



Job Description

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| Title: | Head of Preventive Conservation |
| Contract: | Permanent, full time (36 hours per week) |
| Salary: | £46,000 per annum |

About Us

We are a world-class visitor attraction and leading science research centre. We use the Museum's unique collections and our unrivalled expertise to tackle the biggest challenges facing the world today. We care for more than 80 million objects spanning billions of years and welcome more than five million visitors annually and 16 million visits to our website.

Today the Museum is more relevant and influential than ever. By attracting people from a range of backgrounds to work for us, we can continue to look at the world with fresh eyes and find new ways of doing things.

We employ 900 staff in a variety of roles, all united by our vision of a future where people and planet thrive. We need everyone to have the passion and drive to help us with our mission to create advocates for our planet and inspire millions to care about the natural world.

This is an exciting time to join the Museum as we have secured investment from the UK Government to build a new science and digitisation centre at Thames Valley Science Park, University of Reading. The purpose-built centre will house much of the Museum's collection and will include laboratories, digitisation suites, collaborative research spaces, conservation labs and workspaces.

Diversity and inclusion matter to us.

Our vision is of a future where both people and the planet thrive. Diversity is one of our core values and we strive to build a workplace where everyone feels a sense of belonging. All new staff who join us learn about the importance of diversity and inclusion to the Museum and how to contribute to creating an inclusive environment.

We know we have more to do, but we are committed to ensuring that everyone who works at the Museum feels they can thrive and feel valued and respected.



Job Summary

The Museum is seeking a Head of Preventive Conservation to lead on the protection of the world's most extensive natural history collection of approximately 80 million specimens. The collections are continually growing through new acquisitions, fieldwork and donations ensuring they remain a vital and dynamic resource for understanding the natural world. This role delivers through representation, planning and cross museum collaboration with a focus on sustainability whilst ensuring the collections are preserved for future generations to access and study. The role will include managing a team of Preventive Conservators covering Integrated Pest Management, Environmental Monitoring, Salvage planning, Policy and Reporting. The role is closely integrated with the activities of the Remedial Conservation Team and will provide opportunities to be involved in various exciting and world leading projects.

Main tasks and responsibilities

Lead Preventive Conservation for the NHM

- Advise colleagues and stakeholders on preventive conservation and risk management related matters on all collections-based activities.
- Liaise with key NHM stakeholders to ensure conservation provision is appropriate and delivered to agreed standards.
- Lead on site-wide museum environmental monitoring projects.
- Working with Head of Conservation ensure preventive conservation standards are embedded and maintained across the museum estate.
- Plan and execute strategies to enable the long-term preservation of collections.
- Encourage outreach and communication of key projects and development
- Contribute to scholarly publications on aspects of preventive conservation and risk management
- Provide regular collections risk reports for Trustees and Senior Management.
- Lead on emergency planning and preparedness for collections.
- Provide leadership and expert advice on all aspects of preventive conservation to ensure NHM standards for display are adhered to.

Person Specification

- Demonstrable in-depth knowledge and application of contemporary principles and practice in preventive conservation
- Strong understanding of mechanisms involved in material deterioration
- Significant evidenced experience of all aspects of preventive conservation particularly those related to protecting natural science collections
- Thorough understanding of conservation theory and ethical decision making
- Possess strong interpersonal and relationship building skills to ensure effective communication at all levels
- Demonstrable experience in leading on topics at meetings with Senior Leaders and Management
- Adept in communicating complex principals to wider audiences.



Thriving at the Museum: the way we work

We are proud to work at the Museum and have identified the qualities we all need to embody to reach our shared ambition. This sits alongside the Museum's values and forms the framework for the way we work.



We are ambitious. To make a difference on a global scale we are big and bold in our thinking and set goals which may seem impossibly high. We act with integrity, but we are not rigid or inflexible. We are excellent at what we do and look for opportunities to make a difference for the Museum wherever we can.

We are curious. We never stop learning. We look outwards beyond the Museum and ask questions to advance our understanding. We seek out and actively listen to different perspectives. We take time to reflect, are thoughtful and open to new ideas.

We share the wonder. We are captivated by the natural world, proud of our treasures and trusted guardians of our collections. We are passionate about the Museum, enjoy telling its stories and sharing our knowledge and expertise to inspire others. We don't take this for granted; we feel proud to work here.

We are pioneering. We are not afraid to try something new and use good judgment and evidence to take risks. We experiment, innovate, and embrace complex problems by adapting our approach. We do not dwell on setbacks or get preoccupied with problems. We find solutions.

We team up. We respect the expertise of others and recognise that we produce the strongest outcomes when we put the best ideas together. We trust each other, keep things simple and make it easy for others to do the right thing. We share information and skills so everyone is equipped and enabled to succeed. We never let bad moments grow into bad relationships. We inspire and empower each other to give our best.

We act with pace. We focus our efforts where we know we can make the biggest impact. We take tough decisions and once a plan is set, we all get behind it to make it happen. We take responsibility and don't wait to be told what to do. We are racing against time in this planetary emergency, so we work with a sense of urgency.

General Information

All positions at the Natural History Museum are conditional subject to receipt of:

- Proof that you are legally entitled to work in the UK
- A Basic Disclosure Check from the Disclosures and Barring Service (DBS)
- Satisfactory references covering the last 3 years of your employment or education
- Health clearance



The Museum supports flexible working.

To apply

If that sounds like you, please apply online on the Natural History Museum's careers portal.

Closing date: 23:59, 04/10/2024

Interviews expected w/c 21/10/2024

