**Research Fellow in Spatial Modelling of Agroforestry Futures**

We are seeking to appoint a Research Fellow in Spatial Modelling of Agroforestry Futures to work with [Prof Felix Eigenbrod](https://www.southampton.ac.uk/people/5x7txb/professor-felix-eigenbrod). This position will be part of a large, 2 year multi-institution multidisciplinary project (‘Agroforestry Futures’) led by Newcastle University funded via the Future of UK Treescapes programme (<https://www.uktreescapes.org/>).

Agroforestry (AF), where trees are deliberately combined with agriculture on the same piece of land has promise as a multi-functional land-use that maintains food production, but which could also drive down greenhouse gas emissions, deliver key ecosystem services, and create and improve (rural) livelihoods. Agroforestry in England could therefore support goals relevant to Net Zero, and the UK government’s 25 Year Environment Plan and Clean Growth Strategy. However, to date very little AF is taking place in the England and the biophysical and social limitations to wide-scale rollout of AF remain poorly understood. The Agroforestry Futures will provide an evidence base for the benefits (and limitations) of AF in England to enhance decision-making by stakeholders, including famers and land managers. The Research Fellow position in Southampton will play a key role in this project by linking existing spatial datasets to provide first order understanding of the implications of different AF scenarios for biodiversity and ecosystem services in England. You will work closely with other members of the interdisciplinary AF Futures team, particularly ecologists Dr Robbie Girling and Prof Martin Lukac (Reading) Dr Marion Pfeiffer, Prof Yit Arn Teh and Prof Mark Whittingham (Newcastle), but also environmental economist Francisco Areal (Newcastle). In addition, your work will be closely linked to policy and will involve collaboration with key stakeholders such as DEFRA, Forest Research and the Woodland Trust.

The ideal candidate for this position will have a PhD in biology, geography, environmental studies or a related discipline. Advanced skills in the analysis and assembly of large spatial datasets is essential (i.e. using GIS within a package such as ArcGIS, QGIS or R) is essential. Some knowledge of programming in the R and/or Python would be a major advantage, as would experience in agroforestry and interdisciplinary research experience.

The School of Geography and Environmental Sciences is an outstanding research environment ranked joint 3rd in the UK in terms of overall research in the 2021 Research Assessment (REF). The School is committed to fostering a culture of [equality, diversity and inclusion](https://www.southampton.ac.uk/geography/about/equality-diversity-and-inclusion.page). We particularly encourage applications from candidates belonging to groups who are under-represented within academic posts at the University, including, but not limited to: people from Black and minority ethnic groups; and disabled people. The School are committed to providing equal opportunities for all and offer a range of family friendly policies, flexi-time and flexible working. We are a Disability Confident employer and the School holds a bronze Athena SWAN award.

This position is particularly flexible and can be between 11 months in length (at 100% time) to 18 months in length at 60% time, and will start in early 2023. Informal enquiries about this post can be made to Prof Felix Eigenbrod (f.eigenbrod@soton.ac.uk).