



Stonemason

Closing Date: Wednesday 13th November 2024, midday

Expected Interview Date: W/C 18/11/2024

Recruitment Reference:

HES/24/218

Starting Salary:

£27,149 pro rata per annum

Salary Range:

£27,149 - £30,221 pro rata per annum

Pay Band:

B

Directorate:

Operations

Location:

Blackness Castle Depot

Line Manager:

Alan Duncan, Works Manager

Contract Type:

Permanent

Working Hours:

Full time – annualised hours (*see below for more information)

Thank you for your interest in the post of Stonemason with Historic Environment Scotland based at Blackness Castle Depot. This is a permanent and pensionable appointment.

You will be joining a dedicated team where you will contribute to the conservation of historical monuments under the care of Historic Environment Scotland in Blackness and the surrounding area.

About us

We are the lead body for Scotland's historic environment; a charity dedicated to the advancement of heritage, culture, education and environmental protection. We're at the forefront of researching and understanding the historic environment and addressing the impact of climate change on its future. We investigate and record architectural and archaeological sites and landscapes across Scotland and care for more than 300 properties of national importance. We have a People Strategy, which is an overarching strategy to ensure we support and develop staff within the organisation.

Our Vision

Our vision is that Scotland's historic environment is cherished, understood, shared and enjoyed with pride by everyone.

Our Priorities

- The historic environment makes a real difference to people's lives
- The historic environment is looked after, protected and managed for the generations to come.



- The historic environment makes a broader contribution to the economy of Scotland and its people
- The historic environment inspires a creative and vibrant Scotland
- The historic environment is cared for and championed by a high performing organisation.

Overview of the post and information about the team

The Blackness Castle Depot Monument Conservation Unit (MCU) currently consists of a 6-person team all of whom carry out conservation and maintenance work on a variety of locations. The team is headed by a Works Manager, Alan Duncan, who has direct line management responsibilities for the whole team. The Stonemason, as part of the Monument Conservation Unit, will have responsibility for the ongoing conservation, maintenance and presentation of other Historic Environment Scotland (HES) monuments within the Blackness District areas. You will train and instruct apprentices in all aspects of the trade and provide information and instruction to support staff as required. You may also be asked to be involved in showing masonry skills at open days.

From time to time you may be asked to travel using HES transport to other remote sites outwith Blackness Depot area which may include overnight stays.

You will be expected to work at any location as directed by the Works Manager. Although the depot is situated in Blackness, official transport is provided to and from the various sites within the Blackness district. You are however expected to make your own way to the MCU Depot.

****Working Hours***

The normal weekly hours of work will vary according to the working season and may be subject to future changes. The working year will cover the calendar year 1 April to 31 March. These annualised hours are calculated based on a 35-hour working week averaged throughout the contract year and are paid as such.

The working year will be divided into 1 spring week and 2 working seasons: namely a longer working hours season (summer) and a shorter working hours season (winter). The length of each working season will be fixed by local management after discussion with the MCU and not later than 1 April of that working year.

The normal working week for the longer summer season will cover a 5-day working week, Monday to Friday inclusive. The normal working week for the spring week and the short season will also be agreed between MCU and local management so as to include a 4-day week (within Monday to Friday of that week); or a 9-day fortnight within the period covered by Monday to Friday inclusive in 2 consecutive weeks.

The normal weekly hours of work in the long summer season will not exceed a maximum of 39.5 hours per week, which shall be inclusive of travel between the base depot and the place of work, up to a maximum of 2 hours per day for such travelling.



Key responsibilities, duties and objectives

To carry out conservation and routine maintenance works to HES monuments in the Blackness Depot area. This involves all forms of traditional masonry including:

- Stone cutting, hewing of various architectural mouldings/stones for the Blackness Castle Depot sites and monuments in other depot areas as required.
- Traditional building/repairs/indenting of stonework.
- Raking out and pointing defective joints and beds.
- Promoting traditional methods of conservation and masonry techniques to carry out challenging and diverse conservation projects/works.
- Operating electrical and petrol-powered hand tools and machinery to facilitate the work including disc saws, mortar mixers, compressors, hoists etc.
- Providing training and mentoring for apprentice stonemasons in traditional conservation skills.
- Complying with and promoting HES Health and Safety Policy.
- From time to time, you will be required to attend training courses identified to assist the work, or to comply with health and safety legislation (this may require overnight stays away from home).
- The winter season may consist of work outwith the normal duties associated with stonemasonry, consisting of fence repairs, grounds works and painting.

