



Forestry England

What to expect at the **Silk Wood** **Community Planting** **Project**, Westonbirt Arboretum



The planting site

Car park and entrance:

Visiting groups park in the main visitor car park and enter the arboretum through the Welcome Building.

Our groups don't need to pay to enter, the staff in the Welcome Building will know that your group are coming.

There are also toilets at the entrance. We suggest you use these when you arrive.



The Welcome Building

Meeting a member of our team:

A member of our team will meet you at the Welcome Building.

They will:

- 1. Introduce themselves and the team**
- 2. Give an introduction to Westonbirt**
- 3. Give a short safety briefing**

This information is also on our website if you would like to see it in advance.



The Welcome Building entrance

Meet the team:

Here's our Silk Wood Community Planting Project Team...

We will also be accompanied by some of our lovely volunteer team who help us run the sessions!



Walk to the planting site:

This is a 1-mile walk and can take about 30 minutes. We can give people lifts in our all-terrain vehicle if needed.

This is a lovely flat walk through Silk Wood.

Here are a few things to watch out for:

- **Dogs are allowed off lead.**
- **We cross the Tree-Tops Walkway so let us know if you want to avoid heights**



An all-terrain vehicle



Tree-tops Walkway

The planting site:

The ground is uneven at the planting site and there are lots of brambles so watch your footing!

At the planting site we have:

- **Compost toilets**
- **Hot water to make drinks**
- **Cold drinking water**
- **Hand washing facilities**
- **Some biscuits and snacks but please bring your own lunch.**
- **A small gazebo, some chairs, a tarpaulin, and sitting mats**
- **Spare coats and wellies** (please let us know your shoe size if you need to borrow wellies)



Compost toilets



Conditions underfoot



Gazebo and chairs on site

Be prepared for the conditions:

Our activities are all about getting outside! We always aim to spend the whole day outdoors wherever safe. We monitor the weather forecast and work with our groups to make sure they are prepared. You will need:

- **Long trousers**, even in the summer to protect you from thistles and ticks.
- **Sturdy shoes** with closed toes.
- In the winter: waterproofs, warm layers, hats and gloves.
- In the summer: sun hat, sunglasses, breathable layers.



Winter conditions



Summer conditions

Task briefing and asking for help:

When we arrive at the planting site we will tell you all about the project and give you a safety briefing for the day - copies of these talks can be found on our website.

Everyone is supported to work at their own pace. If you don't want to do a task or are finding it hard please just let us know. You are welcome to take a break anytime.



Activity briefing

There are lots of different tasks to do at the planting site...

Your group leader will tell you what we have planned before the day.



Tree planting

End of activities and walking back:

When it is time to leave we will help each other put tools away.

We will then do the same 1-mile walk back to the Welcome Building.

We can also give people lifts back in the all terrain vehicle.

There will be a chance to use the toilets back at the Welcome Building before you leave.

A photograph of a dirt path leading through a forest. The path is light brown and leads towards the background. The trees on either side are lush green, with some showing early autumn colors of yellow and orange. A single birch tree trunk is visible in the foreground on the left. The sky is blue with some white clouds.

The walk back

How we treat people & feedback:

At the Silk Wood Community Planting Project we want everyone to feel welcome and supported.

We will treat everyone with respect and kindness and ask that all our visitors do the same.

If you have any feedback, suggestions or comments during the day please tell one of our team. Alternatively, you can fill in a feedback form or email us at **swcpp@forestryengland.uk**

We are always looking for ways to improve so love to hear from you!



Tell us what you think...



Forestry England

Silk Wood Community Planting Project

at Westonbirt Arboretum

Find out more:

You can find out more about the project along with details of how to get involved at:

forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/community-planting-project

