

2026 Early Spring Seminar



Nurturing Our City



BRIGHTON & HOVE
GREEN SPACES FORUM

Welcome to our Audience

B&H Wildlife Forum
Benfield Wildlife & Conservation Group
Birch Tree Trust
Blakers Park FO
Brighton & Lewes Downs Biosphere (Living Coast)
Brighton Greenway FO
Brighton & Hove Organic Gardening Group (BHOGG)
Brighton & Hove Food Partnership
Brighton Permaculture Trust
CityParks Ranger Volunteers – ‘Neil’s Nomads’
Community Garden Network
CPRE Sussex
Craven Woods FO
Eastbrook Community Gardeners
Gardening Frond
Green Ridge FO
Hangleton & Knoll Project
Hanover Action
Hollingbury & Burstead Woods FO
Hove Park FO
Lansdown Area Residents Association
London Road Station Partnership

Norfolk Square Gardening Group
Plot 22
Preston Park FO
Palmeira & Adelaide FO
Regency Square Community
Roundhill Pocket Park
Rottingdean in Bloom
Special Branch Tree Nursery
St Ann’s Wells Gardens FO
St Nicholas Green Spaces Gardeners
St John’s Community Garden
St Peters Churchyard Volunteers
Stanford & Cleveland Community Garden
Surrenden Field FO
The Level Communities Forum
The Plot at Stanmer
Three Cornered Copse
Wellbeing Hub Preston Park
White Street Community Garden
Wild East
Wildflower Conservation Society

B&H City Councillors – Maureen & Kerry



Welcome to our Speakers

Leah Salm – Researcher at Greenwich University – Bite-Size Biodiversity

Jean Griffin – Southern Counties Radio / South & South East in Bloom

Lindy Brooke Tweed – Wildflower Conservation Society – Brighton & Beyond

Rob Boyle – Brighton & Hove Museums / Royal Pavilion & Preston Manor Head Gardener

Sarah Dobson – Programme Manager – The Living Coast UNESCO Biosphere



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AGENDA

- Cliff Munn- Welcome & Introductions
- Leah Salm – Bite-Size Biodiversity update
- Jean Griffin - Key note speaker
- Lindy Brooke Tweed – Wildflower Conservation Society
- Break for Refreshments
- Rob Boyle – Key note speaker
- Sarah Dobson - Key note speaker



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Leah Salm



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Jean Griffin



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Jean Griffin



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Wildflower Conservation Society

Lindy Brooke Tweed



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BREAK

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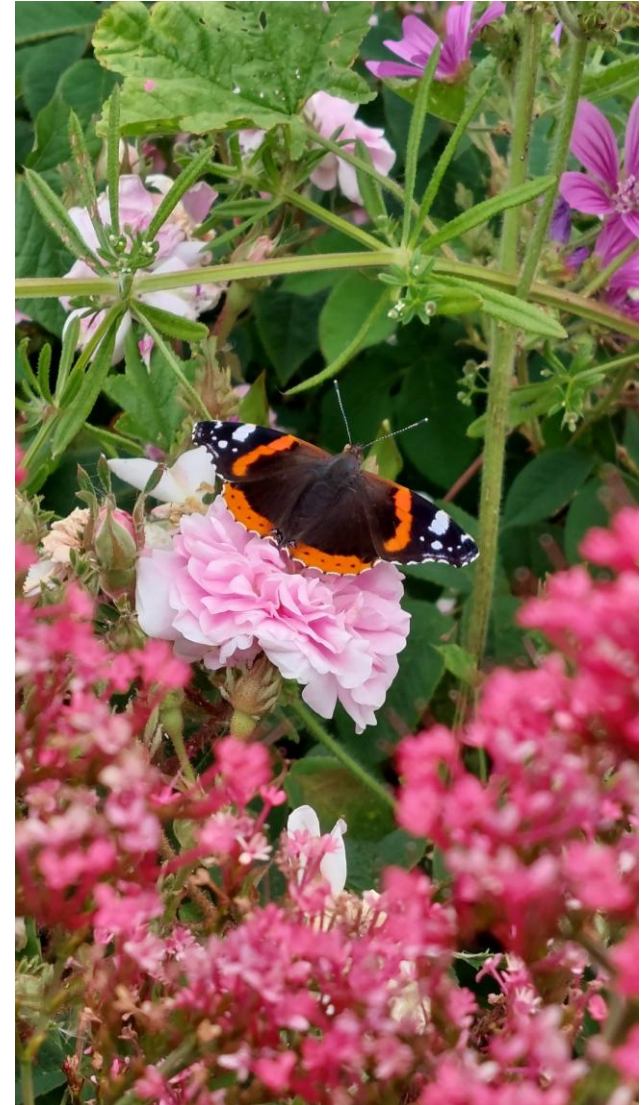


