Newsletter – July 2026

TDAG Events

Our next free to attend online seminar will be on 23 September, 2-4pm (BST) on Trees and the law in plain English – what we all need to know.
Registration:
https://bham-ac-uk.zoom.us/meeting/register/-LWg9VI6QhaKEOgymLPygA#/registration

Past online seminars
You can find all the recordings, presentations and chat here:
https://www.tdag.org.uk/past-events.html

You can also go to our YouTube page if you just want to see the recording:
https://www.youtube.com/@treesanddesignactiongroup7020

Surveys

Squirrel Accord UK- grey squirrel activity
The Institute of Chartered Foresters held a fascinating seminar on 16th July about the impacts of grey squirrels for trees, especially broadleaf trees and also the need to protect and restore the red squirrel population. Of course, grey squirrel damage is relevant for urban trees a well as those in forests and woodland. The tragedy is that the trees attacked are usually between 10-40 years old i.e. they are established and delivering real benefits. The oak is a particularly vulnerable species (see also: 'An Analysis of the Cost of Grey Squirrel Damage to Woodland' by Martin Glynn. There is a summary list of species susceptibility on page 32 of the full report, available at https://rfs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/analysis-of-the-cost-of-grey-squirrel-damage-to-woodland-publication-copy-180121.pdf)
The UK Squirrel Accord is asking people to complete a survey of grey squirrel activity. You can access the survey here: www.squirrelaccord.uk/tree-damage-survey

Current progress on integrating nature in business decisions
A new survey is seeking to understand how nature is currently being integrated into corporate decision-making.
It has been developed by sustainability consultancies Little Blue Research and Biodiversity. The results from the survey will be anonymised and included as part of a 'white paper' series to be launched later in 2026. Complete the survey here

Invitations

Forestry and Woodlands Advisory Committees (FWACs)
FWACs play an important advisory role, bringing together individuals with a broad range of expertise and perspectives to provide insight on forestry and woodland matters at a regional level.
We are writing to invite your organisation to support this campaign by helping to identify and encourage suitable individuals to put themselves forward as candidates. We are particularly keen to attract a diverse range of applicants with experience across forestry, land management, environmental interests, community engagement, business, and the wider sector. **The closing date is the 11th September.**
Details about the role of the FWAC can be found here
For further details and a copy of the recruitment pack please contact
Sarah Formosa (commissioners@forestrycommission.gov.uk

Forestry and Woodlands Advisory Committees (FWACs) – closing date for applications 11th September

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Rights of Trees

In line with our discussions on tree law, there is an interesting move about the 'rights of trees' and something that we would like to explore in more detail at a later date.

The University of Sussex Environmental Justice Law Clinic has been tirelessly working to promote the Rights of Trees Charter, believing in the intrinsic worth of trees beyond mere human utility. They have developed a comprehensive toolkit aimed at supporting the implementation of initiatives that deeply acknowledge and protect the innate value of trees, woodlands, and forests. This toolkit is a crucial step towards preserving our natural environment, and it presents an opportunity to adopt rights-based approaches to environmental conservation.

You can sign a petition here to promote the Rights of Trees Charter: https://www.change.org/p/protect-trees-and-forests-with-rights-based-approaches?redirect_reason=guest_user

The Rights of Trees, Woodlands and Forests toolkit created by Associate Professor Joanna Smallwood, is available online and seeks to advance the way we recognise and respect the inherent value of trees and woodlands in the UK. The Rights of Nature movement recognises ecosystems - such as rivers, forests, and mountains - not as human property or resources, but as legal subjects with inherent rights to exist, thrive, and regenerate.

EVENTS BY OTHERS

Finding your way in environmental stewardship. Tools worth knowing about. EKN webinar 20 July

Discover how to navigate the complex landscape of environmental valuation methods, share insights with fellow practitioners, and leverage these new features to make robust, evidence-based decisions for your projects. Register here

The Climate Resilient New Town: A Vision. TCPA webinar 23rd July 2-3pm

During this webinar, the TCPA will present our vision for the Climate Resilient New Town, and discuss how planners, developers, policy makers and communities can use this tool to advocate for exemplar new communities in which future generations can thrive.

Register here: The Climate Resilient New Town: A Vision

Tree workshops and nursery tree inspections at Barcham Trees 5 and 12 August

- 5 August: Getting the best from and for trees with Tony Kirkham, Kenton Rogers, Andy Hirons, Nick Dunn and Marcelo White.
- 12th August: Climate reality – trees and adaptation with Harriet Rix, author of *The Genius of Trees*, Dorella Pinter Burus, Keith Sacre and Sue James.

These workshops are free to attend and for everyone working with urban trees but especially those involved in specifying and procuring trees. As this is an in-person event places are limited.

