



Twickel

The Twickel Foundation is a private body that manages the Twickel estate in Twente and the associated estates in Gelderland, South Holland and Germany. After six centuries of family ownership, the Twickel estate passed into the hands of the Twickel Foundation in 1953. The objective of the foundation is to preserve Twickel as a nature reserve and cultural monument and to perpetuate its historical significance.

The Twickel estate is the heart of the dynamic estate. Its inhabited castle, park and gardens form a unique historical ensemble. The historical layers of its construction are the result of skilful and caring management. We are proud to be able to refer to such famous landscape architects as Zocher, Petzold, Poortman and Van Gessel. We aim for quality to maintain our leading (inter)national position.

The Twickel Foundation is looking for a

Head Gardener (M/F) (full-time)

The Head of Gardens is responsible for the performance of the team of five permanent gardeners and some 25 volunteers. Together they ensure the highest possible level of maintenance of in particular the English Landscape Park, the Rock Garden, the Vegetable Garden, and the Formal Garden with its Orangery. The citrus collection housed here forms part of the scientifically supervised National Plant Collection, making Twickel also an official Botanical Garden. Practically the whole complex is a Protected Monument. The gardens receive around 20,000 visitors a year.

Trees, borders, lawns and vases 'inside and outside the fence' are tended by the garden team. Events are held throughout the year for which it is natural to make use of the garden, and all gardeners work weekends on a rota basis.

With due respect for the historical value of this estate, the Head of Gardens is aware of innovations and adaptations and their suitability. These are sometimes necessary as a result of climate change and other factors. A conscientious management of the garden and park structure with the existing vegetation is a priority, but there is also scope for ecological ambition. Management and development are conducted in close consultation with the Estate Manager and the castle resident.

The challenges that face the garden team in the next few years include:

- Revitalisation of the Rock Garden and the Rose Garden
- Development of a vision and plan of implementation for the function of the Vegetable Garden

- Water management
- Ecological management in the widest sense of the word

Tasks

- Some 80% of the activities are in the grounds as an all-round foreman working as one of the team
- Some 20% of the activities comprise specific management and administrative tasks

The Head Gardener:

- directs the team of gardeners, volunteers, trainees on placement and suppliers;
- is partly responsible for applications for subsidies, budgets and authorisation of invoices;
- draws up management plans and (annual) planting programmes;
- represents Twickel with outside professional and branch organisations such as the Guild of Head Gardeners, the Netherlands Association of Botanical Gardens, and the National Plant Collection;
- is responsible for guided tours of the gardens and green educational programmes;
- develops and organises green public events.

Profile

- Higher Professional Education at a working and theoretical level
- At least five years of management experience in a historic park and garden
- Demonstrable knowledge of plants, shrubs and trees
- Demonstrable knowledge of historic park and garden design
- Demonstrable knowledge of horticulture
- Affinity with (soil) biology and ecology
- Good communicational skills, both internally and externally, and ease of approach
- Capacity to organise well, to apply structure and to maintain a clear picture
- Residence in the Delden area or willingness to move there
- The daily language is in Dutch

What we offer

A unique and interesting function with a stable employer.

Depending on training and experience, the minimal salary is € 2.914,00 and the maximal salary € 3.830,00 (scale 6 of the Forestry and Nature – Nature Monuments Framework Collective Labour Agreement) with a full working week of 37 hours. After a contract of one year, good functioning offers the prospect of a permanent appointment.

Checking references or an assessment may form part of the selection procedure.

Application

You can apply by sending a letter with motivation and curriculum vitae addressed to Mr Rob Bloemendal, Estate Manager, bloemendal@twickel.org

Please submit your application before 15 March 2021.

If you have any queries, you can contact Rob Bloemendal between 16:00 and 17:00 hrs on tel. +31 (0)74 259 3034 (office) or +31 (0)6 11 31 0944 (cell phone).