



## **Natural Talent Case Study Template**

**Name;** Anna Hart

**Age;** 21

**Traineeship;** TCV Natural Talent Traineeship – Entomology

**Dates of traineeship;** 19<sup>th</sup> January to 18<sup>th</sup> January 2015



### **About your traineeship**

**Can you give an overview of your Natural Talent UK traineeship? (What organisations are you placed with/type of work you will be involved in?)**

For my traineeship I will be based with the Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR) in Northern Ireland. I will be trained in the identification of species, ecological surveying techniques and data recording and analysis. I will also be involved in monitoring habitats and engaging with communities. As part of the Northern Ireland wildfire study of upland habitats I will be working with a team of specialists to identify ground beetles and spiders.

### **Why did you apply for a Natural Talent traineeship?**

I have always had a keen interest in the environment, environmental issues and conservation and am always passionate to further my understanding of these areas. I am enthusiastic at the prospect of completing a traineeship in Entomology as this is relevant to entomological surveys I have previously done through both my degree in Environmental Science and my work. I know that these skills will be useful in the future. My final year dissertation was “Investigating the distribution and habitat use of the Scarce Crimson and Gold (*Pyrausta sanguinalis*) a priority micro-moth species in Northern Ireland” which involved completing transect surveys of moth populations and quadrat surveys of their sand dune habitat. As part of my work with an Environmental Consultancy I have also taken part in several larvae web counts of the Marsh Fritillary butterfly. This Natural Talent Traineeship will allow me to develop my knowledge of species and habitats through contact with specialists in these areas.

### **What kind of employment were you in before undertaking a Natural Talent traineeship?**

I had a temporary contract as an Assistant Ecologist with the Environmental Consultancy firm Allen and Mellon Environmental Ltd from June 2014 to September 2014. Duties included supporting the Directors of Allen and Mellon Environmental and their sub-contractors in the ecological work they undertake including ornithological work, Marsh fritillary field work, bat and other mammal surveys (e.g. badger) and GIS mapping. Since 2009 I have worked as a Leisure attendant for my local leisure centre.



**What voluntary experience had you done prior to your traineeship?**

I have completed the Millennium Volunteer Award for 200hrs volunteering. From second year in school I was a member of the Environmental club the school's conservation group. We undertook simple conservation activities in the local area including the creation of a "bee garden". In fourth year I spent a week in Portugal as part of an Eco UNESCO international scheme for the development of conservation skills and expertise for school children. In the summer of 2013 I spent three weeks on Rathlin Island working for the RSPB. I completed a three day internship with the Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR) to assist with the 2013 BioBlitz at Colebrooke Estate in Fermanagh and I also volunteered for the BioBlitz at Glenarm in 2014.

At university I was a member of the Environmental Society and took part in various volunteering activities including bird counts at the university campus and clearing brambles for the creation of corncrake habitat on Rathlin for the RSPB. In my final year I was Co-Chair of this society and was responsible for organising events and volunteering activities. As part of my voluntary work experience I have been involved in bat, peregrine falcon and Great Crested Grebe surveys.

**What are you most looking forward to during your traineeship?**

I am most looking forward to working with experts within Entomology and obtaining practical work experience.

**What skills do you anticipate this traineeship will give you?**

The traineeship will develop my ecological surveying, analysis and monitoring skills and increase my understanding of the key areas within entomology. It will allow me to become more familiar with species identification, taxonomy and systematics, inventory work and specimen preservation.

**How do you feel your traineeship benefits the conservation sector in the United Kingdom?**

There is a requirement in the conservation sector for experts regarding less well known species. My traineeship will improve my knowledge and awareness of specific species and their habitats, which hopefully I will be able to share with others.

**What career path do you see yourself pursuing and how will this experience help you?**

I hope to pursue a career in which my interest in the environment and my skills achieved to date will be useful. I would like to specialise in a chosen area of Entomology and to develop my skills and expertise.