



Dr. Ceinwen A. Tilley

I studied for my B.Sc at Keele University which began my interest in behavioural ecology and parasitology. After graduating I worked as a technician in the Department of Biology at the University of Leicester. During this time, I studied part time for my PhD focusing on fish ecology and parasitology - Effects of *Schistocephalus solidus* on the reproductive biology of sticklebacks. Alongside this, I worked on a "side project" developing the use of skin swabbing to collect DNA from fish, this was published in 2017 (Breacker et al 2017). This formed the basis of the NC3Rs funded grant I worked on as a Postdoc - "Quantifying the potential of skin swabbing as a refinement for DNA sampling of laboratory fish". The project compared the health and welfare impacts of the commonly used method of fin clipping with the alternative skin swabbing technique, using zebrafish and stickleback. Since completing this I have returned to the technician role and am actively promoting the swabbing technique to researchers. We have been given some funding from the NC3Rs to help do this and are currently looking at potential skin damage and improvements to the protocol. We will hold workshops across various UK locations, watch out for further details of these!