

Recruitment Pack

**Senior Conservation
Officer - Fungi**

Introduction

We are in a race to save the wild plants and fungi that underpin all life on earth. It's a race we cannot afford to lose. Wild plants and fungi support food chains, are a powerful force against climate change, and the backdrop to life on earth. They enrich our natural landscapes and their beauty and colours can calm our minds. But wild plants and fungi are in crisis: with biodiversity loss the fastest it's ever been in human history, two in five species are now at risk of extinction. Now is the moment to come together and save them – for the sake of us all.

For over 30 years, we at Plantlife have been the leading global voice for wild plants and fungi. We are at the heart of a global network, partnering with many individuals, organisations and landowners and managers in the UK and abroad to accelerate conservation action across the planet. But we need to do more. So we're on a mission to raise awareness of how important wild plants and fungi are to life and to inspire more people to take action to help them thrive again. Join us as we face the greatest challenge of our times. We need wild plants and fungi to survive. Now, they need us too.

About Plantlife

- Founded in 1989, Plantlife now has 20,000 members and many more supporters.
- Plantlife is the only UK membership charity dedicated to conserving wild plants and fungi in their natural habitats and helping people to enjoy and learn about them.
- Plantlife works across all key plant ecosystems and habitats focussing on specific habitats and species depending on need. Its current priorities in the UK are grasslands and temperate forests due to their acute vulnerability and on at-risk species recovery.
- Plantlife owns 24 nature reserves covering nearly 4,500 acres across England, Scotland, Wales and the Isle of Man. It carries out conservation and outreach work on its own land and in partnership with many others. Plantlife advises landowners and publishes best practice guidance. It carries out research and gathers data to inform government policy.
- Working with the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, Plantlife was instrumental in the creation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and the initiation of Important Plant Areas across the world – planning their conservation with government and community groups.
- Plantlife works globally by contributing to international conventions on climate and biodiversity and through its status as a registered COP Observer.
- Plantlife engages people of all ages and abilities in plant conservation and education and aims to give everybody opportunities to enjoy wild plants and fungi.
- Plantlife is governed by a board of 12 trustees and has around 80 staff located across the UK. It supports a team of around 1,500 volunteers who work in the field, at events and in its offices.
- Plantlife is funded by donations from its members and supporters, through grants and charitable trusts. As well as corporate partnerships and through its pioneering land management advice and projects.
- Plantlife Trading Ltd is a subsidiary of Plantlife, offering consultancy services for land owners, managers and others with influence.

About the role

Fungi have been missing from the full conservation picture over the years, but this is slowly shifting as more people and organisations realise fungi are incredibly important to ecosystems and humans in multiple ways that we are only just beginning to understand.

Further work and investment is required to understand the beneficial impacts of fungi, how they will be affected in different ecosystems by climate change, and how conservation efforts could help secure their future. Plantlife is keen to learn more about this Kingdom, to increase and share knowledge and information. We need to understand fungi in so many more ways, including impacts on biodiversity protection and restoration, their role in the delivery of better conservation outcomes, and the role they might play in climate change adaptation and mitigation.

We have secured funding to develop and deliver an initial 3-year programme for fungi, with six-monthly milestones to ensure we work at pace towards Plantlife's strategic ambition of fungi being globally recognised, monitored, and conserved for their fundamental role in solving the nature and climate emergencies.

In this new permanent role the postholder will work to strengthen and extend our existing network with relevant stakeholders. Together with organisations working in mycological conservation they will collaboratively identify shared priorities and current conservation activities to develop a new strategy for conservation of the UK's fungi. They will also facilitate collaborative research projects and support ongoing fungi activities within Plantlife's existing programmes.

The post will sit within our science team, which leads on conservation research and evidence, as part of the Conservation Directorate. As well as immediate team members, the postholder will work closely with Plantlife's specialist advisors, the policy team, and other colleagues across England, Scotland and Wales.

About you

We are looking for a proactive and enthusiastic individual who has a passion for fungal conservation and science and with experience and skills in field and/or lab based mycology. You will have an ability to inspire and collaborate with others to achieve results. be ready to take on a challenge, be adaptable, resilient and always be seeking to improve. You will have great communication skills and be a passionate advocate for nature.

