What did you gain from the placement overall?
A taste of what it's like to be an ecologist- not just what they do and how they do it but also how their role fits into the wider context; exposure to a great diversity of different organisms- mainly insects, but also others that I wouldn't normally get to see so up close like rodents.

“The practical experience I have gained will be invaluable for my CV and in the future.”

How did the placement help you further your knowledge in your field of interest?
I gained an understanding of how to properly do biological recording and surveying and the opportunity to practise doing so; connections with people and groups who are passionate about ecology in general or the ecology of a specific group of species; confirmation that ecology is the career path for me but also an appreciation of how much effort and enthusiasm is required (especially with the addition of commuting); great nature photos and great memories from doing so much and meeting many awesome people.

Would you recommend the scheme?
Definitely. Learning and the development of skills is something that needs to be achieved outside of university, as well as within. The summer break is a great opportunity for this. If a lot is put into a placement, then even more will be gained from it!

Was it beneficial for the role you are currently doing? / Did it help you get a job after?
It will definitely be beneficial when I look for a job as an ecologist. The practical experience I have gained will be invaluable for my CV and in the future. Also, I thought of it as an extension of my course at university.

What skills did you develop from the placement?
Species identification, surveying and recording skills; social skills from working with ecologists and volunteers.

Hello...Anyone in there?