



Job Title: Wolf Fields Reserve Manager

Reporting to: Head of Conservation

Department: Conservation

Job Type: Permanent, part time

Hours: 30.0 hours per week, including some weekend working

Salary: £24,500 - 28,000 (prorated) plus London weighting and 7% employer's pension contribution

Location: The post will be partly office-based (1-2 days/week) and partly site based (2-3days/week). The office is situated in Brentford, Middlesex and the reserve is in Norwood Green, Ealing.

Desired start date: 3rd October 2022

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Overview:

A Rocha UK is the largest Christian conservation charity in the UK, mobilising Christians and churches to care for the natural world. We run and support conservation activities across the UK, on our own nature reserves and on land managed by our partners; we equip and inspire Christians to enjoy, nurture and defend nature; and we manage the Eco Church scheme, which over 5,000 churches have now registered.

The Wolf Fields site is a 3.5 acre former abandoned allotment area, which has been transformed into a multi-purpose urban nature reserve with substantial community engagement and volunteer support. Whilst it is a small location it is home to over 200 species of insects, plants and birds as well as an orchard, food growing area, beehives, ponds, wild-flower meadow and scrub woodland area. There is also an art area, sensory garden and labyrinth.

The site's primary purpose is to act as a demonstrator of best conservation practice in an urban setting, and is designed to inspire, educate and equip churches and the wider local community and feed into our wider Partner in Action programme.

Purpose of Job:

The Wolf Fields Reserve Manager will be part of the A Rocha UK Conservation team and will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the site. This will include the development of new ideas, oversight of the volunteer network and education officer role and liaising with wider community groups and local politicians.

The Reserve Manager will be an ambassador for the work of A Rocha UK and champion best practices; with a specific remit of urban conservation including managing and developing nature-sensitive food growing; drought management, wetland management, path and sensory garden management and local education/church outreach.

Key responsibilities:

1) Maintaining and managing Wolf Fields Urban Nature Reserve

- Being an ambassador for A Rocha UK on the reserve through demonstrating best practices on land management
- Organising the on-site volunteer network
- Line management of the part-time Education Officer
- Maintaining the current project areas including raised beds, ponds, orchard areas and sensory garden
- Conducting wildlife surveys and monitoring species and habitats to recognised standards
- Maintaining and developing relationships with key external stakeholders including specialist user groups and church/community networks
- Oversight/support of A Rocha UK events organised for the site
- Sharing good news stories through our communications team

2) Project research and development

- Working with the Head of Conservation, the ongoing development of a positive and compelling vision for the direction of Wolf Fields Urban Nature Reserve
- Advising on practical conservation projects where appropriate to our Partners in Action, Wild Christian and Eco Church network
- Contributing to regional/national conservation-related training events
Developing new project elements and innovative climate resilience plans on site
- Research and engage with new partnerships, churches, schools, agencies
- Researching and sharing conservation opportunities, projects, and grants which could benefit future funding for the site

- Development of a new 5 year site plan to deliver a revised strategy for the reserve

Person specification:

Essential requirements

- Undergraduate degree in a conservation related subject (or equivalent experience)
- Working knowledge of the UK conservation sector
- Some experience in basic habitat management
- Experience in two or more of the following areas of work in a conservation setting:
 - Project management
 - Volunteer management
 - Sustainable farming practices
 - Research
 - Event organisation
 - Communications
 - Administration
- A practising Christian: A Rocha is a non-denominational Christian charity with a deep commitment to our faith, community and cross-cultural collaboration. This requires all staff to be willing to and able to participate fully in the spiritual life of the organisation, including regular collective prayer and reflection, annual staff residential retreat etc.

Key competencies & skills

Essential

- Excellent organisational and multitasking skills
- Able to meet deadlines and prioritise the workload
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Demonstrable experience of communicating effectively with colleagues and the public
- Tactful and diplomatic, with good people skills
- Demonstrably good team player
- Able to work on own initiative
- Willingness and ability to learn and listen to others
- Experience of using MS Office (Word, Excel)
- Basic budget management experience
- Enjoy working in a diverse team environment with a combination of office based and remote staff and volunteers

Desirable

- Postgraduate degree in a conservation/sustainable farming related subject (or equivalent experience)
- Previous project leadership experience
- Experience of working cross-organisationally with different interest groups
- Experience of cross-cultural mission (especially Asia or Africa)

- Experience of working with special needs/specialist user groups
- Full, clean UK driving licence

How to apply:

Applicants should send a covering letter explaining why you are interested in this position and how you meet the job specification, together with a full CV, to Andy Lester, Head of Conservation, at uk.jobs@arocha.org.

Closing date: 5.00 pm on Friday 16th September

Interviews will be held on Friday 23rd September