



Nature Ranger

How to be a Young North East Naturalist



Recruitment Pack

November 2021



Nature Ranger Recruitment Pack

Job title	Nature Ranger (x2 posts)
Based at	Flexible working between Gosforth Nature Reserve, schools in the Newcastle and Blyth area and home working. Occasional visits to NHSN Office at Great North Museum: Hancock.
Contract type	Fixed term, 10 months, January 2022 to October 2022. Part-time, three days (22 hours) per week, allowing for one day of overlap between the two Nature Rangers.
Salary	£18,000 - £21,000 pro rata

We are seeking two part-time Nature Rangers for our new *How to be a Young North East Naturalist* project. Working with five schools in the Newcastle and Blyth area, Nature Rangers will lead on the co-creation of resources and activities to pilot a toolkit that inspires young people to discover their inner naturalist. You will lead on inspiring young people about the ecological, social and cultural aspects of natural history, and help children gain the skills and confidence to protect the natural world.

You will have experience of creating, organising and delivering activities with primary school children, ideally about topics relevant to environmental education. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills with children are essential in addition to the ability to inspire young people about natural history. You will be creative, flexible and able to form strong working relationships, and work effectively with minimal supervision. An understanding of the importance, and barriers, of connecting young people with nature is desirable.

These roles are funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund. Building on a long tradition within NHSN dating back almost 200 years, you will help us engage more young people than ever before about the natural world. Never has it been more important to ensure that young people are equipped with the understanding, knowledge and skills to protect the natural world. You will join NHSN at an exciting time with a new Field Station at Gosforth Nature Reserve, growing regional initiatives, and a new four-year strategy.

Information for applicants

Closing date for applications is the end of **Sunday 12 December 2021**. Please submit your CV and a supporting statement of no more than two pages explaining why you are interested in this post and how you meet the criteria for the role as laid out in the Person Specification. Email your CV and supporting statement to Clare Freeman (NHSN Director) at nhsn.director@newcastle.ac.uk CV's only will not be assessed.

Interviews will take place at Gosforth Nature Reserve (NE3 5EP) on Tuesday 21 December 2021.

For any further enquiries relating to your application, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

About NHSN

Established in 1829, the Natural History Society of Northumbria is one of the longest-running natural history societies. Our vision is for more people to enjoy, understand and care for North East nature. We aim to inspire wonder and collective action in all aspects of North East natural history through communications, events, lifelong learning and regional citizen science. At the heart of our delivery is a huge community of passionate volunteers, members and supporters.

Supported by a growing community of volunteers, we have managed Gosforth Nature Reserve in Newcastle upon Tyne since 1929. One of the most important wildlife sites in Newcastle, the reserve is a rich educational resource. In January 2022, the new Field Station opens its doors to provide a practical and inspiring space for visitors and groups.

Our office is based at the Great North Museum: Hancock. The museum and natural history collections are owned by NHSN and leased to Newcastle University. We work closely with Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums. Containing thousands of books and items, the museum is also home to our North East natural history library and archive.

We are passionate about sharing the wonders of North East nature. Every year, our members and volunteers enable a busy programme of talks, events and education courses. We also publish our regional *North East Nature* magazine and *Northumbrian Naturalist* journal, celebrating the work and passions of naturalists across the region.



To discover more about our work across the North East, visit the NHSN website at www.nhsn.org.uk

Our story so far

How to be a Young North East Naturalist builds on NHSN's history engaging young people with local natural history. For almost 200 years, our purpose has been to encourage everyone to study and protect the natural world. With widespread disconnection to nature, and a climate and ecological emergency, now more than ever it is vital we connect and engage more young people with nature.



Lantern-lit lectures and nature trails

In the early 1900s at the GNM: Hancock, we delivered lectures by lantern light for young people. Over a century later, they lend their name to the Lantern Fund, which continues to connect children with nature today. At Gosforth Nature Reserve, members led nature trails for local children, with the first open day held in 1968.



Developing Gosforth Nature Reserve as an educational resource

Volunteer Education Rangers are at the heart of our educational offer at Gosforth Nature Reserve, leading inspiring school visits and supporting annual open days for families. In recent years, our school visits and community of volunteer Education Rangers has grown.



The Young People's Lantern Fund

In 2018, we created the Young People's Lantern Fund Appeal to provide opportunities for disadvantaged young people to experience nature first-hand. During the coronavirus pandemic, we provided nature activity packs for children to discover nature at home.



The new Field Station

Thanks to the North East Local Enterprise Partnership and supporter donations, facilities to support young people at Gosforth Nature Reserve have greatly improved. Opening its doors in January 2022, the new fully-equipped Field Station will provide a practical and inspiring space for visitors and educational groups.

About 'How to be a Young North East Naturalist'

How to be a Young North East Naturalist is an exciting collaboration involving schools in the Newcastle and Blyth area, the Natural History Society of Northumbria, MammalWeb and Newcastle University. From consultation with local schools, education groups and communities, there is strong local need and support for NHSN to engage more young people about local natural history. Working closely with volunteers and schools, *How to be a Young North East Naturalist* builds on NHSN's long history of engaging young people with the natural world.

