

Centenary BioBlitz - Thursday 29 May

Centenary BioBlitz events

To celebrate Bedgebury National Pinetum's 100th birthday in 2025, we invite you to take part in our special Centenary Bioblitz.

Immerse yourself in nature for a day of discovery, learning, and fun as we identify and record as many species as possible that call Bedgebury National Pinetum home.

From fungi and plants to birds and bugs, each observation helps us better understand and protect this special place, for the next 100 years and beyond.

Please download the [iNaturalist app](#) from home before the event to enjoy the activities to their fullest extent.

Guided walks timetable

To book onto any of the guided walks please call 01580 879820 or pop into the Information point. Booking and walk-ins for most walks will be taken on the day if places remain. To avoid disappointment, we suggest booking in advance.

Dawn chorus walk - 6am to 9am

Wake up with the birds and experience the magic of the dawn chorus. This early morning walk offers a rare opportunity to immerse yourself in the sounds of nature and discover the incredible diversity of birdlife that calls the National Pinetum home.

Meet at: Walled Garden Car Park

Book in advance, tickets: £5 per person (members £4)

Into the trees walk - 10.15am to 11.45am

Tree conservation is at the heart of Bedgebury Pinetum. Join a member of the tree team for an introduction to the national conifer collection and what makes Bedgebury special.

Meet at: Visitor centre

Free event, booking recommended.

Bees and butterflies walk - 10.45am to 12.15pm

Find out about the bees and butterflies that can be found in the Pinetum. Hear stories of the habits of butterflies and day-moths helping you to identify the species you spot during this walk.

Meet at: Visitor centre

Free event, booking recommended.

Nursery tour - 11.15am to 12.45pm

This walk and talk with Forestry England staff is a unique opportunity to visit the conifer conservation nursery where some of the world's rarest trees have been propagated and nurtured over the years and is usually closed to public access.

Meet at: Visitor centre

Free event, booking recommended.

Wildflowers walk - 11.45am to 1.15pm

Learn the names of some of the many flowers that grow wild at Bedgebury on a relaxed walk among the trees. As you explore, you'll see the beautiful shapes and colours of the plants, find out about where they grow in the different habitats within the pinetum.

Meet at: Visitor centre

Free event, booking recommended.

Into the trees walk - 12.45 to 2.15pm

Tree conservation is at the heart of Bedgebury Pinetum. Join a member of the tree team for an introduction to the national conifer collection and what makes Bedgebury special.

Meet at: Visitor centre

Free event, booking recommended.

Reptiles walk - 1.15pm to 2.45pm

An exciting opportunity to join the expert group that regularly surveys and monitors the reptiles such as lizards, slow worms and grass snakes that live in Bedgebury National Pinetum.

Meet at: Visitor centre

Free event, booking recommended.

Small mammals walk - 1.45pm to 3.15pm

Join a walk and talk by Wildwood Trust and hear about some of the rarely seen small mammals inhabiting the pinetum and the work being done to protect them.

Meet at: Visitor centre

Free event, booking recommended.

Nursery tour - 2.15pm to 3.45pm

This walk and talk with Forestry England staff is a unique opportunity to visit the conifer conservation nursery where some of the world's rarest trees have been propagated and nurtured over the years and is usually closed to public access.

Meet at: Visitor centre

Free event, booking recommended.

Into the trees walk - 2.45pm to 4.15pm

Tree conservation is at the heart of Bedgebury Pinetum. Join a member of the tree team for an introduction to the national conifer collection and what makes Bedgebury special.

Meet at: Visitor centre

Free event, booking recommended.

Bat walk - 8.30pm to 10.30pm

Did you know Bedgebury is home to six species of bats? This is your chance to see and hear them in action as darkness falls. Join local bat expert, armed with bat detectors, to search for these elusive creatures. Learn about their fascinating behaviours, echolocation calls, and the vital role they play in our ecosystem.

