

## **Forest Manager (Self-Employed)**

**(Updated May 2017)**

**Reports To & Is Managed By:** The Forest Committee / Chair

**Works in conjunction with:** Forest Monk, & South Downs National Park (SDNP) Officer

### **Responsibility For:**

All Forestry Matters Other Than Kuti\* Maintenance, and especially

The Management of Hammer Wood (The Forest), which comprises 150 acres of mixed woodland, heathland glades, a Hammer Pond, and two ancient scheduled monuments. Hammer Wood is a site of local wildlife importance in the Wealden Greensand area of the South Downs National Park. It is managed primarily as amenity woodland for quiet contemplation by the monastic community and wildlife benefit. Areas of sweet chestnut woodland are also coppiced on a rotation of approximately 15 yrs., mainly to provide fuel for the monastery biomass boiler and wood stoves. At present there is nearly 50 acres of sweet chestnut coppice. As the monastery only requires around 20 acres it is planned to reduce the amount to around 30 acres, restoring the remainder to mixed native woodland.

\* **Kutis** are 'meditation huts' which the Monastics spend periods of time in (e.g. a month). There are 10 such huts in the 150 acre Hammer wood.

### **Working Practices:**

- a. Works an average of up to one day per week; and 2 weeks of the Winter 'Forest Work Month' and the whole of the 'Summer Forest Week'.
- b. Works with volunteers, including SDNP volunteers, and Sangha (Monastics) to achieve works, and on larger-scale or more technical work, by managing contracts and contractors (e.g. using a tractor & flail to cut rides & glades)
- c. Works on own sometimes, or with an individual volunteer, to achieve some small-scale practical tasks (e.g. brush-cutting or chemically treating invasive plants).

### **Duties & Responsibilities:**

- a. Co-ordinating practical nature conservation, access and other works in the forest with volunteers, contractors and sometimes by oneself.
  - b. Organising and supervising the Summer Forest Week, and the Forest Work Month.
  - c. Administrative duties include;  
Forest Committee organisation and representation (e.g. at 'Chithurst Advisory Group' meetings),  
The Forest Budget,  
Writing and updating the Management Plan,  
Grant application(s) and claims,  
Providing learning opportunities and interpretation materials (e.g. signage, walks & talks),  
Monitoring and maintaining species and other forest records.  
The Forest Health & Safety Policy
  - d. Providing and maintaining the forest work tools and other equipment used in the forest.
- Duties Do Not Generally Include:** Kuti maintenance, Vehicles maintenance.