

# Trainee Placements 2024-2025

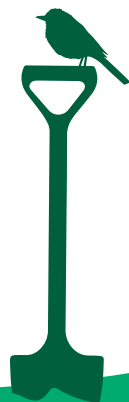


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Trainees at Wrest Park  
Photo credit: Mike Harrington

## Contents

About the HBGTP / What's involved? 4

2024 Applications 5

Placement Gardens, Locations & Garden Key 6-15

Frequently Asked Questions 16-17

Trainee Thoughts 18

What Should I Do Next? 19



## About the HBGTP

The Historic and Botanic Garden Training Programme (HBGTP) is managed by English Heritage and supported by the National Garden Scheme.

The HBGTP is an unrivalled opportunity for passionate individuals committed to establishing a career in horticulture. You can earn a salary while developing your professional skills in some of the best historic and botanic gardens that the UK has to offer!

The programme has benefited over 300 trainees to date. Prestigious historic gardens such as Picton Castle and Gardens and Cambo join us for 2024 alongside notable 2023 placement gardens such as Fulham Palace House and Garden and Osborne.

## What's involved?

- 12 months full-time, paid practical placement in an historic or botanic garden.
- Work alongside the gardening team throughout the seasons.
- Learn about the key aspects of managing an historic garden.
- Develop practical skills and increase plant knowledge.
- Complete 3 projects, a daily technical journal and weekly plant identification tests.



Former trainee Emma,  
on mowing duties at Audley  
End House and Garden

## 2024 Applications

When applying, you will be asked to select your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice of placement garden. Or for those who fancy an adventure, why not leave your choices open and select 'any'? With such a variety of gardens to choose from, we have keyed out some crucial information in this brochure to help guide you in the selection process.

Further information on the programme, application and selection process can be found by going to our website:

[www.hbgtp.org.uk](http://www.hbgtp.org.uk)

The best thing about the HBGTP is:



“It gave me the chance to spend a year gaining practical experience in a historic environment with the opportunity to learn new skills first hand from the gardeners.”

– Ellis Gant,  
Former Trainee at Osborne

# Placement Gardens 2024

## Garden Name:

## Places available:

1. Aldourie Castle	1
2. Audley End House and Garden (English Heritage)	2
3. Cambo	1
4. Chatsworth	1
5. Fulham Palace House and Garden	1
6. Hatfield House	1
7. Helmingham Hall Gardens	1
8. Holkham Estate	1
9. Newby Hall	1
10. Osborne (English Heritage)	2
11. Picton Castle and Gardens	1
12. Walmer Castle and Gardens (English Heritage)	1
13. Winterbourne House and Garden	1
14. Wrest Park (English Heritage)	2

## Placement Garden Key



– Nearest Public Transport (miles)



– Glasshouse



– Accommodation



– National Plant Collection



– Woodland



– Productive Garden



– Walled Garden





1



## Aldourie Castle



Aldourie Castle garden has been redesigned by Tom Stuart-Smith, but contains historic elements such as the arboretum and glasshouses.

A trainee at Aldourie would gain experience working with fruit and vegetables, as well as ornamental plants and trees. They would be involved in regenerating the arboretum and would have the chance to use a range of garden machinery.

2



## Audley End House and Gardens



Audley End is an historic 100 acre site which comprises a wonderful selection of garden areas, including a beautifully restored parterre and a 2 acre organic Victorian walled kitchen garden.

Rotating around the different areas of the garden trainees will be given the opportunity to learn in an environment that offers a hugely varied range of skills and techniques.

3



## Cambo



Cambo Estate has been owned by the Erskine family since the late 1670s.

Cambo is well-known for its Plant Heritage national collection of snowdrops within the formal gardens and woodlands, as well as a collection of over 200 roses.

A trainee would gain practical experience with a mix of ornamental and productive horticultural objectives.

