



Westonbirt   
The National  
Arboretum

# Discover Green Careers at Westonbirt

# Dendrologist

## Job role

To improve the level of identification and verification of the Westonbirt tree collection.

To improve the status of the tree collection as a resource for science and learning

## Key Work Areas

### 1. Taxonomic identification and verification of the specimen plants within the botanic collection (30%)

- Undertake a programme to improve levels of identification and verification within the collection.
- Ensure changes in nomenclature or plant classification are implemented centrally and that the central taxa table is updated in associated with Forest Research
- Acquire necessary materials and equipment to undertake accurate identification.
- Ensure the arboretum library contains the relevant reference material, sourcing new publications as necessary

### 2. Relationship management and representation (20%)

- Build and establish good working relationships with fellow plant specialists to share information, build knowledge and improve accession of plants
- Represent the arboretum at conferences, meeting and seminars
- Promote the arboretum through assisting with the writing of articles, giving talks and presentations and handling media enquiries.
- Deal with third parties in a professional way, to enhance the professional perception of the arboretum at all times

### 3. Assist the Plant Records Officer with the management of an accurate collection database (10%)

- Work closely with the Plant Records Officer to ensure plant records and GIS mapping is updated to international standards.
- Develop a high level of own technical expertise concerning GIS, database development and upgrade
- Effective use of main plant database and mapping system to provide clear information, reports and maps
- Keep clear and appropriate records concerning the identification and verification process of individual plants

#### 4. Assist the Propagator with addition of new plants to the collection (10%)

- Work closely with the Propagator to ensure appropriate acquisition of plants
- Assist the Propagator to ensure accurate accession records are established and maintained
- Recommend plants to be propagated from the collection and identify gaps and new plants to be acquired
- Help to source plant material from collections and commercial growers

#### 5. Supervision of volunteers, contractors and staff (10%)

- Supervise all those engaged in taxonomic identification and verification.
- Ensure adequate health, safety and well-being of participants at all times
- Supervise the wildflower, flora and phenology volunteer groups

#### 6. Training and professional development (10%)

- Undertake continuous learning and professional development in order to complete activities to a high standard
- Attend appropriate courses, seminars and workshops to expand botanic knowledge and skills
- Assess the training requirements of colleagues and volunteers, identifying appropriate opportunities to expand their knowledge and making recommendations