



Practical Conservation Centenary Tree Volunteers

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.

The pinetum was established in 1925 to provide a safe haven for conifers in conjunction with Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Role Description

Working as part of a small and dedicated team (up to 8 members) our centenary tree volunteers will meet weekly to care for trees planted in 1925.

This is a self led group guided by the database officer and volunteer coordinator.

We envisage this group continuing after the centenary to care for our established trees.

When?

- Every Monday 09.30 - 14.30
- A commitment of around 3 sessions per month

What's involved?

- Locate and assess the condition of the centenary trees using a handheld tablet to record work carried out
- Write task specific risk assessments and deliver your own toolbox briefs
- Drive an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) from the yard to worksites
- Clear scrub and weeds from around centenary trees using hand tools such as a winch, tree popper, mattock, spades and forks (you will not be required to use power tools)
- Tidy up and clear away tools and arisings
- Accurately instal tree labels
- Provide images and visual assessment of trees such as condition, tree heights and diameter breast height (DBH)

Bedgebury National Pinetum

Please note a DBS check is required for this role

We'd like you to

- Have an interest in horticulture, arboriculture or working in an outdoor environment
- Enjoy working as part of a team - either as a team member or team leader
- Have a friendly personality and enjoy meeting people
- Be willing to follow guidelines on health and safety, including risk assessments and toolbox briefs
- Undertake training for using hand tools and operating an ATV and be willing to learn from Forestry England staff
- Wear suitable protective clothing for working outdoors
- Bring your own refreshments and lunch for the day

We will provide

- A volunteer registration and induction prior to taking up the role
- Full training and support
- Appropriate tools, equipment and training
- Appropriate personal protective equipment, including safety boots, gloves and glasses
- Free parking on your volunteer day
- A free cup of tea or coffee from the café on your volunteer day
- An annual volunteer's membership for free admission to Bedgebury after 35 hours of regular volunteering
- A volunteers' newsletter
- An invitation to annual events such as the 'Thank you' BBQ and volunteer picnic

Who to contact?

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

We will be holding an open day for this role on Monday 2nd of September which will include a tour of Bedgebury including some of our centenary trees.

If you have specific queries regarding this role please email bedgebury@forestryengland.uk

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