

GREEN STREETS[®]

in Ellesmere Port



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Introduction



Sixty two street trees were planted in four locations across Ellesmere Port in February and March 2009 as part of The Mersey Forest's Green Streets project.

The project was funded by Ellesmere Port Borough Council through a number of Section 106 agreements.

An initial feasibility study identified 15 possible sites for the planting of street trees within the town. These were all sites which were in highly visible locations in residential and business areas.

The Mersey Forest staff then investigated the viability of these sites based on a number of criteria, including visual impact, strategic location, impact on the community, and support to business development areas.

Following liaison with council officers, four sites were chosen for street tree planting out of the original fifteen.

What is **The Mersey Forest**?

The Mersey Forest is a growing network of woodlands and green spaces spread across Cheshire and Merseyside, which has been creating 'woodlands on your doorstep' since 1994.

The Forest is one of the leading environmental regeneration initiatives in the North West. Through community and partnership working, we have planted more than 8 million trees – equivalent to five new trees for every person living within the Forest area.

We achieve all of this and more through our partnership of local authorities, landowners, the Forestry Commission, Natural England and businesses including United Utilities.

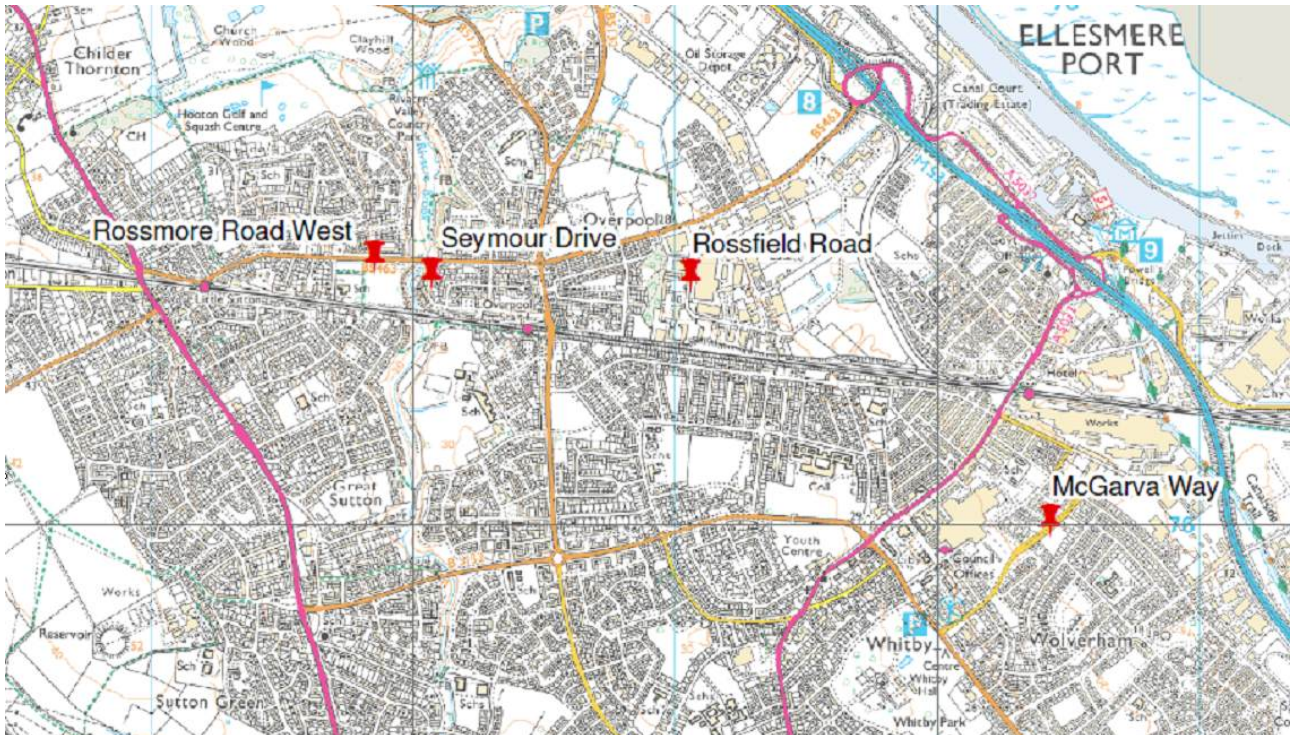
What is **Green Streets**?

