



**TREES  
FOR CITIES**

# **LONDON URBAN FOREST PROGRAMME - MALMESBURY ESTATE - APRIL 2022**

**IMPACT REPORT - JUNE 2022**



# TREES FOR CITIES

Trees for Cities (TfC) are the only UK charity helping to improve lives by creating greener spaces and healthier environments in urban areas. Our objectives are to help grow stronger communities, enhance urban spaces, and improve health and happiness in parts of cities that need it most. We bring together local residents and community groups to work on practical greening projects in parks, streets, housing estates and schools. Since 1993 we have engaged over 125,000 volunteers to plant over 1.25 million trees. We have been based in London since our inception and work all over the UK including Edinburgh, Sheffield, Liverpool, Leeds and Leicester to name a few.



## PROJECT BACKGROUND

Thanks to your support, our community greening and tree-planting project on Malmesbury Estate in Tower Hamlets has been completed for the benefit of the residents, local community and wildlife. Malmesbury Estate is in the ward with one of the highest levels of deprivation in Tower Hamlets, itself the most deprived borough in London. The estate is nestled between Malmesbury Road and the polluted A11. To the east is the A12 and to the west is Mile End Park.

The pockets of green spaces between Malmesbury Estate properties were aesthetically tired, of low biodiversity value and required improvements for residents to benefit from them. With your donation we have been working with the community planting trees, vegetation and introducing food-growing areas, to improve the health of residents, beautify the environment and soften the urban landscape of the estate, whilst also contributing towards a green and biodiverse corridor between nearby parklands.

# INTRODUCTION

Trees for Cities wants to enable and inspire a new generation of individuals and communities who are both resourced and motivated to plant, protect and promote urban trees.

This project was planned in 2021 and involved the local community in the process throughout. The broad aims were to plant large trees, orchard species, native meadow and hedgerows, to support and enhance biodiversity, and to provide green spaces for people and wildlife. We also aimed to provide planting and education workshops to the local community. This report details the impact the project has had, both on the area itself and to the community groups involved.

## SUMMARY



**30 TREES, 360 WHIPS &  
4000 BULBS**



**367 VOLUNTEERS**



**1**

**COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY**



**11**

**SCHOOL WORKSHOPS, 2  
COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS**



# WHAT WE DID

Thanks to your support, we partnered with Wilder Communities to enhance the green space surrounding the Malmesbury Estate.

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Through community engagement in the consultation process, we ensured that our planting schemes met local needs whilst also instilling a sense of ownership and pride of residents' local green space. Over two days in December we were able to consult 24 local residents after 500 properties and all local community centres received flyers and 8 posters were put up. Our project partner Wilder Communities also engaged with local groups.

The design was based on this consultation. Residents designated which areas they would like to be allocated to trees, flower or food-growing areas. They could also select which type of trees and which wildlife they were most interested in seeing.



## TREE SPECIES PLANTED

- Lombardy Poplar
- Tupelo
- Beech
- Crab apple
- Silver birch x2
- Hornbeam x2
- Nettle tree x2
- Yoshino cherry x2
- Dawyck beech x2
- Pyramid oak
- Medlar
- Fasitgate sweet gum
- Rowan x2
- Broa-leaved cockspur thorn x2
- Bramley apple
- Common purple plum
- Quince
- Braeburn apple
- James Grieves apple
- Mulberry
- Apple Cox's Orange pippin x2
- Early rivers plum

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Budget for Malmesbury Estate		Schedule
Project scoping and initiation. Project development and management. Overheads, IT	£4,528	Completed
Site Surveying - soil testing, species selection, utilities and services Procurement - Trees/Mulch/Contractors/accessories etc. Site Preparation - logistics, marking out, H&S/Risk assessment Landscape Architect Design work, including site visits, development of draft and final tree planting design in consultation with local authority and community. H&S / Risk assessment	£4,305	Completed
Pre event community mapping, consultation and engagement. Collation of consultation work to influence tree planting design Marketing and PR	£5,090	Completed
30 Standard trees, tools and materials Including mulch. Maintenance visits (34) over 3 years	£10,782	Completed
115m2 of bulb planting (4000 bulbs) with community engagement	£1,000	Completed
360 whips for hedge (includes mulch, maintenance and management)	£4,676	Completed
Delivery of community and school workshops Event preparation and management Community Event day, including overseeing volunteers Additional TfC staff to manage event day and deliver tree planting	£5,090	Completed
<b>Estimated Total</b>	<b>£35,471</b>	





# IMPACT

109 adults and 258 children were engaged in the project, either through school workshops or as volunteers at the planting day held on 2nd April.

