



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Osborne Garden Nursery Volunteer Role Description

Why does English Heritage need my support?

Osborne House is the former home of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. We are looking for volunteers to support our garden team in growing and maintaining plants within our small nursery and glasshouses.

Where will I be based?

Osborne House
York Avenue
East Cowes
Isle of Wight
PO32 6JX

What will I be doing?

As a volunteer within the garden nursery you'll help grow and maintain plants destined to be planted out within the grounds of Osborne and as such you will need to:

- Take instruction from the garden staff and be able to work independently or as part of a team
- Participate in a broad range of horticultural nursery activities including watering, weeding, pruning, potting, propagation, and compost mixing.
- Maintain excellent nursery hygiene processes such as pot washing, maintaining growing areas so they are weed and liverwort free and help with the seasonal deep clean of the glasshouses.
- Assist in other areas of the garden undertaking general garden maintenance tasks on odd occasions.
- With our help you'll also need to develop an understanding of the history of the garden and grounds to answer questions from visitors accurately and with confidence and share information about the work you are undertaking.

For Health & Safety purposes you will also need to:

- Understand and implement safety procedures including evacuation
- Maintain a level of visitor supervision in the garden.

How much time will I be expected to give?

Volunteer sessions will run from 10.30am to 4pm.

Ideally, you'll be available to volunteer once a week between Monday to Thursday all year round.

What skills, qualities and experience do I need?

This role requires a good level of organisation and attention to detail. Ideally you will be familiar with growing a range of different plants and will have experience of raising plants using different techniques for your own garden. This role will require:

- A reasonable level of knowledge and experience of growing indoor and outdoor plants.
- A reasonable level of knowledge and experience of propagating plants.
- An interest in nurturing plants within the nursery for a long period to ensure they are of high quality and suitable for planting in the gardens at Osborne.
- An interest in working in the historic environment.
- An interest in horticulture and working outdoors.



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- The ability to work as part of a team and on your own.
- The ability to work in an organised fashion and within systems set by the garden staff.
- The ability to undertake physical work for a period of time.
- To be flexible and enthusiastic.

What support and training will I receive?

- Site Induction with a member of the gardens team.
- Role-specific training with the garden team as necessary.
- Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment.
- Access to Online Learning and Communication platform – FUSE
- Access to Online Welcome to English Heritage Induction

What will English Heritage expect from me?

- To be the friendly face of English Heritage and deliver excellent customer service.
- To be reliable in attendance and dependable.
- Help us maintain the highest standards of presentation at our sites and properties.
- To wear English Heritage volunteer uniform where provided.
- Help us protect our properties and collections by understanding and following our security and safety procedures.
- Maintain good working relationships with staff, other volunteers and members of the public.
- Attend appropriate training and learn about the work of English Heritage.
- Observe organisational policy and procedures.
- Safeguard confidential information about English Heritage and let us know about anything relating to your role or the work of English Heritage that you think might be controversial.
- Any documentary or other material (including any copyright applying thereto) you are provided with or created by you in respect of your volunteering will be the property and copyright of English Heritage (unless otherwise agreed in writing).

What can I expect from English Heritage?

- A welcoming and enjoyable experience.
- To be treated fairly and with respect.
- Recognition and appreciation for your contribution.
- A full induction and training programme with on-going support.
- Reimbursement of reasonable local travel costs between home and volunteering location within agreed limits.
- A certificate to demonstrate work carried out for English Heritage is available on request to show future employers or further education providers.
- You will be covered by English Heritage's own indemnity arrangements in respect of all liabilities that may result from your appointment as a volunteer.