4



## Chatsworth



Chatsworth Estate covers 105 acres, combining a diverse range of historic and modern features that sit seamlessly alongside each other.

A trainee will work as part of a large established team in a variety of settings such as the Cutting and Kitchen Garden, Glasshouses and Ornamental Gardens whilst developing an understanding of how large historic estates operate. Full training will be given on all garden machinery.





5

## Fulham Palace House and Garden



Fulham Palace garden is 13 acres including a 2.5 acre walled garden, which includes a parterre, orchard, vegetable beds and wall and arch trained fruit.

Fulham Palace garden provides a wide range of horticultural opportunities that trainees will be involved in across the 12-month placement. Seasonal tasks include propagation, plant production, vegetable growing and much more.



6

## Hatfield House



Hatfield House garden covers 42 acres and date from the early 17th century.

The gardens include orchards, fountains, water paterres, terraces, herb gardens and a foot maze.

A trainee will gain experience in a wide range of horticultural practices, across all areas of the garden, including the use of various machinery such as compact tractors and ride-on mowers.



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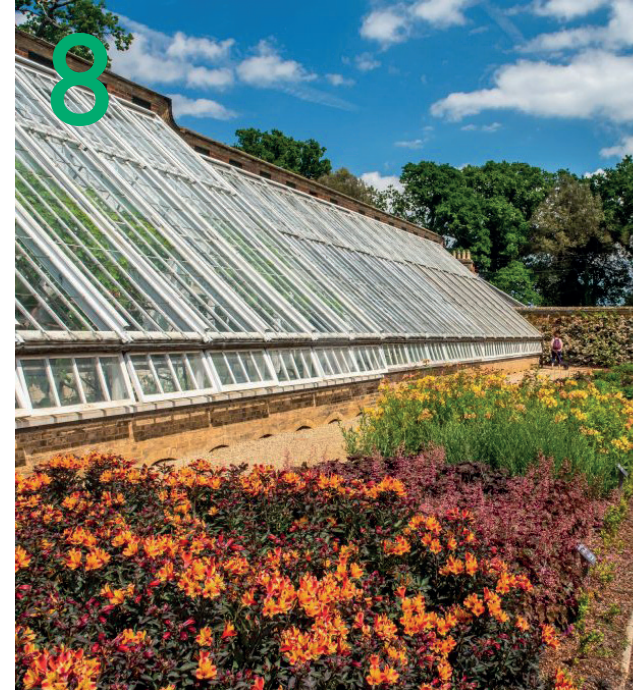
## Helmingham Hall Gardens



The Grade I listed Helmingham Hall, built in 1510, is surrounded by 8.5 acres of traditionally styled gardens and a deer park.

The grounds are composed of many garden areas, with the heart being the Walled Garden.

A trainee will undertake a wide of range of horticultural tasks such as propagation, developing borders and seasonal beds displays.



8

## Holkham Estate



Holkham Hall is at the centre of the 26,000 acre estate. The gardens were built in 1780 and one of the dominant features is the range of historic glasshouses.

The Walled Garden is the main horticultural visitor attraction, covering over six acres.

A trainee will take part in a broad range of practical skills across all garden areas including the use of various machinery.





## Newby Hall



Newby Hall dates back to the 17th century. The garden extends to 25 acres and offers a wide-range of horticultural interests with both formal and informal areas, including a National Collection of Cornus.

A trainee will be exposed to a wide range of horticultural tasks and as a result will establish a broad horticultural skill base. Full training will be given on the use of various machinery such as compact tractors and ride-on mowers.



## Picton Castle and Gardens



Picton Castle dates back to the 13th century and is surrounded by 60 acres of extensive lawns, a recently restored Victorian Walled Garden, an newly created educational area and a 30-acre Woodland Garden.

A trainee at Picton will learn all aspects of maintaining and developing a large historic garden, including the use of a wide range of gardening equipment, of which full training is provided.



