



# Women Naturalists of North East England

## Placement Opportunity: Natural History Society of Northumbria

The Natural History Society of Northumbria invites Expressions of Interest from Northern Bridge students for a Part time funded placement. This is an outstanding opportunity to gain significant professional and practical experience in the charity sector to research and promote women naturalists.

### Background

Women have long played a significant role in natural history but their involvement and contribution has long been under-documented and under-recognised.

In 2018, NHSN delivered a publication and events celebrating some of the historic women naturalists of north east England with an exhibition in the GNM: Hancock Library. Positive feedback from those events inspired us to undertake this second initiative to capture some of the women active today in natural history. NHSN has long been passionate about collecting, conserving and celebrating the social history of natural history in north east England and this addition will be an important asset for now and the future.

### How this project works

Women are invited and encouraged to submit a short profile about their involvement in natural history, in whatever aspect and whatever role. Anyone with a love for nature are encouraged to share their story and love for nature. You might consider yourself a low flying birder or a high flying scientist, someone who provides a supporting role in a nature organisation or someone largely retired for from the field looking back over your life in natural history; we want your story.

Some of the profiles will be used in a new publication, others will feature on the NHSN website and all will be kept within the NHSN archive for future public access and enjoyment.

Women will be invited to complete an online form (Survey Monkey) and for those that prefer hardcopy, these will also be provided.

This project will run through the autumn of 2019 and winter of 2020 and after that the template will be left on the NHSN website for anyone wishing to contribute a profile.

### **Gone but not forgotten**

We also welcome profiles submitted on behalf of women who have passed away or unable to complete their own profiles so we can capture their memories before their contribution is lost.

Women do not have to have been born in the north east of England but are expected to have spent enough time relevant to the region.

We want contributions from all aspects of natural history (e.g. people in various roles levels, generalists and specialists).

Provide a portrait picture for inclusion in publication.

NHSN retains copyright of the profiles submitted and published and has permission to use the photograph supplied (need to check exact statement with TWAM/Newcastle University)

### **Benefits of the placement**

- An opportunity to work with one of the largest, oldest and most active natural history societies in the country
- Opportunities to meet long-standing naturalists of N E England, learn about social heritage of natural history and contribute to the NHSN regional archive.
- Flexible working arrangements that can be fitted around other commitments
- To participate in the Student Award Scheme and receive a certificate, adding to your employability. <http://www.nhsn.ncl.ac.uk/activities/student-naturalist-awards-scheme/>

### **Responsibilities**

It is anticipated that the successful candidate would co-ordinate this project, with support and direction provided by the Director, Clare Freeman and Communications Officer, James Common

<http://www.nhsn.ncl.ac.uk/about/staff-trustees-volunteers/>

Space will be made available to join the NHSN team, based at their home of the Great North Museum; Hancock and some work could be done remotely.

### **Timeline**

October: Discuss and consult with Advisory Group and establish a small project working group

October to December: Disseminate, Promote and Collect Templates, including promotion on social media and links with other Women in Science projects.

January: Prepare and publish publication and on the NHSN website

February – April: Hold event(s)

### **Terms**

It is anticipated that the placement would require between 0.5 – 1 day per week from October 2019 to April 2020.

### **Skills and interests needed**

- An interest in 'woman in science' would be helpful.
- A friendly, welcoming and inclusive approach to encourage submissions.
- Competent IT user, including social media use.
- Excellent verbal and communication skills
- Excellent organisational skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Initiative and creativity in problem solving
- Ability to apply research skills in a new professional context
- Ability to work effectively as part of a team
- Ability to work unsupervised when necessary

### **Expressions of Interest**

To apply for this placement please submit to [northernbridge.admin@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:northernbridge.admin@ncl.ac.uk):

- a 250-word expression of interest explaining your interest in the placement, how you fulfil the criteria, and how this placement would support your training and development needs.

- a CV

- a 100-word supporting statement from your supervisor

Deadline for submitting your expression of interest is 10am, **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> of September**. Successful shortlisted candidates will be notified week beginning 30th September.

Please note that the Northern Bridge Training Grant will be able to meet reasonable travel, accommodation and subsistence costs associated with undertaking this placement.