



Forestry England

What to expect at the **Westonbirt** **Woodland Management** **Project**, at Westonbirt Arboretum



Coppice area



**Community
woodland**



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 project team...

Meg, the project's Engagement Officer, will lead the sessions, supported by Jon, the Woodland Manager, and a team of Westonbirt volunteers.



Walk to the community woodland & coppice area:

This is a 1-mile walk and can takes 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 be aware of:

- **Dogs are allowed off-lead**, we encourage participants not to interact with dogs.
- **We cross the Tree-Tops Walkway**, so let us know if you want to avoid heights.



An all-terrain vehicle



Tree-tops Walkway

The community woodland:

There are hard paths to the main areas of the woodland, however some of the ground is uneven and there are brambles so watch your footing!

At the community woodland 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)
- The planting site is **wheelchair accessible**, and mobility scooters are available to hire for free. Please do let us know about access requirements.



Conditions underfoot



Wheelchair accessible



Gazebo and chairs on site

The coppice site:

The coppicing site is dense woodland with logs, plants and various potential tripping hazards, so watch your footing!

At the coppicing 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.**
- **The Silk Wood barn** will be the main **shelter area**, with **picnic tables**.
- **Spare coats and wellies** (please let us know your shoe size if you need to borrow wellies)
- Due to the nature of the coppice site, unfortunately, it is not wheelchair accessible.



Compost toilets



Shelter on site



Conditions underfoot

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 on site we will tell you all about the project and give you a safety briefing for the day.

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

Activities:

Summer activities (April - September)

- **Tree care:** This could involve weeding, laying mulch or surveying the trees.
- **Learning activities:** Measuring trees and their carbon, tree and flora identification, Bio-blitz and surveys.
- **Wellbeing in nature:** Through walks, observations, and gentle activities.
- **Jon Muir Award:** sessions to complete the John Muir Award with small groups.

Winter activities (October - March)

- **Coppicing work:** (cutting hazel) involves working outdoors in autumn/winter conditions, in smaller groups with more specialised tools.

Weeding & mulching



Learning & wellbeing



Coppicing tools

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 signs of autumn color (yellow and orange). The sky is blue with some white clouds. A vertical tree trunk is visible on the left side of the path.

The walk back

How we treat people & feedback:

At the Westonbirt Woodland Management 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 **wwmp@forestryengland.uk**

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



Tell us what you think...



Forestry England

Westonbirt Woodland Management Project

at **Westonbirt Arboretum**

Find out more:

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

www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/woodland-management-project

or email **wwmp@forestryengland.uk**

