

## ASSISTANT / COLLEAGUE

I am searching for a practical individual who will assist in a range of workshop / laboratory projects encompassing Physics, Mathematics, and Engineering. Despite the STEM content of much of what is carried out here, interested individuals with artistic strengths should not be discouraged. Specific projects are related to sustainability. A genuine love of nature will be an advantage. Practical aptitude together with an appreciation for fine detail plus an interest in practical activities and experimentation are required. Age and nationality are not important, but the individual must be able to communicate in English.

An initial trial period is intended to serve as an opportunity to gain familiarity with each other and with the opportunity. Accommodation and a modest living allowance will be provided.

Technical facilities here are fairly comprehensive and continuous mentoring will be provided. This may appeal to an individual who wishes to take time to consider their future career options. The opportunity is far superior to incurring debt for the purpose of obtaining a qualification, and offers advantages over many employed positions. The environment has much to commend it, and some aspects of the activities, related to sustainability, have considerable potential. There are more specialised scientific interests. Experience obtained here cannot fail to be of considerable value to the person concerned.

The location is a farm. Whoever comes here would be expected to engage in farm related activities. Farm activities are almost entirely weather dependent and invariably physically demanding. On some occasions, farm obligations are paramount. In contrast there will be extended periods during which the individual would have virtually complete discretion in the use of their time. Consequently, the individual would need to be creative and flexible in their outlook and time management.

Modern business philosophy regards people as “*Human resources*”, as though human beings were parts for some machine. Skills and experience are important, but having an appropriate personality and outlook are critical to success. This is not employment, but a search for a colleague.

The intention is to carry out the development of a prototype biofuel energy system suitable for rural locations. A considerable number of hours have already been devoted to this project. This has mostly been of a theoretical nature. To date the practical implementation has been limited. This project entails many technical challenges. The objective is to produce a design which utilises a significant proportion of recycled materials.

Broader scientific interests include the manufacture of an optical device. Other activities carried out are most aptly described as recreational engineering which has much in common with Art and Industrial heritage.

The problems which need to be overcome may be categorised as follows.

- The colleague will hopefully provide additional skills which I do not possess.
- For now, everything done here must be at minimal cost. This may be in stark contrast to the individual's prior experiences. Not having access to the latest technology could prove to be frustrating and it is well to be aware of that in advance. The individual needs to be resourceful and patient.
- There is a considerable amount of design which is still to be carried out. This means that

there will be many times when work on the project cannot proceed until some design aspect has been addressed. It is important that whoever comes here is able to pursue their own creative interests during these periods.

- There are many other practical demands arising out of being on a farm. These need to be addressed as they arise.
- This is an isolated area. A person who requires substantial social interaction may soon become dissatisfied, lonely, or discouraged. Potential applicants should reflect carefully on their own personality in this important respect.
- There will be office based tasks, but the practical nature of the activities cannot be overstated. Whoever comes here is guaranteed to be engaged in activities which can be dirty, smelly, noisy, and often physically demanding.

This is an exceptional opportunity for the right individual to acquire and develop many skills. This is not a “*High octane*” environment. Patience, care, and pride in work well done, are the essential traits needed for successful prototyping. Honesty, and in particular, self honesty, together with a true willingness to learn are very important.

Articles on [www.swarfology.com](http://www.swarfology.com) describe some of the activities which have been carried out here. “*Consume or Create?*” is a fairly general article. This represents an ideal opportunity for the person to develop a broad range of practical skills including Mechanical Engineering skills in particular. It is hoped that whoever comes here for the initial period will wish to remain for a longer term and assist in building the project into something of lasting value for humanity.