Thanks to the Nineveh Trust, the work at Malmesbury Estate will have lasting positive impacts on the local community that uses the area. The design has delivered an increased aesthetic value and will provide new shady areas and increase its appeal for the community. It links existing green spaces through the estate to create a nature corridor for wildlife and residents to enjoy. As COVID restrictions highlighted on this estate (where the majority of residents do not have a private garden), access to appealing, healthy, wilder open spaces on their doorstep is vitally important. 97% of pre-event respondents felt the experience of COVID-19 made local open spaces even more important than before.

The delivery of 13 workshops has provided outdoor education and skills to schoolchildren and to local residents, while lessons were also delivered on pollution, why we plant trees, and the life cycle of trees. 70% of participants had no previous experience of planting or looking after trees before our event. 86% of participants had plans to take action to plant, protect or promote urban trees after attending our event. 100% of participants said that they had learnt something or developed a new skill at our event.

The project has also delivered environmental impacts. We ensured the design and species selection would support the borough's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), exceeding their target of 600 square metres of additional priority habitat (hedgerows, native meadows and orchards). We planted 10 fruit trees, including quince, apple, cherry and plum. Planting these species, along with much needed hedgerow (360 whips) and meadows (115m<sup>2</sup>) will provide new wildlife habitats in the area for threatened species highlighted in the BAP, such as bats, hedgehogs, wild bees, amphibians and Brimstone butterflies.

For this project we used an all-natural planting spec, using untreated, locally sourced, coppiced chestnut timber for the cages which will support ladybirds, earwigs, solitary bees and potentially stag beetles.

The increased tree canopy cover delivered will contribute to Tower Hamlets Council's tree canopy and BAP targets. At a regional level, this will also contribute to the London Urban Forest Plan's key goal of increasing tree canopy cover. Trees for Cities is on the steering group of this. Internationally, tree planting also contributes towards the goals of the Declaration on Forests and Land Use agreed at the UN COP26 in Glasgow, which the UK government has endorsed. Your generous donation made this happen and Trees for Cities would like to thank the Nineveh Trust for its support.





## BENEFICIARIES

The beneficiaries of this project are the residents of the 900 homes on the estate. 60% of residents are from BME groups. 20-30% of children live in income deprived families and over 50% of residents over 60 live in income deprivation. We also delivered outdoor educational opportunities to 258 local schoolchildren.

## OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

New community spaces enhanced

Complete

Increased biodiversity value of the sites

Complete

Increased resilience of sites through planting a diversity of species

Complete

Increased tree canopy cover

Complete

Provision of a free, healthy and sustainable food resource for the local community

Complete

Reduced levels of noise and harmful air pollution, more connected habitats and enhanced green corridors