Green Streets is a Mersey Forest project which uses greening projects to improve the quality of life for urban communities by:

- Planting street, park and green space trees
- Creating green route ways linking and signposting residents to local green space

Green Streets works at the heart of the community with residents, businesses and partner organisations to promote the value of greenery as a means of tackling a range of social, health, environmental and economic issues.

The sites



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Rossmore Rd West

Trees planted	16
Tree species	Flowering Cherry and Mountain Ash

The trees have been planted in an avenue along a stretch of Rossmore Road West adjacent to the playing fields at St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School.

Rosfield Road

Trees planted	5
Tree species	Fastigate Cherry

5 trees planted along the main access road into Rossmore Industrial Estate.

Seymour Drive

Trees planted	8
Tree species	Flowering Cherry and Mountain Ash

8 trees planted on a small area of amenity grassland, part of the Rivacre Country Park, adjacent to a residential area.

McGarva Way

Trees planted	33
Tree species	Fastigate Cherry, Ornamental Pear, Mountain Ash, Maple and Southern Beech

14 trees were planted in the hard surface central reservation which runs the length of the road, and a further 19 in the grass verge adjacent to the road and neighbouring residential area.

Before and after: Seymour Drive



Before and after: Rossfield Road



Before and after: McGarva Way



New street trees for Rossmore Road West



How The Mersey Forest helped



The Mersey Forest staff identified sites and opportunities with local businesses, organisations and key local authority departments; liaising with officers from the Planning, Highway, Housing and Environmental departments within the council to agree upon potential sites.

The Mersey Forest then proceeded to:

- Work closely with their landscape architects and contractors to deliver a sustainable project to and beyond completion.
- Ensure post-implementation work schedules are in place, including site inspections, watering, guard maintenance and weeding ensuring tree establishment is successful. Future post contractual maintenance will be undertaken by the local authority.

As part of community consultation residents adjacent to tree planting sites were notified of the planned schemes and given the opportunity to contact a member of The Mersey Forest staff to discuss the plans. As part of an evaluation of the project residents were visited to complete a baseline questionnaire about their neighbourhood and their initial attitudes to the value and benefits of tree planting.

Local PR was also achieved with residents around McGarva Way engaged in an event to plant up a tree pits with small shrubs and bedding plants at the key gateway site of Cambridge Road and McGarva Way. It was also an opportunity to discuss the trees that have been planted and answer any other questions or concerns.

The difference we made



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“The trees are great. They really brighten up the place.”

– Mrs. Wilkinson, Arthur Avenue (near McGarva Way)

The tree species have been chosen to provide some greenery through most of the year, but also to add colour during spring and autumn.

During the follow-up community consultation, many of the residents have commented that the visual appeal of McGarva Way has been improved.

Other benefits from urban street tree projects include:

- Involving communities with their environment
- Setting the scene for investment by improving the image of the town
- Helping the region adapt to climate change
- Filtering harmful pollutants
- Benefits to wildlife

Future schemes



Potential future projects have been identified. Additional community engagement will help safeguard the future of the trees through neighbourhood stewardship.

Additional Green Streets planting programmes were identified as part of the initial site evaluation for the project, however recent changes to both the status and geographical boundary of the Council may present additional opportunities for planting across a range of site types to meet key outputs for the project.

These include:

Scheme:

Residential street tree planting

Working closely with the council's Housing Department officers and residents to identify the areas of greatest need both in terms of low tree stock and making housing areas more attractive to both inward investment and security of tenure.

Business area tree planting

Enhancements to improve the image and inward investment in business sites.

Gateway planting

Key gateway sites that present a first impression to visitors to the area.

Green space linkages

Encouraging residents to walk to and utilise their local green space. Either on local roads or within the green space.

Suggested sites:

Princes Road, Rochester Drive, Wolverham Road (infill plantings), Poolton Road grass verges.

Stanney Mill Lane and New Bridge Road gateways sites, The Boat Museum, additional planting around the Rossmore Road Industrial Estate. Cromwell Road, Longlooms Road.

A5117 Ring Road and roundabouts, J5 M53 New Chester Road, Whitby Road between Connexions and Police Constabulary.

Luton Road, Thornton Road, Joseph Groome Towers, Westminster Road / Grace Road, Marlborough Road green spaces.

Contact



**For more information about
The Mersey Forest and
Green Streets projects,
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