



Practical Conservation Friday Walled Garden Group

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 is home to a world-leading collection of conifers. It 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.

Description

Recently redesigned as a new parking area, the Walled Garden has been planted with a mixture of ornamental trees, shrubs, and grasses. Along the historic walls are a range of fruit trees, some open grown others trained to traditional form. The group will help care for the space to the highest standards as it is an important new gateway for visitors entering the National Pinetum.

This volunteer role offers the chance to develop new skills, work to agreed standards and follow a planned programme of tasks aligned with the Pinetum's landscape plan. At times, the group may join visiting volunteer teams, such as corporate groups and with activities led by the Tree Team.

The group is self-led with guidance and support from the Pinetum Tree Team and the Volunteer Coordinator.

When?

- Every Friday 09.30 - 14.30 (with lunch and tea breaks)
- A commitment of at least 3 sessions per month

What's involved?

- Teamwork - agreeing and understanding the tasks to be undertaken
- Writing simple risk assessments
- Clearing scrub and weeds from around specimen trees
- Watering
- Pruning
- Occasional maintenance of tree cages
- Collecting and applying mulch

Bedgebury National Pinetum

- Removal of saplings and natural regeneration using a hand operated winch, mattock, spades, forks etc.

We'd like you to

- Have horticulture or arboriculture experience in a similar environment, though not essential
- Enjoy working as part of a team - either as a team member or team leader
- Be willing to follow guidelines on a written works programme
- Be willing to follow guidelines on health and safety, including risk assessments and toolbox briefs
- Take part in annual reviews
- Have a friendly personality and enjoy meeting people
- Attend relevant training courses and be willing to learn from Forestry England staff
- Wear suitable protective clothing for working outdoors
- Bring your own refreshments and lunch for the day

We will provide

- A volunteer registration and induction prior to taking up the role
- Full training and support
- Appropriate tools, equipment and training
- Appropriate personal protective equipment, including safety boots, gloves and glasses
- Free parking on your volunteer day
- Access to facilities for making hot drinks during your volunteer shift
- An annual volunteer's membership for free admission to Bedgebury after 35 hours of regular volunteering
- A volunteers' newsletter
- An invitation to annual events such as the volunteers' picnic and guided tours
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If you would like to volunteer in this role please register your expression of interest [here](#)

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