



Active Forests health and wellbeing walk leader

Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest

About us

Forestry England is a part of the government Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and is tasked with the sustainable management of the Public Forest Estate for timber, recreation and wildlife.

Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest is managed by Forestry England and home to a world-leading collection of conifers, as well as a 2,000-acre forest. Bedgebury is unique in the UK and of global significance for the purposes of species conservation, scientific advancement and the understanding of conifers. It is also a rich and biodiverse site providing habitat to a wealth of flora and fauna.

Active Forests is a national Forestry England programme that is funded by Sport England via National Lottery to deliver an ongoing programme of health and wellbeing activities, events and facilities. The programme aims to create opportunities for new and existing audiences to improve their health and wellbeing across the nation's forests. As part of the programme Bedgebury currently works with providers to deliver weekly activities such as walking groups, running groups, Nordic Walking, Yoga, and Cycle Coaching, alongside Half Marathons, Canicross events, charity walks, orienteering, and miles of cycling, running and walking trails. In the period 2023-2024 we engaged over 260,000 in the programme.

Role description

Bedgebury currently delivers two volunteer led free weekly health and wellbeing walks as part of the Active Forests programme as follows:

- Wellbeing Walks on Wednesdays. These are gentle 60min walks, that generally stay within the boundaries of the Pinetum and focus on wellbeing.
- Walk Talk Explore on Thursdays. These are social walks lasting 60-90min that use both the forest and Pinetum.

As a walk leader you will support these health and wellbeing walks by working with the Active Forest Coordinator and other walk leaders to plan and deliver a weekly walk lasting between 60-90 minutes.

Whilst delivering the walk you will be responsible for the group ensuring everyone is kept safe and accounted for, responding and reporting accidents, and sharing participant numbers with the Active Forest Coordinator.

We are looking for volunteers to regularly support these walks on a regular basis on a rota system.

We'd like you to

- Be friendly, approachable and enjoy meeting people
- Enjoy walking and have some experience of leading groups
- Enjoy working as part of a team
- Have good communication skills
- Be committed, reliable and enthusiastic

You will receive

- volunteer induction, training and support
- access to training Support and advice from other Walk Leaders, Walk Assistants and Active Forests Coordinator
- Forestry England volunteer uniform and volunteer personal protective equipment as needed
- free vehicle admission on your volunteer day
- a volunteer's membership for free admission to Bedgebury Pinetum throughout the year after 35 hours of regular volunteering (renewed annually)

Please be aware that this role requires DBS check, and First Aid Training.

Who to contact?

If you would like to volunteer in this role, please register your expression of interest [here](#)

For specific queries please email bedgebury@forestryengland.uk

For more information about volunteering at different Forestry England sites please visit our website www.forestryengland.uk/volunteering