



Passport to your future

The Taster Day

Parks and Gardens



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I didn't have time to get too nervous as the invitation to attend was only days before the taster day. If anything I was over ready. The thing that worried me most was the thought that I wasn't likely to be considered for this job and having read ALL of the information available about it SEVERAL times I was aware how much I really longed for a chance.

The drive was super easy even though there were gale-force winds and sleet.

I later found out that many of the interested potential applicants didn't show up due to the weather.

From the minute I arrived at the property every person involved (volunteer or staff) made me feel welcome and looked after. The receptionist radioed the house and a garden volunteer called David walked up to show me the way to the property. This was my first glimpse of the property and I have to say it was practically love at first sight. The walk down the driveway through the park is still in my mind. I realised that this was possibly my first ever visit to a National Trust house.

The Park and Garden manager, took us for a short walk around the gardens and talked extensively about the Passport to your Future training and its value to both the National Trust and the trainees. Her enthusiasm dispelled any doubts I may have had about the reality of this and the butterflies reappeared.

It was explained that the training was intense with a huge amount to learn especially for a total novice like me, that fitness levels would be increased gradually and that help would be given to gain the knowledge, confidence and skills that could enable me to gain employment in the heritage sector.

After the chat and tour we could explore if we wanted. I was still taking photos and enjoying the gardens as it was shutting.

A massive personal achievement attending the taster day. An inspiring and informative morning followed by a beautiful dreamlike afternoon exploring. I hoped I would get to go back.

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