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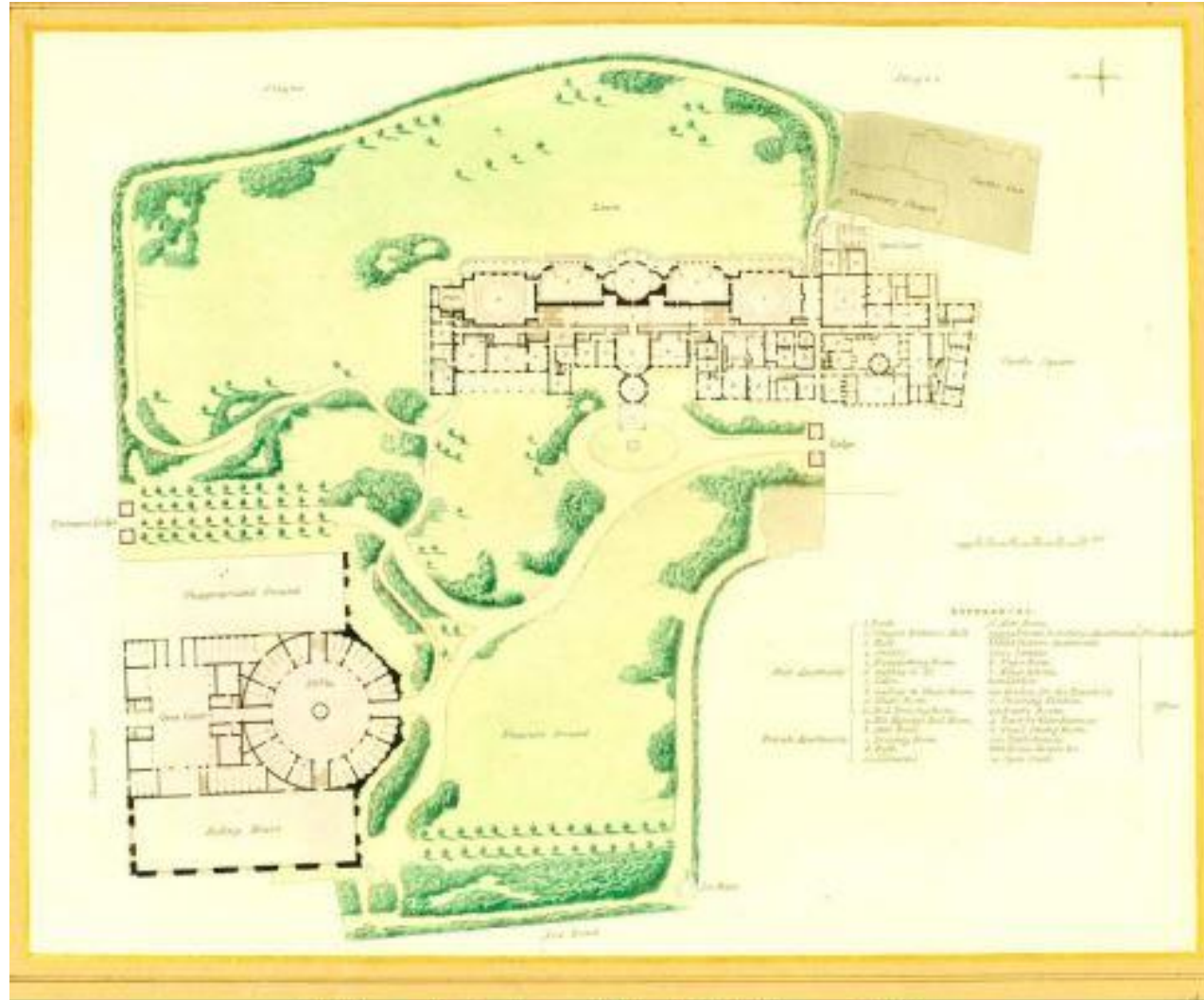


