

Stanmer Park Restoration Project

Frequently asked questions

- **Further Project information:**
www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/stanmerproject
- **Project news and updates:**
www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/stanmernews
- Sign up for Stanmer Park Restoration **Project email updates:** stanmerproject@brighton-hove.gov.uk
- View our **project information noticeboards** at the Lower Lodges, opposite the Tea Rooms, and in the Upper Lodges car park
- **General information** about Stanmer Park's facilities:
www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/stanmerpark



Note: Project construction work started in June 2019, and finishes in autumn 2020.

Will there be access restrictions at Stanmer Park while construction work is in progress?

[Buxton Building Contractors](#) will erect signage and fencing as needed to protect construction areas as the project work moves forward.

Construction work started in June 2019 on the Walled Garden area.

In November 2019 works began in the Lower Lodges west car park area, which is being improved as part of the project.

For safety reasons, areas used for site works or traffic movements may need to be temporarily closed to the public. Some existing informal non-vehicular pathways may be temporarily, or permanently, closed. Designated formal Rights of Way are unaffected.

We post construction updates on our [Project News and Updates webpage](#) and social media.

Residents, onsite businesses and others such as our project Activity Partners and Stanmer Park volunteers are being kept informed with updates from Buxton Building Contractors and Cityparks.

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This information, including Buxton Building Contractors' contact details for construction queries, is also posted for the benefit of all park visitors on the Buxton Building Contractors noticeboards at the Lower Lodges and on the lawn area opposite Stanmer House. Further project information is on the restoration project information noticeboards at the Lower Lodges car park area, opposite the Tea Rooms on the public toilets building and in the Upper Lodges car park.

- There will be enhanced public access to many areas of Stanmer Park once the project has completed. We will also improve the park's interpretation.

Why are you introducing car parking charges at Stanmer Park?

When will this happen?

Parking needs to be managed at Stanmer to protect the landscape and improve the visual appeal of this historically important park.

Car parking income will contribute directly to maintaining and managing the park. It will also contribute to encouraging more sustainable travel to, and around, Stanmer Park – including walking, cycling and use of the [78 bus service](#).

We will introduce car parking charges at the park once project construction has completed in autumn 2020.

There will be a public consultation in January 2020 on the scheme proposals.

Until the introduction of car parking charges, it is free to park at Stanmer in the signed, designated car parking areas. There are separate signed free designated disabled parking spaces for Blue Badge holders. Car parking is not allowed on the roadway or verges.

Enforcement by [One Parking Solution](#) is in operation and any queries about receipt of parking charge notices should be directed to them.

The Stanmer Park Restoration Project will improve and extend the existing car park area at the Lower Lodges, and a new car park will be built at the Patchway, near the Walled Garden. This car park is required to manage parking associated with the restored Walled Garden. (See page 3 for details of Patchway car park works.)

Incidental car parks along the park's central roadway will be removed.

- See www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/buses to find out about the park's weekend 78 bus service, which serves the park

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Why is one of the Lower Lodges car park areas closed?

We have closed the west side Lower Lodges car park area until spring 2020 for landscaping works and construction of a welcome kiosk. Visitors are able to park their cars in the other designated car park areas in the meantime. (See also Car Parking charges, page 2.)

What are you doing to stop university car parking at Stanmer Park?

We have been working closely with the University of Sussex throughout the project's development. The University regularly notifies car drivers that they should use their own onsite car parks, and also promotes more sustainable travel to the site. The University has previously deployed marshals to speak to students and staff at the Lower Lodges car park areas. We expect to see a reduction in University-related car parking once charges are introduced and we will continue to work closely with the University.

Why are you building a new road at Stanmer Park?

A new access road will be built at the T-junction by the church. This will enable cars to access the new Patchway car park for visiting the restored Walled Garden area, protecting the existing lane which will be used principally for pedestrian access to the Walled Garden. There will be some tree works as part of the new car park and access road works. Planning permission for the new access road and car park was granted by the South Downs National Park Authority, the park's Planning Authority. We expect to begin work on the car park and access road in January 2020.

Will there be new jobs as part of the Project?

An Estate Ranger and an Estate Manager were appointed in September 2019. Plumpton College appointed a Senior Garden Manager and a Learning and Outreach Officer in December 2019. www.plumpton.ac.uk

Why don't you fix the potholes at Stanmer?

The worst potholes in the main driveway were repaired in May 2019, and further repair work was done in November 2019. Some areas of the main driveway will be re-laid as part of the restoration project.

The city council will continue to maintain and repair the road, but there is insufficient funding to completely re-build the main drive in the foreseeable future.

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What volunteering opportunities are there as part of the Project?

There is an indicative list of the type of volunteering, learning and education activities on our [project webpage](#). These are part of the Project Activity Plan.

Most of these activities will be delivered by our project partners. We expect them to be available from 2020 onward. Some activities are already happening (see below for finding out more.)

There will also be volunteering and learning opportunities run by Plumpton College as part of the restored Walled Garden – visit www.plumpton.ac.uk.

- [Sign up to our Project Updates to learn more when information about Stanmer Park Restoration Project volunteering activities becomes available](#)
- Visit the [Stanmer Park webpage](#) to find out about **existing** Stanmer Park activities, including with [Cityparks](#) and [South Downs National Park](#) Rangers
- [Find out about other parks and green space volunteering opportunities citywide](#)
- Visit the Community Works “[Volunteer Plus](#)” volunteering platform to search for volunteering opportunities citywide.

What improvements will there be for disabled visitors and those with mobility needs?

