Practical Conservation

Sunday 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.

# Role Description

Our Sunday Group volunteers meet once a month - usually the first Sunday to help us with the upkeep and maintenance of 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.

This group is guided and led by the pinetum tree team and the volunteer coordinator

# When?

* Usually the first Sunday of each month 10.00 – 13.00 (dates confirmed in advance)

### What’s involved?

The day will start a pre agreed location where you will be met by a member of staff who will walk you to the work site. You will be asked to listen to a toolbox brief and to sign in before undertaking tasks. You will be given demonstration on safe use of equipment and tools and issued with relevant personal protective equipment (PPE) – boots, gloves, glasses etc. however please remember to come in clothing appropriate for the time of year and tasks, e.g. waterproofs and clothes you don’t mind getting dirty.

There is a tea break halfway through the session which is provided for by us.

Typical tasks include:

* 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
* Applying mulch
* Helping to maintain waterways

Volunteers will not be asked to use power tools.

We’d like you to

* Enjoy working outside and take pride in your tasks
* Be comfortable with the physical nature of the role
* Enjoy working as part of a team
* Be willing to follow guidelines set including health and safety and Covid
* Attend relevant training courses and be willing to learn from Forestry England staff
* Wear suitable protective clothing for working outdoors and keeping your legs and arms covered

We will provide

* A volunteer registration prior to taking up the role
* A volunteer induction, training and support
* Necessary tools, equipment, guidance, appropriate supervision for the tasks
* Appropriate personal protective equipment, including safety boots, gloves, safety glasses, hand sanitiser etc.
* A volunteer t-shirt/name badge/water bottle
* Free vehicle admission to Bedgebury on your volunteer day
* A free cup of tea or coffee on your volunteer day
* A volunteer’s membership for free admission to Bedgebury Pinetum throughout the year after 35 hours of regular volunteering (reviewed annually)
* A volunteers’ newsletter
* An invitation to annual events such as the ‘Thank you’ BBQ and other volunteer events

### Who to contact?

If you would like to volunteer in this role, please register your expression of interest [here](https://public.forestryengland.uk/EOI/)

For other enquiries please email bedgebury@forestryengland.uk

### Further opportunities

For more information about volunteering at different Forestry England sites please visit our website [www.forestryengland.uk/volunteering](http://www.forestryengland.uk/volunteering)