

TREE PROJECT BROOMFIELD PARK – Phase 2¹

The Friends of Broomfield Park have been working with the LBE Arbor Officer, and with reference to the Broomfield Park Conservation Management Plan (CMP)², on a project to fund, plant and provide aftercare for new trees in the park. This compliments the replacement and new tree planting by the LBE memorial tree planting service.

Phase 1

The first phase of the tree project focused on planting trees to replace fallen or dead trees. These include:

- the many Horse Chestnuts diseased with bleeding canker
- the more natural decline of shorter-lived trees such as the Weeping Willows around the ponds
- completing the row of Walnut trees above the Children's Playground
- in the 'Gazebo or Mirror Beds' in the Walled Garden, we have planted a replacement tree for the long dead Midland Hawthorn (*crataegus laevigata*). For this we referred to historical park tree records)



Weeping Willow

Small-leaved Lime

Magnolia

Walnut

New trees were also planted including:

- on the South bank below the Children's Playground, to provide shade and character
- in the Walled Garden area, where new specimen trees have been planted including varieties of Magnolia, Acer and Amelanchier
- trees have also been added at various sites with a focus on biodiversity and providing food and homes for birds, insects, and other wildlife including a copse of alders on the wetland bank.

¹ <https://irp.cdn-website.com/44583aa5/files/uploaded/Tree%20Project%20Broomfield%20Park210212v.2.pdf>

² <https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/planning/broomfield-house/planning-information-broomfield-house-conservation-management-plan-june-16.pdf>

This phase was completed in October 2021 and in total over 100 new trees have been funded and planted by the FoBP, this includes small tree donations by the Enfield Society and some individuals from our park community. FoBP volunteers have regularly watered and maintained the new trees through the year. Whilst there has been minor damage to some trees (probably due to vandalism) there have been no failures as we go into winter. We have been supported in this by advice and supervision on the selection and siting of trees and their aftercare by Lynden Reed our LBE Arbor Officer.

Phase 2

Wider Parkland

The second phase of the project follows recommendations in the CMP on the 'Wider Parkland' to *'improve the longevity of existing tree stock, through new planting. Diversify the age range of trees. Position to screen unsightly MUGA and contain sports-courts'*.



Extract from the Conservation Management Plan

The FoBP will fund the planting of

- two new Pin Oaks (*quercus palustris*) in gaps between Holm Oaks on the Southern tree perimeter of the western side of the park
- two Common Oaks (*quercus robur*) in gaps around the upper and lower lakes.

A generous donation from the North London Netball League to commemorate their 70th anniversary of the League in Broomfield Park provides us with an opportunity to

- to plant the area on the west side of the sports courts to help screen the courts in views across the park from the west (as identified in the Conservation Management Plan)
- enhance the special landscape character of the western part of the park

The options illustrated in the CMP suggest several groups of trees planted in the area behind the sports courts. Over a series of site visits and discussions with the LBE Arbor Officer, we have agreed on planting three groups of trees. The choice of tree is influenced by factors such as the soil composition (heavy clay with some waterlogging), the desire to screen the view of the courts and the availability of trees. An

earlier choice of Hungarian or Scarlet Oaks has been ruled out by the shortage of these trees in nurseries in the medium to long-term.

The groups of trees have been suggested to be made up of a mix of Hornbeam (*carpinus betulus*) giving a fine mature tree with a low spread of branches, and Norway Maple (*acer platanoides*) which is familiar locally as a street tree, but not so often seen with its fully developed crown. They will be planted at a minimum distance of 25m from the perimeter of the Sports Courts perimeter to ensure that there is no risk of root damage and to reduce the impact of leaf fall in the autumn.



Norway Maple



Hornbeam

The FoBP will source these trees from Barcham³ Trees in Ely and these will be planted with tree supports and protective cages and tree nameplates. Aftercare and watering will be provided by the FoBP with reference to the LBE Arbor Officer. We will hold a reserve fund to replace any trees that fail within 5 years.

We will continue to develop our tree nursery in the Growing Space, growing on Oak saplings from acorns derived from successful local Oaks, until they are of a size suitable for planting in the park tree perimeter.

We will also continue the long-term project of planting a native hedgerow along the outer park perimeter of the park, as recommended in the CMP.

Kim Lumley
David March
Co-Chairs FoBP

6th December 2021

³ <https://www.barcham.co.uk>