



## Student Placement in 2025/2026 Upland Research Group, Upper Teesdale, North Pennines

### The Research Base

The Trust's office in Upper Teesdale in northern England is our research base in for much of our work on upland ecology. The primary focus of our research is the conservation and management of upland bird populations and their moorland habitats. Currently there are seven staff based from our office in the grounds of Eggleston Hall near Barnard Castle.

### The Placement Position

We seek two undergraduate student placements/year-in-industry internships each year. Placement students will gain valuable and extensive research experience working alongside staff on a range of projects throughout northern England. Students will assist with data collection and data management for long-term research and monitoring projects on red and black grouse and other ground nesting birds, the ecology of upland breeding waders, black grouse recovery, and restoration of peatland habitats. Specifically, activities will include:

- i) Assisting with the licensed capture, handling, radio-tagging, and tracking of study species, mainly red and black grouse
- ii) Conducting habitat and bird surveys on heather moorland and its fringes
- iii) Lab-based measures of strongyle worms and other parasites of red grouse
- iv) Measuring responses of moorland vegetation and invertebrates to different methods of blanket bog restoration

There will be an opportunity for each student to develop their own aspects of ecological interest by undertaking a personal research project, supervised by base staff. Training will be given in aspects of data processing, analysis and report writing.

We are seeking someone with an appetite for outdoor fieldwork, an interest in conservation biology and a desire to learn. A full driving licence is essential, as is the willingness to work in all weather and in remote locations. We have shared accommodation available, in the form of a two-bedroom first floor flat in the nearby village of Middleton-in-Teesdale four miles from the office.

We offer a standard stipend of £131 per week, **free** accommodation, plus paid bills. There may also be opportunities to increase your work experience and earnings through seasonal one day per week release to work on neighbouring estates and through routine chores around the office of a non-academic nature. To apply please send a CV and cover letter explaining why you are interested in the placement, and arrange to have your tutor send a reference to the contact below **by the 6th of January 2025**. Interviews will be held on a first come basis, online between the 20th and the 30th January 2025, followed by face-to-face visits for short-listed candidates.

The placements will be for a year commencing **at the beginning of August 2025**.



To apply or for queries please contact:

**Rebecca Houseman**  
**Interim North of England Manager**  
 Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust  
 Bearl Farm  
 Bywell  
 Stocksfield  
 Northumberland  
 NE43 7AJ  
**E-mail: rhouseman@gwct.org.uk**