



Research Assistant – Uplands Research Group

A. Job descriptions

Working with the department's Director of Upland Research and Senior Scientists to assist in delivering a programme of work to maintain the long-term data sets within the department.

To assist with the field work as directed by the Director of Upland Research and Senior Scientists to enable designated scientific research to be fulfilled and to ensure the reputation of the Trust moving forward. A Research Assistant is required, to cover the responsibilities detailed below. Specialism is required in one or more of the following: ornithological studies of red grouse, black grouse and wading birds, upland vegetation restoration, invertebrates, and hydrology post-management of upland moorland habitats.

1. Reporting to: Director of Upland Research

2. Main responsibilities

- 2.1 Ensuring all fieldwork related to studies of red grouse is accomplished and conducted to a satisfactory standard. To include radio telemetry, grouse counts both with pointers and at shoots, parasite sampling and habitat measurements.
- 2.2 Working on GIS information for specific projects as directed by Director of Upland Research.
- 2.3 Assisting with surveys of moorland birds, being skilled in bird identification.
- 2.4 Assisting Senior Scientists conducting studies of vegetation and hydrological responses to differing forms of upland management.
- 2.5 Skilled in the identification of invertebrates to at least group level and in their capture and extraction techniques.
- 2.6 Assisting in either personally attending or organising others to attend shoot days to obtain grouse and parasite samples and to assist with catching grouse at night for studies of population dynamics and grouse health.
- 2.7 Working with the Upland Support Officer to maintain the storage and updating of data, particularly those on red grouse, on agreed databases and spreadsheets.
- 2.8 Provisional analyses of databases with a view to preparing data for formal analysis and subsequent publication in scientific journals and popular literature.
- 2.9 Regular reporting of progress and problems to the Senior Scientists on field work research studies sites as directed.
- 2.10 Maintaining active communication links with gamekeepers, shoot tenants and owners on moors active in our grouse studies.
- 2.11 Ensuring adequate and efficient feedback of results to participating estates and project sponsors.
- 2.12 Producing written reports and articles for our biannual newsletters, Annual Review and other media as required.

3. Additional responsibilities

- 3.1 Running and maintaining two or more pointer dogs for participation in grouse counts.
- 3.2 Maintenance and ordering of all field equipment and accessories for studies when required.

- 3.3 Direct supervision of students where appropriate on assigned projects, helping Senior Scientist as directed.
- 3.4 Ensuring that project vehicles are maintained and any problems are dealt with in a timely manner, advising the Upland Support Officer of any issues identified.

B. Person specification

Essential

1. Able to work collaboratively in a small team
2. Able to manage own workload
3. Tolerance of flexible working hours and days, and adaptability to weather opportunities
4. Experience in upland bird, vegetation, and basic familiarity with to group level invertebrate identification
5. Willingness and suitability to keep and work pointing dogs
6. Good level of fitness for outdoor fieldwork activities
7. Full UK driving licence

Preferable

8. Proven ability to supervise others in a positive manner
9. Mentoring of new or inexperienced colleagues
10. Take the initiative to work effectively with others
11. Excellent communication and people skills
12. Good IT skills with experience of Microsoft Excel and GIS software

C. Location and benefits

Location: Office based in Eggleston, Co. Durham

Annual leave: 22 days annual leave plus 8 days bank holiday

Pension: 10% employer contribution to pension

Health care: private medical insurance, permanent health insurance