

Where have all the big trees gone?

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MMU, Chatham Building, Lecture Theatre 312

Imagine yourself in London in the 22nd century. Most big street trees will no longer be there. Many are over 100 years old now and by 2100 they will be dead. Future city dwellers may look at images of today and wonder what happened to all the big trees.

Whilst a recent survey of London Trees show that 20% more trees were planted than removed, not many of these will be in our streets where we need them most. The life expectancy of new trees in confined soil volumes is limited and Highway "needs" means broad canopy trees are rarely planted along roads.

Brita will consider 300 years of tree planting and what strategies, fighting spirit and at times devious planning could ensure big city trees for the future.

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Following her studies at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Brita completed a post-graduate course to qualify as a Landscape Architect. She has been influential in promoting what used to be referred to as New Perennial Planting and is a partner at Bradley-Hole Schoenaich Landscape Architects. Brita was one of the UK's first 'Guerrilla Gardeners' and her meadow at Hogarth roundabout was an early Chelsea Fringe entry. Projects include the grounds at Stanton Williams' Stirling Prize-winning Sainsbury laboratory at Cambridge Botanic Gardens and Kings Cross Square. Current commissions are the grounds for a school in sub-tropical China, the landscape around the RHS' new entrance building at Wisley and a masterplan for Britain's largest cemetery. She has also been teaching landscape design at Kew Gardens for many years and is a frequent speaker at international conferences.