Post Competencies

You will be assessed against these competencies during our selection process.

Core Competencies:

- Delivering excellent Service – Demonstrating a commitment to quality services
- Teamwork - Contributing to and supporting working together
- Planning and Organising - Putting plans and resources in place to achieve results
- Communication - Communicating appropriately and clearly
- Knowledge & Expertise - Applying and developing knowledge and expertise to achieve results - (See below for specific criteria)

Knowledge, skills and experience

You will be required to demonstrate that you meet the requirements and qualifications below as part of the selection process.

Essential requirements:

- You must be a time served tradesperson with relevant stonemasonry qualifications



- Proven knowledge of the stonemasonry trade and other traditional building crafts, in particular an understanding and knowledge of current conservation practises and techniques relating to historic buildings and monuments.
 - Good understanding and practical experience of the conservation, presentation and repair of Historic Monuments and/or listed buildings
 - Good all-round understanding and practical experience of using lime mortars.
 - Competent in all aspects of stone cutting, hewing practices and techniques.
 - Competent in stone repair, indenting and the various practices and techniques used
- Competent in building of stonework of both random rubble and ashlar work.

Desirable requirements:

- CSCS skills card

Qualifications & Professional Memberships:

- Health and Safety at Work (Responsibilities and Practice) – Desirable
- Qualified to Advanced Craft [SCQF Level 6](#) in stonemasonry – Desirable
- A minimum of four qualifications at [SCQF Level 5](#)– Desirable
- Full current UK driving licence - Desirable

Health Screening:

Given the nature and working environment of this role, a pre-employment health screening will be undertaken for the successful postholder – any offer of employment will be subject to satisfactory checks.



What we offer

We welcome applications from all nationalities, assuming that they have the right to work in the UK: applying for a job with us could open the door to a unique work environment. It will give you job satisfaction and excellent development opportunities, plus a competitive salary, 25 days paid holidays (rising to 30 days after 3 years' service) and 11.5 public holidays a year – pro rata for part time staff.

In addition, we offer a great benefits package to our employees which includes:

- flexible working hours (where appropriate)
- special leave
- maternity/paternity leave
- adoption leave
- reimbursement for relevant professional subscriptions
- support for further education and personal development
- study leave for work related courses
- access to a learning resource centre

Health and welfare

We offer you access to:

- our Employee Assistance Programme – for confidential advice and counselling
- an occupational sick pay scheme
- discounts at some local authority leisure facilities
- access to a free Headspace membership
- interest free loans for bicycles and annual travel passes (see 'season ticket' below)
- reasonable adjustments when needed, as part of our Equalities policy

Staff discounts

You will receive:

- free entry to all of our properties (with up to three guests)
- free entry to English Heritage, Manx and Cadw properties
- 20% off purchases in our retail outlets

Season tickets

You can receive an advance to help with the cost of buying an annual season ticket for travel between home and work. The advance is then repaid from your salary over the life of the season ticket. Available to all permanent and fixed-term staff.



How to apply for this post

You can apply on-line by visiting our website at <https://applications.historicenvironment.scot/>

Guidance on completing the application can be found in the 'Guidance notes for applicants' document, also available at the above website, which we recommend that you read, in conjunction with this Job Description.

Your application must arrive by the advertised closing date. Please note that when applying online, we will only be able to see your application once you fully submit it.

If you are unable to complete an online application form, please email southrecruitment@hes.scot, quoting the job title and recruitment reference, and we will arrange for an application form to be sent to you.

Please note that, as we operate an electronic recruitment system, we will contact you via the email address that you provide in your application to inform you of the outcome of your application.

For further information about the post, please contact Alan Duncan, Works Manager via email at alan.duncan@hes.scot

We welcome all applicants from under-represented groups within HES. We know from our [equality monitoring](#) that we need to increase our diversity in terms of ethnicity and disability. We also want to address occupational areas where the ratio is disproportionately in favour of women or men. We ask all applicants to complete the Equality Monitoring section of the recruitment paperwork to help us pursue a diverse and inclusive workforce. In support of our Gaelic language plan we welcome applications from Gaelic speakers.

Human Resources
Historic Environment Scotland