



solar power
tea power

Environment & Business Additional Information Pack Research Scientist Environment & Human Health

John Leyland

Executive Director, Environment & Business

This is an exciting time to join us. The work we do and the outcomes we deliver are high profile with the Government, the media and the public. Illegal waste sites blight local neighbourhoods. Polluted streams, rivers, lakes and seas have a negative impact on the wildlife that depends on them and on local economies. Our hard work helps communities thrive, encourages healthy living and recreation and allows wildlife and the natural environment to flourish.

We place huge importance on health, safety and wellbeing and creating a respectful community. We want everyone to be able to be themselves and do their best work and to feel valued. We have over 150 trained Respect at Work advisors across the organisation, numerous staff led networks you can join and a large amount of training courses available for you to develop your skills and progress within your role or within the directorate.”

[Hear from our people.](#)



E&B Vision, Purpose and Role

Vision:

Create a better place for people and wildlife. Protect the environment and promote sustainable development.

Purpose:

Informing and delivering the government's key environmental objectives; using evidence, expertise, engagement, and innovation we influence policy and legislation, facilitate, and enhance integrated delivery and, by building trust in the EA, secure resources to do more for the environment.

Role:

We will make our contribution to sustainable development through protecting and enhancing the environment, restoring nature, and tackling climate change by:

- Setting long-term integrated strategy that influences policy and priorities across air, land, water, waste and resources.
- Securing funding, deploying resources in an agile and unbureaucratic way and ensuring that E&B activities are fully funded, affordable, and represent value for money.
- Ensuring the organisation develops and maintains E&B technical competence and resilience - setting clear standards, career pathways and learning resources.
- Establishing ourselves as a trusted, future-facing, and effective regulator by setting a modern regulatory cycle across all the regimes the EA regulates.
- Enabling better places by providing leadership and integrating all aspects of environmental planning.
- Ensuring the EA's decisions and plans are informed by robust science and evidence.
- Increasing customer, stakeholder and partner awareness of our work and its impact through proactive and reactive engagement.

Chief Scientist Group

Who we are and what we do:

The Chief Scientist's Group is led by Dr Robert Bradburne, the Environment Agency's Chief Scientist and Head of the Science Profession. The Chief Scientist's Group:

- Leads on science, research, monitoring, analysis and evaluation, including the development of novel technologies
- Works collaboratively with the rest of the business to co-design and co-deliver science to meet existing and future evidence needs
- Identifies gaps and emerging trends, sources the evidence, and translates and communicates it in a compelling way to provide confidence in the decisions that we take
- Leads on work to address future challenges, engaging Research Councils, academia and the network of science advisors across Government.

Further information on Chief Scientist's Group and our role within the Environment Agency is available to read here [Creating a better place](#)





Robert Bradburne

Director, Chief Scientist Group

Dr Robert Bradburne is the Environment Agency's Chief Scientist. He leads a talented team in the Chief Scientist's Group working on science, innovative ways of monitoring the environment, analysing data and reporting on the state of the environment. He also provides scientific advice to SAGE during major incidents.

Rob is a plant scientist by training, starting his career with a PhD and post-doctoral research in crop genetics and ecology.

He joined the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in 2002, where he held a number of science and policy posts for twenty years working for the Department, culminating in becoming the Department's Deputy Chief Scientific Adviser.

The Role

This is a permanent grade 5 role in the Environment and Human Health research team in the Chief Scientist's Group, which is one of 4 research teams in the Group. The other teams are: Protecting and Enhancing Ecosystems, Net Zero and the Circular Economy, and Climate Adaptation and Resilience.

You will be working in the Environment and Human Health team and with colleagues in other research teams, using your scientific skills to deliver research and technical advice in your specialist area and other related topics.

The role will involve maintaining expertise in your specialist area and sharing that knowledge and information with colleagues in ways they can benefit from. You will contribute to and help develop new research ideas, manage projects, undertake analysis, and share results in formal papers, reports and through targeted briefings. You will also contribute ideas into the other research teams and provide advice to other projects where your skills can be helpful.

The skills and experience required are listed below. Please also refer to the job advertisement and the Candidate Pack for how to complete your application.

- First degree and post-graduate qualification, or equivalent professional expertise, in a relevant scientific discipline
- 2 plus years of experience applying knowledge in a research environment
- Published scientific research
- Proficient technical skills
- Effective communication skills
- High performer, working in a team and individually to deliver timely high-quality outputs
- Data science: competent in manipulating, analysing and visualising data.

Please evidence your skills and experience in your answers to the competency questions in the application form. Describe the situation, task, action, and response when structuring your answers. These answers are used for interview selection.

