



Practical Conservation Wednesday Wild Crew

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 WWC volunteers meet on Wednesday mornings and work to maintain the visitor centre ornamental beds from March through to October. This volunteer role provides an opportunity to learn new skills; trial different techniques and take pride in keeping the beds a beautiful showcase for the rest of the collection.

In addition, during the winter months (November to February) volunteers move to other areas of the pinetum, carrying out tree and ground maintenance to an agreed standard and according to the pinetum landscape plan.

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

When?

- Every Wednesday 09.30 - 12.30

What's involved?

The day starts at a pre agreed location where you will be met by the volunteer coordinator. You will be asked to sign in, briefed about the task and allocated tools before starting. 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.

On occasion you will be joined by members of the tree team for specific guidance on pruning, planting or general bed maintenance and advice. The volunteer coordinator will organise bringing tools to the site in the morning and taking them back for cleaning and storage at the end of the session. There is a tea break halfway through the session which is provided by us.

Volunteers will not be asked to use power tools.

Typical tasks include:

- Weeding around specimen shrubs, plants and trees
- Applying mulch
- Drainage maintenance
- Pruning
- Occasional planting

We'd like you to

- Enjoy working outside and take pride in your tasks
- Enjoy working as part of a team
- Have a friendly approach and enjoy meeting people (visitors may be inquisitive)
- Be willing to follow guidelines set including health and safety
- Attend relevant training courses and be willing to learn from specialist partners and staff
- Wear suitable protective clothing for working outdoors

We will provide

- A volunteer registration prior to taking up the role
- A volunteer induction
- Full training and support
- Appropriate tools, equipment, guidance and supervision for the tasks
- Appropriate personal protective equipment, including safety boots, gloves, glasses, hand sanitiser etc.
- Free parking on your volunteer day
- A free cup of tea or coffee 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](#)
For other enquires please email bedgebury@forestryengland.uk

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