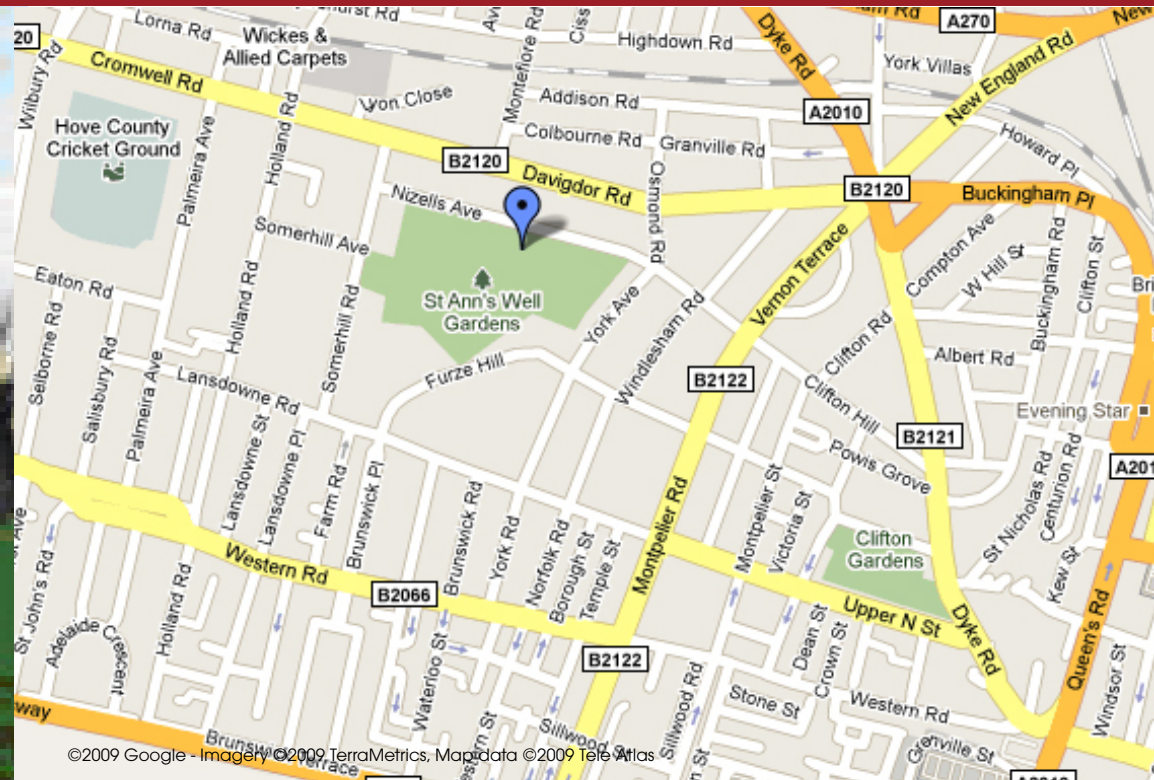
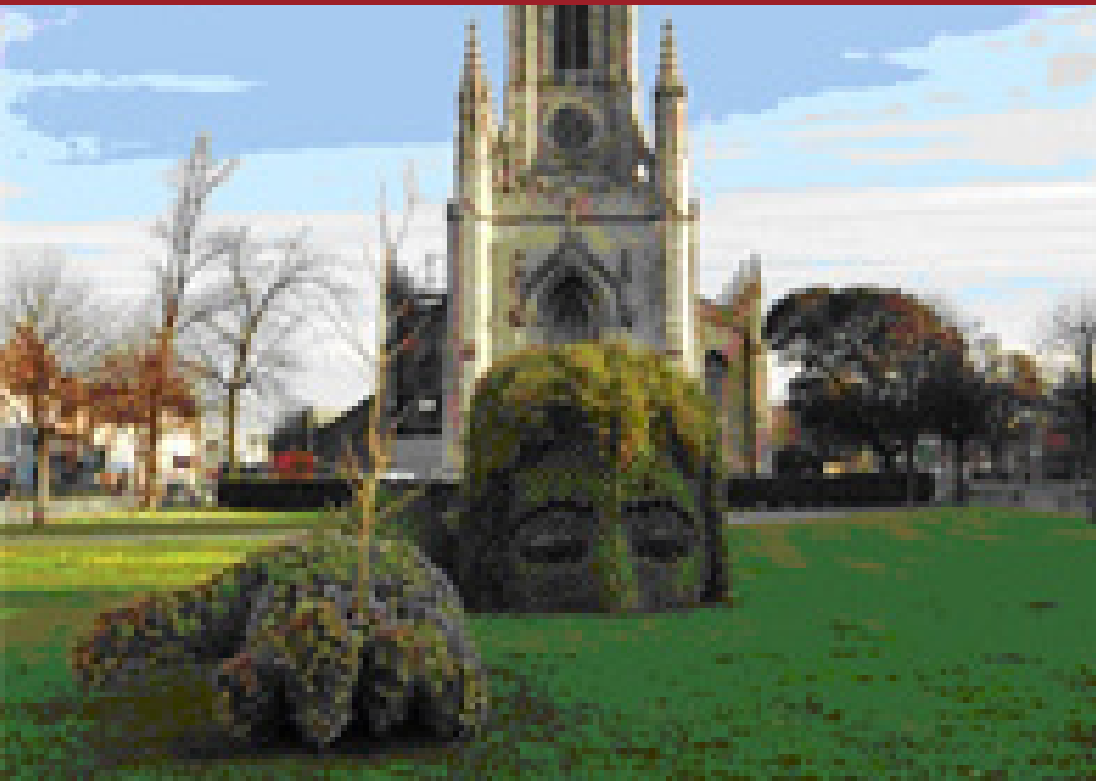


'In Our Hands' (temporary commission)

Kathryn Jordan and Cliff Wright
April 2007-May 2008



Valley Gardens then St Ann's Well Gardens

Drought tolerant plants and peat free compost

'In Our Hands' was a temporary living sculpture depicting a human torso emerging from the ground with an arm outstretched in front and a tree growing from the palm. The artwork was commissioned as part of Eco-Brighton which is incorporated into Brighton and Hove Arts Commission's making a difference programme, designed to help raise awareness of environmental issues through art and to provide opportunities for artists to engage in environmental debate. The artwork was based on our relationship with the environment; the idea that we are from the earth and in contemporary society we seemingly hold its future in our hands.

The sculpture was made entirely from drought resistant plants. The artists' began their detailed research and development work on the sculpture in the spring of 2006. They considered construction methods and which plants would be suitable in terms of drought and air pollution tolerance, maintenance and aesthetics. A suitable peat-free compost mix also had to be found to meet the specific requirements of the brief. Over 5,500 individual plants were used; the shoulder, hand and face were made up of sedums and sempervivums which are drought tolerant, ground covering plants and the rest of the head was planted with grasses and ivy to create the effect of hair. Once all the frames had been planted they were left to establish at the nursery over the winter, inside poly-tunnels. 'In Our Hands' was initially installed on the south side of St Peter's Church in April 2007 and was then moved to St Ann's Well Gardens, Hove from June 2007 until May 2008.