

WESTONBIRT

THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM

Volunteer Activity Profile: Propagation Volunteer

Aims: to assist in the growing of rare and valuable trees and shrubs for planting out into the Collection, and day to day nursery care.

Team: Tree Team support

Advantages

- Providing vital support to Westonbirt's Tree Team.
- Increasing personal knowledge and skills.
- Being involved with propagation, plant names and the continuation of Westonbirt's Grade I Listed Landscape.

Essential skills

- Possess a methodical approach with attention to detail.
- Enjoy being out of doors whatever the weather.
- Show a willingness to learn.

Desirable skills

- Database and basic computer knowledge.
- Enthusiasm for learning about plants and their propagation.

Tasks involved

- Propagation techniques: seed cleaning/counting/sowing; preparation of cuttings and collection of material within the grounds.
- Nursery practice: pricking-out and potting-up.
- Labelling and measuring.
- Record keeping.
- Pot construction and pot washing.
- Weeding.

Note: it must be emphasised that a considerable amount of weeding and pot construction/washing is undertaken within the Propagation unit because of the growing methods employed and to maintain bio-security. The work is at times physically demanding and repetitive.

Location of activity, welfare & safety

- Location will be within the Propagation unit and occasionally within the Old Arboretum/Silk Wood.
- Meeting point is the Propagation unit behind the main office block.
- Hot/cold drinks available.
- Food voucher given when activity lasts for four hours in one day.

- Uniform supplied once training completed.
- The Supervisor 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

Ten hours per week (hours negotiable – ideally two people for 5 hours one day per week).

Training & supervision

Supervision, initial and ongoing training will be provided by the Propagator.

Clothing

Advisable to bring suitable clothing appropriate to weather conditions.