

SOIL ASSESSMENT TECHNICIAN – UKRI LAND USE NEXT ZERO OPENLAND (0.5 FTE)

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

**SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL
SCIENCES**

TC925

CANDIDATE BROCHURE



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WHAT MAKES UEA SO SPECIAL?

The University of East Anglia is a publicly funded major UK research and teaching university. It was built to embody a radical new vision for higher education, where interdisciplinarity is crucial and excellence in both research and teaching is valued. UEA consistently ranks within the top quarter of universities in the UK for the quality of research and teaching.

As a major regional employer and cultural centre, we take our regional civic responsibilities very seriously and have kept our sights on the people and place we call home. In fact, we launched our University Civic Charter in October 2023; created from in-depth community engagement, renewing our commitment to the region as part of our 60th anniversary.

There are many things which make UEA special, not least of which is the community of staff and students that work and study here. UEA includes three Nobel prize winners, including Sir Paul Nurse and Sir Michael Houghton, and many fellows of the Royal Society and British Academy amongst our alumni and current staff.

Our campus is home to Sir Denys Lasdun's iconic brutalist architecture set in hundreds of acres of beautiful country park that includes a large broad (lake). In the spirit of Lasdun's ambition to inspire an anatomy of ideas, today, UEA is tackling some of the key challenges of the changing world. UEA's research combines disciplines and breaks new boundaries across its priority

research themes of climate, creative and health.

UEA is the place where global warming was first documented. Since the 1970s, UEA's Climatic Research Unit, and more recently Tyndall Centre for Climate Change (Headquarters hosted at UEA), have played a pivotal role in developing temperature records and climate models, contributing to the understanding of climate change, and informing global policy. Many UEA scientists have played significant roles in the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC), which was jointly awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to increase public knowledge of anthropogenic climate change. Environmental Science and Global Studies at UEA continue to be a major powerhouse for research and teaching.

UEA is widely regarded as a pioneer in creative writing, having established the UK's first Creative Writing Masters programme in 1970. This renowned programme has since attracted and produced numerous successful writers, including Booker Prize winners such as Ian McEwan and Anne Enright, and Nobel Prize Winner Sir Kazuo Ishiguro. In recent years, UEA academics have played a pivotal role in the discovery and presentation of the Gloucester Royal shipwreck (Norfolk's Mary Rose). Our iconic Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts is a major museum and arts research facility.



Health research at UEA not only embraces the Faculty of Medicine and Health but draws in research from both social and natural sciences. Research under this theme has made major contributions in the fields of healthy ageing, epidemiology and involving citizens (via our innovative Citizens' Academy) in improving health care outcomes. This theme benefits from close association with the other major research institutes on the Norwich Research Park; notably the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital and the Quadram Institute. The Norwich Cancer Research Network, and Norfolk Institute for Healthy Ageing, are examples of key mechanisms for delivery of real impact from health research at UEA.

UEA has been a major success over the last 60 years and looks forward with confidence to the next 60 years.

For an informal discussion about the post please contact Professor Brian Reid via email b.reid@uea.ac.uk.

UEA is part of the Norwich Research Park

Norwich Research Park (NRP) membership locates UEA in one of the largest concentrations of research institutes in the whole of Europe – four independent internationally-renowned research institutes: John Innes Centre, Quadram Institute, Earlham Institute and The Sainsbury Laboratory; with the University of East Anglia and Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, supported and funded by The John Innes Foundation, The Gatsby Foundation, and UKRI Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

The NRP provides an ideal environment for collaborative use of infrastructure and facilities, with a single portal for academics and businesses to access the specialist facilities across the Park.

The Enterprise Centre is a regional business, knowledge and innovation hub, with workspace provision and supports over 80 businesses working alongside UEA staff and students in a dynamic and vibrant entrepreneurial community. On the wider NRP, there are dedicated laboratory and office spaces in the Innovation Centre and Centrum hosting over 600 staff within a total of 115 businesses and spinouts.



THE ROLE

THE PROJECT

The OpenLAND project will provide decision makers with the insights urgently needed to put the UK on a path to deliver net zero emissions by 2050, while also delivering climate resilient soil health, food security, and biodiversity net-gain. OpenLAND will create a validated, UK-wide, spatially explicit integrated modelling framework to evaluate potential net zero pathways.

