



Practical Conservation Monday Volunteers

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.

Role Description

Working as part of a small team (8 members) our Thursday Group volunteers meet each week to help us with vegetation maintenance in various sections of the pinetum. This volunteer role provides an opportunity to learn new skills, to work to an agreed standard and follow a written programme of tasks set in accordance with the pinetum landscape plan. From time to time the group will work alongside visiting groups e.g. on corporate volunteer days when the tasks will be led by the tree team.

The group is self-led and guided by the pinetum tree team and volunteer coordinator

When?

- Every Monday 09.30 - 14.30
- A commitment of around 3 sessions per month

What's involved?

- Clearing scrub and weeds from around specimen trees
- Removal of saplings and natural regeneration using a hand operated winch, mattock, spades, forks etc.
- Maintenance of tree cages
- Collecting and applying mulch
- Helping to maintain waterways

Please note a DBS check may be required for this role

We'd like you to

Bedgebury National Pinetum

- Have an interest in horticulture, arboriculture or working in an outdoor environment
- Enjoy working as part of a team - either as a team member or team leader
- Have a friendly personality and enjoy meeting people
- Be willing to follow guidelines on health and safety, including risk assessments and toolbox briefs
- Undertake training for using hand tools and operating an ATV 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

Who to contact?

If you are interested in volunteering for this role, please first check our [website](#) to ensure the opportunity is currently available. If it is, you can submit your expression of interest [here](#)

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