



Student Placement in 2026/2027 Upland Research Group, Upper Teesdale, North Pennines

The Research Base

The Trust's office in Upper Teesdale in northern England is our research base 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 six staff and students based from our office in the grounds of Eggleston Hall near Barnard Castle. Five further staff and students in the Uplands Team are based across Scotland.

The Placement Position

We offer 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 intensive data collection and data management for long-term research and monitoring projects on red and black grouse, the ecology of upland ground-nesting birds, and black grouse recovery and range expansion. Specifically, activities will include:

- Assisting with the Maternal Condition in Red Grouse Project (radiotracking, nest visits, invertebrate sampling, vegetation measures)
- Assisting with Black Grouse Recovery and Range Expansion (radiotracking, lek counts, brood foraging measures, mapping in ArcGIS)
- Conducting hydrology, habitat, and bird surveys on moorland and its fringes
- Lab-based work, including measures of strongyle worms and other parasites, and invertebrate identification

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

We are seeking candidates 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, occasionally on a lone working basis. 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 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 9th of January 2026**. Interviews will be held online between the 19th and the 30th January 2026, followed by face-to-face visits for successful candidates. The placements will last for one year, commencing **at the beginning of August 2026**.



To apply or for queries please contact:

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