



Devon Gardens Trust Conservation Officer Role Profile

Context

Devon Gardens Trust is one of thirty six county gardens trusts in England. We respond on behalf of the national Gardens Trust (a statutory consultee) on all planning issues affecting historic designed landscapes in Devon that are on the Historic England *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest*, and those sites of local importance that are included in the *Devon Gazetteer of Parks and Gardens of Local Historic Interest*.

In addition to this role in the planning system, we advise and liaise with owners, managers, developers and planners on the conservation of the designed landscapes of the county. We also identify and propose sites that might be of national importance and which therefore should be included on the Historic England *Register*, and those of local significance for inclusion in the *Devon Gazetteer*. In order to inform this work we undertake research on the gardens, parks and cemeteries in the county, where possible recording those sites. The Trust also awards grants for conservation.

Unlike most county gardens trusts for whom the conservation role is undertaken by volunteers supported by the conservation team of the Gardens Trust, Devon Gardens Trust has for some years been fortunate to be able to engage the services of a professional Conservation Officer. We believe that responding to planning consultations and advising on the county's special designed landscapes is one of the most important aspects of the Trust's work and therefore that a measure of professional resource is a significant benefit to the Trust complementing the expertise and experience of its officers in protecting the historic designed landscapes of the county. Our current Conservation Officer is retiring and we wish to appoint his successor.

More information about the Trust can be found on the website

<https://www.devongardenstrust.org.uk/>

Purpose

Advise the Trustees on conservation and planning matters and, on a day to day basis, respond to planning consultations affecting the special designed landscapes of the county.

Key Tasks

- establish a good working relationship with all the local planning authorities in Devon
- respond to all planning consultations affecting sites on the Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest and sites included in the Devon Gazetteer of Parks and Gardens of Local Historic Interest
- ensure all responses relating to sites in Devon are logged on the national Gardens Trust (GT) log
- liaise with the GT conservation officer and if necessary the GT Conservation Committee on significant cases
- maintain the detail on each site up to date on the Devon Gazetteer including on the Trust's website (including updating images)
- provide regular reports on planning consultations and conservation matters to the Trust's Conservation Committee and Council of Management
- liaise closely with the Trust's Conservation Committee
- advise and liaise with the Research team on priority sites for research and recording

- advise on and recommend sites for both the *Gazetteer* and the Historic England *Register*
- advise on and where necessary research conservation grant applications
- assist with volunteer training
- provide articles for the Trust's Newsletter and Journal
- represent the Trust as and when appropriate

Key Relationships

- Chair of DGT Council of Management and chair of Conservation Committee
- DGT trustees and Council of Management
- DGT Conservation Committee
- Chair of DGT Research Committee
- GT Conservation team
- Historic England
- Local planning authorities – planning officers, conservation officers, HERs
- Owners, managers, agents etc as necessary

Expertise and Experience

- professional knowledge and experience of the planning system
- professional expertise and experience in the historic designed landscape and its conservation
- knowledge of the county's historic designed landscapes and their setting

Terms

The appointment for services will commence on a date to be agreed and in the first instance will be subject to an initial period of six months, thereafter the appointment will be reviewed after two years. An honorarium for the services will be agreed and reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out the services will be reimbursed in line with the Trust's expenses policy.

Applications

Applications should be submitted to conservation@devongardenstrust.org.uk by Monday 14th December 2020 and should consist of a CV and a statement detailing why you believe your expertise and experience would be well suited to the role of Conservation Officer for Devon Gardens Trust. For an informal discussion, please contact Dianne Long, chair of the Trust's Conservation Committee, conservation@devongardenstrust.org.uk

Given the current COVID-19 circumstances it is likely that candidates will be invited for interview via Zoom.