



Arboricultural Association South East Branch National Arbor Day 2007

The National Elm Collection

Our project this year is to help protect the only National Elm Collection in the country. This was formally designated in 1998 and covers some 15,000 elms, principally in Brighton and Hove. Whether you are at the Royal Pavilion; the Valley Gardens; Preston Park; Hove Park or in parks, gardens or streets throughout the City you will see many varieties of mature elms – considered to be unique in Europe and probably in the world.

So what about Dutch Elm Disease? The area has an advantage not available to others! The elm free South Downs to the north and east, and the sea to the south, in effect prevent the Elm Bark Beetles tree hopping their way into the area. The gap in the defences on the west through Shoreham has been the target of activities over the last three decades with active work by the local authorities and volunteers to remove diseased trees before the beetles could make their deadly way eastwards.

So what is the problem? The stumps of elms to the west outside the control area now have significant regrowth. This regrowth is up to thirty years old and can now support the elm bark beetles. This has presented a new threat to the National Elm Collection.

The local authorities continue to deal with their own trees, but there are privately owned trees to the west in Sompting and Lancing that currently fall outside any arrangements. It is these trees that pose a serious threat and it is their removal that forms this year's project for the South East Branch of the Arboricultural Association.

So when is it? We are planning two days of tree work:

**Saturday 24 March 2007
Sunday 25 March 2007**

Can you help? Yes please! We are looking for contractors to provide two or three man teams on a voluntary basis to fell and safely dispose of selected elm trees in private gardens or on farmland. All trees will be clearly marked along with the agreement of the owners. All the work undertaken must be covered by the individual contractor's own business insurance and of course carried out in accordance with current health and safety regulations and industry best practice.

How do I sign up? Contact either:

Deadline: Friday 9 March

Keith Hunter
keith@connicktreecare.co.uk
07976 230796

or

John Harraway
j.harraway@hts.gb.com
07831 651090

One day or why not make a weekend of it! This is a real opportunity to showcase the industry and the AA HQ will be sending press releases to the local media to highlight the event and those involved in it.

We look forward to seeing you there!