**BRIGHTON
& HOVE
MUSEUMS**

Rob Boyle – Head Gardener



Royal Pavilion Gardens, Brighton



Nash's garden design published in his Views ... 1826

Nash views & Regency planting







Naturalistic approach

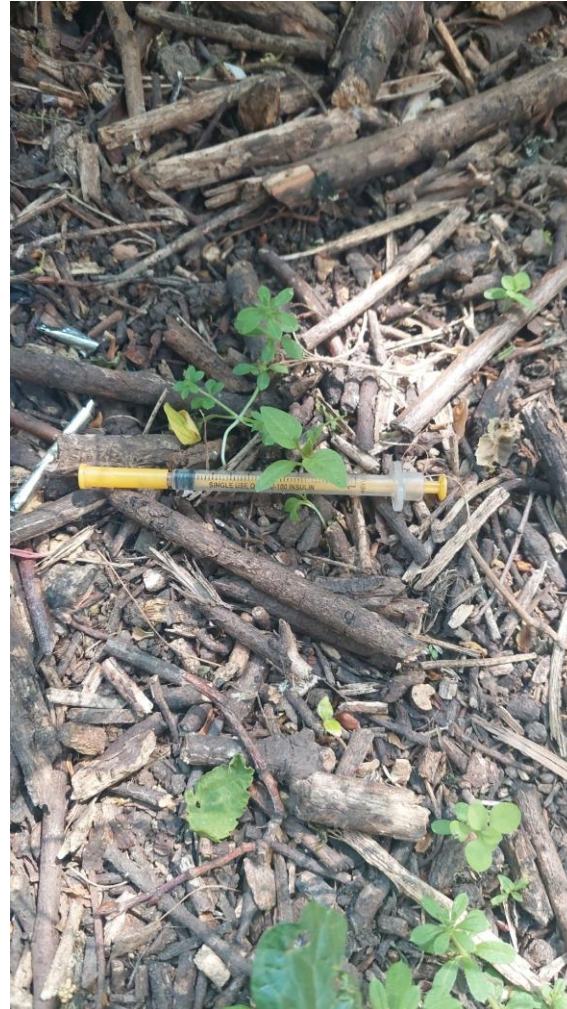


Internal views





Modern challenges in a historical setting



Dutch Elm Disease in Pavilion Garden



Plant profile—*Phytolacca acinosa* (Indian Pokeweed)



The future of Pavilion Gardens?

- Heritage Lottery Fund bid
- Climate change



Thank you

Instagram - @robtheheadgardener



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Sarah Dobson



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unesco

Biosphere Reserve

UNESCO designated since 2014

Nurturing Our City

Brighton & Hove Green Spaces Forum & The Living Coast UNESCO Biosphere

Developing people & place - sustainably together

2026 – celebrating 10 years of The Living Coast & 80 years of UNESCO

Thank you
to our
Premium Partners:



SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK



FABRICA



SO SUSSEX
SUSSEX OFFSHORE WIND

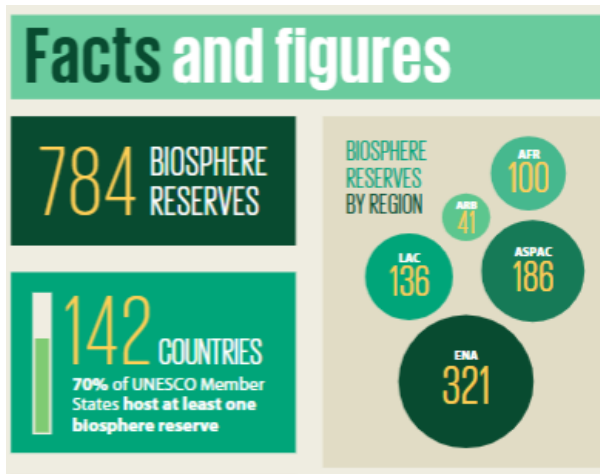
Did you know our area is internationally recognized by UNESCO for its world-class environment and innovative community and organisational sustainability initiatives ?



