

Brighton's Elm Tree Collection

The maps on this page show where you can see some of Brighton's most spectacular Elm trees. They are only a small part of Brighton's National Collection.

Royal Pavilion Garden

Himalayan Elms (*Ulmus wallichiana*)

These two trees are the last of a batch of Himalayan Elms sent by Professor Hans Heybroek to Alice Holt, and then passed to Brighton Council. They are very rare in the UK. Kew Gardens has only one example; Brighton has 60! In the Himalayan Mountains they exceed 30m. These two trees were planted around 1970.

Dutch Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica 'Major'*)

This tree was brought over by nurserymen from Holland in the reign of King William III of Orange. It was very popular with the wife of King George IV, Queen Caroline. It was first planted in London in Kensington Gardens. It has unusually corky, winged branchlets and the bark is often orange-brown and formed into small corky plates. There are more than 700 mature Dutch Elms in Brighton & Hove.

The Preston Twins: English Elms (*Ulmus procera*)

These two trees are the Preston Twins. They are more than 400 years old and are the world's largest English Elms. Only trees in Australia come anywhere near the size of these trees. The Twins are both hollow now, and the one closest to the road can comfortably allow two people to stand inside it!

Weeping Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra 'Horizontalis'*)

This species was found in Perth, Scotland around 1856. It is called the Table Top Elm as it appears flat from above. It's a grafted tree which means the lower half is often another tree called the stock and above the recognisable line is the Scion. This is often done to propagate cultivated varieties (cultivars) of trees such as these. This tree was planted around the time of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

English Elm (*Ulmus procera*)

The English Elm was brought in by the Romans and used as a means of supporting their grape vines. It then was used for making coffins, small boats, wheels and furniture. Brighton's water mains and sewers used to be made of this Elm. The tree was once a familiar sight in counties like Somerset but Dutch Elm Disease meant all the mature Elms in Somerset, more than a million, were felled. This example has a fine shape and featured in many paintings by the likes of Rowland Hilder and David Sheppard.

Klemmer Elm (*Ulmus 'Klemmer'*)

This tree was raised in a nursery in Holland around 1852 and is very rare in the British Isles. In fact the population of only three trees are all in Brighton & Hove. The leaves are wedge-shaped at the base and the tree looks similar to the European Elm (*Ulmus laevis*).

