

Project Proposal Application

To be completed by the lead proposed supervisor, with input from the non-HE Partner Organisation.



Arts and
Humanities
Research Council

SECTION 1: PROJECT PROPOSAL AND CASE FOR SUPPORT

Proposed Project Title:	Wholesaler of the North: The Bewick-Beilby Enterprise and Newcastle Print History		
Project Summary: <i>(Maximum 100 words)</i>	Thomas Bewick (1753-1828) is widely recognised as a producer of fine prints who pioneered new techniques of wood engraving. But the shop that he co-ran with Ralph Beilby (1744–1817) was also a major intervention in the commercial history of Newcastle, helping to service a city which became a premier print centre outside of the metropolis. The Bewick-Beilby archive is held at Tyne & Wear Archives, where a collection of papers remains unlisted in the archive catalogue. This project will make accessible this underused resource to future scholarship while producing new knowledge on eighteenth-century Newcastle as the printing centre of the North.		
Host Academic Institution:	Northumbria University		
Name of Non-HE Partner Organisation:	Tyne & Wear Archives		
Name of Contact at non-HE Partner Organisation:	Lizzy Baker, Archives Lead	Email Address:	lizzy.baker@twmuseums.org.uk
Name of Non-HE Partner Organisation <i>(if more than one)</i> :			
Name of Contact at non-HE Partner Organisation:		Email Address:	
Primary AHRC Subject Area:	English Language and Literature		
Secondary AHRC Subject Area (if Interdisciplinary):	Choose an item.		
Does the project include a creative practice component?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
If you have listed two subject areas above, do you consider the project to be interdisciplinary?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>		
If Yes, please briefly state why: <i>(Maximum 100 words):</i>			

Please provide full details of the proposal and make your case for support below:

(Maximum 750 words)

To book trade historians, eighteenth-century Newcastle upon Tyne presents a unique example of local and regional networks (Feather, 2004, p.3). Due to its prime position on the London to Edinburgh road, Newcastle printers and booksellers developed profitable connections both in the region and much further afield, despite the city's distance from the metropolis. Newcastle is therefore an exception to the general rule that provincial towns and cities tended to distribute rather than produce books and printed matter (Williams, 2022). Central to the success of Newcastle's leading position in the late eighteenth-century book and print trade (beyond London and the university towns) was its servicing by the wholesale firm collaboratively managed by leading British engravers Ralph Beilby (1744-1817) and Thomas Bewick (1753-1828). Their partnership endured from 1776 to Bewick's departure to set up alone in 1797 (Uglow, 2006).

Tyne and Wear Archives holds a significant collection of papers and correspondence relating to the Bewick-Beilby firm, amounting to c.100 volumes and 250 papers which shed light on both the company and the smaller businesses for which it provided essential materials, including cuts, type, and stationery. One of the reasons that the archive remains underexamined is a historic lack of resources for cataloguing eighteenth-century manuscripts in the kind of detail that is required for literary-historical scholarship. The Bewick-Beilby materials remain elusive to all but those able to consult the papers in person, 'on a hunch' as to their contents. A fresh approach to this archive would shed new light on the city's leading position in the English book trade (Berry, 2008), on the centrality of Bewick and Beilby to its reputation (Rush, 1973; 1987), and on jobbing print in the provinces (Raven, 2014). This requires analysis and making more accessible the archival materials underpinning what Helen Berry (2002) terms 'the neglected history of Newcastle's print culture'. Given the riches of the collections in Newcastle-upon Tyne, this project could also prompt a new approach to Bewick's trade work throughout his career, an area has been identified by Nigel Tattersfield (2011) as a promising one for future research.

This project offers opportunities for the Archive to undertake important outreach and programming activities in the Discovery Museum, where the Archives are housed, providing a strong rationale for a series of creative events offering engraving, printing, and bookbinding experiences to increasingly diverse audiences interested in craft. It also provides the resources to network with other key institutions boasting Bewick holdings, including the Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle Central Library, the Wordsworth Trust, and The British Library. At the moment, Bewick's archival trail is widespread. This PhD will enable Bewick collections to be more clearly mapped for the future of print historical scholarship.

The CDA therefore has two main strands, shaped by Tyne & Wear Archives, with clear and essential elements of the project that will benefit student and partner in tandem.

