

Appointment of a

**Lead Farm Ranger**

**37.5 hours per week**

**Salary:**

**£25,600**

**Or**

**£23,100 with accommodation**



Based on 132 acres of organic farmland and nature reserve, the Magdalen Environmental Trust provides outdoor environmental education to children and adults, and therapeutic / respite opportunities to people with more complex needs. You can learn a lot about us from our website: [www.magdalefarm.org.uk](http://www.magdalefarm.org.uk)

In 2021 we started a major shift in our land management away from standard organics and into a wilder landscape, with maximum biodiversity as our aim.

We are now seeking a Lead Farm Ranger to carry out a mixture of farming, rewilding and other nature conservation initiatives, and to act as the lead for our small farm staff team.

In part, the vacancy is for a replacement of our Ranger, who has been with us since 2019. However, we are taking the opportunity to change the focus of the role, and to adapt it to developments and growth at Magdalen.

The role focuses on:

* The care and management of farm animals on Magdalen Farm
* Wildlife conservation, both traditional and rewilding, and conservation grazing
* The support and management of the Farm team (2 horticulture staff and volunteers)

We are offering this job with the option of caravan accommodation on site at Magdalen Farm, and we are interested both in meeting candidates who would like to live onsite, or who live nearby in the local community.

On the following pages you will find: The timetable for recruitment

The Job Description

The Person Specification

The Application Form

Please contact me with any queries: [giles@magdalenfarm.org.uk](mailto:giles@magdalenfarm.org.uk) 01460 30144

Good luck and I look forward to reading your application.

Giles Aspinall, Chief Executive, Magdalen.



**Timetable for Recruitment:**

Closing date for application forms: 27th July (end of day)

Candidates invited to interview 28th July

Interviews and assessment 4th August

Potential handover with the incumbent ranger between 8th – 16th August

Please ensure you are available on the interview date!

Job Description

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Job Title | Lead Farm Ranger |
| **Reports to** | Learning and Wellbeing Manager |
| **Job roles** | 1. To line manage the horticulture staff (currently 2 people), to support them in their work and to liaise with the Learning & Wellbeing Manager about their teaching commitments      1. Working with the horticulture staff, recruit, supervise and support volunteers doing various tasks on site, including horticulture and nature conservation tasks, to increase the volume of our volunteering programme and ensure its efficacy. To establish new conservation-volunteering opportunities. 2. To undertake land management / nature conservation tasks in accordance with the Bioresilience Framework and conservation practices on Magdalen Farm. To care for the outdoor spaces on Magdalen Farm, with an eye to tidiness and ensuring safety of visitors and good access throughput. 3. To take a lead on all farm animal care. This includes:  * Managing the new herd of cattle and ensuring success of a conservation grazing regime. * Making or informing strategic decisions regarding farm animals, and how their health may be affected by the needs of the charity (conservation grazing regimes, rotation of pastures, breeding cycles and interaction with visiting children etc) * Feeding animals and checking water supply, fencing and bedding. Order bedding and animal feed as required. * Writing animal-feeding rotas and similar tasks. * Checking animals’ health, liaising with the vet and administering medicines * Ensuring good practice and compliance with Soil Association and statutory requirements * Maintaining housing and good outdoor environments for farm animals  1. Take responsibility for hand tools and power tools, their storage and sharpness 2. To take a lead in maintaining and improving outdoor facilities, fences, gates, paths etc. 3. To create appropriate teaching resources according to the needs of the Learning and Wellbeing Team. 4. On occasion, to deliver educational activities related to farm animals and conservation, and to ensure the safety and welfare of visitors in your charge. 5. To make a positive contribution towards Magdalen’s overall business and team plans / strategies with particular relation to environmental education and nature conservation. 6. To act as a member of the Magdalen staff team, covering tasks when necessary and carrying out any additional work reasonably requested by the Chief Executive |
| **Hours** | 37.5 per week  Normal working days are Monday – Friday, though some weekend work is inevitable looking after animals and leading volunteer tasks.  Time Off In Lieu is given for any additional hours or weekend days. |



Person Specification

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Essential criteria | **Desirable criteria** |
| Understanding of environmental issues and sustainability, and a good level of knowledge about British wildlife and its conservation | Skills in wildlife monitoring and surveying |
| Experience of working with farm animals, including cattle | Experience of running a conservation grazing regime |
| Enthusiastic and able to motivate others | Experience of planning and carrying out nature conservation tasks |
| A driver with access to a car or van, able to drive in connection with employment. | Understanding of safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, and an enhanced DBS check |
| Experience of, or skills in supporting and managing colleagues | Experience of horticulture |
| Practical Skills using tools | Experience of   * Working with volunteers * Working with children * Youth work * Working with people who have a disability |
| Good organisational skills and  IT literate in Microsoft Office applications |
| A non-smoker or able to go for long periods without smoking. |



**CONFIDENTIAL**

**The Magdalen Environmental Trust**

**Application for Employment**

Please expand boxes and attach additional sheets where necessary

Please complete **all** sections

Position applying for

Where did you see the position advertised ……………………………………….................................

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Personal Details** | | | | | | |
| Surname Telephone Number (Home)  First Names Telephone Number (Mobile)  Address E-Mail Address    National Insurance Number    Postcode | | | | | | |
| **Relevant Qualifications** | | | | | | |
| If you have qualifications relevant to the role, please list them here  You only need to list relevant qualifications. | | | | | | |
| Qualifications | | | | Dates | Grades | |
|  | | | |  |  | |
| **Employment History** | | | | | | |
| Dates | Name of Employer | Job Title | Main responsibilities | | | Reason for Leaving |
|  |  |  |  | | |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Information in Support of your Application** | |
| 1. Please explain why you are applying for this vacancy and your reasons for considering a move 2. Give details of relevant experience and courses attended 3. What skills and personal qualities can you bring to this post?   (Please use continuation sheet) | |
| **Other Information** | |
| Please note any other employment you would continue if you were successful in obtaining this position      Do you hold a current full driving licence? Yes ❑ No ❑  Do you have regular use of a vehicle? Yes ❑ No ❑ | |
| **References** | |
| Name | Name |
| Address | Address |
| Telephone | Telephone |
| Position | Position |
| May we contact him / her prior to interview  Yes ❑ No ❑ | May we contact him / her prior to interview  Yes ❑ No ❑ |
| **Declaration** | |
| I declare that the information given on the application is, complete and correct and that any untrue or misleading information will give my employer the right to terminate any employment contract offered.  I agree that should I be successful in this application, The Magdalen Environmental Trust will apply to the DBS for an enhanced disclosure, should the disclosure not be satisfactory any offer of employment may be withdrawn or employment terminated.  Signed (or print name) Date | |
| Please return this form to **info@magdalenfarm.org.uk** | |