To extend the capability of OpenCLIM (developed under previous UKRI funding) we will parameterise, and ground truth soil carbon and soil health using empirical data, develop and validate a novel framework for soil carbon and soil health evaluation, and develop and trial robotic monitoring for measuring and verifying soil carbon and health.

The OpenLAND project is funded by UKRI/Defra (£3.8m) and is jointly led by Rachel Warren (Professor of Global Change and Environmental Biology, Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research) and Brian Reid (Professor of Soil Science, University of East Anglia). OpenLAND brings together researchers across several UK universities and organisations.

THE ROLE

We are seeking a Soil Assessment Technician to participate in the OpenLAND research programme.

The role will involve collection and assessment of soil samples. Specifically, we are seeking someone with demonstrable skills in soil chemical analysis. The laboratory work, analysis and interpretation of data, will contribute to research papers and reports.

You will be responsible for the generation of soil data across the entire project and communicating this data with the wider team.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Preparing soil samples (extraction, drying, milling etc.).
- Preparing and undertaking soil sample assessments.
- Responsible for the sequencing of sample assessment.
- Managing time as aligned to sample preparation, analysis of samples and data review.

LABORATORY SUPPORT:

- Organisation of the daily running of research laboratories.
- Preparation of analytical materials.
- Provision of specialist laboratory services.

ADMINISTRATION AND SUPERVISION:

- Liaising with external suppliers and service providers.
- Ensure laboratory consumable stocks are maintained.
- Assist and input to resource planning and management.

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

- Preparation of COSHH and Risk Assessment forms.
- Researching information in relation to correct Health and Safety practice and policy.

THE ROLE (CONTINUED)

EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUMENTATION:

- Operation of specialist instrumentation for soil carbon assessment using dry combustion and thermogravimetric analysis techniques. You will be expected to operate these analytical machines, troubleshoot where necessary and undertake routine maintenance.
- Arranging servicing and maintenance of equipment.

GENERAL:

- There will be a requirement for all members of the team to be flexible in undertaking additional or alternative duties commensurate with the grade.
- Contribute to the continuous development and implementation of the School.
- Demonstrate UEA's Values and behaviours in day-to-day work and support a team culture that reflects them.
- Abide by all University Regulations and Policies relevant to the role.
- The postholder is bound at all times to observe the strict rules of confidentiality applicable to work in the School.

THE PERSON

EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Degree or equivalent experience in environmental sciences or related discipline. (E)
- Practical laboratory experience. (E)
- Experienced in the operation of specialist instrumentation for soil carbon assessment using dry combustion and thermogravimetric analysis techniques. (E)
- Experience of elemental analysis using ICP. (E)
- Experience with Excel to process and present data. (E)
- Demonstrable skills in soil chemical analysis. (E)
- Good knowledge of soil science – both theory and in practice. (D)
- Experience in environmental sampling. (D)

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- Specialist knowledge and practical skills in chemical analysis of environmental media. (E)
- Strong organisational skills. (E)
- Good time management skills. (E)
- Good report writing and presentation skills. (E)

- Use of dry combustion CHN, thermogravimetric analysis and ICP techniques. (D)
- Track record in troubleshooting issues with analytical equipment. (D)
- Experience of planning and undertaking laboratory work. (D)
- Evidence of compiling data in a written format e.g. a report. (D)

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- Good IT skills: most importantly use of Excel to process and present data. (E)
- Good interpersonal skills. (E)
- Proactive and self-motivated to deliver goals. (E)

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- Ability and willingness to travel across the East of England and other parts of the UK to collect samples. (E)
- Full UK driving licence. (D)

Essential Requirements (E) are those, without which, a candidate would not be able to do the job.

Desirable Requirements (D) are those which would be useful for the post holder to possess and will be considered when more than one applicant meets the essential requirements.

FURTHER INFORMATION

This part-time (0.5 FTE) post is available from 3 November 2025 on a fixed term basis until 31 April 2027.

You will undertake laboratory work at the University of East Anglia and fieldwork across the East of England and nationally. You may also need to undertake work outside normal office hours, potentially evenings and weekends.

Salary will be £26,707 to £30,378 per annum, pro rata, on Grade 5 on the single salary spine.

