

Temporary Soil Sampling Technician

Job Description

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| Job Title | Soil Sampling Technician |
| Location | Within Zone 2 (see website) |
| Hours | Flexible but typically between 8.30 am – 4.30 pm, 5 days from Monday to Saturday |
| Duration | 16 weeks from November 2023 to the February 2024 |
| Salary | £11.50/hr plus travel expenses for use of own vehicle and a generous daily bonus scheme |
| Salary Incentive Scheme | Available for going above and beyond targets set |
| Retention Bonus | Up to £650 subject to terms and conditions |
| Typical Salary | Including bonus payment above average samplers can expect to earn approximately £130 per day with the highest performing samplers earning in excess of £200 per day (all exclusive of mileage). |
| Minimum Hours | Preference will be for 5 days per week with a minimum of 35 hours per week but willing to consider a minimum of 3 days per week |

The new Soil Nutrient Health Scheme (SNHS) was officially launched recently by the DAERA Minister, Edwin Poots. The SNHS is a four year, £45m significant new initiative aimed at improving soil nutrient health and estimating farm carbon stocks, right across Northern Ireland. The scheme will be delivered by AFBI and will see collection of soil samples taken from approximately 700,000 of Northern Ireland’s agricultural fields.

RPS has been hired by AFBI to undertake the soil sampling over the next four years with peak soil sampling to be undertaken during winter months November to January. Approximately 200 people will be recruited by RPS in the coming months to be soil samplers, with the main sampling period to commencing in November 2023.

We are now recruiting: Soil Sampling Technicians - You will be working as a member of a large RPS team collecting soil samples in farms throughout Zone 2 (refer to enclosed map for location detail). The soil samples will be taken with a soil corer and you will also use a smart mobile device with GPS to record spatial data. Work will be site based in rural agricultural environments. Full training, support and personal protective equipment will be provided for the right candidates.

Brief Job Description - Each soil sampling technician will be part of a soil sampling team led by an experienced field team leader and will be provided with a ruggedised mobile device which will be loaded with Arc Field Maps, base mapping and their field sample allocations. On site, the sampler will navigate to their fields for sampling using Arc Field Maps on their mobile device. The sampler will be required to take a minimum of 25 shallow soil samples at equal distances across a W transect with a supplied soil corer in each field whilst recording their GPS track on the mobile device.

| Job Requirements | Job Responsibilities |
|---|---|
| Strong work ethic and outstanding character | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professionally represent RPS. Participate in team training in use of soil corer and mobile devices/GPS etc. Responsible for proper sampling as per training instructions. Respect and care for land-owner’s properties. Ability to take direction from team leader. |
| Attention to detail, accuracy, ability to locate information and use GPS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read maps and take orders and instructions. Perform precise protocol in extracting soil sample with soil corer. Bag and label soil sample as per training instructions. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a physical role and will involve walking 15km+ per day through agricultural fields. |
| Organisation, time management skills with self-initiative | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work independently performing daily workload efficiently. Communicate daily with RPS team leader. Make daily preparations for next day following end of day and beginning of day protocol for work orders and all equipment maintenance. Good time-keeping and ability to meet deadlines. |
| Good communication and team work skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Politely and effectively communicate with land-owners if required. Support other team members. |

Essential Criteria:

- Experience of being in an outdoors environment in all winter weather conditions. **It is vital that you provide this detail in your application form.**

Desirable Criteria:

- Previous soil sampling experience.
- Full driving licence with access to own vehicle is desirable but not essential.

Selection Process:

Applications will be screened for suitability and shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview. Applicants will be asked to confirm their preferred location for interviews and these will be allocated on a first come basis.

Interviews will be held at the following venues and dates:

- Omagh – 29th August
- Enniskillen – 5th September
- Armagh – 12th September
- Lisburn – 19th September

About The Interview day:

- Brief presentation on the role will be provided by RPS staff which will include details of the salary package
- Information will be gathered in relation to sizing for site clothing which will be ordered if you are successful
- A photo will be taken which will be used for Project ID if you are successful
- Short interview on suitability
- Advise on follow up and next steps
- Answer any questions / queries

RPS is an equal opportunities employer.

Company – RPS has grown into one of the world’s pre-eminent consultancies by underpinning our local connections with the resources and knowledge of an international business. We employ more than 5000 people in the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, the Russian Federation, the United States, Canada, Brazil and Africa, Middle East and Australia Asia Pacific regions. As the world around us changes RPS responds by developing a range of its own services. We have a unique group of talented staff who operate in multidisciplinary teams providing creative and cost-effective solutions for the problems facing our clients. Our teams are involved in some of today’s most important and challenging environmental, energy and development projects - shaping and influencing the world we live in. Check us out at www.rpsgroup.com.