## Osborne



The garden at Osborne has been restored to its Victorian appearance. It is made up of formal terraces, woodland, wildflower meadows, an ornamental walled garden, as well as the Swiss Garden with its small productive plots.

Osborne offers trainees a bit of everything, from formal bedding and lawn care to fruit training and glasshouse work, all set in a magnificent landscape overlooking the Solent.



## Walmer Castle and Gardens



The gardens at Walmer date back to the 18th century. They include decorative shrub borders, a wildflower meadow, formal bedding, a kitchen, orchard and cutting garden, decorative glasshouses and a double herbaceous border flanked by a mature cloud hedge.

A trainee will be supported by an established team, and will work across all areas of the garden, gaining a wide variety of skills.





## Winterbourne Botanic Garden



Winterbourne garden is part of the University of Birmingham and contains rare plants from around the world, housed in a range of glasshouses.

A trainee will have the opportunity to train on a wide variety of garden machinery. They will also acquire skills in glasshouse management, lawn care, fruit and vegetable production, propagation, and the use of a plant records system.



## Wrest Park



The gardens of Wrest Park are unique, with a range of surviving garden layouts dating back to the late 17th century.

The site comprises woodland areas, waterways, a walled garden and French and Italian parterres.

Wrest Park is able to offer trainees the opportunity to work in a public garden that is undergoing a major programme of restoration.

"Having hosted trainees through the PGG and the HBGTP at Chatsworth for many years, it is always a pleasure to see them learn, develop, fit into the team and contribute to the care of the garden.

Many have now become valuable members of the team and are able to share their experience and knowledge with new trainees."

– Steve Porter  
Head of Gardens & Landscape, Chatsworth



"I have valued the amount of input and energy from my Head Gardener and the support from those on the HBGTP. All of my learning and what I have achieved during my 12 month placement wouldn't have been possible without any of them.

Overall, the abundance and varied tasks throughout the year have given me plenty of skill sets and I feel more competent to take on any role."

– Aaron Belcher  
Former HBGTP trainee at Tregothnan

For more information on our placement gardens and the trainee experience, visit our website:

[www.hbgtp.org.uk](http://www.hbgtp.org.uk)



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Am I eligible to apply?

Anyone over the age of 18 is eligible to apply, but must be able to demonstrate some prior paid or voluntary experience working in the horticulture sector.

## How many places are available in 2024?

There are 17 traineeships available in 2024, with some gardens hosting more than one placement.

## How do I apply?

Application is done online. From the start of March 2024 an 'apply now' button will appear on our website homepage. Click this button and you will be taken to an external job application page to complete an application form.

## Can I apply for more than one placement garden?

When applying, you will be asked to select your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice of placement garden. You can also select 'any'.

## How do you select candidates?

Applications will be reviewed by HBGTP staff and gardeners at the chosen placement gardens. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to in-person interviews at their chosen placement gardens. These will take place during May and June, and will involve a practical and theory test.

## What if my application is unsuccessful?

Applications open every March so we would encourage you to reapply the following year. We also have a list of alternative schemes on our website: <http://hbgtp.org.uk/about-the-programme/alternative-schemes-and-careers>

## What do I get for completing a traineeship?

You will get an 'HBGTP Certificate of Completion' along with 12 months' experience in a prestigious garden, providing that first crucial step towards a career in horticulture.

## What does a traineeship involve?

You will experience a 12 month traineeship in an historic or botanic placement garden. You will be expected to work a standard working week alongside the garden team. You will also be given a half day per week for study.

You will complete 3 projects, maintain a daily technical journal and undertake weekly plant identification tests which you will submit to the programme for feedback.

As a trainee you will also be fully funded to attend an autumn trainee seminar and summer study tour. Further details can be found in the trainee handbook at:

<http://hbgtp.org.uk/placements/trainee-handbook/>

## When does the placement start?

Trainees are usually required to commence work in the first working week of September 2024.

