

BEXHILL DOWN WOOD PROJECT
OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2020

Before work starts:



The plan:



October 10th: Grass raking

22 volunteers raking the mown grass and removing in wheelbarrows to the surrounding edges.



October 17th: More grass raking !

16 volunteers completing the raking.



October 22nd : Preparation of the ground and the sowing of the wildflower seeds.



Flail mowing. This destroys the grass



Flail mowing, this destroys the grass



Power harrowing, this breaks up the soil



Power harrowing this breaks up the soil



Sowing the wildflower seed and covering it using a harrow



The finished area.

October 24th: Marking out the position of the trees.

24 volunteers marked out the position of the new trees, first with a stick and then orange paint.



November 10th : First signs of the wild flowers



November 28th: Planting Day

There were 3 planting sessions each with 15 volunteers from BEG or the Bexhill Rotary Club.

A total of 525 trees were planted, from 15 British native species.



Planting demonstration



Socially distanced planting

Each tree is individually numbered, the first number being the code to identify the species. The table below shows which species matches the code and how many were planted.

SPECIES CODE	FORMAL NAME	COMMON NAME	TOTAL PLANTED
1	Acer Campestre	Field Maple	50
3	Acer Pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	25
4	Betula Pendula	Silver Birch	22
5	Carpinus Betulus	European Hornbeam	45
6	Castanea Sativa	Sweet Chestnut	50
7	Ilex Aquifolium	English Holly	10
8	Prunus Avium	Wild Cherry or Gean	50
9	Prunus Padus	Bird Cherry	50
10	Quercus Petraea	Sessile Oak	20
11	Quercus Robur	English Oak (Pendunculate)	40
12	Quercus Rubra	Northern Red Oak	45
13	Tilia Cordata	Small Leaf Lime	33
14	Sorbus Aucuparia	Rowan/Mountain Ash	50
15	Sorbus Torminalis	Wild Service Tree	10
16	Ulmus x Wingham	Elm (Hybrid)	25



Cllr Brian Drayson was in one of the planting teams of volunteers and took a break for this photo with chair of BEG Ros Clayton, tree group leader Russell Dufton and watching on Cllrs Ashan Jeeawon and Richard Thomas.



Some of the planted trees



From the air.



The finished area.

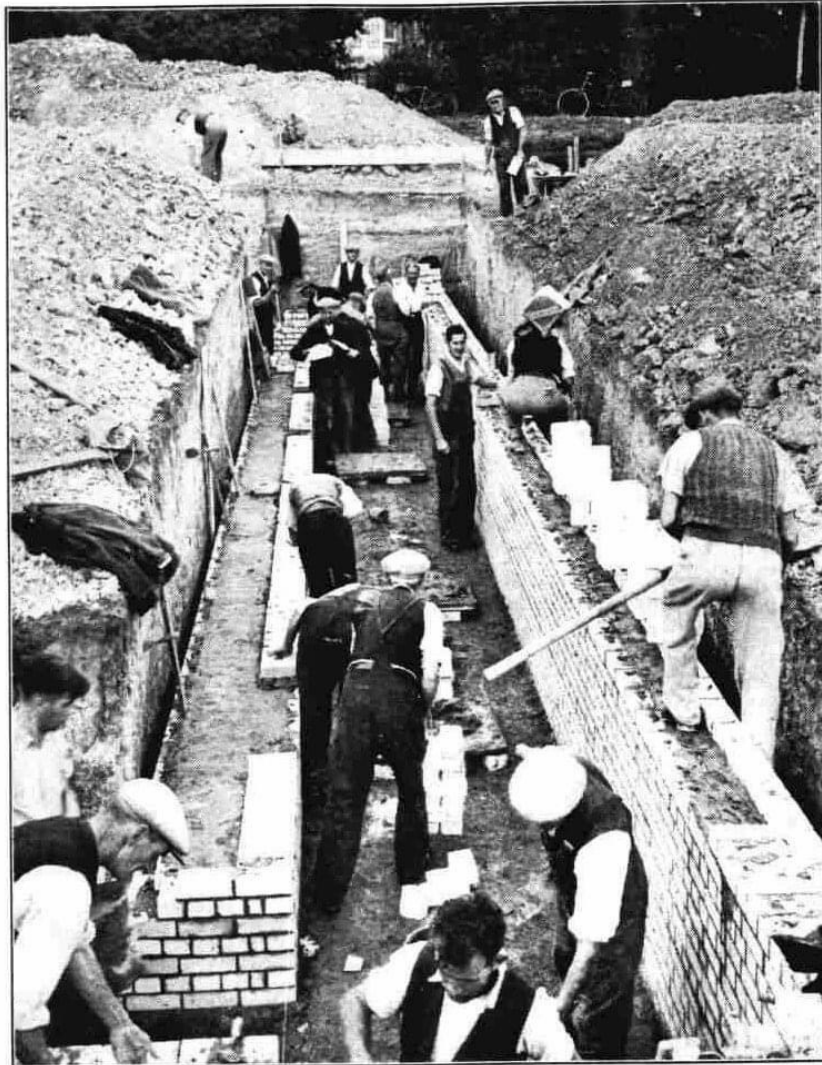
December 5th: 7 volunteers help with the final mulching



Photo of the area in 1959, showing old cottage on skate park area and air raid shelters.



The old air raid shelters



Making shelter trenches on the Down for school children.