Meet at: Park Lane car park

Book in advance, tickets: £5 per person (members £4)

Family drop-in activities timetable

Most activities will take place between 10am and 4pm. Follow the signs from the visitor welcome area and make your way around the BioBlitz activity trail.

Moth ID - 10am to 12pm

This is a great opportunity to learn more about some of Bedgebury's night-time inhabitants. Moths caught the night by experts from the National Trust can be seen up close to reveal their identity before being released back into the Pinetum.

Location: Visitor centre

Free event, no need to book.

Bioblitz Spotters Activity

Grab an spotters and identification sheet to help you find some of the species that call Bedgebury home as you walk around our BioBlitz trail. Hand your completed sheet in at the end and help add to our BioBlitz records.

Location: Pinetum trail
Free event, no need to book.

Biosecurity

Learn about the important work the Forestry Commission biosecurity team does to keep Bedgebury and other sites safe from pests and diseases that threaten our forests.

Location: Welcome area
Free event, no need to book.

Plant and animal ID

A wide range of experts from the Kent Field Club and Kent Biological Records Office join two Forestry Commission ecologists to answer any questions and help identify any rare creatures found on the day.

Location: Visitor centre atrium
Free event, no need to book.

Pond dipping

Kent High Weald Partnership will be doing pond dipping and showing what they have found.

Location: Pinetum trail
Free event, no need to book.

Bug hunting

Kent High Weald Partnership will be doing bug hunting. Come along and see what creepy crawlies you can find and record.

Location: Pinetum trail
Free event, no need to book.

Small mammals

Kent Wildlife Trust and Wildwood Trust will be talking about the work they are doing at Bedgebury and other sites to help protect our amazing wildlife.

Location: Pinetum trail
Free event, no need to book.

Find out about pests and diseases

Forestry Commission Plant Health team will be attending. Find out about the important work they do to identify and protect trees from some of the bugs and insects threatening our trees.

Location: Pinetum trail

Free event, no need to book.

Meet our practical conservation volunteers

Bedgebury is lucky to have a dedicated group of volunteers working to maintain the site. See some of the members, find out about what they do and why they are so important.

Location: Pinetum trail

Free event, no need to book.

Make a piece of botanic art

The Bedgebury Pinetum Florilegium Society are holding a 'make your own botanic art' session. These amazingly talented artists will share their skills and talk about their exhibition currently being exhibited at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Location: Pinetum trail

Free event, no need to book.

Cone handling

The Bedgebury education team will be at the Shipwreck play area and giving you the opportunity to handle some of the world's largest cones. See the differences between the trees that make conifers so unique.

Location: Play Area

Free event, no need to book.

Terms and conditions

All events will start from the Bedgebury Visitor Centre unless otherwise specified. Full payment is required to reserve places on all events. No refund can be offered for failure to attend any event, unless the place released is taken by someone on the waiting list. If excessively adverse weather is forecast, a cancellation email will be sent before the event. If unable to attend on any proposed alternative date, a full refund will be offered. An e-mail address / telephone number will be taken from everyone booking and attendees should check their e-mail the night before to ensure a cancellation e-mail has not been sent.

No dogs are permitted on guided walks. Dogs on leads are welcome in the pinetum. Events involving a walk may not be suitable for those with limited mobility. Children under the

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age of 18 may attend if appropriate but must pay as indicated and must be accompanied by an adult. Please dress appropriately for the event and forecast weather conditions.

Please bring your own refreshments if needed and apply bug spray before early or late walks. Forestry England use your contact details to communicate with you about the event or activity booked at Bedgebury to enable them to plan effectively for the event. Data will not be used for any other purpose.

Information correct at the time of publishing but all times are approximate and subject to change.

To minimise the risk of ticks:

- walk on clearly defined paths to avoid brushing against vegetation.
- wear light-coloured clothes so ticks can be spotted and brushed off.
- use insect repellents.
- check yourselves for ticks as you walk and when you get home.

Public Health England have more information on [tick awareness](#).