

# A Guide to Tree Species Selection for Green Infrastructure – Helping to Grow a Resilient Urban Forest



This seminar will take place on **15th March 2018** 10.00-16.00 in the Michael Tippett Room at the University of Birmingham

**Event Host and Organiser**  
**Dr. Andrew Hiron**  
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## 09.00 for 10.00 start Registration and coffee

### The purpose of this seminar

Trees enrich our lives. They make positive contributions to many aspects of our urban environment and those that encounter them. Well-managed trees within our green infrastructure are also strategically important for meeting many future challenges. However, if trees are to become appreciating assets, it is vital to make appropriate species selection for any given location. This seminar introduces new guidance on tree selection for those engaged with green infrastructure projects and explores some key strategic issues for those involved with establishing the urban forest.

### Who should attend this seminar?

All those engaged in the built environment including design professionals, developers, planners, natural environment specialists and health professionals who recognize the value of a healthy and resilient urban forest.

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## 10.00-10.10 Welcome and outline for the day

**Chair: Professor Alister Scott**,  
Professor of Environmental Geography  
and NERC Knowledge Exchange  
Fellow

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### Session 1: Introducing the *Species Selection Guide for Green Infrastructure*

**Dr. Andrew Hiron**, Senior Lecturer  
in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry  
University Centre Myerscough

**Dr. Henrik Sjöman**, Scientific Curator,  
Gothenburg Botanical Gardens and  
researcher and lecturer at the Swedish  
University of Agricultural Sciences

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## 12.00-12.45 Lunch and exhibition stands

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### Session 2: Future visions and strategic issues

**12.45-13.15**  
**Plants for Future Climates**  
**Leigh Hunt**, Principal Horticultural  
Advisor

**13.15-13.45**  
**Green Infrastructure and Urban  
Air Quality**  
**Dr. Emma Ferranti**, NERC Knowledge  
Exchange Fellow, University of  
Birmingham

**13.45-14.15**  
**Biosecurity and Green Infrastructure**  
**Dominic Eyre**, Plant Health Consultant,  
Defra

**14.15-14.45**  
**Working in the Wider Context**  
**Anne Jaluzot**, Green Infrastructure  
Planning Consultant and TDAG Lead  
Researcher and Writer

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## 14.45-15.15 Tea and exhibition stands

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### Session 3: What is the action plan for the UK?

**15.15-16.00**  
Panel session where the audience  
is invited to ask questions and help to  
formulate recommendations for action

**16.00**  
Seminar ends

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# Speaker Biographies



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## Professor Alister Scott

Alister is a geographer, chartered planner (MRTPI) and “pracademic” who works at disciplinary and professional boundaries and edges in dealing with interdisciplinary problems. He has just started a NERC knowledge exchange fellow post on mainstreaming green infrastructure. Other projects include testing and assessing a natural capital planning tool in different planning contexts (NERC); developing citizen led innovation planning as part of the Birmingham Urban Living pilot project (RCUK and Innovate UK) and using game based formats to help improve participatory processes and outcomes including working with the RTPI to produce a game to enthuse children about the role of the planner (ESRC).

## Dr. Andrew Hiron

Andrew is a Senior Lecturer in Arboriculture at University Centre Myerscough, UK. He began his career in arboriculture as a climbing arborist and plant health care technician, gaining experience in Australia, America and the UK before joining the arboriculture department at Myerscough in 2004. He teaches on the fulltime and online higher education courses, delivering modules relating to tree biology and tree management. His current research activity is motivated by the need to create resilience in our urban forests, and is focused on using plant traits to inform species selection for urban environments.

## Dr. Henrik Sjöman

Henrik Sjöman’s work is mainly focusing on developing knowledge of site adapted plant use for urban environments. How the capacity of different trees will vary in context to its urban environment and in delivering ecosystem services has become the prime driver in Henrik’s work and as such how to extend the knowledge of diversifying the urban treescape. Finding “plants of tomorrow” means to combine traditional plant hunting of less common species with research and evaluation; creating a diversified approach to a resilient urban forest.

## Leigh Hunt

Leigh Hunt is RHS Principal Horticultural Advisor. He leads a team of Assistant Advisors within the RHS Members’ Advisory Service – which answers more than 80,000 questions each year from RHS members and flower-show visitors. “Overall, the aim is to use our unique position of speaking to thousands of gardeners annually to inform our programme of scientific work,” says Leigh. ‘In turn, the science ensures that our advice is evidence-based and some of the best and most up to date available.’ In addition to this day-to-day work, Leigh leads the Society’s **urban greening** programme. This uses the wealth of scientific proof available to highlight the remarkable range of benefits that gardens provide in urban areas.

## Dr. Emma Ferranti

Dr Emma Ferranti is NERC Knowledge Exchange Fellow at the University of Birmingham working alongside Birmingham City Council and others to provide stakeholder-relevant evidence for the role of green infrastructure in mitigating poor air quality. She is also the facilitator for the Midlands branch of the **Trees and Design Action Group (TDAG)**. TDAG brings together a group of individuals, professionals and organisations

from wide ranging disciplines in both the public and private sectors to increase awareness of the role of trees in the built environment. Emma’s research interests include the impact of weather on infrastructure, green infrastructure, air quality, and GIS. She has a background in geography, earth and environmental sciences, and research experience in academia and consultancy.

## Dominic Eyre

Dominic Eyre is a plant health entomologist at Defra. He provides plant health inspectors and policy colleagues with advice on the risk relating to non-native pests and what action should be taken when non-native pests are found on imported plants or produce or in the environment. Before joining the plant health service he worked for a contract research company carrying out trials on the impact of pesticides on non-target arthropods.

## Anne Jaluzot

Anne is an urban planner, with 13 years of experience primarily gathered in the US and the UK in environmentally led approaches to urban policy, design and regeneration. After working for the City of Chicago and CABE Anne now works as an independent consultant continuing to advise on, assess, facilitate or lead the development of tools, strategies, projects and knowledge on urban greening. This led her to undertake the research and writing of the **Trees and Design Action Group (TDAG)**’s two latest publications: *Trees in the Townscape: A Guide for Decision Makers* (2012) and *Trees in Hard Landscapes: A Guide for Delivery* (2014) – two action-oriented urban forestry best practice guides on using trees in 21st century cities. She is currently undertaking research for the next TDAG document *Trees, Planning and Development: A Guide for Delivery*.

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