



# Research Volunteer Role Description

## About Us

Berkshire Gardens Trust is a small charity that aims to understand, appreciate and promote the conservation of parks, gardens and designed landscapes in Berkshire. Each year we deliver a range of garden visits, lectures and talks to help our members better understand their history and encourage an appreciation and enjoyment of the gardens we visit. We inspire a desire to care for and conserve landscapes, to allow more people to discover and enjoy them.

## The Role

One of our primary activities is research. Our goal is to produce a Gazetteer of all Berkshire parks and gardens which involves researching the history and current state of each to understand its significance. This will include site surveys and historic research using a diverse set of sources such as historical photos and maps, the internet and the Berkshire Records Office. We're looking for more researchers to help us with this important task that will contribute to the conservation of designed landscapes across Berkshire.

More about our project here: <https://www.berkshiregardenstrust.org/research>

We're ideally looking for someone based in Berkshire or nearby who can volunteer a minimum of 2 days per month. This role will require a mix of volunteering remotely (online research), visiting sites of interest and travelling to Berkshire Records Office, so an ability and willingness to travel is also essential.

We're looking for someone with some of the following skills/experience:

- An interest in local, garden or landscape history
- Previous experience in historic/landscape research (desirable, not essential!)
- An ability to work independently and as part of a team

We welcome volunteers from all backgrounds including those from communities who are underrepresented in the heritage and environment sectors including Black, Asian and ethnic minority communities, LGBT+ people, people with disabilities, and those with experience of socio-economic disadvantage.

Website: <https://www.berkshiregardenstrust.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/berkshiregardenstrust> Instagram: @berkshiregardenstrust

## What we can offer

- Support from a friendly and enthusiastic team of fellow volunteers and staff
- Training in local historical research, garden history and other topics as necessary
- Reasonable expenses for travel, cost of documents and other research costs will be fully reimbursed.
- An opportunity to help promote and protect Berkshire's historic parks, gardens and landscapes for future generations and to get involved in our wider activities

## Contact Details

If you'd like to apply for the role or ask any questions, including finding out more about other volunteering opportunities at Berkshire Gardens Trust please contact Janet at [BerksGTenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:BerksGTenquiries@gmail.com).

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