



National
Trust

Volunteer Role Summary

Garden Steward – Oxburgh Hall

Garden Stewards are vital in bringing National Trust places to life, for inspiring our visitors and helping them to learn more about the place in an interesting and enjoyable way.

Oxburgh Hall is set in 30 acres of formal gardens and a further 50 acres of surrounding landscape including woodlands. A Garden Conservation Plan is in place and the garden steward role is key to disseminating this information to our visitors. Whilst a horticultural background is not essential to this role, enthusiasm to understand how the layout of the gardens have developed over time is essential. Plant identification is also important and training will be given. This is delivered through leading guided walks which are held throughout the day or can be delivered by informal chats to visitors

Snowdrop walks are held from the end of January to beginning of March and the garden stewards have an opportunity to take visitors further afield beyond the formal garden and into Home Covert depending on where the best display of snowdrops are. As well as sharing with visitors the locations where they can best see snowdrops, it is an opportunity to share interesting facts and snippets about snowdrops in general.

General garden walks are held during the rest of the year on a daily basis.

You will need to be able to give a warm welcome to our visitors as well as answer any questions they may have about the garden and the National Trust. Visitor Engagement is a key priority for the National Trust. We strongly encourage volunteers to chat to visitors which can often lead to a lasting impression about a property when they leave.

Programming

The garden walks are a crucial part of Programming. Programming in its widest sense is a way of engaging with as many of our visitors as possible in as many ways as possible. This can range from guided walks to talks, art installations, exhibits, poetry readings, good interpretation leaflets including self-guided trails for example. Garden Stewards will be encouraged to see the potential within the garden and wider estate and assist the Outdoors Team in extending the programme.

Programming helps to:

- **Entice visitors to return** - we don't want visitors to feel they've experienced everything a place has to offer. Instead we want them to leave already planning their next visit, giving us chance to build lasting connections.
- **Provide for audiences** - weekday visitors will be looking for a different experience to weekend visitors, for instance. Programming can help us tailor our offer so that it appeals to different audiences at relevant times.

- **Give greater control of visitor flow** - if your place is bursting at the seams at lunchtime, programming can be used to spread the load by attracting visitors to different areas of your property or at alternative times of day. While your place may be at capacity during peak holiday season, there may well be room to grow during the shoulder months. Programming can help you to design and promote inviting reasons to visit in these quieter periods.
- **Ensure we're working efficiently** - Fewer activities that run over longer periods, or that are regularly repeated as part of the core offer, can provide far greater return.

By getting involved, you could

- Use your smile and communication skills to help visitors feel at home
- Join an enthusiastic and varied team and make some new friends
- See National Trust properties from a whole new perspective.

What's involved?

- Providing a warm, friendly welcome to all visitors as the face of Oxburgh Hall and the National Trust.
- Sharing knowledge about garden history and in particular the history of the Oxburgh gardens
- Recognising the potential that there are different ways to give information to our visitors and sharing ideas with the Outdoors Team

This role will suit you if you are ...

- Someone who loves meeting new people
- Keen to discover what Oxburgh Hall and the Trust as a whole is all about
- Keen on working outdoors and in a garden environment

Extra Information

- We'll help you get to know Oxburgh Hall, how you can help and how you will work with the rest of the team – with induction and training
- We'll also cover agreed costs of your travel between home and Oxburgh Hall

Find out more

Contact Helen Gregory on 01366 328258 or helen.gregory@nationaltrust.org.uk

This is a voluntary role. This role summary isn't legally binding or a contract.

15-Mar-16

Outdoors volunteering

Core Role

About the National Trust

As Europe's largest conservation charity, we help everyone across England, Wales and Northern Ireland enjoy all sorts of very special places for ever, for everyone.

About Oxburgh

No-one forgets their first sight of Oxburgh. Built in 1482 by the Catholic Bedingfeld family, it is the enduring legacy of their survival through turbulent times. Explore 500 years of history and see how each generation of the family left their mark. Discover the hidden doors, climb inside the secret Priest Hole and enjoy panoramic views from the roof. Exhibitions include needlework made by Mary, Queen of Scots, and colourful wallpapers dating to the mid-1700s. The moated Hall is surrounded by nearly 70 acres containing beautiful gardens, trickling streams and woodland walks.

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