Place of Work - The University is strongly committed to providing an excellent student experience and research environment, and it is expected that all staff will be available on campus to carry out their duties during their working week in support of these goals.

If successful you will be asked to show evidence of right to work in the UK prior to any formal offer being made. Non-British and non-Irish nationals entering the UK to undertake employment or who are currently in the UK will have to meet eligibility criteria under the points-based immigration system. The University may be able to provide sponsorship under the Skilled Worker route if relevant criteria are met. Please note, due to the complexities of the immigration system, Skilled Worker visa sponsorship is not guaranteed for every role. If you would like further information about whether this role is eligible for visa sponsorship, please contact staff.visacompliance@uea.ac.uk

The post is superannuable under the Group Personal Pension and there is an annual holiday entitlement of 20 days plus statutory (8 days) and customary (6 days) holidays, pro rata for part-time. The University is committed to creating an environment where the health, welfare and safety of all students and staff is of paramount importance. The University's Safeguarding Policy addresses both child protection and safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults within the work of the University. Appointment will be subject to satisfactory pre-employment checks, which may include an Occupational Health assessment.

Information on the benefits of working at UEA can be found at <https://www.uea.ac.uk/about/working-at-uea>.

If you require the information contained within this candidate brochure in a different format please email staff.recruitment@uea.ac.uk

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for this vacancy, please follow the online instructions at: <https://vacancies.uea.ac.uk>

The closing date for this role is 11:59pm on **6 October 2025**.

Please note that the application form contains an Equal Opportunities section which must be completed. The Equal Opportunities information will not be made available to the selection panel and will not form any part of either the short-listing or decision making process.

It is anticipated that interviews will take place via Microsoft Teams on **21 October 2025** and we will inform you of the outcome of your application prior to this date.



ABOUT THE SCHOOL

School of Environmental Sciences

The School of Environmental Sciences provides a vibrant environment in which to carry out environmental and allied research. The School is one of the largest and longest established academic departments in Europe to focus on the study of the global environment. Our research and teaching span the fields of marine and atmospheric sciences, climate sciences, geosciences, environmental biology, geography, social sciences and economics. In line with its strong interdisciplinary ethos, research collaborations occur within and between these subjects. In 2017, our sustained contribution to understanding and protection of the environment was recognised with the award a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education.

Research and Innovation

Our research is highly acclaimed. In the 2021 Research Excellence Framework exercise, we were 4th overall for research quality in Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences, with 94% of our research judged to be either world-leading or internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour. The School encompasses the Climatic Research Unit, Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, the Science, Society and Sustainability (3S) Research Group and the Centre for Social and Economic

Research on the Global Environment (CSERGE).

The School has world class facilities including the Stable Isotope Laboratory, the Roland Von Glasow Air-Sea-Ice Chamber, a fleet of sea gliders, the Weybourne Atmospheric Observatory and a range of geophysical equipment. In addition, the Science Faculty Instrument Platforms provide state-of-the-art major and trace element and image analysis capabilities. Computing facilities available to the university research community include a High Performance Computing Cluster with Linux support.

Teaching

The School runs a number of MSc programmes in Environmental Sciences, Climate Change, Applied Ecology, and Environmental Assessment and Management (full-time and part-time). BSc programmes include Environmental Sciences, Geography (both BA and BSc), Geology with Geography and Geophysics (all also offered with a year in several other countries, or with a year in industry).

Patron: King Charles III

Head of School: Professor Ian Renfrew



ABOUT THE FACULTY

The Faculty of Science is home to a vibrant community of students, staff, and visitors. Our lively environment allows high quality, innovative research across a broad spectrum of themes. This vibrant culture provides a base for our research-led teaching and underpins all our activities from influence of government policy to presentations at local schools.

Our five Schools of Study engage in world leading research. You can find out more about the courses taught and activities taking place in our Schools on our Faculty [information pages](#).

- School of Biological Sciences
- School of Computing Sciences
- School of Chemistry, Pharmacy and Pharmacology
- School of Engineering, Mathematics and Physics
- School of Environmental Sciences

Our Schools are bolstered by degree courses in Actuarial Science, Natural Sciences, Physics and Geography.

“The UEA ‘Do Different’ ethos is central to Science and Engineering at UEA, which provides a dynamic and inclusive environment for teaching, research, innovation, and application. We are open to new faculty members who can complement and extend our interdisciplinary portfolio.”

