the team.
- Analyse and interpret the results of own research and generate original ideas based on outcomes.

Planning and Managing Resources

- Plan own day-to-day research activity within the framework of the agreed project.
- Co-ordinate own work with that of others to avoid conflict or duplication of effort.
- Contribute to the planning of research projects.



Work Environment

- Is required to be aware of the risks in the work environment.

Expertise

- Possess sufficient breadth or depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline (for example with an undergraduate or Master’s degree) and be developing further skills in and knowledge of research methods and techniques.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Education / Qualifications		
• Undergraduate degree in a relevant topic (ecology, wildlife biology, forestry etc.)	✓	
• Postgraduate degree in a relevant topic (ecology, wildlife biology, forestry etc.)		✓
Skills / Experience		
• Experience synthesising information across different types of scientific publications and grey literature sources (including during assessments)	✓	
• Experience of writing accessibly for a range of audiences, including for assessments (including during assessments)	✓	
• Experience presenting work to an audience	✓	
• Excellent organizational skills	✓	
• Excellent interpersonal communication skills	✓	
• Experience using reference management software		✓
• Some practical field experience working in forests or woods		✓
• Full UK driving license		✓