***United Nations
Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization***

We are part of a global network of UNESCO Biospheres

recognising outstanding natural environments & living labs for sustainable best practice



3 shared global goals:

Conservation of nature & culture

Economic development that is socially and environmentally sustainable

Knowledge sharing, awareness & engagement



Convention on Biological Diversity

UNESCO in the UK: + 50 sites including 7 Biospheres



+50 UNESCO sites in the UK

under the umbrella of the UK National Commission for UNESCO



29 World Heritage Sites
with outstanding
cultural and/or natural
heritage



*The Tower of London, a World Heritage
UNESCO site*



9 Global Geoparks
Areas of exceptional
geological significance



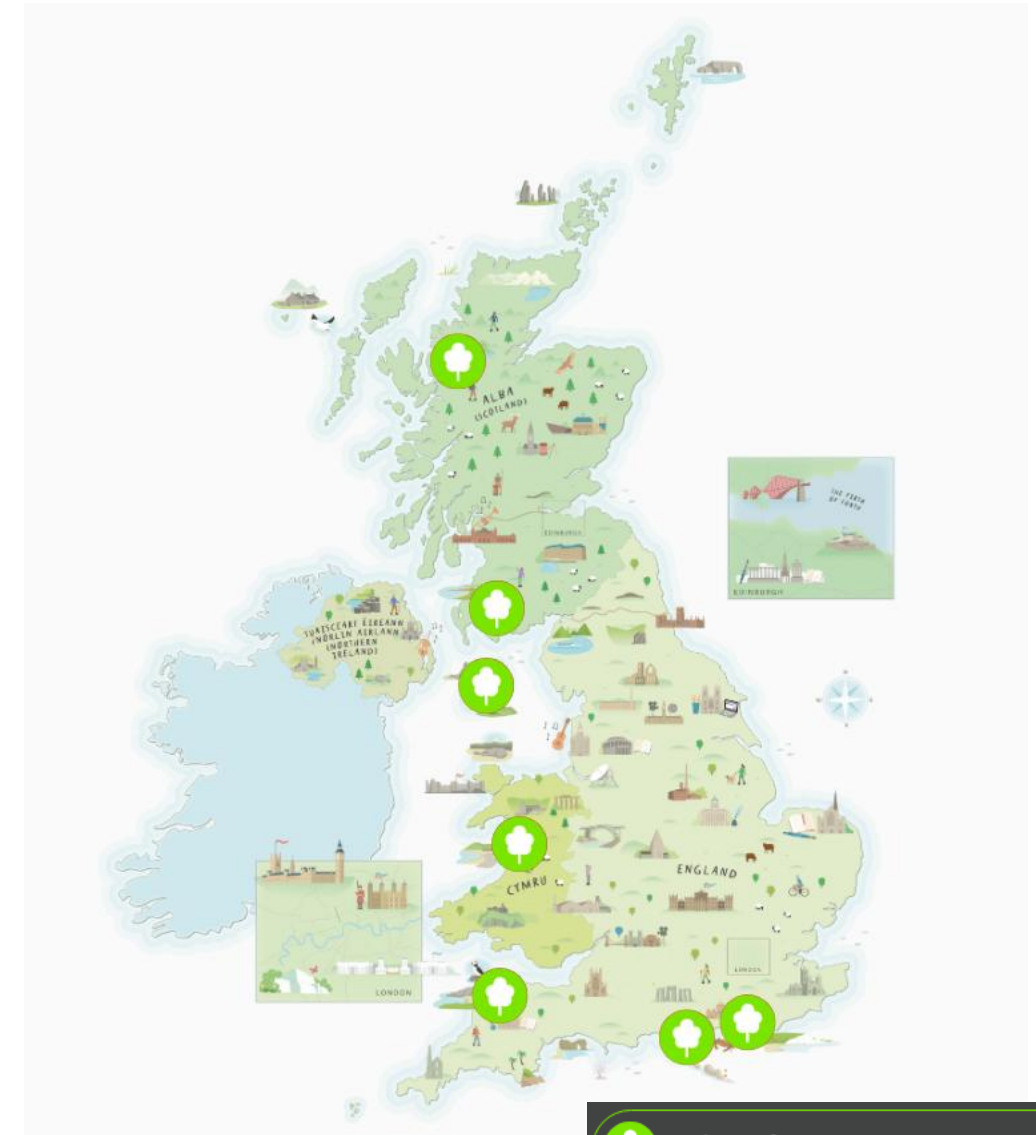
13 Creative Cities
placing creativity and
culture at the core of their
urban development



