



Zoo Horticulturist

Job Level	2	Reports to	Team Leader Horticulture
	Zoos & Engagement		Zoo Horticulturalist
	full-time		Whipsnade Zoo

Responsibility for

Direct line reports	None	Responsibility for other resources	Equipment & machinery
Financial resources	None		

Our vision and mission

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is an international conservation charity, driven by science, working to restore wildlife in the UK and around the world. Our vision is a world where wildlife thrives and every role, every person in every corner of ZSL has one thing in common – we are all conservationists, and passionate about restoring wildlife.

Purpose of the role

Support ZSL in achieving its mission and purpose through the use and advancement of horticulture and land-based management, the application and development of plant related expertise and knowledge, and by managing ZSL's sites for biodiversity.

Key responsibilities

- Comply with current legislation and best practice guidance (e.g. health and safety, environmental, wildlife legislation).
- Comply with ZSL and departmental policies and procedures.
- Work toward achieving the organisation's and department's aims by carrying out tasks to agreed standards.
- Use facilities, tools, equipment and machinery responsibly and as instructed.
- Carry out and record daily, weekly and monthly planned preventative maintenance checks to

specified standards.

- Use materials and substances as instructed by the Team Leader Horticulture.
- Actively support ZSL's and the department's efforts to protect the environment and operate sustainably.
- Ensure own safety and that of others.
- Maintain and develop amenity areas and exhibits to defined horticultural standards.
- Carry out horticultural tasks that support animal sections, optimising husbandry and welfare opportunities.
- Carry out horticultural tasks to optimise the site's biodiversity value and function through appropriate habitat management.
- Participate in training and further learning (formal and informal) to comply with legislation and best practice, and to develop up to date skills and knowledge in zoo horticulture.
- Supervise apprentices, volunteers and work placements as agreed with the Team Leader Horticulture.
- Supervise colleagues in situations that require special competencies (e.g. when operating machinery) as agreed with the Team Leader Horticulture.
- Assist with the management of livestock on the SSSI through the use of best practice in animal welfare and husbandry.

The duties and responsibilities described are not a comprehensive list and additional tasks may be assigned from time to time that are in line with the level of the role.

Person Specification

Experience	
Essential	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The position requires practical experience of working in zoo horticulture, amenity horticulture, countryside management or a similar land-based sector.
Desirable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience in conservation volunteering.• Experience in live-stock management.
Knowledge and skills	
Essential	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full UK driving licence.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good knowledge of current horticultural, arboricultural and conservation management practices and techniques. • Up to date knowledge of current health and safety legislation and best practice guidance. • Good interpersonal skills.
Desirable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A qualification to at least Level 2 Diploma in horticulture (or equivalent), countryside management or similar land-based sector. • Land-based accredited qualifications in the use of equipment and machinery (e.g. NPTC, LANTRA). • A good level of literacy, numeracy and IT skills.
Additional requirements	
Essential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to collaboratively work as part of the team and with colleagues across the organisation. • Some tasks can be physically demanding and the job holder is expected to work outside in all weather conditions. • Ability to work early mornings, evenings and weekends if required. • Ability to attend training off-site if required.