

CENTRE FOR ECOLOGY AND HYDROLOGY

SCIENCE AREA: SOILS AND LAND USE

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE SOIL AND WATER BIOGEOCHEMIST / BAND 6

FIXED TERM: 3 YEARS

FULL TIME: 37 HOURS

SALARY: £29,181 PER ANNUM

ABOUT US

The Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH) delivers world-class solutions to the most complex environmental challenges facing humankind by partnering with governments, industry and society to pursue and apply cutting edge environmental observation and analysis. CEH is the UK's longstanding Centre of Excellence for integrated research in terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems and their interaction with the atmosphere. Operating from four UK locations, CEH employs 360 scientists and has a £40m annual budget. A growing proportion of this budget and staff time is directed overseas and CEH aims to continue this work as an independent, not-for-profit research institute (Company Limited by Guarantee with Charitable status) later in 2019.

PURPOSE OF THE POST

We are seeking an enthusiastic and innovative biogeochemist to join a research team that explores the impacts of environmental and societal change on our soils and water as part of a larger team focused on ecosystem interactions from field to national and global scales. You will contribute to a large project that provides an evidence base for government in Wales and the UK as to the ongoing change in our environment and provides critical data for supporting our modelling frameworks for predicting future



impacts of land use and climate change. You will provide specialist support in our work on soils and water in the field working with a range of methods and approaches and contributing to analysis of data working in collaboration with a broad range of data and environmental scientists within CEH and externally. The post will be based at CEH Bangor <https://www.ceh.ac.uk/bangor> working in the Catchment to Coast group. CEH Bangor is located on the North Wales coastline close to the Snowdonia National Park.

MAIN DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES

- Take a lead for delivering soil activities embedded in our rolling national monitoring programme in Wales ensuring effective and consistent field methodology and exploring spatial and temporal patterns in the data and the role of different direct and indirect drivers
- Contribute to a series of projects developing field methods suitable for farmers, NGOs and agency staff which can align to the national data enabling land managers to track progress in the improvement of their soil and water assets
- Contribute to the routine soil and water sampling and data analysis from a series of catchment-scale long term monitoring sites and experiments focussed on the impact of climate change, land use and pollution.

SKILLS/ KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED

Essential

- You will have a Masters and/or PhD or relevant experience in environmental science with specific modules or experience focused on biogeochemistry, soils and water.
- Experience in a range of field techniques relating to soil and water sampling and assessment
- Experience in statistical analysis of spatial environmental datasets to identify temporal and spatial patterns
- Able to demonstrate a commitment to promote and adhere to CEH values of Excellence, Integrity and Team work. Information on CEH's values is available [here](#).
- Publication experience in the scientific refereed literature



- An ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Good written and verbal communication skills
- Understanding of the importance of maintaining work audit trails

Desirable

- Up-to-date knowledge of research topics in the areas of environmental change, ecosystem services and/or Natural Capital approaches
- Experience of working with Earth Observation and other 'Big Data'

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE GAINED

- A fundamental grounding in a wide range of environmental issues and the ecosystem services / natural capital approaches
- Advanced understanding of CEH data management and QA systems.
- Presentation and writing skills
- Contribution to research proposals

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

The basic working week will be 37 hours.

The successful candidate will serve a 9 month's probationary period and an interim report will be made at the end of 6 month's service.

All appointments are subject to receipt of satisfactory references. It is standard procedure to apply for references only for the successful candidates.

Offers of appointment are subject to proof of permission to work in the UK in accordance with the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 and original documentary evidence will be required.



To enable us to hire the very best people we will conduct a full and comprehensive background and pre-employment check as an essential part of the recruitment process. This will include a security check and an extreme organisations affiliation check.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Benefits

We offer a flexible and supportive working environment and will encourage your continuing professional development as part of our career support. NERC has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

