



Cycle Trails Maintenance Volunteer

Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest

About Us

East England Forest District (EEFD) is responsible for managing circa 35,000ha of Public Forest Estate land from Norfolk to East Sussex, including Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest.

Bedgebury National Pinetum is home to the National Conifer Collection which is managed for a range of purposes, such as to support the conservation of conifers, to improve people's understanding of trees and the environment, to be a research site for the trial of future forestry species and to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Bedgebury is also an award-winning visitor attraction hosting over 500,000 annual visits. Bedgebury offers catering, bike hire, Learning, family cycle trails and Mountain Biking, walking, adventurous play, Go-Ape Tree Top Adventures, horse riding, Christmas at Bedgebury and many other events and activities. The visitor attractions key objective is to provide an excellent experience to all visitors. Bedgebury staff have been awarded the Visit England Welcome Accolade and nominated for a 'Gold' Award in 2018 and 2019, confirming the commitment to our visitors.

Bedgebury Forest is a popular destination for cycling and has a number of waymarked cycle trails that offer opportunities for all skill levels.

The Family Cycle Trail and Short Loop offer a 9km and 4km ride around Bedgebury Forest and are suitable for most cyclists with some experience.

The 13km Mountain Bike Trail is suitable for proficient cyclists.

Role Description

We are recruiting up to 6 dedicated volunteers to support our team with the maintenance of the cycling trails and associated facilities.

We will be trialling this new volunteer group for 6 months in 2022 and jobs will include the following:

1. Vegetation management and litter picking
2. Minor repairs to trail
3. Cleaning out water drains, culverts.
4. Repairs to signage, Access Control Points (ACPs), replacement of waymarkers
5. Management of desire lines
6. Other jobs in agreement with the Operations Team

Please note volunteers will not be required to use power tools

Details

- The 4th Wednesday of each month starting in April 2022
- Timing: 9am to 2pm, with a lunchbreak at 12noon
- Meeting point: Visitor Centre, Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest, TN17 2SJ

- Induction day: 23rd March 2022
- First session: 20th April 2022

We'd like you to

- Enjoy working as part of a team
- Have good communication skills
- Undertake tasks as agreed with the Forestry England group supervisor
- Be committed, reliable and enthusiastic
- Undertake training as deemed necessary e.g., manual handling and first aid
- Take part in volunteer group reviews as and when they are organised
- Ideally, we would like volunteers to commit to 2 out of 3 sessions held

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, medical gloves etc.
- Free vehicle admission on your volunteer day
- A free cup of tea or coffee from the café 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 volunteer t-shirt/name badge/water bottle after 35 hours of regular volunteering
- Access to our volunteer newsletter
- An invitation to annual events such as the 'Thank you' BBQ and other volunteer events

Who to contact?

If you are interested in volunteering for this role please register your interest via the website <https://www.forestryengland.uk/volunteering-bedgebury> or email bedgebury@forestryengland.uk for more information.

Further opportunities

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

Covid19

Please note that the most important thing is for Forestry England to keep the public, our staff and volunteers safe. We will be following government guidelines with regards to Covid restrictions and will be asking you to agree to do the same when taking up any volunteering position with us.