



ONE Planet Undergraduate Research Experience Placement (REP) Scheme

Placement title: Hedgehogs in the anthropocene – what is behind the success of urban hedgehogs?

Proposed placement length (max 8 weeks): 8

One Planet Research Theme:

Climate & Climate Change \Box | Earth System Processes \boxtimes | Anthropocene \boxtimes | Environmental Informatics \boxtimes

Supervisor: Matthew Pound

School/Department: Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences **University:** Northumbria University

Placement Description:

The population of the European hedgehog in Great Britain has been in decline for over half a century. Considerable efforts have been made to stabilise this decline before the species becomes regionally extinct. These efforts have culminated in a recent trend of increasing numbers in urban areas. However, it is not known why hedgehogs are doing better in urban areas. Ideas range from less predators, greater food availability and habitat complexity, in association with considerable public interest in this charismatic mammal.

On this placement you will join a research team working with Northumbria University's and Newcastle University's Hedgehog Friendly Campus teams, Urban Green Newcastle and the Ouseburn Trust to test the role habitat complexity has on urban hedgehog numbers. Through a combination of field site monitoring with traps and cameras, GIS mapping and faeces analysis (pollen, parasites and microplastics) you will produce the first urban study of hedgehog habitat preferences.

Timescale:

The placement will run from July to September with a provisional plan of:

Week 1 – Induction, training, lab induction, field site visits and partner meetings Week 2 – Deployment of monitoring equipment and lab technique training Weeks 3-6 – Collection of data in field and lab Weeks 7-8 – Analysis of data and report writing

Lead supervisor is away for a 3-week period, but additional supervisors will be on hand for support, mentoring and daily contact.

Itemised Budget for the Project:

Student salary: £3152.4 (37 hours per week, 8 weeks at £10.65) Lab consumables: £159

Prerequisites:

Essential Skills and Knowledge: experience with data analysis and statistics

Desirable Skills and Knowledge: experience of lab work (pollen analysis or microplastic extraction would be ideal); experience of conducting safe fieldwork.

For more information, please contact Matthew Pound (matthew.pound@northumbria.ac.uk).