7 Biosphere Reserves
Sites that find creative
ways for people and nature
to thrive together



The Living Coast UNESCO Biosphere



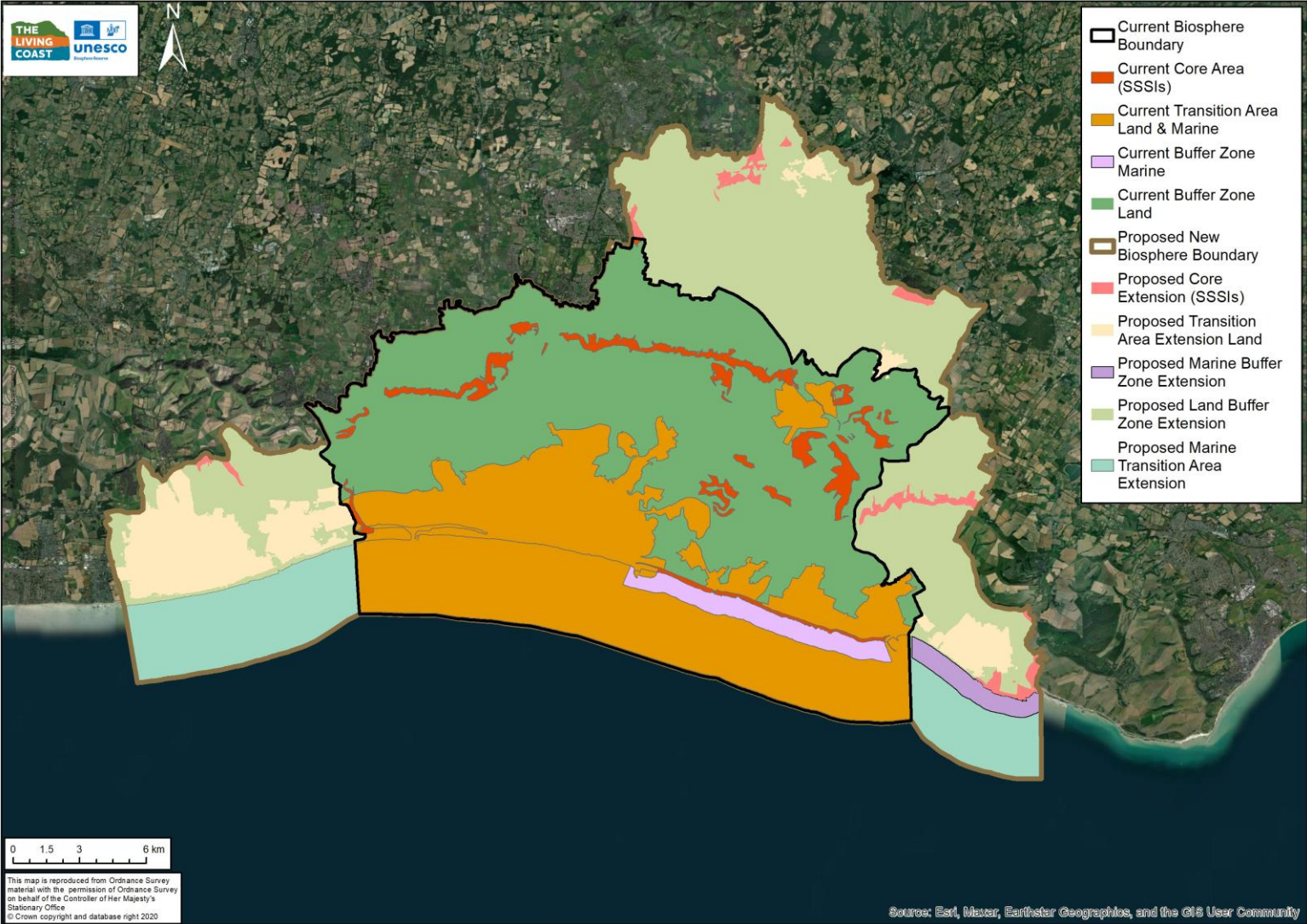
We are *The Living Coast UNESCO Biosphere* in Sussex

What makes our area UNIQUE?



