



Job Description

Senior Walled Kitchen Gardener

Permanent full time role.
Borde Hill, Haywards Heath, West Sussex. RH16 1XP

About Borde Hill

Borde Hill (BH) is a Grade II* English Heritage listed Garden set within 383 acres of Parkland and Woodland in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with wider farmland beyond. The Garden and Park are open to visitors from February – December each season.

Borde Hill has a legacy of rare and unusual plants collected by the great plant hunters in the early 1900s, and has over 70 champion trees across the estate. The Stephenson Clarke family have been custodians of Borde Hill for five generations, and are at a time of generational change, bringing new energy and projects aimed at broadening our visitor demographic and ensuring Borde Hill is sustainable for future generations.

2025 will see the launch of The Cordia Collective - a new culinary venture from Green Michelin-starred chef Chantelle Nicholson. The Cordia Collective will be dynamic and multifaceted, championing locally sourced, seasonal food, while celebrating the rich biodiversity and plant heritage of Borde Hill. The project, much like nature itself, will continue to evolve, starting life as a microbakery and Garden Café in spring 2025, before developing into a new glasshouse restaurant, café and wine bar and workshop space in the former Stables in autumn 2025. A key feature will be our beautifully restored Walled Garden, which will be planted with rare and edimental plants from around the globe, complimenting Borde Hill's nationally important plant collection.

You and Your Role

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join the Borde Hill team as Senior Walled Kitchen Gardener, overseeing the restoration of our one acre biodynamic Victorian Walled Garden.

Award winning Garden Designer Ann-Marie Powell has redesigned the space, leading with edimental planting which celebrates the principles of 'rare and unusual' that define Borde Hill's horticultural legacy. The design introduces a tapestry of heritage varieties and companion planting schemes that will transform this historic space into a dynamic growing environment. From the restored fruit-trained walls to intimate dining spaces nestled among the plantings, every element has been carefully considered to create moments of discovery.

The Walled Garden will be focused on a progressive fusion approach, using edimental planting for aesthetic purposes, some of which will be available for harvesting. This space will be exclusively open to those dining at the new fine dining restaurant 'Cordia' due to open at the end of this year, therefore high ornamental and cultivation practices are essential throughout the season.

You will also be working closely with our Senior Grower at the four acre biodynamic Market Garden located at Sugworth Farm on Borde Hill Estate, to produce 'field to fork' seasonal fruit and vegetables supplying the restaurant and cafes.

You will be joining us at the implementation stage of this exciting project and if you are a passionate horticulturalist with creative flair, have a strong working knowledge of managing Walled Gardens with ornamental garden experience, and are looking for a career highlight, then this could be the job for you.

Salary:

Approx £28,000,
dependent on experience

Hours:

37.5 hrs per week

Holiday entitlement:

32 days pro rata
(including Bank Holidays)

To apply:

Email your CV & covering
letter to:
manager@bordehill.co.uk

Closing date:

7th February 2025

If you are in
employment, please
include your current
notice period.

Borde Hill
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 1XP

01444 450326
www.bordehill.co.uk

Knowledge, skills and experience needed:

(Please provide evidence in your Covering Letter and CV)

You will have the following responsibilities:

- Line manage a small team including volunteers and students.
- Collaborate with the Market Garden Senior Grower to follow a cropping plan and sowing/planting schedule, to ensure produce is varied and sustained throughout the year for the restaurant and cafes.
- Work within the standards of Demeter and attend annual inspections, preparing all of the paperwork and keeping records of Biodynamic spraying activities.
- Communicate and plan ahead with the Chef team and Senior Grower on crops to be grown as well as determining supply and demand.
- Be responsible for the care of all plants within the walled garden, and the indoor plants within the glasshouse restaurant and cafe
- Contribute to Borde Hill's wider work as a member of the Garden Team, actively participating in scheduled and ad hoc departmental meetings with the Head Gardener, General Manager and the Managing Director.
- Manage annual budgets for the Walled Garden working with the Head Gardener and Finance Team.

Essential Selection Criteria**Skills and Qualifications required:**

- Proven all-round horticultural training and experience to at least RHS Level 2 or equivalent.
- A strong level of understanding of ornamental plant propagation, seed sowing, crop rotations, non-chemical pest and disease management, knowledge of post-harvest and other plant husbandry techniques needed in a productive Walled Garden setting.
- Ability to propagate annual ornamental additions to complement the perennial edimental schemes, as well as creating seasonal container displays and care of permanent glasshouse displays.
- A strong understanding of growing crops undercover and knowledge of cultivation under polytunnels.
- An understanding of how to manage the cultivation of heavy clay soil and the climatic influences it may have.
- Able to be strategic in work planning, energetic, proactive, inclusive, enthusiastic and organised.
- Excellent communication skills to work collaboratively with the Senior Grower, Chef, Family, and all members of the Borde Hill team; with the ability to explain horticultural procedures to students and volunteers.
- Experience of managing teams and able to lead by example with demonstratable people management skills.
- Proven experience in the use of a wide range of equipment and machinery.
- Understanding and experience of health and safety procedures including COSHH and risk assessment procedures.
- Computer literate with experience of MS Office software, and able to use databases accurately.
- A full, clean driving license.

Borde Hill has a small, dedicated, professional and friendly team who embody a 'one team' culture. We strive to ensure that everyone is valued and fairly rewarded for the work they do and your package includes:

- An annual Borde Hill family membership allowing free entry to the Garden and Parkland
- Discount in the Borde Hill shop and catering outlets
- Free tickets for selected events throughout the open season
- Free access at selected times to our Partner Gardens (Chelsea Physic Garden, The Newt and Sculpture by the Lakes)
- Free access to our wellbeing programme of events
- A flexible working pattern where possible
- Free parking

We are an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons regardless of their race, sex, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation.