

PLANT YOUR POSTCODE

NEWS

SUMMER 2023



CPRE Sussex is working hard with our partners to increase urban green spaces, protect Brighton & Hove's existing canopy and plant more street trees. This year we have already completed our Forgotten Places project, created new community orchards and planted street trees across the city.

We are also developing exciting projects in the North Laine area and Hanover, working with the council to record and preserve our city's historic elm collection and campaigning for greater prioritisation of street tree planting. Read on to find out more and for opportunities to get involved.

FORGOTTEN PLACES

Our Forgotten Places planting project finally ended in March with a herculean final period of work on the Bristol Estate. This included herbaceous borders to complement a new orchard and planting another 20 large sapling trees, including Stone Pines.

The herbaceous planting scheme was designed by Helen Manson of Hearts & Flowers, as chosen by the Bristol Estate's Leaseholders & Tenant Association: BELTA. It included more than 12,000 bulbs, shrubs and plug plants, planted over eight mammoth volunteer sessions. Brighton Permaculture Trust lent us their expertise for a community orchard tree planting session, and we worked with the council's arboriculture team on the plans.

We are now waiting on a final Opportunity Mapping survey carried out by Treeconomics. The extensive piece of work will allow us to find the very best places to plant trees in the city and work in advance with communities there to identify and get local support.

Additionally, the results from a Tree Inventory look to give us some very exciting and useful information about the tree stock we already have in the city.

THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

As part of the Queen's Green Canopy and the HM Commemorative Fund, we submitted a joint bid with the council's Arboriculture Team to plant 110 trees across the city. The bid was supported by BHCC Resilience funding.

Planting is now complete on the Bristol Estate and in Bevendean, Moulsecoomb, Woodingdean and Portslade. Brighton Permaculture Trust ran five volunteering sessions on our behalf, attended by 10 local people. These included community orchards at Norwich Drive and Taunton Way, Bevendean, and at Kipling Avenue, Woodingdean. The latter was also supported by Trees for Cities at a corporate volunteer day with more than 20 people turning up to help.

Volunteers from Seed Digital Marketing planting shrubs and bulbs at Bristol Estate





Four newly planted Callery Pear trees in 'buildouts' on Westbourne Road in Hove



Bond Street, North Laine: Lovely saplings planted this winter, with extra watering from neighbours, are doing really well

PLANT YOUR POSTCODE

We supported a series of street tree plantings this winter as part of our Plant Your Postcode scheme. This included:

- Hereford Court – Several native hawthorns planted with support from residents.
- Shaftesbury Road – A build-out stump replacement funded by Gallery 54 North.
- Edburton Avenue – Five trees planted via the council's stump replacement fund, supported by community donations.
- Westbourne Street – Four trees in expensive build outs, supported by generous community donations.
- Beaconsfield Villas – Two trees planted to replace loss of elms with support from the community.
- Braemore Road – Two stumps replaced with support from community.

We are also undertaking an ambitious tree planting project with residents in the North Laine area and supporting the design and planning for the Greening Hanover Project.

Encompassing much more than just tree planting, the Greening Hanover Project includes a low emission zone, Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) test area and traffic calming plans. It demonstrates how trees can be part of any urban improvement plan with clever use of space, bringing essential green health to the cityscape. Plant Your Postcode will continue to work in partnership with the tree planting team at the council to survey

streets. Some groups hoping to plant have faced delays due to changes in policy on pavement widths. This has resulted in the only option being expensive build-outs onto the highway. Despite this, we are working hard to continue to plant as many trees as we can.

There are more than 10 projects already on the survey list for planting next season 2023/24.

Want to plant trees in your street?

Head to cpresussex.org.uk/what-we-care-about/nature-and-landscapes/plant-your-postcode for advice on how to get started and fundraising tips.



Glebe Villas - Nettle Trees planted last winter growing fast.

BRIGHTON'S NATIONAL ELM COLLECTION

Elms, once common in the British countryside and on our city's streets, are dying out. Brighton & Hove holds and manages the amazing National Elm Collection. The city's urban forest includes more than 17,000 elm trees, representing both common and very rare varieties. The Elms Project, initiated recently by the council in partnership with Plumpton College and RHS Wisley and supported by CPRE Sussex, aims to ensure the species and individual traditional varieties continue to grow in Sussex and across the country.