Complete

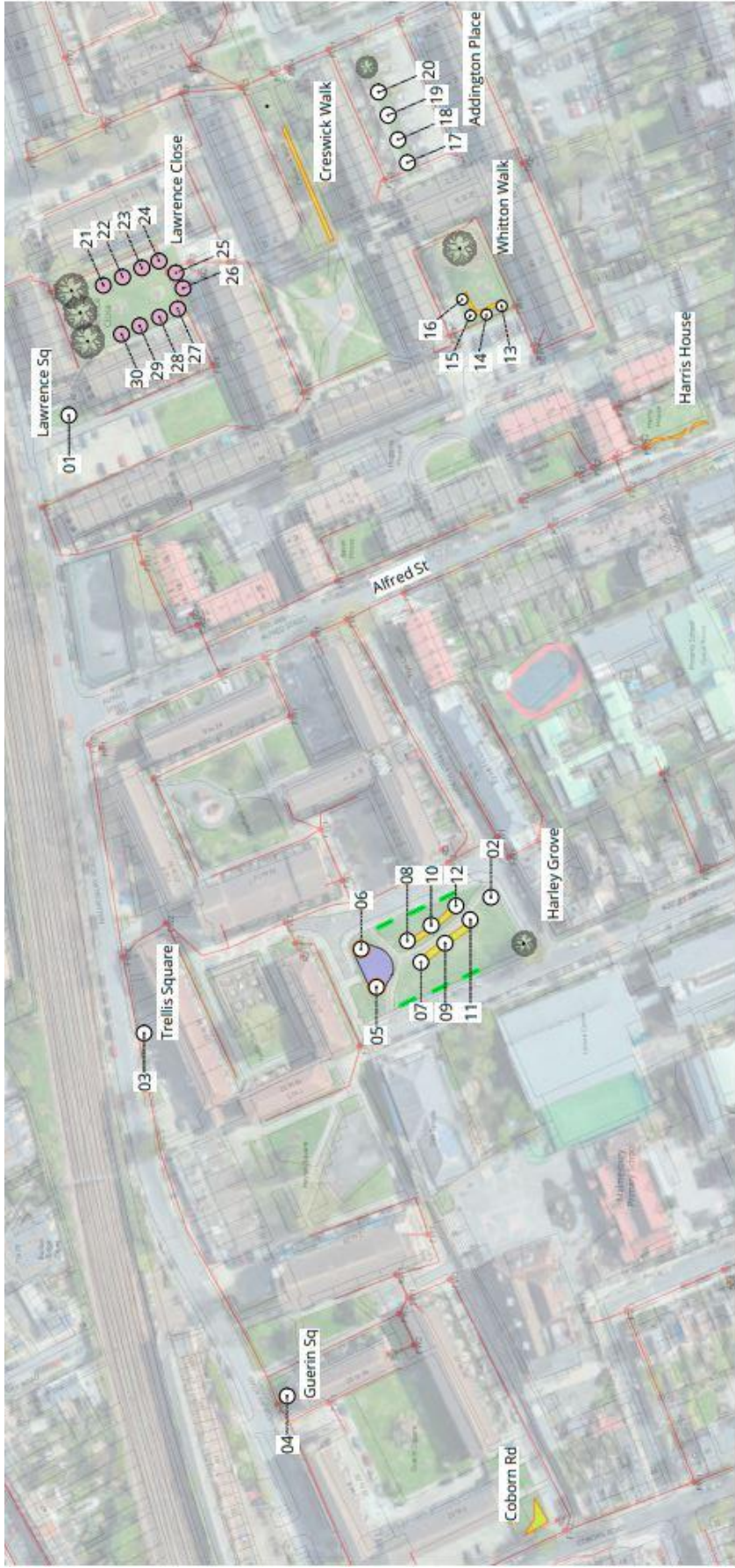
Consultation and volunteering activities provided opportunities for residents to come together to socialise and make positive improvements to their environments

Complete





# FINAL SITE DESIGN



**Key**

- Proposed standard total 20
- Proposed full tree total 10, linear 70m x 7.5m canopy = 525m<sup>2</sup>
- Proposed hedgerow total 360 whipa (5m<sup>2</sup>), 33m length
- Proposed built planting total 175m<sup>2</sup>
- Proposed meadow area total 115m<sup>2</sup>
- Existing significant tree

Revision	Date	Description	Drawn by	Checked by
A	24/11/21	Design Proposal	GW	TS
B	08/12/21	Layout revision	GW	TS
C	08/02/22	Tree no. 2 moved	GW	TS

Project:	Malmesbury Estate, Bow
Drawing title:	Trees, meadow and built proposed plan with tree numbers
Scale & Sheet size:	1:1250 @ A3
Drawing number:	UF040/01
Rev	C
Date:	01/12/2021


  
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## COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY - 2ND APRIL 2022

The final event of the project was the community planting day held on-site, which was attended by 12 members of Trees for Cities staff, as well as 37 adults and 3 children. Participants were taught how to plant trees and bulbs. In total, the final 18 trees were planted on this day. Food was provided as well in what was a very memorable day for all that attended.

**When we asked volunteers what the best thing about planting trees is, they said:**

*“The children are still talking about their experience with gardening from last week! Some of these children have never even dug a hole in soil before, let alone plant daffodil bulbs! And don't get me started on how excited, amazed and in awe they all were with the amount of worms they saw!”*

**Teacher, Malmesbury Primary School**

*“Good fun - knowledgeable staff. A workout and a half!”*

**Malmesbury resident**

