



Student Placement Opportunity: Ecology

Paid Short Placement: 3 days per week for a minimum of 10 weeks

Location: Nottingham-based but travel required across the UK

Working with Nottingham Trent University, we are delighted to offer a student placement within our ecology team. The paid placement is for 3 days per week, initially for a 10 week period, with a negotiable start date from May 2026. This is a fantastic opportunity to gain hands-on experience within a busy environmental consultancy practice and to develop practical and professional skills in applied ecology.

The placement will involve assisting with ecological fieldwork and associated technical paperwork relating to protected species, conservation, and habitat retention. Field activities may include supporting habitat surveys, protected species surveys (such as bats, reptiles, badgers, birds and great crested newts), and assisting with site walkovers and ecological constraints assessments.

In addition, the successful candidate will gain experience in ecological data collection, habitat mapping, and the use of standard survey methodologies in line with current best practice and legislation. Office-based tasks may include helping to collate survey data, preparing figures and appendices, contributing to ecological reports, and supporting the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain assessments and ecological management and mitigation measures. The placement will provide valuable insight into the role of ecology within the planning process, including exposure to UK wildlife legislation, policy, and the practical application of ecological advice within development projects.

Encon Associates Limited

Founded in 2008, Encon Associates is committed to driving long-lasting environmental change within the built environment. Our established building and sustainability consultancy consists of construction industry professionals offering a full suite of services for planning and building regulation, including building sustainability assessments, landscape architecture and ecology. Our team work alongside architects, developers and contractors to ensure that every building meets the highest standards of sustainability.

Main Responsibilities

Our ecology team provide a wide spectrum of ecological services, including Biodiversity Net Gain reports; desk-based studies; site-based surveys; habitat surveys and Habitat Management & Monitoring Plans. We also specialise in providing ecological input for BREEAM and Home Quality Mark assessments.

You will assist with and contribute to a wide range of projects, using your understanding of field survey, assessment and reporting skills and your knowledge of current best practice and species identification. You will gain an understanding on what is required to ensure the advice and recommendations from surveys and assessment work is communicated effectively to clients through written reports and verbal communication, helping them to navigate the planning and licensing processes.

The Role:

Supported by our Ecologists you will:

- Assist in the creation of Biodiversity Net Gain Reports and the BNG Metric
- Undertake desk studies and GIS mapping to assist ongoing projects
- Undertake provisional reporting of Preliminary Ecological Assessments
- Plan and co-ordinate field surveys and analyse & interpret survey results
- Manage fieldwork, including the processing of resources required (third-party data)

The ideal candidate will demonstrate:

- Sound/good working knowledge of UK protected species and how UK species interact with their environment and the effects this has to their ecology
- Experience with field work and coordinating project work with other professionals
- Proactively managing a busy and varied workload
- Attention to detail and accuracy, particularly in respect of quality assurance, and delivery within a specified time frame
- High levels of written and verbal communication
- Due to the field work opportunities, a driving licence and own transport are essential

Office Location/Hours

The role will be based at our head office in Arnold, Nottingham with regular field work required

Hours of work are 22.5 per week over 3 working days per week, usually 8.30 am - 5 pm between Monday and Friday.

Employment commitment is required for 10 weeks to fulfil the required time needed to achieve the Placement certification. Potential extension to this time may be offered.

Training

Ongoing in-house training will be provided

Opportunities for personal data collection to support a dissertation project can also be facilitated upon request, related to protected species and habitat condition assessment.

Closing Date: 31st March 2026

If you would like to join our expanding team, please forward an up-to-date CV with covering letter addressed to the Directors for consideration. enquiries@enconassociates.com