



# Documenting Mammalian Megafauna from the Upper Thames Pleistocene

## Collections

### Project Summary

This project will involve identifying, cataloguing, and photographing the final portion of fossilised mammal material from the Museum's Upper Thames Pleistocene Collection.

### Project Detail

The Museum's mammal fossils from the Upper Thames Pleistocene date to between 200,000 and 34,000 years old. They have been collected from the Upper Thames Valley region of Oxfordshire over a long period from the early-nineteenth century to the present day. This project will involve documenting the final portion of this material; the exciting last push in completing the cataloguing of all fossil mammal material at the Museum, which would be a real feather in the cap of OUMNH.

**Full training will be provided** so that the student can:

1. Establish the identification, geological age, locality and provenance of the specimens from their original label information
2. Take high-quality photographs of specimens
3. Enter details in the digital Collections Management System, EMu
4. Move the specimens into new storage boxes
5. Create museum labels to store with the specimens and attach numbers to the specimens
6. Check the condition of the specimens and assist with remedial conservation
7. Write a 500-word report of the project



## Selection Criteria

### Essential

- Interest in fossils
- Excellent attention to detail with an organised and methodical approach
- Strong self-motivation and ability to work independently and without close supervision
- Good written communication

### Desirable

- Interest working in a museum setting
- Basic understanding of taxonomy and ability to distinguish between different vertebrate fossil groups
- Experience using a DSLR camera

## Outcomes for the Student

This project provides particularly valuable experience for students interested in a career in museums, zoology, or palaeontology research:

- Experience in the organisation and management of fossil specimens
- Improved knowledge of museums and collections care as well as documentation
- Increased level of comparative anatomy skills and experience
- Experience in collections database work
- Good organisational, documentation, and IT skills
- The opportunity to network with members of Museum staff, including researchers and members of the Public Engagement team

## Reasonable Adjustments

The museum is committed to making reasonable adjustments to its summer placements to make sure that students with disabilities or health conditions are not substantially disadvantaged. If you are concerned about meeting the selection criteria for a project of interest, or completing relevant tasks, please get in touch with [ella.mckelvey@oum.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ella.mckelvey@oum.ox.ac.uk) before submitting your application to discuss possible adjustments to the project.

## General Enquiries

To find out more about this project, please email [ella.mckelvey@oum.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ella.mckelvey@oum.ox.ac.uk)