

Wasing Estate

Role Profile for Assistant Gardener

Accountable to: Head Gardener

Salary: Up to £19,000

Job Summary:

The Assistant Gardener is responsible for supporting the Head Gardener in all aspects of the maintenance and improvement of the gardens and estate grounds on this privately owned Estate. The gardens consist of:

- 7.34 acres of ornamental gardens
- 7.14 acres of lawn, tree avenues and grass areas

The garden adjacent to the main house, which is currently let, stretch from Wasing Place to the Victorian Summer house, which is used for wedding ceremonies, is known as the Terrace Garden. This garden has large beds of mature shrubs and trees mixed with a variety of herbaceous plants. Some beds have been replanted in recent years and are rigorously maintained in as weed free a state as possible to encourage the planting to fill out.

The extensive and varied lawns are regularly mown to present a neat and tidy appearance for both the main house residents and the wedding guests. In areas such as the orchard different mowing regimes are employed as requirements are identified.

The beautiful Walled garden is used to hold events and the beds and borders are being continuously improved to provide a long season of colour and interest. The walls support espaliered apples, pears and gages. A small working greenhouse is used for plant propagation whilst the two large greenhouses in the walled garden are used to grow summer vegetable crops and herbs, to over-winter selected plants and bring on bulbs for spring displays. Adjacent to the walled garden vegetables are grown for use on the estate, as is the fruit from the orchard.

The wedding venue and guest accommodations have their associated garden areas which are kept to the highest standards possible.

Key Areas

1. Working with the Head Gardener to maintain the gardens to an agreed style and standard. This is set by the Head Gardener who takes direction from the Estates' owner, the Land Agent and CEO to achieve the balance necessary for the estate.
2. Help to develop new areas of the garden, in particular those around the new ventures that are planned.
3. Propagate and grow on plants for use in the gardens.
4. Assist with vegetable production both outside and under glass.
5. Assist with optimising fruit production.
6. Maintain the amenity areas of the estate, including grass and lawned areas, meadows, tree avenues and shelter belts in conjunction with the Estate team.
7. Contribute towards the planning of projects to help the estate continue to improve the gardens.
8. Be part of a team that ensure the optimum deployment of staff and resources within a work environment that fosters individual commitment, confidence, creativity and enthusiasm and open and effective communication on work related issues among staff.
9. Have a willingness to undertake a wider range of other duties as required by the estate.

Knowledge, skills and experience

Knowledge

A horticultural qualification is required. It is possible that someone with long term proven relevant practical experience with good plant identification skills would be considered.

Good working knowledge of gardens and their management plus knowledge of various propagation techniques.

A passion for gardens and gardening.

Experience or knowledge of a variety of petrol powered equipment.

Skills

Practical horticulture.

Excellent communication and relationship building skills.

Able to operate within a team or on own initiative.

Experience

Completed academic studies or possibly someone with long term proven relevant practical experience with good plant identification skills would be considered.

Requirement

A clean driving licence.

Useful

Knapsack spray certificate.

First aid qualification.