The first is to produce the first study of the Bewick-Beilby shop as a hub of print activity in the North. Through the partnership with the Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums (TWAM), this project is methodologically innovative, reading the archival accounts and correspondence alongside surviving books and print ephemera, as well as printing equipment and engraved blocks – blocks which have only recently attracted scholarly interest. The Bewick-Beilby wholesale enterprise is currently neglected in Bewick Studies, in which scholars often gravitate toward Bewick's independent and artistically-acclaimed work rather than his jobbing print and collaborative initiatives. Through using the wholesalers as a portal to wider regional activity, this study will recover the histories of small business in the North of England, many of which were female-led, and can provide a history of the creative industries in the region which is more relevant than ever now in the light of devolution.

The second strand is to render the Bewick-Beilby archive more accessible to diverse audiences. On a practical level, the student will catalogue the currently unlisted items in the Bewick-Beilby collection to make fully visible for the first time its contents for future scholarship. This task brings with it the potential to participate in the cultural life of the archive—including delivery of a public talk to TWAM's established online audience, writing a blog post for this platform, and partaking in archival practice at a moment of renewed energy and enthusiasm around print history in the North. The student will also produce a guide to disparate Bewick collections across the world, hosted online in an open-access format by the Bewick Society, to ensure that the project findings are freely available and can facilitate future scholarship more broadly. Finally, they will assist the Discovery Museum, in which the Archives are based, in the programming of outreach events to celebrate the city's printing heritage.

Selected Bibliography

- Helen Berry, 'Promoting Taste in the Provincial Press: National and Local Culture in Eighteenth-Century Newcastle upon Tyne', *Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, 25 (2002), 1-17.
- John Feather, 'The History of the English Provincial Book Trade: A Research Agenda'. In *Light on the English Book Trade: Essays in Honour of Peter Isaac*, ed. Barry McKay, John Hinks and Maureen Bell (New Castle: Oak Knoll, 2004), 1-12.
- John Feather, *The Provincial Book Trade in Eighteenth-Century England* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985).
- James Raven, *The Publishing Business in Eighteenth-Century England* (London: Boydell, 2014).
- James Rush, *The Ingenious Beilbys* (London: Barrie, 1973).
- James Rush, *A Beilby Odyssey* (Olney: Nelson, 1987).
- Nigel Tattersfield, *Thomas Bewick: The Complete Illustrative Work* (London: British Library, 2011).
- Jenny Uglow, *Nature's Engraver: A Life of Thomas Bewick* (London: Faber, 2006).
- Helen Williams, 'Printing, Publishing and Pocket Book Compiling: Ann Fisher's Hidden Labour in the Newcastle Book Trade', in *Print Culture, Agency and Regionality in the Hand Press Era*, ed. by Rachel Stenner, Adam James Smith and Kaley Kramer (London: Palgrave, 2022), 93-116.

Provide details of any resources and facilities, including any high cost equipment, fieldwork, training, etc., that may be required to complete the project successfully, and where you will seek these resources (e.g. NBCDTP; partner resources; departmental/school funds). Please include estimated costs:

(Maximum 200 words)

The Bewick-Beilby papers of Tyne & Wear Archives are the main resources required for the project. The Archives have committed to making their collections available for the purpose of the CDA. The one main cost associated with the successful completion of this project is the price of a conservation-quality packaging for the currently unlisted items. This will ensure that items can be viewed and handled with minimal risk of damage, not only during the project itself but also for the foreseeable future. These boxes are custom-made to the requirements of the archival holdings. It is estimated that the appropriate packaging will cost around £700. A one-off request to Northern Bridge Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership will be made to fund this item. The Bewick Society Chair, Peter Quinn, has kindly offered to support this project and its outputs, uploading the collections guide to the website and welcoming the student to the society and its wider networks, including inviting them to present their work at a society event.

The student will also be able to access a range of relevant digital databases to which Northumbria subscribes, including Eighteenth-Century Collections Online, Nineteenth-Century Collections Online, British Library Newspapers Online, and other related datasets.

While the Archives are within walking distance, costs for additional travel to relevant archives, including the British Library and the Wordsworth Trust, will be modest; the student will be encouraged to apply to NBCDTP, though they will also be supported to apply to external sources of funding such as BSECS. They will fall within the £550 per annum budget for travel and other costs provided by Northern Bridge.

