# 2023 Oxford University Museum of Natural History Undergraduate Bursary Scheme

## Project: Upper Thames Pleistocene Mammals

### Project summary

This project will involve documenting a scientifically and historically important collection of Pleistocene mammals (approximately 200,000-34,000 years old) from the Upper Thames Valley. Specimens may include bison, horse, reindeer, red deer, mammoths, straight-tusked elephants, brown bears, cave lions, wolves, hyaenas, woolly rhinos, and hippos.

### Project details

In order to accomplish this project, the student will:

* Receive full training
* Establish the identification, geological age, locality and provenance of the specimens form original label information
* Take high quality photographs of specimens
* Enter details in the Axiell EMu Collections Management System
* Move the specimens into new storage boxes
* Print out museum labels to store with the specimens, and attach numbers to the specimens
* Check the condition of the specimens and assist with remedial conservation
* Write a 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 without close supervision
* Good written communication

#### Desirable

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

### Outcomes for the intern

* Experience in the organisation and management of fossil specimens
* Improved knowledge of museums and collections care as well as documentation
* Experience in collections database work
* Good organisational, documentation, and IT skills
* Valuable experience for students interest in a career in zoology, palaeontology, or museums