



Job Title: Gardens Intern	
Managed by: Pathways Manager/Head of Gardens	
Department: Gardens	Location: Waddesdon Manor and Eythrope Gardens
Salary: National Living Wage & subsidised accommodation on site	Contract Type: One-year fixed term from 14 September 2026
Hours: 37.5 hours per week over a 7-day rota. Some weekend and evening work will be required, which you will be notified of in advance and TOIL will be granted	

An overview of what you will be doing

Waddesdon Manor's gardens, created by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, are a renowned example of Victorian horticulture, combining formal planting, historic trees, and carefully designed landscapes.

As a Gardens Intern, you'll gain hands-on experience across the estate, supporting the care, maintenance, and presentation of the gardens throughout the year. You'll work alongside a skilled team, learning how to manage seasonal bedding, lawns, herbaceous borders, hedges, and topiary, as well as a wide range of trees, shrubs, roses, fruit trees, and climbing plants. You'll also develop an understanding of how historic gardens are managed sustainably, including protecting delicate ecosystems and supporting biodiversity within the landscape. You will have the opportunity to work towards your RHS Level 2 qualification which is an incredible opportunity to formalise your training in a professional garden.

A highlight of the internship is working on Waddesdon Manor's carpet bedding displays. These large-scale, highly detailed planting schemes are changed twice a year, with each design made up of thousands of plants. You'll support the preparation and installation of these displays, gaining experience in one of the most distinctive aspects of the gardens.

Part of the internship will take place at Eythrope Gardens, where you'll work across parkland, a productive walled garden, glasshouses, and an orchard. Here, you'll gain experience in growing vegetables and cut flowers, as well as practical horticultural tasks such as propagation, weeding, and pest management.

Alongside plant care, you'll also learn how to safely use and maintain tools, machinery, and equipment as part of day-to-day operations.

Who are we looking for?

We're looking for someone who enjoys working outdoors in all weathers and has a genuine interest in horticulture and the natural environment. You should be curious about plants and motivated to develop your practical skills in the day-to-day care of a garden.

This role is hands-on and varied, so you'll need a positive, reliable approach and a willingness to take on a wide range of tasks. You should be comfortable working as part of a team, communicating clearly with colleagues, while also being able to work independently and manage your own responsibilities.

An interest in developing skills such as plant identification, propagation, and the safe use of tools and machinery will help you get the most from the internship.

No prior experience is required, although relevant qualifications in horticulture are advantageous. What matters most is your willingness to learn and take pride in your work.

Skills you will gain

Working across both Waddesdon Manor and Eythrope Gardens, you'll develop a broad understanding of how different gardens are managed and maintained within a heritage setting.

You'll gain experience in:

- **Horticultural skills** – propagation, pruning, and plant care across a wide range of species, including fruit trees, roses, climbers, and shrubs
- **Planting & design** – supporting display planting, including carpet bedding and 3D planting, and gaining insight into garden design
- **Tools & machinery** – using hand tools and powered equipment safely, including ride-on mowers and utility vehicles, with an understanding of health and safety requirements
- **Teamwork & communication** – working with gardeners, volunteers, and engaging with visitors, building confidence in collaborative working

By the end of the internship, you'll have practical, hands-on experience and a solid foundation in heritage horticulture.

Additional opportunities

You will have the opportunity to partake in Lantra or NPTC training as part of your internship, as well as qualifications in spraying PA1 and PA6, and RHS Level 2 or 3. You will learn how to drive a tractor, gator, Cherry Picker, and ride-on mower.

As part of the Pathways Internship, you will have the opportunity to participate in a three-day Intern Skills Workshop, designed to support your personal and professional development. This workshop will cover a variety of topics aimed at enhancing your skills, broadening your knowledge, and preparing you for future career opportunities.

In addition, you will be able to take part in staff and intern events throughout the year, providing valuable networking opportunities, insight into different roles across the organisation, and a chance to engage with the wider team. You will also have access to a training budget to support your learning and development, allowing you to attend relevant courses, workshops, or conferences.

To ensure you make the most of your internship experience, you will receive full one-to-one mentor support from the Pathways team. Your mentor will guide you through your projects, help you set and achieve personal development goals, and offer advice and encouragement as you explore potential career pathways.

You might be looking for a future career in...

This internship is a great opportunity for someone at the beginning of their career in horticulture, grounds maintenance, or garden management. You might want to work as a Gardener, Horticulture Assistant, or Grounds Maintenance Officer. If you particularly like the plant production and propagation element of the internship, you might look to grow your career in plant nurseries or specialist growing settings.

The internship is diverse, and you might also be looking to develop a career in garden design or landscaping. The conservation and sustainability focus is also becoming more prevalent within environmental roles, and you might be looking for a career in biodiversity or environmental stewardship.

<u>EDI Capture Form</u>	<u>Apply Now</u>	<u>Additional Information</u>
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