



Habitat Monitoring and Practical Conservation Volunteer

Tuesday Group

Bedgebury National Pinetum

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 and dedicated team (up to 8 members) our Tuesday volunteers help with vegetation maintenance and seasonal recording of Bedgebury's native wildlife.

This role involves following an agreed works programme in accordance with the pinetum's sward management plan, monitoring habitats and collecting and submitting valuable data. As well as using traditional recording methods, volunteers use [iNaturalist](#) or [iRecord](#) to identify and verify observations and on occasion are asked to collaborate with staff and visitors to present results. In addition, and to a large extent, the group supports the tree team with practical and manual tasks involving scrub clearance, weeding and invasive species removal which demands a good degree of physical fitness.

This role helps us to manage some of our important local habitats across the whole site and further aid our decision making for continued good management of the pinetum.

The group is self-led and guided by the pinetum tree team, the volunteer coordinator and ecology associates.

When?

- Every Tuesday 09.30 - 14.30 (tea and lunch breaks to be agreed)
- A commitment of at least 3 sessions per month

What's involved?

The day will start with collecting a vehicle, tools and equipment from the volunteer shed in the works yard then driving or walking to the survey or work site. A schedule of tasks

will be supplied in advance to help determine equipment and tools to use, and regular reviews will take place with the pinetum curator, volunteer coordinator and volunteers.

You will write task specific risk assessments and deliver your own toolbox briefs before starting the day's tasks. You will be requested to undertake training for conservation surveying as and when relevant. You will also be requested to undertake training before using a winch and driving an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and trailer. Volunteers will not be asked to use power tools.

Please note a DBS check is required for this role.

Typical tasks include:

- Habitat monitoring and recording.
- Scrub clearance, weeding and removing invasive species.
- Collaboration with tree team through feedback and survey presentation

We'd like you to

- Have a background **or** interest in British flora and fauna.
- Help us deliver Bedgebury's conservation objectives which include recording and monitoring of tree health, maintaining grassland landscapes and habitats in keeping with the landscape of the pinetum.
- Write brief monthly progress reports.
- Be willing to learn new skills and follow guidelines according to a written works programme, including health and safety.
- Enjoy working outdoors in a practical capacity and as part of a small team.
- Be happy with the level of physical tasks given.
- Be reliable and open to share your enthusiasm and knowledge through collaboration with Forestry England staff and visitors to the pinetum.
- Attend relevant training courses and be willing to learn from specialist partners and staff.
- Wear suitable protective clothing for working outdoors.
- Bring your own refreshments and lunch for the day.

We will provide

- a volunteer registration prior to taking up the role.
- a volunteer induction, training, and support
- volunteer personal protective equipment as needed e.g., steel toe capped boots, gloves, safety glasses, etc.
- volunteer t-shirt / name badge / water bottle
- 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 (renewed annually)
- an invitation to the annual volunteers 'Thank You' BBQ and other volunteer events.

Bedgebury National Pinetum

Who to contact?

If you would like to volunteer in this role, please register your expression of interest [here](#)

For specific queries please email bedgebury@forestryengland.uk

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