

Temporary Soil Sampling Technician

Job Description

Job Title	Soil Sampling Technician
Location	Primarily within Zone 4 but there are a limited number of roles within Zone 3 (see location map on page 4)
Hours	<p>7.5 hours typically between 8.30 am - 4.30 pm (during daylight hours only)</p> <p>You must be available to work a minimum of 3 weekdays (Monday-Friday) to perform the role effectively. There may be the option to work on Saturday if it becomes available during the peak sampling season.</p> <p>Your hours of work will vary depending on the operational requirements of the Company. While we generally expect sampling to be available Monday to Friday there may be times due to operational requirements (e.g. weather warnings, updates/maintenance of IT systems) where sampling cannot take place. The Company reserves the right to give or not give work to any person at any time and is under no obligation to give any reasons for such decisions.</p>
Duration	From October 2025 to March 2026
Salary	£12.75/hr plus travel expenses for use of own vehicle and a generous daily performance bonus scheme. Salary will be paid by our external payroll provider.
Job Expenses	Payments for mileage will be provided in line with HMRC allowances. Soil Sampling Technicians will be required to ensure their personal car insurance allows for business use.
Performance Bonus	Available for going above and beyond set daily soil sample targets
Typical Salary	Including performance bonus payment above, average Soil Sampling Technicians can expect to earn approximately £130 per day with the highest performing Soil Sampling Technicians earning in excess of £200 per day (all exclusive of mileage).

The Soil Nutrient Health Scheme (SNHS) was launched by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and managed by Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) and is a four year, £37m significant initiative aimed at improving soil nutrient health and estimating farm carbon stocks, right across Northern Ireland. The scheme will see the 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 a four year period from 2022 to 2026 with peak soil sampling to be undertaken during winter months November to January.

We are looking for Soil Sampling Technicians - You will be working as part of a large team representing RPS in collecting soil samples in agricultural fields located primarily in Zone 4 with a limited number of roles available in Zone 3 (refer to location map on page 4). Work will be lone working and site based in rural agricultural environments. Full training, support, sampling equipment and personal protective equipment will be provided for suitable candidates.

Brief Description of the Role - Each Soil Sampling Technician will be part of a soil sampling team led by a RPS Team Leader. Although Soil Sampling Technicians are part of a team, the role will be lone working in remote rural areas and Soil Sampling Technicians will be required to use a lone worker app for their health and safety. Each Soil Sampling Technician will be provided with a ruggedised mobile device that will have the Arc Field Maps app which contains aerial base maps and their allocated fields to sample. On site, the Soil Sampling

Technician will navigate to their allocated fields for sampling using the Arc Field Maps app on their mobile device. In each field, they will be required to collect a minimum of 32 shallow soil samples at equal distances along a W-shaped transect using a supplied soil corer, whilst recording a GPS track of the W track on the mobile device. Soil Sampling Technicians will be responsible for bagging and correctly labelling the soil samples. If a field cannot be sampled, Soil Sampling Technicians are required to provide photographic evidence and a note using the provided mobile device.

Job Requirements	Job Responsibilities
Strong work ethic and outstanding character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professionally represent RPS. Ability to take direction from RPS Team Leader. Participate in team training in use of soil corer and mobile devices/Arc Field Maps etc. Responsible for undertaking soil sampling in accordance with training instructions. This is a physical role and will involve walking 15km+ per day through agricultural fields. Respect and care for land-owner's fields and properties.
Attention to detail, accuracy, ability to locate information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow guidance and directions from Team Leader. Read digital maps and navigate to fields. Collect soil samples along a W-shaped transect in each field using a soil corer in accordance with soil sampling procedure provided in training. Record GPS track of soil sample location using Field Maps app on mobile device. Bag and label soil sample as per training instructions. Adhere to feedback from Team Leader and Quality Assurance staff.
Organisation, time management skills with self-initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work independently performing daily workload efficiently. Plan ahead sampling for the next working day and ensure equipment is maintained. Good timekeeping and ability to meet deadlines.
Good communication and team work skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate daily with Team Leader and Farmer Communications staff. Politely and effectively communicate with landowners if required. Support other team members.

Essential Criteria:

- Experience of working in an outdoors environment in all winter weather conditions. **It is vital that you provide this detail in your application form.**
- Full driving licence with access to your own vehicle.
- Commit to working a minimum of 3 full (7.5 hours) weekdays (Monday-Friday).
- Experience using a smart phone.

Desirable Criteria:

- Previous soil sampling experience.

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 interview, and these will be allocated on a first come basis. A brief video on the role and details of the salary package will be emailed to shortlisted candidates which **MUST** be viewed prior to attending the interview.

About the Interview day:

- Short interview on suitability.
- Information will be gathered in relation to sizing for personal protective clothing which will be ordered if you are successful.
- A photo will be taken which will be used for a project ID card if you are successful.
- Advise on follow up and next steps.
- Answer any questions / queries.

Why choose RPS, a Tetra Tech company:

RPS is an equal opportunities employer.

In 2023 RPS joined Tetra Tech, enabling us to combine our expertise with the reach and resources of a prestigious global organisation. We design, and manage projects in urbanisation, natural resources, and sustainability. As part of Tetra Tech's strong team across 550 offices in over 120 countries, we deliver solutions that create lasting value in an increasingly urbanised and resource-scarce world. By leveraging our global expertise, we enable our clients to develop winning solutions for their clients and communities.

As a Tetra Tech company, RPS is proud to provide market-leading development and project opportunities for our people, supporting their growth while addressing the challenges that matter. We're a connected community, working together to achieve exceptional outcomes. We understand the need to work flexibly, empowering our people to create a work-life balance that's right for them. We also understand the importance of collaboration and social connection in the office environment. With agile offices and hybrid working offered as standard, we trust our people to find the right balance to meet client needs – this is a workplace that works for you. Check us out at www.rpsgroup.com.

Tetra Tech is the leader in water, environment, and sustainable infrastructure, providing high-end consulting and engineering services for projects worldwide. With over 30,000 employees working together, Tetra Tech provides clear solutions to complex problems by Leading with Science® to address the entire water cycle, protect and restore the environment, design sustainable and resilient infrastructure, and support the clean energy transition.

Temporary Soil Sampling Technician Role Locations:

