

Knepp Castle Gardens Team

Job Description: Deputy Head Gardener

Job Title: Deputy Head Gardener (full-time)

Location: Knepp Castle, West Grinstead, West Sussex, RH13 8LJ

Salary: £36k

Job Type: Permanent position, 40 hours per week with some weekend cover

Deadline: 15/10/2026

We are delighted to offer a full-time Deputy Head Gardener position within the gardens team at Knepp Castle, West Sussex. This exciting role combines practical horticulture with day-to-day organisation, helping to manage and develop Knepp's diverse gardens while supporting volunteers and visiting students.

You will join a small and enthusiastic team consisting of the Head Gardener, Gardener and Kitchen Gardener.

About Us

The 3500-acre Knepp estate is home to the oldest lowland rewilding project in the UK. Knepp's small gardens team manages a diverse range of horticultural projects within the estate - from experimental and productive gardens to formal gardens and public spaces. This includes the 1.3-acre Rewilded Walled Garden - a design masterminded by Tom Stuart-Smith and James Hitchmough - providing habitat for over 1000 different types of plant. This project is a unique experiment in maximising garden biodiversity and will be going into its sixth season in 2027.

The gardens team also hosts regular tours, workshops and events throughout the year, sharing ideas and inspiring visitors through horticulture and ecological gardening.

The Role

We are seeking someone who can be flexible, nature-driven, and hands-on, as well as supporting the Head Gardener in the management of the team and the ongoing development of the gardens.

Tasks within the gardens team are very wide-ranging, and may include orchard and meadow-work, veg-growing, delivering tours and workshops, nursery-work, topiary, organising houseplants and cut flowers, visitor engagement and education, habitat creation, experimental and general horticulture, in all weathers!

Essential Skills and Experience

- Strong horticultural knowledge and enthusiasm for plants
- Excellent organisational and communication skills

- Experience of planning and prioritising work
- Self-motivated and able to work independently as well as within a team
- Positive attitude towards practical outdoor work in all weathers
- RHS Level 2 (or equivalent qualification) or substantial practical experience
- High standards of attention to detail and reliability

Desirable Skills and Experience

- Organic growing/kitchen gardening experience
- Keen interest in ecology
- Experience and comfort in public speaking
- Comfortable using a range of tools and machinery
- Can adapt to different situations and bring a positive attitude to problem solving
- Comfortable supervising and inspiring visiting garden students
- RHS Level 3; Kew, Wisley, Edinburgh diplomas, or similar
- Driving license and own vehicle.

Salary and Conditions

£36k per annum

40-hour week, Monday-Friday, with some requirement to work weekends, where time off in lieu is provided.

The Knepp Estate has a number of residential properties that are rented out, and accommodation may be available by separate discussion should a suitable property become vacant.

We value diversity in our team as much as we do in our landscape. We encourage applicants from all backgrounds to apply for roles at Knepp.

Apply

Please apply by email sending us a copy of your CV and a cover letter outlining why you are the right person for this job. Email us at headgardener@knepp.co.uk by the deadline.