Job Description - Senior Conservation Officer - Fungi

Reporting to

Head of Science

Key Relationships

Plantlife specialists and advisors; Biological Data and GIS Manager; Learning Lead; Plantlife Cymru Lead; Development and Policy teams; wider conservation team; external stakeholders.

Overall Purpose of the Role

To develop a strategic and collaborative approach to Plantlife's fungal conservation and science work, working with stakeholders to develop and deliver a programme for fungi to ensure they are recognised, monitored and conserved in the UK.

Including through:

- Being a representative for Plantlife on conservation of fungi
- Identifying shared priorities and current levels of fungal conservation activities with stakeholders
- Networking to facilitate connections between scientists and practitioners
- Developing collaborative research projects to improve understanding of the role of fungi within ecosystems, and their value
- Providing insight to ensure fungi are considered in our conservation, learning and advocacy programmes

Main Responsibilities

- Work with Plantlife colleagues and external stakeholders who are currently active in mycological conservation to develop a strategic plan for conservation of fungi.
- Provide mycological expertise and support to colleagues within Plantlife for ongoing fungal activities within Plantlife's conservation programmes.
- Create online resources for conservation of fungi in the UK.
- Work with colleagues to embed the needs of fungi into policy and legislation across the UK.
- Identify research and evidence gaps and develop collaborative research projects.
- Work to enhance Plantlife's existing citizen science activities related to fungi, and develop new activities.
- Manage budgets and expenditure as necessary.

General

- Observe Plantlife working policies at all times, including those on Health and Safety and Equal Opportunities.
- Undertake, from time to time, other duties that may be required of you to support the effectiveness of Plantlife overall.
- Contribute to the overall success of Plantlife and support a positive culture through teamwork, communication and leadership.

Person Specification

We are looking for a proactive and enthusiastic individual who has a passion for fungal conservation and science, and an ability to inspire and collaborate with others to achieve results. You must be ready to take on a challenge, be adaptable, resilient and always be seeking to improve. You will have great communication skills and be a passionate advocate for nature.

Essential	Desirable
Knowledge of fungal conservation issues	Experience of training others in mycology skills
Experience and skills in field and/or lab based mycology	Experience of developing new sources of income and maintaining funder relationships
Experience of working with partners and external stakeholders, including universities	GIS skills and experience of data capture
Knowledge of strategic planning to develop and deliver conservation actions	Experience of developing online resources to inform and inspire others
Excellent communication skills, both written and oral, with the ability to be influential and persuasive	
Excellent planning and organisational skills with the ability to focus on the detail while keeping sight of the bigger picture.	
Excellent inter-personal skills with an open and collaborative approach.	
Willingness to work on own initiative but also as part of a team	

Key Terms and Conditions

Salary	Band D - £30,740 - £33,274 per annum **
Hours of Work	This is a full- time position (35 hours per week) but we will consider part time hours.
Term	Permanent
Location	Home working or hybrid . We have office facilities in Retford, Notts and Salisbury, Wilts.
Annual Leave	36 days' holiday per annum (including bank holidays) Additional day's leave awarded on completion of 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th year of employment Operational closure between Christmas and New Year (included in entitlement)
Other Benefits	Contributory pension scheme – 6% employer contribution Death in service benefit ** New joiners are recruited at the entry spine point of the band - £30,740

Plantlife is an equal opportunities employer and positively encourages applications from suitably qualified and eligible candidates regardless of sex, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, transgender status, religion or belief, marital status, or pregnancy and maternity.

This role is based in the UK and you must be able to demonstrate your Right To Work in the UK.

How To Apply

The closing date for the role is **Monday 23rd October (9am)**.

We will hold interviews on Teams on **Thursday 2nd November**.

If you think you are the right fit for us and the role we would love to hear from you.

Please download an application form which is on the vacancy page on our website. Once completed, press the 'Apply' button. This will take you to our recruitment portal where you will be required to upload the form.

Please note we do not accept CV's.

Thank you for your interest in this role.

If you have any questions about the role please do not hesitate to email:
jobs@plantlife.org.uk