Currently, the project is documenting and mapping elm varieties growing in Greater Brighton. Samples will be collected from each variety to hold in the RHS Wisley herbarium.

There are also plans to propagate common and very rare varieties and grow them on to form a living resource starting this autumn and winter.



One of the champion Elm trees in Pavilion Gardens



THE CITY'S WOODS

There was a time when one in every five trees in Brighton & Hove's Woodland was ash. When ash dieback arrived, it devastated our city's woodlands. More than 10,000 trees were felled before they could become dangerous.

But there is cause for hope. Ash trees growing away from footpaths are now being left standing in the hope they may have natural immunity. The space left by felled trees is being planted to enrich the city's woodland. New planting of trees like oak, hazel, wild cherry and black walnut will create diverse habitats which are more resilient to disease and climate change.

So far this year, 19,500 tree whips have been planted across the city's woodlands. Thousands more will be planted next season and a 10-year maintenance programme is in place to monitor the young trees.

For more information visit brighton-hove.gov.uk/libraries-leisure-and-arts/parks-and-green-spaces/how-we-manage-ash-dieback

WE LOVE OUR URBAN TREES

Together with Hove Civic Society we have called on BHCC to radically increase its current planting ambitions. This was backed by more than 20 community groups.

The current Tree Planting Plan, approved in November 2022, simply maintains the status quo with planting only taking place to match the number of stumps removed. But this can only happen in streets where pavements are over a certain width – a width most of our inner-city streets fail to match – leading to an overall decrease in street tree numbers.

If the plan does not change, the inexorable loss of trees across the city is inevitable. We have made five suggestions which would improve the plan including:

- Making a high level of street tree planting across the city a corporate objective
- Using planning policies to systematically increase street tree cover
- Reviewing highway specifications to maximise tree planting
- Changing the rules on pavement widths for street tree planting
- Introducing match funding for community planting schemes

You can back these suggestions by contacting your local councillor in support of the Street Tree Appeal. Find your councillors details at gov.uk/find-your-local-councillors

Whips planted out at Three Corner Copse.

IMPROVING WESTERN ROAD

BHCC's Carbon Neutral fund is helping to improve Western Road. Plans for the road include tree planting to improve air quality and make the area more pleasant for pedestrians, shoppers and cyclists.

The Western Road tress will be planted in large experimental pits which provide more space for roots to grow below ground, while also improving drainage and filtering road run off.

View more details of the plans at brighton-hove.gov.uk/onejourneybetter/western-road

BRIGHTON & HOVE DOWNLAND ESTATE

Almost 50 per cent of Brighton & Hove, 13,000 acres, is the publicly owned Brighton Downs Estate. From the 1880s to the 1940s this was used to protect the water supply, control development and provide public access to green spaces.

Sadly, the worthy purposes the land was bought for have been forgotten.

The aquifer is now the most polluted in the South Downs National Park. Local, sustainable land management has been replaced by environmentally damaging, intensive agricultural practices. Public access is not a right except in a few select places and dramatic wildlife losses continue.

There is still time to bring about change if we act now.

The Brighton Downs Alliance of more than 30 organisations, including CPRE Sussex, has been working to influence the development of new City Downland Estate Plan: brighton-hove.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/city-downland-estate-plan

This provides us all with the opportunity to rediscover the original purposes of the Downs Estate.

But seizing this opportunity is dependent on the support of Brighton & Hove city councillors, newly elected and returning.

Please write to your local councillor to express your support for restoring your downland, protecting our water supply and managing the land sustainably.

Find out more about work to restore the estate at brightondownsalliance.org.uk



JOIN OUR CPRE BRIGHTON & HOVE GROUP

Join us in September to help form an agenda for a new active, Brighton & Hove group. The group will work to improve, defend and extend the city's green spaces.

Former mayor Lizzie Deane has risen to the challenge of forming and chairing the group. We are now planning an early-evening event in mid-September.

If you are interested in making the city a greener, more resilient place to live you're welcome to come along.

More details will be announced shortly via cpresussex.org.uk/brighton-hove

GET INVOLVED

If you want to stand up for your local green spaces, there are lots of ways to get involved with CPRE Sussex, including becoming a member, helping with funds, reporting threats and identifying opportunities.

Find out more at cpresussex.org.uk/get-involved.



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Plant Your Postcode is a volunteer led CPRE project