For registration and details see:
Our Urban Forest Future: Barcham Trees 2026 - Barcham Trees

Arboricultural Association Conference 7-9 September 2026 at Lancaster University
The call for abstracts will be announced shortly.
Enquiries can be directed to conference@trees.org.uk

Wildlife and Countryside Link - The Wild Summit 9th September, Bristol
Keynotes include:

- Rt Hon Emma Reynolds MP, Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- Zack Polanski MLA, Leader of the Green Party
- Guy Shrubsole, author and campaigner - on restoring our great landscapes
- Hilary McGrady, Director General, National Trust - on wildlife-friendly farming
- Mete Coban MBE, Deputy Mayor of London for Environment and Energy – on nature in the built environment
- Gemma Harper, CEO, JNCC - on ocean restoration
- Rachel Salvidge, award-winning journalist, Watershed Investigations - on the

Plus, the launch of a new collective campaign to get us on track for 30x30.
tickets are available here

Futurescape 13-14 October, Farnborough
https://www.futurescapeevent.com/

NHS Forest Conference online 15 October
The 2026 NHS Forest conference will explore the impact of green spaces on healthcare sites. Sessions will cover the impact of green spaces on health and wellbeing, the practical delivery of projects, and evidence sharing. Sign up here

10th Healthy City Design International Congress 20-21 October, Salford
The programme embeds health and climate-resilience at the heart of city developments locally, nationally and globally.
Details are here: https://www.healthycitydesign.global/

Town and Country Planning Association Annual Conference 28 November, London
Details to follow.

CONSULTATIONS

Responses from TDAG are on the website either in 'News' or 'Resources' -
https://www.tdag.org.uk/resources.html

RESEARCH ROUND-UP

J&L Gibbons have launched a novel platform - ***Greener, Cooler, Healthier*** to coincide with London Climate Week 2026. This is part of a 3-year multidisciplinary research project funded by the Wellcome Trust.

The platform is designed and authored to bridge rigorous scientific evidence, urban planning, and public health into an experience that is both scientifically credible and highly accessible. It seeks to translate complex research into an accessible narrative that reinforces the importance of green infrastructure as a fundamental component of resilient &

healthy cities, rather than simply an aesthetic addition.

One key aspect is the integration of epidemiological evidence with practical urban design interventions. By connecting mental health outcomes with spatial planning, tree canopy strategies, and community engagement, the platform demonstrates that climate adaptation is not solely an environmental challenge but also a public health imperative.

This interdisciplinary approach significantly strengthens the project's impact, strongly aligning with the need to rethink cities as living systems where climate resilience, biodiversity, & human wellbeing are deeply interconnected.

Greener, Cooler, Healthier is a timely and powerful example of evidence-based science communication, with recommendation that are clearly set out. It succeeds not only in informing readers but also in motivating action by demonstrating how research can directly shape healthier, more resilient, and more equitable cities.

You can find the details here and please share widely with your networks: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/7bbfe4a71a0c43bba6d5347f6b96f105

NEW PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION FROM OTHERS

With thanks to the Natural Cambridge Partnership, TCPA, GI Partnership, Urban Design Group, Ecosystems Knowledge Network and others.

Dig Once, Green Twice. A GLA guide to retrofitting green infrastructure in utility constrained streets.
https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/better-infrastructure/infrastructure-coordination/streets-service/sustainable-drainage-systems-suds-through-streetworks

Urban Trees: An Underused Tool for Keeping People Cool. World Resources Institute
https://www.wri.org/insights/urban-trees-cooling-potential?utm_campaign=wridigest&utm_medium=email&utm_source=wridigest-2026-06-25

Heatwaves: why British trees are shedding branches and dying. Glyn Barrett, University of Reading. https://tinyurl.com/r6u5n499

Nature Towns and Cities Project
A coalition of public, private and third sector organisations, committee to bringing nature and green space to urban areas for everyone's benefit.
https://naturetownsandcities.org.uk/

Green Gap: How BNG exemptions deepen nature poverty across England's most deprived community. Policy report from Wildlife and Countryside Link
https://wcl.org.uk/docs/green_gap_report.pdf

Natural England Mapping tool to measure health and environmental pressures
The Environmental Equity Index (EEI) and the Index of Multiple Environmental Deprivation (IMED) are available for free here.

Nature-based solutions to flooding and extreme weather. Ashden
The guide focuses on community-led approaches and is written for local and combined authorities. Read it here.

The Economic Case for Nature. RSPB
A report on the economic benefits of nature recovery with research undertaken by environmental economics consultancy eftec. It also suggests that £5-6bn provided annually for nature recovery could generate £80bn in new economic output over the next 10 years. Read more here.

Europe's Soaring Heat and the Great Air Conditioning Dilemma. World Resources Institute
https://www.wri.org/insights/europes-heat-and-air-conditioning-dilemma?utm_campaign=wridigest&utm_medium=email&utm_source=wridigest-2026-06-25

Demystifying biodiversity finance
https://wcl.org.uk/docs/green_gap_report.pdf

Data centres
More than half of data centres face drought or flood risk
https://smartwatermagazine.com/news/smart-water-magazine/more-half-data-centers-face-drought-or-flood-risk-report-finds

Comparing the summer of 1976 with today's climate. Ed Hawkins and Hayley Fowler in The Conversation.
Every year we delay in cutting emissions means a note and more extreme future climate.
https://tinyurl.com/e722t98t

Why climate scientists need to talk more about the very worst-case scenarios
https://tinyurl.com/vtah9vmy

Books

The Genius of Trees. Harriet Rix (2026)

SOCIAL MEDIA

Just a reminder that TDAG now has two social media accounts (we decided to delete the Twitter/X account):

- BlueSky https://bsky.app/profile/tdagtalktree.bsky.social
- LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-trees-and-design-action-group-trust/

Let us know of any events, publications, or other matters of interest to share!
Sue, Emma and Dee for the Trees and Design Action Group