Professor Robert Field

Pro-Vice Chancellor Science





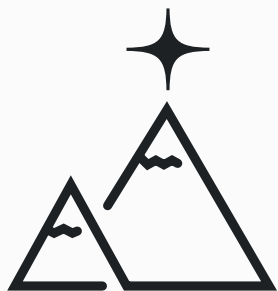
OUR VALUES

Shaped by staff, our UEA values represent a core set of standards for how we behave as an employer, drive excellence in teaching, learning and research, and collaborate as an anchor institution in our local community.

From tackling global challenges, striving for student and staff success, and creating a vibrant inclusive environment, our values are what unite us.

- ✦ AMBITION
- ✦ COLLABORATION
- ✦ EMPOWERMENT
- ✦ RESPECT

OUR VALUES (CONTINUED)



AMBITION

We are ambitious for our future success.

We are forward-thinking and brave in our approach and decisions. We make space for innovation and creativity, seizing opportunities that are responsible and sustainable. We are ambitious for the advancement of education and research.



COLLABORATION

We are collaborative in our approach.

We work together with shared purpose. We build connections, share ideas and develop new networks. We champion our regional, national and global relationships and demonstrate that together we can achieve greater goals and positively influence the world around us.



EMPOWERMENT

We empower ourselves and each other.

We develop ourselves and others, trusting people to make decisions based on their expertise and knowledge. We continually improve systems and processes to support us in working in an agile and efficient way.



RESPECT

We respect each other.

We treat everyone with respect and dignity. We value diversity and foster a community where people can express different thoughts and views. We are open to challenge, so we can learn and improve. We encourage a positive, inclusive environment where everyone has opportunities to fulfil their potential.

ACCOLADES

- Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education have been awarded to UEA for international development studies (2009), creative writing (2011) and environmental sciences (2017). Notable alumni include Sir Paul Nurse (1973, Nobel Prize for Medicine 2001), Kazuo Ishiguro (1980, Nobel Prize for Literature 2017), Michael Houghton (1972, Nobel Prize for Medicine 2020) and Sarah Gilbert (1983) who led the Oxford University team to develop a COVID-19 vaccine, approved in 2020.
- Our Doctoral College, established in 2018, hosts six Doctoral Training Partnerships and integrates Faculty and School provision for 1600 Postgraduate Research Students (including those from across the Norwich Research Park), enabling collaboration and innovation.
- We recognise our global impact and were one of the first universities to declare a climate and biodiversity emergency in June 2019. Our sustainable campus, including over 50 acres of environmentally valuable parkland, is constantly evolving with ambitions to be 100% net zero by 2045 or sooner.
- UEA is a University of Sanctuary, an accreditation given to universities that show an ongoing commitment to creating a welcoming culture of inclusivity and awareness.
- UEA was awarded the Silver Athena SWAN Award in 2019, and all our Schools hold awards at Bronze or Silver.

A vibrant place to study, learn and work, UEA is a very special place.



A SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITY

At UEA, we are now working to create a university that will be even better in the future, and we are working to achieve net zero carbon by 2045 (or earlier). Our Sustainable Ways vision is one of a resilient university – where consumption is efficient and self-generated energy supports low carbon goals, supported by a vibrant community of world-leading researchers and inspired graduates.

At a basic level, our sustainable development means that we try to balance the ‘three pillars’ of environmental, economic and social elements.

We challenge our environmental impact through on-site energy generation and a district heating and cooling network, reducing our reliance on grid electricity and therefore fossil fuels. We promote and use recycled and ‘eco’ products such as biological cleaning materials. We champion local suppliers and ethical causes, including Fairtrade and vegan products. We seek to ensure value for money in a holistic, whole-life costing sense in our new buildings and procurement contracts.

OUR INITIATIVES

Central campaigns, such as holiday shut-downs or awareness day events, support a whole-University approach to energy saving and other initiatives.

Follow us on Twitter [@SustainableUEA](https://twitter.com/SustainableUEA)



OUR CAMPUS

UEA is based on a campus that provides top quality academic, social and cultural facilities to over 17,000 students.