The major conference in the discipline of Eighteenth-Century Studies is BSECS, which takes place annually in January at the University of Oxford. The cost of attendance is usually £600 in total, to cover fees, accommodation, and travel.

Outline the arrangements for communication between the non-HE partner organisation and the academic host institution in regard to project management and monitoring academic progress:

(Maximum 200 words)

The principal supervisor has a longstanding relationship with the Archives, working for over a decade with the Bewick papers on their holdings pertinent to women in the book trade, and sharing that research in a range of publications as well as public engagement projects funded by the Being Human festival. As this collaboration history suggests, both the partner and academic host organisations have a strong track-record of working together which this CDA would formalise, and which supports the organisations' current movement toward a Memorandum of Understanding. The principal supervisor and external advisor will continue to be in regular contact for the duration of the project in order to monitor academic progress, and full team meetings will be held at least once per semester on site at the Archives. Between meetings, draft material will be circulated to supervisors and advisors from both institutions, and open email communication will be encouraged.

What benefits will there be for the student and the non-HE partner organisation as a result of your collaboration?

(Maximum 300 words)

The CDA enables the student to participate in the standard archival training also available to all Archives staff and to engage in the work of the Discovery Museum. A mentor from the Archives, Rachel Gill, will provide a bespoke induction to the collection and will be available for the student to consult throughout the project, providing training on the different kinds of material and the acquisitions, and cataloguing processes that underpin it. The student will be able to make use of an allocated desk within the shared working space of the team when necessary. When on site, they will be embedded in the daily workings of the Archive, participating in archival practice and contributing to the work of the team. This will enable them to gain in-depth insight into how their academic research impacts upon the Archive while also enabling archival practice to inform their scholarly work and potentially also their work beyond the academy.

This project is capacity-building for the Archives at a strategically-crucial moment as they mobilise their special collections to consider how best to support and enhance the Museum's collection, which itself boasts an eighteenth-century printing press. The student's research will be of interest to staff, volunteers, and to the public following that the Archives and the Discovery Museum currently enjoy, as well as to a wider community of readers interested in literary and art history and culture. It therefore offers opportunities for public engagement with collections, school workshops, and for public writing.

The project is crucial to the Archives in cataloguing one of their major collections and ensuring its accessibility. It brings benefits in enabling them to better understand the content and the implications of their collections. It will help provide more bespoke archival services, run tailored public engagement events, and elucidate their unique and important contribution to literary and historical scholarship.

State what financial (if any) or in-kind contribution the non-HE partner organisation will be making over the duration of the award:

(Maximum 100 words)

Tyne and Wear Archives will provide:

1. The training and supervision of the student by one of a team of qualified archivists and heritage professionals. This will include regular supervision meetings with the Archives Lead and mentoring by one of the archivist. We can provide meeting room space at the Discovery Museum if required.
2. Training in archival practises and cataloguing and collections access processes, including digitisation.
3. Access to staff expertise on the archive and museum collections and professional links to other relevant memory institutions across the region and nationally. This includes expertise on managing and cataloguing collections, curatorial work and interpretation. TWAM also

employs staff with significant experience and expertise in communications, marketing, outreach, information governance, learning and digital engagement which will also be available to the student.

4. Through placements and regular visits the student will have comprehensive access to the archive collections held at Tyne & Wear Archives.
5. The student will have a workspace and IT provided and full access to our catalogues and digital resources.
6. Opportunities for public engagement including a public talk and a blog post.
7. Involvement in the development and delivery of public events bringing the collections to new audiences.

Describe the nature of the collaborative arrangement and the activities the student will be undertaking with the non-HE partner organisation:

(Maximum 300 words)

The student will spend two to ten weeks per year embedded within the partner organisation, acquiring key skills in the everyday life of the Archive while also engaging directly with primary materials. This will enable close analysis of the collections and collaboration with the team as the archive expands its capacity for educational outreach.

One of the primary objectives of the CDA is to catalogue the Bewick-Beilby papers under the guidance of the Archives Lead and archival mentor, Rachel Gill. This will enable the student to develop skills in archival practice while also developing a general knowledge of the collection. This knowledge will facilitate their thesis while also enabling them to assist the Archives with its enhancement and engagement plans.

