

## Tree Identification for Beginners - Participant Information

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023

9:30 – 12:30/1pm

Meeting Place, Beach Gardens Pavilion Swanage

### What we will cover

Late Summer, early Autumn is a fantastic time to learn to identify broad-leaved trees with foliage and fruits to help us identify them. It also won't be long until the leaves turn into an array of beautiful colours that you will appreciate all the more for understanding more about them and being able to name some of the species.

Trees are an important part of our natural heritage, and it is vital that more people understand and champion them as they face numerous challenges such as climate change, pollution, development and pest and diseases. Learning the names of plants and animals in our environment and how they interact is also a hugely beneficial and enjoyable activity. Additional knowledge enhances walks through the town or countryside and time spent in parks and gardens too.

We are keen to provide opportunities for people to develop their knowledge and skills in natural history and are pleased to be able to offer this course as part of the Planet Purbeck Festival, the theme of which this year is a celebration of Purbeck's outstanding natural world.

By the end of the morning you should be confident in recognising between 5-10 native species and take away some information to help yourself continue your tree journey. We will cover:

- **Introduction to native broad-leaved trees in the landscape, family groups and basic tree biology.**
- **Identifying range of trees in the field.**
- **Although we will focus on broadleaved trees as there are few native conifers, we will cover an intro to grouping coniferous species that you will come across in our area.**
- **Introduction on the use of keys to identifying plants.**
- **Understanding of various habitats and the different trees found in them.**

### Timetable

9:30 Meet in the pavilion for the introductory session

10:15 Visit trees around the park in beach gardens

11:15 – 11:30 break

11:30 – 12:30/1pm walk to King Georges playing field (10mins) to visit further species here and along the way.

### Who should attend

This course is aimed at beginners who are new to learning about tree species and would like to get started and have an introduction to identifying plants. Under 16's must be accompanied by a supervising parent/guardian.



## About the Tutor

Jo Stephen is the Ancient Woodland Inventory Officer at Dorset Environmental Record Centre and a nature photographer and has worked as a charcoal burner and coppice worker in the past. She has wealth of knowledge about Dorset's woodlands and their plants and experience of delivering workshops and environmental education sessions.

## What to bring

- Appropriate clothing for the weather including comfortable walking shoes and coat as most of the session will be outdoors
- Water/drink and snacks.
- Notepad and pens,
- binoculars and hand lens if you have them.

There will be a member of staff on site with first aid training and access to a first aid kit. If you have special medical or access requirements, please let us know beforehand so we can make any necessary adjustments.

## Recommended literature

Contact for the course

Sarah Spurling

Project Officer Sustainable Swanage

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