

### **Big Forest Find Events**

Please download the iNaturalist app from home before the event to enjoy the activity to its fullest extent.

All times are approximate.

#### **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.

Dogs are not permitted.

Events involving a walk may not be suitable for those with limited mobility. Children under the age of 16 may attend if appropriate but must pay as indicated and must be accompanied by a full-paying 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.

### **Aquatic wildlife walk - Saturday 25th May 10am - 12pm Dean Morrison, South East Rivers Trust**

Discover the plants and wildlife that call the lakes, streams and waterfall at Bedgebury home, with the South East Rivers Trust.

Meet at: Visitor Centre

Book in advance, tickets: £3 per person

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**Pond life activity - Saturday 25th May *Drop in sessions* 10am - 12pm or 2pm - 4pm**  
**Sarah Harrington-James, Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership**  
**Ian Johnstone, Kent High Weald Partnership**

There's a whole new world to find underwater! Join us on a pond safari in search of water invertebrates at Bedgebury. Look for lizards, newts, toads and other amphibians.

Meet at: Visitor Centre for directions  
Free event, no need to book.

**Birdsong walk - Sunday 26th May 9am - 11am**  
**David Ware, volunteer expert**

Local bird enthusiast, David Ware, will lead families on a walk around the Pinetum to hear and identify birdsong. Keep your ears keen and your eyes peeled to see if you can spot one of Bedgebury's star birds like the beautiful firecrest.

Meet at: Visitor Centre  
Book in advance, tickets: £3 per person

**Early morning bird walk - Tuesday 28th May 6am - 8am**  
**Christine George, volunteer expert**

Rise with the larks and join birding enthusiast Christine George on a small group walk around the Pinetum shortly after dawn.

Enjoy the beauty of the Pinetum and its very special birdlife at a time of day when the site is normally closed to visitors. You'll be on an exciting 6am adventure to find and identify as many of Bedgebury's migrant visitors and resident birds as possible during this two-hour walk.

Please bring binoculars if you have some. Please note that this walk begins before Bedgebury is open and will not be suitable for children - there is a family bird walk later in the morning at 9am.

Meet at: Forest Office  
Book in advance, tickets: £3 per person

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**Moth ID - Tuesday 28th May 8am - 10am**

**Claire Ward, volunteer expert**

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

Meet at: Visitor Centre

Book in advance, tickets: £3 per person

**Family bird walk - Tuesday 28th May 9am - 11am**

**Christine George, volunteer expert**

Search out birds by sight and sound with birding enthusiast Christine George on a family-friendly walk around the Pinetum. Christine will help to find and identify as many of Bedgebury's migrant visitors and resident birds as possible during this two-hour walk. Please bring binoculars if you have some.

Meet at: Visitor Centre

Book in advance, tickets: £3 per person

**Small mammal discovery walk - Wednesday 29th May 8am - 10am**

**Matt Parratt, Forest Research**

Take a closer look at some of the rarely seen small mammals inhabiting our countryside. Matt Parratt from Forest Research will lead a short walk to discover the small mammals that live in the Pinetum and forest. Find out more about the ecology of the creatures you discover in the specially set live traps before releasing them back into the wild.

Meet at: Visitor Centre

Book in advance, tickets: £3 per person

**Butterflies and day-moths walk - Wednesday 29th May 10.30am - 12.30pm**

**Anna Picken, Forestry England**

Do you want to be able to tell your gatekeeper from your meadow brown?

Join butterfly enthusiast Anna Picken on a butterfly and day-moth walk. Find out about the resident and migrant butterflies that can be found in the Pinetum. Anna will share stories of the habits of butterflies and day-moths helping you to identify the species you spot during this 2-hour walk.