The student will spend two months with the partner organisation in the first year to deliver the cataloguing project. Core training required for the project will be the archival introduction as led by the mentor. This will be supplemented by full access to in-house training available to archival staff as an in-kind contribution to the project. A desk will be available for the student whenever required.

By working at the Archives, a local record office, the collaborative experience can be tailored to the interests of the CDA student. Rather than being embedded in a single department, the student will be encouraged to engage with a wide range of activities, from events programming and marketing to educational outreach and fundraising. The relationship of the Archives to the Discovery Museum, a headline city-centre attraction for families, and the wealth of experience of the staff makes this project a particularly rich one for a student looking to develop experience and be mentored in the archives sector while also developing outreach and engagement skills and experience. This project benefits both partners, creating an opportunity for an organisation with limited resources to build its capacity and to achieve more of its goals.

SECTION 2: SUPERVISION AND EXTERNAL ADVISORS

Primary (or Co-) Supervisor:	Dr Helen Williams	School or Department:	Humanities (English Literature)
		Email Address:	helen.williams@northumbria.ac.uk
Secondary (or Co-) Supervisor:	Dr David Fallon	School/Department:	Humanities (English Literature)
		Email Address:	david.fallon@northumbria.ac.uk
Name of the Advisor based at the non-HE Partner Organisation:	Lizzy Baker	Organisation/Institution:	Tyne and Wear Archives
		Email Address:	lizzy.baker@twmuseums.org.uk
Name of additional internal or external advisor or academic supervisor, if any:		Organisation/Institution:	
		Email Address:	

Explain how the expertise of the supervisory team and external advisor(s) will allow them to support the proposed project and the selected student:

(Maximum 500 words)

Associate Professor Dr Helen Williams has expertise in eighteenth-century print history, archives, and engagement, holding a British Academy (BA) Innovation Fellowship with the Stationers' Company Archive on women in the book trades. She has worked for five years with Tyne & Wear Archives on Ann Fisher, a Bewick-Beilby customer (Palgrave, 2022; *J ECS*, 2023). Dr Williams has managed collaborative projects from both sides, being a CDA graduate (2014). She has supervised one PhD—in collaboration with the Lit & Phil—to on-time completion as second supervisor. She currently supervises two Northern Bridge CDAs and is second supervisor to a third Northern Bridge candidate. Her BA Rising Star Public Engagement Award (2019) established a series of eighteenth-century printing workshops, including at Bewick's birthplace, Cherryburn Museum. She has worked with the Bewick collections at the Wordsworth Trust (Northumbria Enhancement Award) and was PI of a digital library project (AHRC, 2019) so is able to share knowledge around pedagogy and digital methodologies for book history. As the Secretary of BSECS and executive committee member of the Printing Historical Society she can welcome the student to the discipline and facilitate networks with peers. <https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/about-us/our-staff/w/helen-williams/>

In 2022 Dr Williams and Assistant Professor Dr David Fallon and delivered a Being Human festival event at the Shipley Art Gallery (TWAM) on family bookbinding. As the author of *Blake, Myth, and Enlightenment* (2017) and research on Thomas Landseer (Bewick's earliest biographer), Dr Fallon is a specialist in print culture and publishing of the eighteenth-century and Romantic period. He currently explores the radical social dimensions of eighteenth-century and Romantic-period bookshops that provide important historical contexts for Bewick's own position within the radical and dissenting print networks of Newcastle upon Tyne and the wider region. He brings an interdisciplinary angle to the project, working across art, religion, print history, and literary Romantic Studies. Dr Fallon has supervised 1 student to completion and is first supervisor (external) to a Techne consortium PhD candidate and second supervisor to 1 Northern Bridge candidate. A member of the British Association for Romantic Studies executive, he will be able to help the student to access funding and to make connections with Romantic scholars. <https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/about-us/our-staff/f/david-fallon/>

Lizzy Baker is the Archives Lead at Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums. Based at the Discovery Museum in Newcastle, Tyne & Wear Archives is the local authority archive service for Gateshead, Newcastle, Sunderland and North and South Tyneside. After a history degree, Lizzy qualified as an Archivist at the University of Aberystwyth and has worked in local authority archives for nearly 20 years in both the North East and Yorkshire. At Tyne & Wear Archives she is responsible for the delivery of the Archive service including collections development and management, in person and remote access to the archives, and working on community and academic projects. Lizzy has extensive experience of delivering training and

research support to both academic and non-academic researchers. She is a Peer Reviewer for the Archives Accreditation scheme and sits on The National Archives Public Records Places of Deposit Reference Group and the Chief Archivists in Local Government Group Executive Committee. Lizzy is a founding member of the Archives and Inclusion network established from Helen's BA Innovation Fellowship.