The Team

The Chief Scientist's Group leads on science and research for the Environment Agency. We deliver research that is needed across a wide range of scientific disciplines to support our business and to deliver on behalf of the Environment Agency, Defra, and wider government.

The Chief Scientist's Group is part of the Environment and Business (E&B) Directorate, which has one of the broadest remits in the Environment Agency. E&B has teams working on climate change, regulation, chemicals, water, agriculture, biodiversity, sustainability, energy, spatial planning, and lots more. We provide technical expertise directly to government to help shape policy, and to colleagues who work directly with the public and businesses. Our work, and the outcomes we deliver, are high profile with the Government, the media, and the public.

The scale of the challenges facing the environment make this an exciting time to use your scientific skills to protect human health and the environment now and in the future.

We need to help build resilience to climate and environmental change and to understand how the Environment Agency and those we regulate need to adapt. As the country heads towards Net Zero by 2050, our environment will change, and we are at the forefront of thinking about what this transition will look like and what is needed to manage it.

Our understanding of environmental pollution is evolving with new approaches to old problems and new emerging challenges to understand and mitigate. We need to better understand the links between the environment and human health exemplified in the concepts of "One Health".

You'll be involved in applying your scientific knowledge, working closely across internal departments, the wider Defra group, statutory bodies such as the UK Health Security Agency, external consultants, academia, and communities, leaving a valuable legacy for the future. Take this challenge on, and your opportunities to be a part of an inclusive and creative organisation, putting people and wildlife at the heart of what we do, will be a life enhancing experience.

The Challenge

You will join a high performing team working collaboratively on vital science and research.

In practice, you'll take responsibility for aspects of the work, contributing to planning of research, and supporting and gaining experience from our existing research scientists.

Whatever the challenge though, you'll be involved throughout and take on wide-ranging responsibilities.

Effective communication and the ability to build great working relationships will be crucial.

The issues facing the environment are ever evolving, and we need our scientists of the future, to be able to apply their scientific knowledge across a broad number of scientific fields.

We need people who have the vision to see what needs to be done and the drive to make it happen.

Additional Information

The post is national and the successful candidate can be located in any of our [Environment Agency's offices](#). However, some travel would be expected to other locations.

Naturally, we want you to be the best in your field. So, you should expect training and development that helps you grow professionally.

We will pay your fees for one professional membership and would expect you to publish the results of your work.

Interview and assessment

- Interviews will be held in March 2026 using MS Teams.
- For further information or discussion about the role please contact Roger Timmis roger.timmis@environment-agency.gov.uk.

We value a diverse workforce and welcome applications from all sections of the community who wish to join an organisation which values everyone.

We particularly welcome applications from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME), disabled, female and LGBT+ candidates, so that our team really does represent and understand the communities we work with.

We want all our people to feel good about where they work and why they come to work, that they can be themselves without fear of judgement or prejudice and that all views are equally respected and valued.

We believe everyone should have an equal chance of achieving their life goals. Diversity: it's in our nature



Dr Laura Hunt

Water Quality Research Scientist Specialist, CSG

I have worked at the Environment Agency in the Chief Scientist's Group for 18 months as a research scientist and am currently on secondment to the Water Research team. My role involves delivering topical research on water quality challenges and developing novel monitoring methods.

Working at the Environment Agency has given me the opportunity to collaborate with excellent colleagues across the business, as well as with consultants, academics, and Defra. I particularly enjoy working across a wide range of research topics and experimenting with different methods, including novel eDNA approaches and participatory research through climate adaptation projects. It is rewarding to know my research skills are contributing to understanding and addressing environmental challenges.

I have also developed my skills through mentoring and internal and external training, and value the opportunities to explore different roles through secondments or incident response work.

Stuart Allen

Principal Scientist, CSG

I lead on water issues for the Climate Change and Resource Efficiency team.

My work has furthered our understanding of the impact of climate change on water resources, flooding and water quality and how we should plan and adapt for that change. It has helped shape policy and guidance both for our own staff and those we regulate.

I find my work both intellectually challenging and personally rewarding.





Ian Martin

Principal Chemical Risk Scientist, CSG

I began my career in contaminated land assessment and management, developing tools and understanding to implement legislation that protects people and the environment from chemical pollution tied to our industrial heritage.

Over time, my work has expanded to address new scientific challenges, including emerging pollutants like PFAS and the risks of antimicrobial resistance. This shift has moved my focus from tackling historical contamination to preventing future pollution through waste management and circular economy approaches.

A career in Research offers the opportunity to apply your scientific skills to today's challenges while anticipating future developments in regulation. This role opens doors to specialisation, exploring diverse topics, and advancing into policy or management within a large organisation. The path is yours to choose.



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Come and Join us!