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**Cornwall Badger Project Post-Doctoral Research Assistant**

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| **Job grade** | **PDRA X point YY** | **Reports to** | **Rosie Woodroffe** |
| **Directorate** | **Science** | **Function** | **Field research on the management of badgers and bovine tuberculosis** |
| **Contract** | **Fixed term contract**  **(three years)** | **Location** | **Cornwall office (Penzance)** |

**Responsibility for resources**

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| **Direct line reports** | **none** | **Responsibility for other resources** | **Responsibility for safe use of vehicles, welfare of wild animals confined to traps, health and safety in the field** |
| **Financial resources** | **NA** |

**Our vision and mission**

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is an international conservation charity, driven by science, working to restore wildlife in the UK and around the world. Our vision is a world where wildlife thrives and every role, every person in every corner of ZSL has one thing in common – we are all conservationists, and passionate about restoring wildlife.

**Purpose of the role**

The purpose of this role is to evaluate the outcomes of past and ongoing badger management in relation to bovine tuberculosis. This includes contributing to the field delivery of badger vaccination and associated badger sampling and population monitoring at sites across Cornwall, as well as leading all data analyses . This work contributes to the “creating change”, “habitat restoration”, and “species conservation” pillars of the ZSL strategy.

**Key responsibilities**

* Liaise with project lead and project partners to ensure research goals meets operational and policy needs
* Liaise with the field project manager to ensure fieldwork plans match research goals
* Contribute to badger vaccination and sampling in line with project goals and in accordance with project licences and best practice guidelines
* Oversee the design of badger population monitoring using camera trapping
* Ensure long-term curation and storage of data and biological samples
* Lead data analysis and report writing

**Person Specification**

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| Experience |

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| Essential | A PhD in a relevant discipline  Experience of biological fieldwork, ideally in agricultural environments  Experience of animal handling |
| Desirable | A Home Office license  Experience of working on farms or with farmers  Experience of collecting, analysing, and interpreting epidemiological data  Experience of collecting, analysing, and interpreting camera trap data  Experience of badger vaccination |

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| Knowledge and skills |

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| Essential | Strong skills in the collection and analysis of biological field data  A full clean driving license  Tolerance for early morning fieldwork  Excellent people skills for liaising with team members, project partners, and stakeholders on a sensitive issue  Attention to detail in data recording, curation, processing, and analysis |
| Desirable | Understanding of disease ecology and/or epidemiology  Understanding of disease transmission between livestock and wildlife  Working knowledge of the bovine TB issue  Skill in off-road driving |

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| Additional requirements |

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| Essential | * This post will require some outside working with direct exposure to the weather and animals. * This post is a combined office and field role. * This post requires intermittent work during early mornings * A full driving license is required for this role. * To comply with and promote Health and Safety policies and procedures |