SECTION 3: RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

Please provide details about the research environment the selected student will be joining and its suitability:

(Maximum 500 words)

Northumbria's English Literature department is well placed to support a CDA on eighteenth-century print history.

The student would be based within the Scholarly Editing and Print Cultures Research Group, led by Dr Williams. They would also be welcome to join the Eighteenth-Century and Romantic Studies Research Group, one of the largest and most successful of its kind in the UK and internationally. Dr Williams is involved in one of three current research projects (British Academy), which explores engaging with women's histories in the archives. Many colleagues have recently published work on eighteenth-century and Romantic period print history (Drs Helen Williams, David Fallon, Claudine van Hensbergen, David Stewart). The wider Humanities department also holds significant expertise in archival research and practice and much of this work involves public facing activities. This strength is exemplified by the cross-faculty Visual and Material Arts Research Group and the major AHRC research grants held by Drs Victoria Bazin and Melanie Waters, Prof. David Gleeson, and Dr Ann-Marie Einhaus and May Sumbwanyambe.

The student will be funded and mentored by the department to organise a workshop for PGRs on archival research, sharing expertise with peers, developing research organisation skills, and sharing research with a national audience. They will have the opportunity to develop their skills in public engagement through being involved in the department's annual contribution to the Being Human festival. Dr Stewart will help the student find links with a large community of PGRs, established academics, and independent scholars through his coordination of the North-East Forum for Eighteenth-Century and Romantic Studies alongside other NBCDTP Universities. The student will also make full use of the opportunities to join activities in collaboration with the British and International Societies for Eighteenth-Century Studies, with the guidance of Prof. Brychan Carey, the current president of the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (BSECS), and Dr Williams its elected secretary. The student will be encouraged to build contacts, develop skills, and present work at the Forum, the Humanities Institute seminar series and at the BSECS annual conference.

The student would become a member of a vibrant and cohesive community of PhD students funded by AHRC, Leverhulme, ESRC and NBC as well as by the university, some of whom work with external partners (the National Trust, the Laurence Sterne Trust, Northumberland Wildlife Trust, the National Railways Museum, the Bowes Museum, and the Laing and Shibley art galleries) in pioneering formats. They will join a cohort of eighteenth-century and Romantic postgraduate scholars funded by the NBCDTP who regularly meet for Teams as well as in-person coffee-break gatherings. This will enable the development of networks and skills in academic work and collaboration for after graduation.

Humanities postgraduate students have hot-desks in the Faculty's Glenamara Centre and dedicated facilities in the Library's Research Commons. They attend a Faculty training programme at the Graduate School and one designed and delivered by Humanities staff in the Humanities Institute, which hosts writing workshops and social gatherings and where further space and technical resources are available.

SECTION 4: PERSON SPECIFICATION

In the event that your application is successful we would like to advertise the award on the Northern Bridge Consortium website as soon as possible following the announcement of the results. We'd therefore be grateful if you could complete the following Person Specification.

For further information about this Collaborative Doctoral Award and to submit an expression of interest, please contact:			
Lead Supervisor (or alternative Contact)	Dr Helen Williams	Email:	helen.williams@northumbria.ac.uk
Expressions of interest must be received no later than (dd/mm/yy):		29/01/24	
Expressions of interest should be accompanied by the following documentation (e.g. 2 page CV; personal statement):			
Interviews for shortlisted candidates are expected to take place: (e.g. Week Commencing dd/mm/yy)			

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Note applicants must also meet the criteria for the acceptance on a doctoral programme as set out by the host institution's Postgraduate Admissions Service.

Education and Professional Qualifications	Essential Criteria	
	Desirable Criteria	
Research and Impact Experience and Training	Essential Criteria	
	Desirable Criteria	
Professional Practice and Job-related Experience	Essential Criteria	
	Desirable Criteria	
Interpersonal Skills	Essential Criteria	
	Desirable Criteria	
Other Factors	Essential Criteria	
	Desirable Criteria	