

**Trainee Role Description – Farm and Garden Trainee**

We grow organic produce at Hawkwood, our 12 acre community market garden and plant nursery, and distribute it to our own market stalls, box scheme and local restaurants. We use garden scale and style techniques, and involve a lot of volunteers. In our ½ acre glasshouse we grow heritage tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, chillies and seedlings for sale to local people and community groups. In 2016 we produced over 2 tonnes of salad including 107 varieties of leaves.

In 2017 we are starting a new growing project at Hawkwood, focused on using machinery, allowing us to be more productive. This is an area to explore using less labour intense methods of production, to provide an example to aspiring farmers of responsible cultivation methods on a commercial scale.

This traineeship will suit someone looking to develop their skills as a market gardener, and wanting to gain a broad understanding of work on a community garden as well as a commercial grower.

# **Details of the role**

* Unpaid voluntary role
* Time commitment: 1 day/week for 9 months
* Dates: Friday 7th April – Friday 15th December
* Hours: Fridays 9.00am - 5.00pm
* Based at: Hawkwood Community Plant Nursery
* Occasional weekend commitments: 4 days over the traineeship to support weekend outreach events, open days, and plant and produce stalls
* Supported by: training workshops one evening per month and monthly check-ins with an Organiclea mentor

# **Main objectives**

# To learn about and assist with all aspects of planting and maintaining the vegetable growing areas of the Hawkwood site

# To learn about and assist with using farm machinery

# To assist with harvesting and preparing produce in accordance with the needs of the Organiclea stall, box scheme or other independent outlet

# To provide support for the vegetable production at Hawkwood

# To provide support for the volunteer programme

# **Main Activities**

# **Growing**

* Preparing beds for planting
* Direct drilling techniques
* Raising plants from seed
* Irrigation
* Planting and maintaining field vegetables, salad leaves, green manures and companion plants
* Organic weed, pest and disease management
* Harvesting schedules and techniques
* Undertake other activities in support of Organiclea, as appropriate

# **Harvesting**

* Cutting/picking produce to the agreed methods, ensuring quality control
* Preparing produce according to ‘product descriptions’
* Weighing, packaging, sealing, labelling and organising dispatch

**Working with volunteers**

* Work to ensure all volunteers on site are safe, welcomed, valued and supported
* Lead tasks with volunteers

**Person Specification**

## **Essential**

* Interest in sustainable food production and the desire to put that interest into practice
* Interest in maintaining and using farm machinery
* Some experience of growing
* Ability to supervise and explain tasks to volunteers
* Happy to work mainly outdoors throughout the year
* Ability to carry out shared tasks and work within a team
* Ability to work on own initiative, prioritise tasks and work to deadlines
* Commitment to and understanding of the aims of Organiclea

### **Desirable**

* Driving license
* Experience of working with volunteers