This is a 12-month development project funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund. Working with five schools, the project will co-create resources to pilot a toolkit that equips young people with natural history skills. The project will develop ways for 150 young people to discover and feel inspired about all aspects of local and regional natural history – ecological, social and cultural. Working closely with teachers, a programme of ten activities will be developed and delivered for each participating school. Following this is a visit to Gosforth Nature Reserve and / or Great North Museum: Hancock. At the end of the programme, a celebration event will be held, bringing together schools and the community.



The new Gosforth Nature Reserve Field Station



NHSN volunteers lead inspiring Reserve Open Days

The project involves three key stages as shown below:

Stage one Project start and preparation	Stage two Co-creation of the toolkit	Stage three Project review
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of existing teaching materials • Establish School Activity Plan and nature reserve / museum visits • Creation of resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of School Activity Plan • Continual evaluation of activity and meeting sessions • Delivery of celebration event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of family open days at Gosforth Nature Reserve • Consultation for project feedback • Evaluation of project

Job Description

Job title	Nature Ranger (x2 part time posts)
Based at	Flexible working between Gosforth Nature Reserve, schools in the Newcastle and Blyth area and home working. Occasional visits to NHSN Office at Great North Museum: Hancock.
Contract type	Fixed term, 10 months, January 2022 to October 2022. Part-time, three days (22 hours) per week, allowing for one day of overlap between the two Nature Rangers.
Salary	£18,000 - £21,000 pro rata
Reporting to	NHSN Conservation Officer

Job purpose

How to be a Young North East Naturalist is a 12 month development project funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund. Nature Rangers will work with five local primary schools to co-create nature activities, outdoor and indoor, with teachers and school children (Key Stages 1 and 2).

Main duties and responsibilities

1. To co-create curriculum linked, nature-based activities with schools, working with teachers, school children and NHSN Volunteer Education Rangers, being an active member of the Project Delivery Group.
2. To plan and deliver ten nature-based activities, outdoors and indoors, with five schools ensuring that all events are compliant with COVID-19 guidelines, including a project launch and celebration end of project event.
3. To work collaboratively with schools and organisations such as MammalWeb and Wild Intrigue to plan and deliver nature activities, using a range of techniques and media.
4. To plan and deliver family friendly Gosforth Nature Reserve (GNR) Open Days promoted to local schools, working with the NHSN Communications and Engagement Officer.
5. To plan and deliver visits to GNR and the GNM: Hancock working with members of the NHSN team and museum Learning Officers.
6. To work with an Evaluator to plan and deliver evaluation methods throughout the project, proactively encouraging feedback through a variety of evaluation methods, adjusting delivery in response to feedback, and contributing to the Evaluator's final project evaluation report.
7. To proactively work with, support and supervise the Volunteer Education Rangers and GNR volunteers to aid delivery of the above.
8. To procure materials needed for programme of activities and ensure safe, secure storage to schools/ GNR or GNM: Hancock.
9. Ensure that all activities are delivered in line with the NHSN Safeguarding Policy and that permissions for photography etc are sought, promoting the project appropriately on social media.

10. Take responsibility for ensuring that the health and safety of all people participating in any of the above programmes is effectively managed. This will include following NHSN's health and safety policies and producing risk assessments.
11. Ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with NHSN Values and Equalities policy.
12. Undertaking any other duties which the Director may reasonably request.

Person Specification

Person Specification	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications		
Qualification relevant to Environmental Education		√
Experience and Knowledge		
Previous experience of creating, organising and delivering activities with primary school children and understanding of the current curriculum		√
Experience of working in partnership with a range of agencies and organisations in the field of environmental education		√
Experience of monitoring and evaluating the broad outcomes of young people's engagement	√	
An understanding of and an enthusiasm for the day-to-day application of health and safety and safeguarding policies		√
Strong ICT 'user' skills, including a working knowledge of the ability to use e-mail, word processing and presentation packages		√
Communication Skills		
Ability to inspire young people about North East natural history	√	
Good interpersonal skills, including resolving issues on the ground.	√	
Confident speaker	√	
Ability to build strong working relationships with a range of organisations and individuals		√
Self Management		
Good organisational skills	√	

Person Specification	Essential	Desirable
Able to work to deadlines and prioritise workload effectively	✓	
Able to work and resolve issues without close day to day supervision	✓	
Personal Attributes		
A real empathy and 'feel' for what inspires young people, and adapting approach to different individuals	✓	
Understanding of the need to connect young people with nature and awareness of barriers	✓	
A keen interest in the aims and values of NHSN and all aspects of natural history; ecological, social and cultural	✓	
Flexible attitude to working weekends and school holidays	✓	
Full, clean driving licence and access to a vehicle		✓

NHSN recognises the positive value of diversity, promoting equality and challenging discrimination. We welcome and encourage job applications from people of all backgrounds and aim to be an organisation that reflects our supporters and communities.

Natural History Society of Northumbria

Great North Museum: Hancock, Barras Bridge, Newcastle NE2 4PT

Telephone: 0191 208 2792 (Monday to Friday, 10am – 4pm)

Website: www.nhsn.org.uk

Facebook: @naturalhistorynorthumbria

Twitter and Instagram: @NEE_Naturalist

LinkedIn: Natural History Society of Northumbria

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