Although located in 320 acres of rolling parkland, virtually no part of the campus is more than a few minutes' walk from anywhere else, so everything is close at hand – the library, nursery, health centre, supermarket (incorporating a post office), banking facilities and restaurants. Amongst the striking buildings is the UEA's Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, which contains the Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Collection – one of the greatest art collections formed in Europe during the 20th Century.

The University has invested in new learning and teaching and research spaces, including a celebrated new Enterprise Centre that underpins its commitment to promoting student enterprise and entrepreneurship.

Sport and Recreation plays a major part in the life of the University of East Anglia, centred around the major Sportspark facility which is one of the most successful community sport facilities in the UK. This accessible and affordable facility provides a diverse range of activities, and incorporates a 50m Olympic size swimming pool, indoor climbing wall, coaching resource centre and sports injury clinic.



NORWICH

A CITY OF STORIES

The city's motto is 'A fine city' and its strong cultural heritage has seen Norwich maintain the best of its historical character whilst developing to become one of the most vibrant and attractive cities in Europe. Norwich offers miles of riverside walks and cycle ways, and a unique collection of 1930's parks. The city is surrounded by beautiful countryside and within easy reach of the stunning Norfolk coast.

Norwich is a UNESCO World city of Literature, the first in the UK, as well as being one of the newly named Tech Cities recognising the growth of digital businesses in the region. The most prominent high-rise building, apart from the castle, is the magnificent 11th century cathedral, which still dominates the skyline. The city's medieval centre of cobbled streets remains largely intact, but there is still space for modern buildings such as the city's centrepiece, the Forum, which is a striking piece of contemporary architecture. The glass front overlooks the colourful open-air market (one of the largest in the country) and reflects the city in all its diversity.

The city is consistently rated as one of the top ten shopping venues in the UK. Norfolk and Suffolk attract thousands of visitors each summer. The famous Norfolk Broads are among the most important wetlands in Europe and a haven for rare plants, wildlife and insects. The Broads attract holidaymakers who come to navigate the intricate natural network of waterways formed by the Rivers Bure, Yare and Waveney and their tributaries.

For further information about UEA's excellent facilities, staff benefits, picturesque campus and the UEA working environment, please visit the 'Careers at UEA' microsite <https://www.uea.ac.uk/about/working-at-uea>. Additional information about living and working in the city of Norwich can be found at <https://www.workinnorwich.co.uk/>



If there is another city in the United Kingdom with a school of painters named after it, a matchless modern art gallery, a university with a reputation for literary excellence which can boast Booker Prize-winning alumni, one of the grandest Romanesque cathedrals in the world, an extraordinary new state-of-the-art public library then I have yet to hear of it. Norwich is a fine city. None finer.

STEPHEN FRY



LOCATION

Some cities you've heard of, others you have to discover. Norwich is one of the most beautiful, modern historic cities in Britain. It's a city that celebrates the independent, stimulates creativity, promotes change and encourages diversity.

UEA is a campus university located 3 miles from the centre of Norwich. Situated in the heart of Norfolk, which means it's an ideal location to explore Norwich and beyond.

BY RAIL

LONDON • 2 HOURS

CAMBRIDGE • 1 HR 15 MINS

BIRMINGHAM • 4 HOURS

Many European cities (including Paris and Amsterdam) easily accessible by train

BY ROAD

KINGS LYNN • 1 HOUR

CROMER • 45 MINUTES

SOUTHWOLD • 1 HOUR

BY AIR

NORWICH AIRPORT • 20 MINUTES

STANSTED AIRPORT • 2 HOURS

London is a major airline hub and all main international destinations are easily accessible



An internationally renowned university, UEA is ranked in the UK Top 25 (Complete University Guide 2025), UK Top 30 (The Mail 2025) and the World Top 100 (Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2024), where it ranks in the UK Top 20 for research quality (Times Higher Education Rankings for the Research Excellence Framework 2021) and World Top 20 for Health and Wellbeing (QS World University Rankings for Sustainability 2024), reflecting the international excellence of its research environment. The University holds UK Teaching Excellence Framework Silver status.

Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Wellbeing

The University is committed to diversifying its workforce and to the wellbeing of all our staff. For example, we already hold an Athena Swan Silver Institutional Award in recognition of our advancement towards gender equality. Further details on our broader Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Wellbeing work can be found on our [website](#).

