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## **Estate Head Gardener**

Permanent

Full-Time; Live In

Salary £24,000

An experienced and knowledgeable Estate Head Gardener is sought to become part of the Estates team on Ditchley Park, a privately owned estate is set within 300 acres with gardens comprising a mixture of mature and decorative ornamental features set within a beautiful landscape including a lake. The estate has modern equipment and staff facilities.

Ditchley Park and its 300 acres of pleasure grounds are set in a further 3550 acres managed sustainably by the [HDH Wills Charitable Trust](#) which provides grants to conserve the environment and wildlife. Ditchley has been a haven for wildlife since at least 1500, creating a unique eco-system that includes many rare plants and animals and birds

We are seeking a candidate with a relevant horticultural qualification, ideally who has previously worked on an estate. The successful candidate will be able to work alongside the existing team and lead on the development of several exciting initiatives including the re-establishment of a large, neglected semi walled garden and a modest kitchen garden. The Estate Head Gardener will be line managed by the Head of Estates and will have supervisory responsibility for the Gardens team.

Candidate must be willing to undergo security checks including a DBS check.

### **Hours and Days of Work**

40 hours per week. Nominal days of work will be Monday to Friday, with Saturday and/or Sunday working as required by the schedule of events, for which overtime or time off in lieu will be given.

### **Key Responsibilities**

- Responsible for the daily programme and standard of gardening work, under the direction of the Head of Estates, to ensure efficiency of working across the team.
- Line Management and Day to day supervision of the Senior Gardens Assistant and Gardens Assistant.

Ditchley Park, Enstone, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire OX7 4ER

T +44 (0)1608 677346 E [info@ditchley.com](mailto:info@ditchley.com) W [ditchley.com](http://ditchley.com)

Registered office: Ditchley Park, Enstone, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire OX7 4ER

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**DITCHLEY**

- Oversee supply of stock and equipment and advise Head of Estates when new purchases are required.
- Support the Head of Estates in the planning and execution of any gardens and estates projects.
- Assist with the provision of flowers, greenery and pot plants within the Mansion.
- Assist the Chief Operating Officer in routine liaison with Model Farm and the gamekeeper of the Wills Trust Estate.
- When required work as part of the Estates teams to configure conference rooms, marquees and external areas for events.
- From time to time, to task and supervise work experience pupils.
- Any other reasonable duties as requested by the senior management team.

### **Essential**

1. Recognized horticultural qualification, or a very high level of horticultural experience/knowledge, with at least 3 years garden experience working in a similar role.
2. Be able to demonstrate safe working and knowledge of garden / landscaping machinery.
3. Good interpersonal skills including the ability to inspire colleagues and manage the Garden Team within the Estates Team
4. Excellent planning and organisational skills.
5. Proven experience of landscaping and grounds maintenance, to include but not limited to, forestry, formal lawns, cut flowers and formal flower beds, extensive hedge maintenance, weed control, aquatic and land wildflower preservation
6. Excellent practical skills in soft landscaping and grounds maintenance
7. An interest/experience in fruit and vegetable production would be an advantage as this is an area, we would like to develop
8. Full clean UK driving licence and wide range of machinery skills
9. Fluent in English with very good communication skills both written and verbal.
10. Pa1 Pa6 Pesticide Training certificate or willingness to undertake training
11. First aid qualification required; training will be provided if necessary.
12. Physically fit, this is a physically demanding role, and a good level of fitness is required
13. Enthusiastic, self- motivated, and flexible
14. Understands sensitivity of working within a private estate
15. Good understanding of health and safety, COSHH regulations, and the ability to write risk assessments and implement them in day-to-day activities.
16. Computer literacy, Word, Excel and email
17. Operating and maintaining water irrigation systems

18. Liaising and communicating directly with contractors, including contractors inductions.

**Desirable**

- Basic chainsaw qualification (crosscut / maintenance)
- Experience in garden design beneficial but not essential.

**Application:**

- Please apply by sending a CV and covering letter, including the answer to “Why Ditchley?”, to Gareth Gwilt at [gareth@ditchley.com](mailto:gareth@ditchley.com)
- Closing Date: midday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022