

WESTONBIRT

THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM

Volunteer Activity Profile: Plant Recording Volunteer

Aims: to assist in the recording of Phenology data. Phenology is the recording of natural occurrences such as flowering time, leaf fall etc. This data is then fed into the UK network and helps us to understand how plants are reacting to climate change.

Team: Tree Team support

Advantages

- Providing vital support to Westonbirt's volunteer and staff team.
- Increasing personal knowledge and skills.
- Being involved in helping us to understand how climate change is affecting plants.
- Health benefit from regular outdoor exercise.

Essential skills

- Possess a methodical approach with attention to detail.
- Good record keeping.
- Enjoy being out of doors whatever the weather.
- Show a willingness to learn.
- Being able to read a simple map.

Desirable skills

- Good observation.
- A willingness to work with others.

Tasks involved

- Follow a prescribed route recording a list of natural occurrences on a select number of plants, during the year. There is a concentration of effort needed during the spring and then again in the autumn.
- Record keeping.

Note: it must be stressed that a considerable amount of effort is needed in spring and autumn, but this can be shared between volunteers.

Location of activity, welfare and safety

- Location will be on the Downs and within both Silk Wood and the Old Arboretum.
- Hot/cold drinks available.
- Food voucher given when activity lasts for 4 hours in one day.
- Uniform supplied once training completed.
- Staff will inform Health & Safety relevant to the activity.
- On-site radio to be carried at all times.

- Lone working procedure will be advised (if required)
- All equipment/tools will be provided and training given in their use.

Duration & frequency of activity

Approximately ten hours per week maximum (hours need to be very variable depending on the season, at peak times the site needs to be visited at least three times a week). This can be spread amongst a number of volunteers and we are looking for two additional volunteers at the moment.

Training & supervision

Supervision, initial and ongoing training will be provided by our current recording volunteers.

Clothing

Advisable to bring suitable clothing appropriate to weather conditions.