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*Anna will follow a pre-planned route of roughly 2 miles, taking in as much diverse habitat as possible whilst recording the number and species of butterflies and moths seen along the way.*

Meet at: Visitor Centre

Book in advance, tickets: £3 per person

**Wildflowers walk - Wednesday 29th May 1pm - 3pm**

**Sue Buckingham, volunteer expert**

Learn the names of some of the many flowers that grow wild at Bedgebury on a relaxed walk amongst the trees with local botanist Sue Buckingham.

As you explore you'll see the beautiful shapes and colours of the plants, find out about where they grow, and perhaps even discuss the folklore stories surrounding them. This walk is a must if you'd like to take your first steps in wildflower identification.

Meet at: Visitor Centre

Book in advance, tickets: £3 per person

**Butterflies, hoverflies and bees walk - Thursday 30th May 10.30am - 12.30pm**

**Ian Beavis, volunteer expert**

You'll enjoy this walk whether you're a beginner, an enthusiastic amateur or a keen expert.

Ian Beavis is a natural history specialist and expert on the subject of flying insects. Discover the resident and migrant butterflies, hoverflies and bees at Bedgebury. You'll walk for around two hours in a small group identifying as many species as possible.

Meet at: Visitor Centre

Book in advance, tickets: £3 per person

**Spot That Bug - Thursday 30th May *Drop in sessions 10am - 4pm***

**Forestry England learning team**

Bugs, beetles, butterflies....what insects will you discover?

Join the Bedgebury learning team for a bug spotting exploration.

Meet at: Visitor Centre for directions

Free event, no need to book.

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**Spot That Bug - Friday 31st May *Drop in sessions 10am - 4pm***  
**Forestry England learning team**

Bugs, beetles, butterflies....what insects will you discover?

Join the Bedgebury learning team for a bug spotting exploration.

Meet at: Visitor Centre for directions

Free event, no need to book.

**Family bat walk - Friday 31st May sunset**  
**Julian Dormady, Forestry England**

Bedgebury is a great place for bats, and six species of bat have been recorded here, including the spectacular noctule bat and secretive brown long-eared bat.

Walk at sunset with bat enthusiast and Pinetum Supervisor Julian Dormady to learn more about these mysterious creatures as you experience the sights and sounds of the Pinetum at night.

Sunset (approximately 9pm for two hours). The exact time will be confirmed prior to the event.

Meet at: Visitor Centre

Book in advance, tickets: £3 per person

**The Secret Life of Ponds - Friday 31st May *Drop in sessions 10am - 4pm***  
**Rob Liversidge, volunteer expert**

Drop in for a chance to discover what lies beneath the surface of the ponds and lakes of Bedgebury.

We hope to discover all sorts of aquatic wildlife from frogs to water fleas. Identify the creatures by using information sheets and microscopes. Local expert Rob Liversidge will be on hand to help answer all your questions about aquatic invertebrates.

Meet at: Visitor Centre for directions

Free event, no need to book. This event is weather dependent. If the event is unable to proceed because of the weather, it will take place on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June** instead.

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**Tree-mendous nursery tour - Sunday 2nd June 11am - 1pm**  
**Liz Randall and Emma Bacon, Forestry England**

Tree conservation is at the heart of Bedgebury Pinetum and seed collecting is just the beginning.

Find out what happens to threatened and endangered seeds once they are brought back from exotic locations around the world during the Bedgebury tree team's collection trips. This walk and talk with Forestry England staff is a unique opportunity to learn more about Bedgebury's conservation work and to visit the Pinetum nursery. The nursery is 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

Book in advance, tickets: £3 per person

**Any day between Saturday 25th May and Sunday 2nd June**

Enjoy a self- led trail or activity anytime throughout #BigForestFind week. Start adventure with a self-led activity available from the Visitor Centre between 9.30am and 4.30pm.

**Become a Bedgebury Bounty Hunter**

**Forestry England learning team and the Friends of Bedgebury Pinetum**

Self-led trail - pick up information from the Visitor Centre

**Tree Bingo**

**Forestry England learning team and the Friends of Bedgebury Pinetum**

Self-led trail - pick up information from the Visitor Centre