Redesignation and expansion of The Living Coast – Our Place

Last year, UNESCO confirmed our designation for the next 10 years alongside an expansion of our geography



The Living Coast in figures

Area	700 km ²
Population	550,000
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	20
Local Wildlife Sites	213
Rivers	3
National Nature Reserves	2
National Parks	1
Marine Conservation Zones	1

The Living Coast UNESCO Biosphere Partnership – our People

across voluntary, conservation, education, local government and private sector

40+ members with Brighton & Hove City Council as our lead partner

LOCAL AUTHORITIES



EDUCATION & SCIENCE



BUSINESS NETWORKS



FOOD



TRANSPORT



ENERGY



CULTURE & TOURISM



COMMUNITY GROUPS & ORG



NATIONAL PARKS & CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS



WATER, SEA & COASTAL ORGANISATIONS



Our strategic priorities for the next decade:



1. Restore & enhance our natural & cultural heritage
2. Sustainability education for all
3. Sustainable economic development & tourism
4. Stronger funding, governance & communications

But what does this mean on the ground?

[Our area celebrates 10th anniversary of being recognised by UNESCO! - The Living Coast](#)

What we do: Bring people together to learn, challenge & share



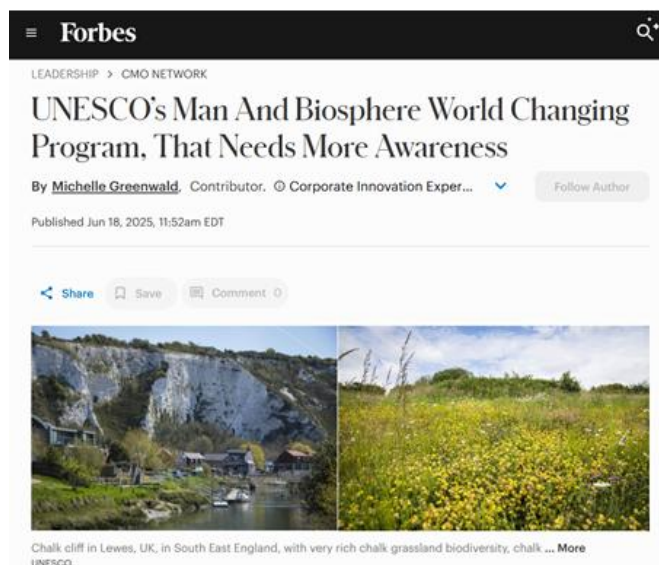
Partnership events



Hosting UNESCO UK and Ireland Biosphere network



Tree Festival 2025



Press and publicity



Youth Representatives

What we do: deliver projects in partnership



Wild Park Rainscape



Changing Chalk: Greening the Cities



Opportunities:

- So many!
- New partners & communities across the wider geography – and new geology
- Projects across the geography e.g. farmer & landowner support
- National network projects e.g. expanding Our City Our World, arts & culture programme
- Sustainable funding
- Changing Chalk legacy
- The changing role of local authorities & devolution

Challenges:

- Resources
 - 1 member of staff (supplemented through projects)
 - Fundraising for core costs & projects
- Focus

What can you do:



Planted with grasses and flowering perennials, rain gardens are not only a pleasant feature, they attract wildlife, such as butterflies, pollinators and birds. If they are collecting water from a hard surface, they can also help to treat low-level pollution.

Rain gardens are usually able to absorb all the rainwater they collect, however in storm events it is important that there is a means for water to escape into the existing drains. The rain garden is still helpful in this case. By slowing the flow it helps to regulate the amount and speed of the water, so the drains are better able to cope.

Even providing a small amount of extra capacity, you are helping to **slow it down ... soak it up!**



Local action to global impact





Get in touch

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