

Research project

We also have the following research opportunities available. These projects would suit students carrying out undergraduate, MSc or PhD research or students/early career scientists wanting to take on an independent research project to gain experience in the field and build their CV. Dr Beynon did this instead of doing a MSc before doing her doctorate!

Project title: Ramsey Island Coastal Invertebrate Survey

Approximate duration: 5 months part-time

Dates: April-September

Suitable for: Undergraduate/MSc project or similar

Paid/voluntary: Unpaid – volunteer position. Accommodation provided as part of the position on Ramsey Island

This is a fabulous opportunity to carry out entomological research that will be used to directly influence the conservation management of the incredible Ramsey Island Nature Reserve, which is situated just off the St Davids peninsula and is owned by the RSPB. The survey is to be a repeat of Beynon (2015) to enable a direct comparison. There is the potential to carry out more intensive dung beetle and ground beetle sampling to enable comparison with Bishop (2011).

Since the publication of Beynon (2015) report, the conservation grazing on Ramsey Island has changed considerably. The RSPB want to ensure that they are managing the grazing and habitats on the island effectively for invertebrates and would like to have the 2013/14 survey work repeated in 2024 to see how the invertebrate populations and assemblages has changed over the last 10 years. This research work would directly link to the Ramsey Island Management Plan and the results would likely influence how the island is managed in the future.

Specification:

- Conduct survey work targeted at Coleoptera, Dictyoptera, Diptera and Hymenoptera between April-September 2024.
- Survey work to use the same methods as Beynon (2015) to ensure that results are comparable between years.
- Produce a sister report to Beynon (2015) which can be utilised for the Ramsey Island Management Plan.

Additional notes:

- This would be an ideal project for an undergraduate or MSc student.
- Free accommodation will be provided on the island when needed for survey work.
- Fieldwork equipment will be provided by the RSPB and Dr Beynon's Bug Farm.
- Guidance/support will be provided by Dr Sarah Beynon and RSPB entomologists.
- Scope to develop the project as deemed appropriate.

Skills required

- Experience of surveying invertebrates.
- Good invertebrate identification skills with support from a taxonomist if required. We will not have the capacity to help much with surveys or identifications. We can however provide

basic training on dung beetle and ground beetle identification and laboratory space at The Bug Farm for sorting specimens. We will also provide all fieldwork equipment.

- If there are any invertebrate groups that you are not confident with surveying and identifying, you should make this clear in advance, so additional support can be provided.
- 100% reliable.
- Self-motivated, practical and well-organised.
- Confident to work long hours, outdoors, alone and in all weather conditions (unless more than one person is interested in the position, where there will be a possibility of sharing it).
- Confident to survey physically demanding terrain, often carrying bulky fieldwork equipment.

Additional useful skills

- Experience in carrying out fieldwork/applied conservation.
- An interest in sustainability, nature recovery and wildlife conservation.