I’m Leela Stoede, a rising 3rd year studying Sustainable Development. I’m deeply interested in exploring and understanding how we humans relate to the natural world that surrounds us in the interest of creating a thriving future for all life. This project really excites me because it directly explores this interconnectedness while also giving me the opportunity to observe my local ecosystem and more deeply integrate myself there within. Having grown up in both south India and the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, the east coast Scottish landscape is still rather unfamiliar to me and being part of this project gives me the time and resources to start to familiarize myself with it – and hopefully have an impact that allows others to do the same in years to come.

My name is Erica and I am currently studying sustainable development and film studies. I am honored to be one of the Biodiversity Monitoring interns this year, where I am constantly learning new ways to read my environment. I also love getting to encounter some of my favorite species every day, such as ladybugs and sweet chestnut trees! Beyond this internship, I serve as co-director of the St Andrews Green Film Festival, where I hope to continue showing the public different ways of viewing and appreciating our environment through film. I strongly believe in the importance of biodiversity literacy and documenting our surroundings, so I hope to continue doing more work like this in the future!