

# Tree-mendous guide to elms

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STUDENTS have helped produce a tourist guide showing where visitors can see some of the city's famous elm trees.

Known as the National Elm Collection in recognition of Brighton and Hove's success in fighting Dutch elm disease, the city's 17,000 elms include the 400-year-old Preston Twins in Preston Park, considered the largest and oldest surviving English Elms in Europe.

The elm tree at Seven Dials in Brighton is in the running for the Woodland Trust's Tree of the Year award, up against the sycamore that starred in the movie Robin Hood: Prince Of Thieves, and the original Bramley apple tree in Nottinghamshire.

The University of Brighton students were commissioned by developer First Base to draw the maps, in collaboration with academics, businesses, community groups and Brighton and Hove City Council's tourism department.

Illustration student Gustav Freij and graphic design students Jessica Keene and Jennifer Whitworth said: "It was a fantastic experience to work on this

wildlife within Brighton, and we are grateful for being given this chance to design for our local community."

Eeva Paasiaro, development manager for First Base, said: "The importance of elm trees in Brighton and Hove should be understood by all. That is why we will bring as many new elm trees as possible to our Anston House site and encourage residents and visitors to learn more about them and their history in this

city via this newly created map."

Gavin Ambrose, senior lecturer in graphic design at the University of Brighton, said: "The project is an ideal combination of design experience for our students and an opportunity to make a significant cultural and environmental impact on the community by encouraging and fostering an interest in our rich living resource."

David Sewell from Friends of Pavilion Gardens said: "Elms in Brighton and Hove are part of the National Elm Collection and it is really important they get the recognition they deserve. If this map can help in any small way that will be good."

The guide will be officially launched on November 2 at 1pm at the Pavilion Gardens Café, off New Road, Brighton.

project with the Pavilion Garden Café and VisitBrighton.

"Not only has it given us the opportunity to work on a live project, but it's also a great cause - to protect and preserve Brighton's historic elm tree collection.

"We've learnt a great deal both about our discipline and the

## background

**COLLECTIONS of Brighton's elms can be found at Preston Park, Shirley Drive, Carden Hill and The Level.**

**The "Preston Twins" are located at Preston Park and widely considered the largest and oldest surviving English elms in Europe.**

**Brighton's elms are home to white-letter hairstreak butterflies, which have been on the decline in areas that have suffered from Dutch elm disease. This endangered species lives mainly in the treetops, and they are entirely**



reliant on the elm for food.

Dutch elm disease was introduced to Britain by imported rock elm from North America and is highly infectious.



University of Brighton graphic design students Jessica Keene and Jennifer Whitworth were involved in creating the guide

