



# Research Field Assistant Opportunity

- Do you care about protecting our island's vital pollinating insects?
- Are you experienced or interested in learning pollinator survey techniques?
- Are you organised and enthusiastic, able to work flexibly and independently?

The Pollinator Project is looking for a **research field assistant** to help carry out ecological research in partnership with the University of Bristol. This would be an ideal role for someone interested in academic research and ecological science.

**Location:** The fieldwork is carried out at different sites across Guernsey (and Sark). Training will be provided in person on Guernsey and online.

## The role

The Pollinator Project works with the University of Bristol to carry out a suite of pollinator monitoring surveys across the Channel Islands every summer. We are looking for an enthusiastic field assistant to help carry out the most technical survey – collecting DNA samples from bumblebees across the island. The survey will take place over a 2-3 week period in July.

The survey involves looking for bumblebees in specified areas across Guernsey, catching them in a net, cooling them down so they can be handled and taking a very tiny DNA sample from one foot. The bumblebees are released unharmed. The field assistant will be trained in these specific techniques, building confidence surveying with supervision, until they are ready to survey independently. The work is fiddly and must be done accurately, but surveys are always done in good weather and the work is rewarding.

## Responsibilities

- Assisting with a bumblebee DNA survey across Guernsey and Sark
- Working alongside researchers from the University of Bristol, and then independently to catch and sample bumblebees in locations across the islands
- Maintaining clear and precise records of surveys carried out
- Representing the Pollinator Project, being able to answer questions and engage with the public whilst surveying in public places

## Essential requirements

- Willingness to handle live bumblebees – full training will be provided on how to do this safely
- Available to work flexibly (depending on weather conditions) throughout July
- Willingness to work on weekends when required



- Ability to travel around Guernsey ideally by bicycle but alternatively by public transport, car or on foot
- Good organisation and record-keeping skills
- A steady hand – able to gently and accurately handle insects and tools

### **Desirable**

- Any ecological field survey experience
- Experience lone working outdoors
- Knowledge of pollinators and the work of the Pollinator Project

The training and field surveys will take place in July, with specific dates to be confirmed based on weather conditions and other survey constraints.

### **Remuneration**

The successful applicant will receive an ex-gratia payment of £500 on successful completion of the work and reasonable local expenses will be paid.

Applicants must be 18+ years old.

Note: This role involves handling live insects. The risk of being stung is small but if you are allergic to insect stings this role might not be suitable for you.

### **How to apply**

Please email Dr Miranda Bane at [miranda@pollinatorproject.gg](mailto:miranda@pollinatorproject.gg) with your CV and/or a cover letter stating which internship you are interested in and why you would be a good fit for the role.