



Soil/Environmental Scientist

UKRI – NERC – BGS

Keyworth, Nottingham

£24,435 to £26,560 per annum (depending on qualifications and experience)

Full Time – 37 hours a week (a range of flexible working options may be available)

Fixed Term Appointment (3 years)

About us

The British Geological Survey (BGS) is an applied geoscience research centre that is housed in UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and affiliated to the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). It is a world leading geological survey that provides a core science mission to inform government of science related to the subsurface and its interfaces and also undertakes applied research for solutions to earth and environmental processes, both in the UK and globally. It is funded directly by UKRI as well as through research grants and via private sector contracts.

BGS has an annual budget of approximately £60 million and employs 650 people. It has two main sites, a head office in Keyworth near Nottingham and the Lyell Centre, which is a joint collaboration with Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh. BGS works with more than 150 private sector organisations as well as having close links with 40 universities and sponsors approximately 100 PhD students each year.

A vacancy has arisen for a flexible and highly motivated Soil Scientist (along with broader environmental science contributions) based at our headquarters in Keyworth in Nottingham as a fixed term appointment for 3 years.

Soil science within the BGS Groundwater Science Directorate has a reputation for research excellence in a broad range of soil related processes. Many projects are undertaken in collaboration with leading university departments and a variety of industrial partners. Our research aims to better understand and model soil systems to enable the long-term sustainable use of the UK soil resource, especially with respect to how it responds to changing environmental and anthropogenic stresses. In addition to our NERC funded research programme, we also undertake commissioned research for a wide range of external clients, both within the UK and overseas.

About the role

With proven experience of and a passion for environmental science, your work will include:

- Undertaking fieldwork (sample collection/monitoring) and laboratory analysis of soil and water samples, with an emphasis on soil geochemical and soil physical measurements.
- Assisting with the design and implementation of fieldwork relating to UK and overseas projects (soil sampling, soil gas measurement, groundwater, site owner liaison).
- Collation and management of data, quantitative analysis and interpretation using approved data processing, interpretation and visualisation software packages.
- Preparation of project technical reports and support to proposal writing, scientific papers and knowledge dissemination (briefings, web pages).



- Presenting scientific results to colleagues and at conferences or to clients and collaborators.
- Involvement with developing project proposals and bids, and ensuring projects are delivered on time.

About you

You will contribute to a range of soil science projects in the Groundwater Science Directorate. The work will mostly be UK based but there may also be opportunities to work overseas for short periods of time. You will work as part of project teams and contribute to the laboratory and fieldwork expertise required to deliver on our portfolio of science and related projects.

Experience in soil physics and soil chemistry would be advantageous and you will also be expected to have a role in the development of a range of wider environmental science related projects across the wider organisation, and to collaborate with other academic and industrial partners.

As part of a large group of geoscientists in BGS, you will be expected to share your knowledge and contribute to the development of new research ideas and projects – therefore a good understanding of soil and wider hydrological/environmental challenges we face, and of the role of science in addressing the knowledge gaps, is highly desirable.

You should be educated to 2:1 in a relevant science degree and have an MSc or PhD in a numerate discipline or have significant relevant industry or academic experience. In addition, you must possess excellent communication skills, both oral and written.

What we offer

A generous benefits package is also offered, including a very competitive pension scheme, 30 days annual leave plus bank holidays and access to flexi-time.

Please note that any internal BGS staff applying for this post would, if successful, be appointed to new UKRI Terms and Conditions and pay.

How to Apply

Applicants are required to include a cover letter outlining their suitability for this role. We would stress the importance of this paperwork in our selection process. **A well thought through application addressing the advertised essential and desirable criteria for the post will be considered far more favourably than a generic covering letter and CV.**

Applications are being handled by UK Shared Business Services, to apply please visit our job board at <http://www.topcareer.jobs/Vacancy/IRC247315.aspx>

Applicants who are unable to apply online should contact us by telephone on +44 (0)1793 867000.

Closing date for receipt of applications is **23 November 2018**. Interviews will be held on or around 19 or 20 December 2018.



BGS provides a range of flexible working options including flexible working patterns, compressed hours and home working so if you have a need for flexibility, please raise this in the recruitment process when your needs, balanced with the requirements of the role, will be fully considered.

Our vision at the British Geological Survey is to be a global geological survey, working with new technology and data to understand and forecast the geological processes that matter to people's lives and livelihoods. To achieve that vision we need to nurture our people, providing the best working conditions and facilities in an inclusive and flexible environment.

We are committed to promoting equality and diversity across our organisation as well as across all areas of our science community. As such, we aim to have a workforce with employees from all backgrounds with people who are passionate about earth science and who share our commitment to work for the good of the environment and the benefit of society.

People with disabilities and those from ethnic minorities are currently under-represented and their applications are particularly welcome. There is a guaranteed Interview scheme for suitable candidates with disabilities.

The British Geological Survey is an Investors in People organisation and has achieved Bronze status for Athena SWAN – a scheme that recognises an organisation's commitment and progress in developing a diverse and inclusive workforce.



Specific Skills Criteria		
	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
QUALIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2:1 in relevant degree, and MSc/PhD in soil science or directly related Environmental Science subject • OR significant (3+ years) relevant industry/academic experience • Full driving licence 	
EXPERIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of laboratory and fieldwork experience in soil science either at a postgraduate or industrial level (circa 3 years) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical experience in working in soil chemistry • Practical experience in working in soil physics



KNOWLEDGE		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad knowledge of soil science and its practical application to solving soil sustainability/hydrological problems and to understanding underlying processes.
SKILLS AND ABILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent levels of numeracy including evidence of data analysis and/or statistical analysis and/or GIS applications • Proven ability of good time management skills • Flexibility to respond to the demand from different projects operating in parallel • Good communicator – must be able to demonstrate excellent oral and written skills to both science and non-science audiences • Able to work as part of a team and equally able to work unsupervised • Must be able to work accurately and precisely 	
PERSONAL QUALITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-starter – initially under supervision, but then able to lead field-based activities/project tasks unsupervised • Willingness to spend short periods of time on fieldwork away from home/office in the UK and possibly overseas • Demonstrates flexibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to align with the BGS core values
MOTIVATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displays an enthusiasm for soil science (and related science areas) and a desire to develop this further • Demonstrates an interest in the work of BGS, NERC and UKRI • Demonstrates an interest in their own Continuing Professional Development • Displays curiosity and a drive to resolve scientific problems 	

