



Job Description

Title: Curator, Fossil Bryozoans, Sponges, Worms and Trace Fossils
Contract: Permanent, Full time (36 hours per week)
Salary: £33,396 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

Embedded within Invertebrates and Plants Palaeobiology, this is an important role in a world-renowned institution with a strong scientific mission and public profile.

The successful applicant will join a large science group composed of approximately 300 scientists, in an institution that houses some of the largest, most significant scientific collections in the world. The Museum is also home to an internationally important natural history library, a suite of advanced analytical and imaging facilities, and offers the opportunity to communicate science to national and international audiences.

The Curator will be responsible for acquiring, curating, and making specimens within their area of responsibility in Fossil Invertebrates available to facilitate research, teaching, and exhibitions. These collections are frequently accessed by internal and external researchers and are used for the NHM's public engagement activities, including permanent exhibitions, temporary and touring exhibitions, and outreach events for the general public and media. Applications are open to candidates in the field of invertebrate palaeontology, with preferred but not essential expertise in an area relevant to one or more of fossil bryozoans, worms, sponges or trace fossils.

Applications are open to candidates with collections expertise in invertebrate palaeontology.

Main Responsibilities

Working within the Invertebrates and Plants Palaeobiology curatorial team, the Curator of Fossil Bryozoans, Sponges, Worms and Trace Fossils will have curatorial responsibility within the Natural History Museum's historically important collection. The role will work closely with those responsible for the equivalent recent collections. The collections are frequently accessed by external researchers and are also used for the NHM's public engagement activities, including income-generating exhibitions and events for the general public and media.

The curator will:

- Be responsible for collections management, development, care and identification of conservation needs within the named collections area
- Identify areas suitable for development and facilitate donations and acquisitions as appropriate
- Work closely with the NHM Unlocked delivery team to document, organise, sort and prepare the collections to ensure the move to a new site in Reading is both safe and beneficial for the fossil invertebrate collections
- Ensure best practice in collections care, understand approaches to due diligence and collections Registry policy such as Spectrum Museum standards and apply them to the area of responsibility
- Provide the information needed to maintain, develop, make accessible and use the collections, particularly by the development of digital records in the collections management system
- Facilitate research access to the collection and answer enquiries
- Contribute to scholarly outputs in appropriate outlets (journals, monographs, technical reports, scientific articles, etc)
- Seek and apply for funding to support projects



Person Specification

A postgraduate qualification (e.g. MSc) relevant to invertebrate palaeontology is required for this post.

- A demonstrable interest in developing expertise in the anatomy and taxonomy of fossil invertebrates, preferably but not restricted to fossil bryozoans, sponges, worms, or trace fossils
- Experience of working with museum collections, with a good knowledge of both physical curation and the policies and procedures relevant to managing a large research collection
- Knowledge and/or experience of databases or information management systems for museum collections
- Ability to work with large and complex datasets
- Experience of successful delivery of projects as a team member
- Competent with relevant IT software such as Microsoft Word, Excel etc.
- The ability to develop and maintain effective relationships with a variety of stakeholders (internal and external researchers, public engagement, visitors, students, volunteers)
- Experience of communicating to a range of different audiences, both in writing and verbally
- Willingness to travel between Museum sites and work across Life and Earth Sciences.

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: 9am, 25th September 2023

Interviews expected w/c 9th October 2023