## What about funding?

Candidates are paid a salary of at least the National Living Wage.

## Does the HBGTP offer accommodation?

Some gardens offer accommodation (please see garden listings on pages 6-14). However, you must be prepared to meet the costs of your accommodation from your own salary.



## Trainee Thoughts



“During my placement I was given the chance to design and implement an annual bed design. This was such a rare opportunity and a great way to practice and learn garden design.

It felt great to have a small patch completely of your own responsibility, and I am very proud of the results.”

– Olivia Lockyear,  
Former Trainee at Osborne

“The highlight of my placement was the strong relationships I have made with my colleagues and the fact that I got to experience such a range of working in each part of the garden, with a different member of staff each month. This really kept the job interesting and gave me opportunities I never dreamed I would have whilst being paid.”

– Holly Radford,  
Former Trainee at Ness Botanic Gardens



“I really enjoyed the autumn seminar and the summer study tour. Both were fantastic opportunities to see some incredible gardens and hear from really interesting horticultural professionals.”

– Elizabeth Lanigan,  
Former Trainee at National Botanic Garden of Wales

## What should I do next?

Apply online at   
[www.hbgtp.org.uk](http://www.hbgtp.org.uk)

Apply between 1st March and 31st March 2024,  
for a September 2024 start!

If you would like to discuss a placement on the programme, please contact the Programme Training Manager, Elinor Davies, during working hours from Monday to Thursday on:

Tel: 07979 401784

Email: [Elinor.Davies@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:Elinor.Davies@english-heritage.org.uk)





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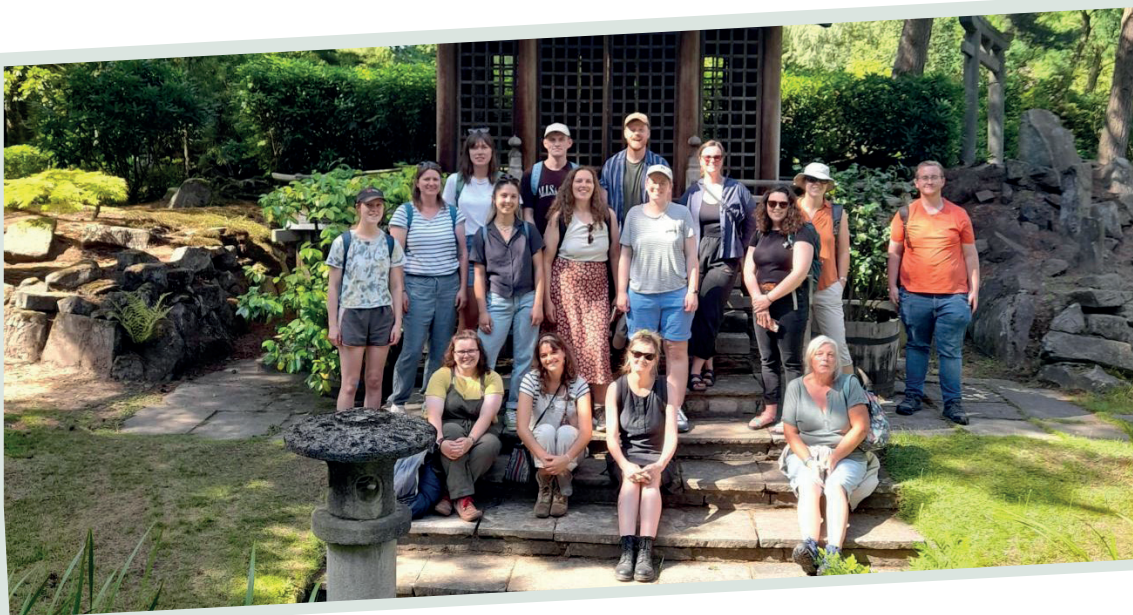


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# Previous HBGTP trainees on their summer Study Tour



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