One of the key elements of the Restoration Project is managing access and movement for all visitors.

A number of changes and improvements will be introduced at Stanmer Park to support and improve accessibility for all.

These include new easier-access pathways and trails, additional park public toilets including a disabled facility in the new information and welcome kiosk at the Lower Lodges, and a new shared-access central pedestrian and cyclist pathway. In addition, there will be accessible toilets in the Walled Garden. (*See also “car parking”, page 2.*)

New park-wide interpretation (to be installed later in the project) is being designed with accessibility in mind.

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Why did you cut down trees at Stanmer Park?

In March 2019 some trees were pruned or felled in the Lower Lodges parking areas, and adjacent to the Walled Garden area, to prepare for the improvement works. Some of these trees were in poor condition and posed a safety risk.

Targeted wildlife surveys were undertaken by suitably qualified ecologists at both sites before work began, and during the works, to ensure the works did not disrupt any early nesting bird species, dormouse nests or bats. No evidence of any bird or dormice nests, or of bat occupation, was found. No memorial trees have been affected by the works.

There will also be some tree works as part of the new access road works.

- See also **Woodland Management Plan (page 6.)**

Will there be a playground at Stanmer Park?

Yes. We are building a new playground at the west Lower Lodges car park. This is being funded by Section 106 (developer's contributions) and a private donation. We expect to finish construction in late spring 2020 ready for the summer. The playground will be near the new welcome kiosk, which will also have public toilets and bike hire.

What is happening with the historic farm buildings by the Tea Rooms?

There is a separate project (not part of the Stanmer Park Restoration Project) to undertake a restoration of the Traditional Agricultural Buildings.

- Find out more at <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/council-and-democracy/council-property-and-land/stanmer-traditional-agricultural-buildings>

What is the procedure if I want to hold an event at Stanmer Park?

Contact our Events team on eventsinfo@brighton-hove.gov.uk for advice and information about requirements. This applies to all events, including small community ones.

- **Stanmer Park public event organisers and managers will be asked to provide information including on attendee and (if appropriate) volunteer numbers. This is to support our principal funders' monitoring and evaluation requirements.**

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I have a sponsored (memorial) tree at Stanmer Park.

Will it be affected by the Stanmer Park Restoration Project?

We do not expect any memorial trees to be affected by restoration works.

We have reviewed all our tree planting records dating back some 30 years, and attempted to contact donors to inform them about the restoration project and invite them to let us know if they have any concerns. We expect to plant around 250 new trees as part of the Project. (*See also question below regarding future sponsored trees.*)

Can I get a dedicated bench installed, or a tree planted, at Stanmer Park?

We are not accepting new requests for dedicated benches or sponsored treesⁱ at Stanmer Park until towards the end of 2020.

- [Sign up to our Project Updates to learn more when information becomes available](#)
- You may also wish to register your interest for a future dedicated bench installation, or sponsored tree planting, by emailing cityparks@brighton-hove.gov.uk .

What is happening in Stanmer Park's woodland?

We have developed a Woodland Management Plan (WMP) for the whole Stanmer Estate to bring the woodland into active management and provide more learning space and resources.

The work includes widening rides and key paths to create wildlife corridors, and to enhance park users' experience; coppicing small areas to diversify the woodland's structure, and; thinning woodland to select for native and healthy trees. There are a number of diseased ash trees within the woodland which require work to ensure public safety. This Plan has been approved by the Forestry Commission.

In November 2019 we brought in a heavy horse logging team to undertake woodland works in the Great Wood as part of the WMP. This work is part of the wider Estate development plan, and not directly part of the Stanmer Park Restoration Project.

- View the WMP at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/stanmerpark

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Are you doing any work on Stanmer House?

Stanmer House is leased to private tenants by the city council. Any future planning applications will be advertised and considered in the usual way by the South Downs National Park Authority.

- [Find out more about Stanmer House](#)
- www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning

What is happening with Stanmer Pond – will you be improving it?

Stanmer Pond is not being restored as part of the Stanmer Park Restoration Project, but we hope to undertake some biodiversity improvements in 2020. We also hope to attract funding in future for further improvements.

What is happening to the large greenhouse [also known as the Palm House] just outside the Walled Garden?

The Palm House is included within the area being leased to Plumpton College. It is not part of the Stanmer Park Restoration Project. However, Plumpton College hopes to attract further funding to fully restore the Palm House at a later date.

Is the Restoration Project going to do anything with the Water Catcher above the village?

Interpretation throughout Stanmer Park will be improved in a number of ways as part of the Restoration Project, and we will include the Water Catcher in this.

We also plan to carry out some tree works around the Water Catcher's perimeter in order to reduce further deterioration of the structure.

- We are developing an information sheet on the Water Catcher; this will be available in early 2020 on our main webpage - www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/stanmerproject .

What is happening with Stanmer Church?

Stanmer Church is owned by the [Diocese of Chichester](#) and is not included in the Stanmer Park Restoration Project.

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What is the project's Stanmer Park's Oral History Project?

We held a series of 'Memory Days' in October 2019, when people were invited to bring photos and memorabilia, and share memories, of Stanmer Park. These will become part of an oral history archive of Stanmer Park. We have trained volunteers to interview people with memories of the park.

We are also interested in gathering 'case studies' from people with current, or past, involvement or memories of Stanmer Park – these could be used in the final Project Evaluation in 2021. **These can be sent in at any time.** Email stanmerproject@brighton-hove.gov.uk

- More details at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/stanmernews .