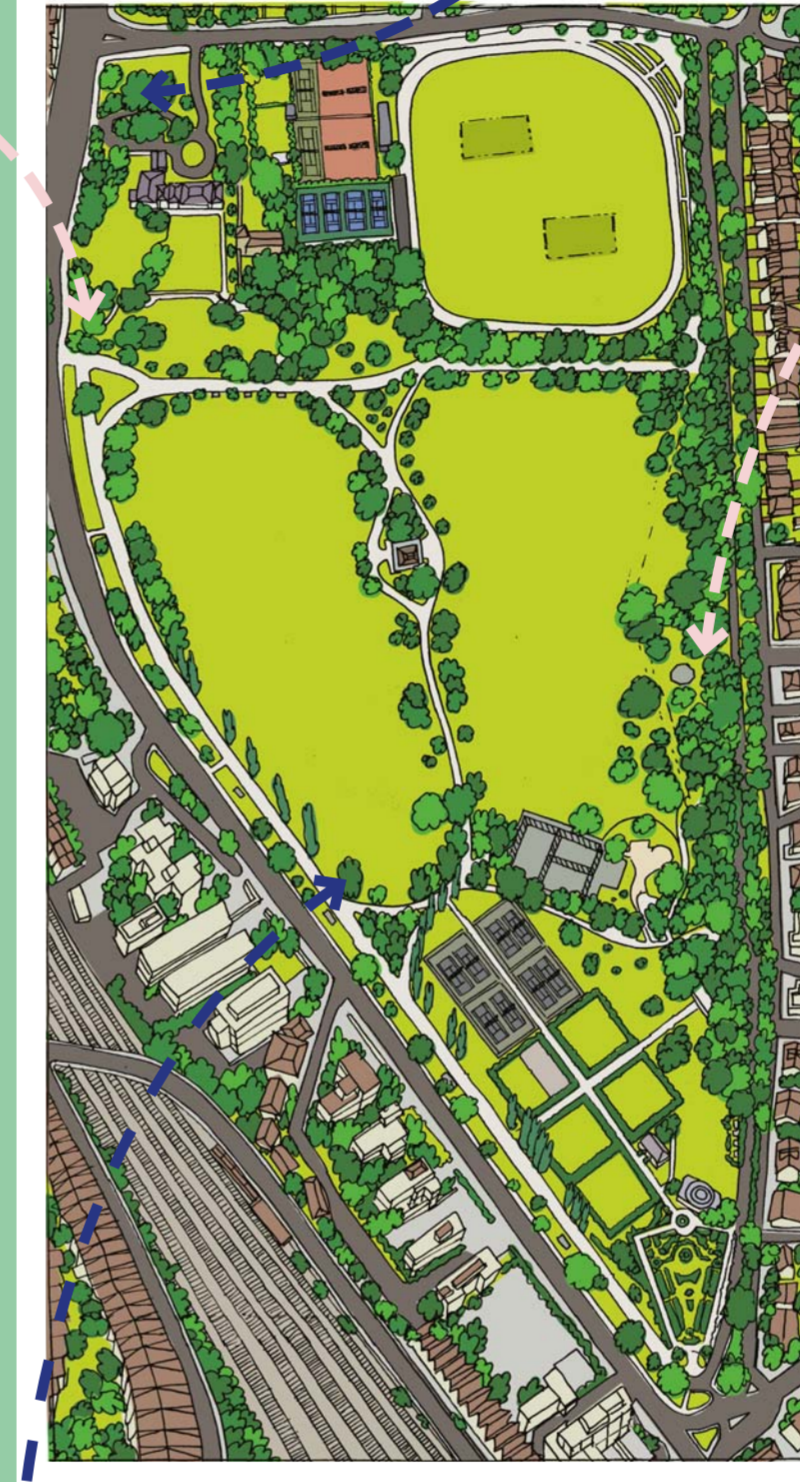
Preston Park

Golden English Elm (*Ulmus minor 'Van Houtte'*)

This unusual golden tree often reverts back to green in shadier situations and has leaves that are very unlike those of the English Elm. The species originates from Holland and can grow quite large in Edinburgh, Scotland. It is quite rare now.

Clone 28 (*Ulmus minor 28*)

This is one of a few Clone Elms in Preston Park. This is the largest of one simply labelled number 28. It is a selection from France and was originally grown for Dutch Elm Disease research in Holland. Clone 28 is the largest in the British Isles and can only be found in Brighton & Hove.



Wheatley Elm (*Ulmus minor 'Sarniensis'*)

This tree species originates from Guernsey in the Channel Islands. This specimen in Preston Park is the largest in the British Isles standing in the World's most impressive and oldest line. The leaves are deep green, shiny and smooth.

Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra*)

This example is one of the largest in East Sussex. It's a native species of tree that grows in woodlands and is still quite frequent in Scotland. The leaves are very rough to the touch and quite large. This tree is a very fine example of this species as well as being well over 100 years old.

Huntingdon Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica 'Vegeta'*)

This species originates from an estate near the town of Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire. Big trees are still seen around the British Isles but to a much lesser extent than before Dutch Elm Disease. This tree is a huge example growing in a well sheltered spot in the park. It is much loved by children and produces very large shiny green smooth leaves.

Queen's Park

Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra*)

This is similar to the Weeping Wych Elm in Royal Pavilion Gardens but it is rare to see two trees with the same 'weeping' habit so close to each other. These trees form elegant shade and are quite spectacular. This tree makes a very special photograph with its Victorian Fountain close by.

Regal Elm (*Ulmus 'Regal'*)

There are four trees all of the same type in this area of Queen's Park. The Regal Elm has come from the USA. It is fairly resistant to Dutch Elm Disease and grows to form a shape more like a poplar tree, tall and column-like in appearance.



English Elm (*Ulmus procera*)

This tree is known as the 'Brace Tree' as on one side near the top of the trunk a large iron brace can be seen. It was planted in the 1780's. This tree is older than any in the Royal Pavilion Estate and is featured in Humphrey Repton's landscape application for the Gardens. The tree is completely hollow but is in good health as only the outer part of any tree has living tissue.

Clone 260 (*Ulmus '260'*)

This is a clone brought from Holland and was grown in parts of the UK after it was distributed by the Forestry Commission. All the numbered clones that grow in Brighton came from the Alice Holt Research Centre in Surrey and were sent there by Prof. Hans Heybroek for Ray Evison (Parks Superintendent for Brighton in the 1960's). This type of clone is renowned for having lower limbs which reach out and touch the ground and having leaves which have saw-like pointed teeth on their margins.