Newsletter – June 2026

TDAG Events

Our next online seminar following the seminar on 10 June on Getting it right for Trees – Part 1
(https://bham-ac-uk.zoom.us/meeting/register/tQhW9zNuTaKYR6vcv67Xfg#/registration)

will be on 15 July from 2-4pm BST: Getting it right for trees – Part 2 – monitoring and evaluation to support establishment and growth.
https://bham-ac-uk.zoom.us/meeting/register/aYN1EnHEQAGp_pWrZKL2JQ

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

Trees and Development: putting nature at the heart of urban design and planning, 17 June at the University of Stirling
Co-curated by Future Woodlands Scotland, the Institute of Chartered Foresters and the Trees and Design Action Group, this conference invites audience participation as it explores the importance of early and sustained collaboration between planners, designers, developers, arboriculturists and engineers in improving outcomes for trees.
A modest delegate fee of £60 is charged to cover the venue and refreshments.

Details and booking here:
https://charteredforesters.org/event/trees-and-development-2026

OFFERS

BSI 8640 – special offer for TDAG members
The BSI is offering a reduction of 15% to purchase BS 8640. The offer is open until 20th June 2026. The code is:
To benefit from it, visit BS 8640:2025 | 13 Oct 2025 | BSI Knowledge and use promo code **BS8640TREE** at checkout.

EVENTS BY OTHERS

New introduction to Urban Greening CPD Course. 23 – 25 June, University of the West of England.
The Centre for Sustainable Planning and Environments at the University of the West of England has launched a new CPD course to support professionals in addressing the challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change and poor population health by developing their understanding of how green infrastructure can be integrated into urban environments. This 3-day course introduces participants to the principles, functions and applications of green infrastructure, exploring what it is, where it should be applied and how to use it effectively in real-world planning and design contexts. More information and registration can be found here: https://courses.uwe.ac.uk/Z51000230/introduction-to-urban-greening

WOODBUILD 2026. 30 June-01 July, University of South Wales Trefforest Campus, Pontypridd.
Responsible Timber Futures through policy and practice
How can public buildings and housing serve as a catalyst for a more resilient forest landscape. In turn, how can resilient forests support the creation of healthy, energy-efficient, and affordable homes? And how can policy strengthen a resilient value chain that sustains both thriving forest landscapes and high-quality affordable housing. These big questions frame the focus of this year's conference.

Save the date: 5 and 12 August in person all day workshops with tree inspections at Barcham Trees.

- 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 for everyone working with urban trees but especially those involved in specifying and procuring trees.
Registration details to follow.

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

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

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

URGENT!!! Brownfield BNG Consultation – closes on 10th June

Call to Action - Respond to Brownfield BNG Consultation
https://consult.defra.gov.uk/defra-biodiversity-net-gain/biodiversity-net-gain-considering-a-targeted-exemp/. This consultation closes **on 10 June**,

Comments from Richard Benwell, Wildlife and Countryside Link
The Government has announced a consultation proposing reduced Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements for all small site housebuilding projects (up to 9 dwellings) and for larger developments (up to 49 dwellings).

These new exemptions, if agreed, would mean the vast majority (over 70%) of housing developments would no longer need to compensate for nature loss, while potentially allowing developers to break up large projects into smaller ones to avoid the rules. Wildlife and Countryside Link, a coalition of 89 nature organisations, says the proposal could scupper the policy and put nature at risk.

Richard Benwell, CEO of Wildlife and Countryside Link, said: "Exempting small sites would mean almost three quarters of developments face no requirement to compensate for nature loss – let alone enhance it. These changes could leave the Biodiversity Net Gain system dead in the water and, with it, the Government's main guarantee of nature-positive planning.

"Biodiversity Net Gain is there to ensure that local communities aren't robbed of the green spaces that make places better to live in, and that developers can't take from nature without giving something back. This should be the rule, not the exception. Government shouldn't turn back the clock to the days of damaging development, but ensure a level playing field for all developers to contribute to growth and nature restoration"

Comments from Alexa Culver, RKS Wilding
I know many of you are already delivering excellent urban biodiversity schemes, with public access to nature, all spurred on by BNG laws. My view is that effectively pulling the plug on brownfield BNG at this stage isn't a progressive (or effective) way to address the development viability crisis. I have shared my thoughts (as usual!) on LinkedIn here: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/lexculver_a-fascinating-report-here-released-today-activity-7468303779965149186-Ub6Z?utm_source=social_share_send&utm_medium=member_desktop_web&rcm=ACoAAAgvHvsBX12C-ieVW6l4uiiL2OtCZBzq0wk

RESEARCH ROUND-UP: IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTITIONERS

A reminder to researchers to submit and share your work with practice.
Send us a 200-word overview of a completed project or completed output/thing to look at/read/use outlining why it is relevant to those working with trees in the urban environment along with a link to the research itself for those who want to know more!

Complete this form to have your research included in a future TDAG newsletter: https://forms.office.com/e/HA5t0rqq0A

Research outcomes in a TDAG newsletter will be moved to the Research section of the TDAG website for future reference https://www.tdag.org.uk/research.html

This month's research submissions:

No submissions were received this month. Do please submit if you have some research that would be of interest to the wider TDAG membership.

NEW PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION FROM OTHERS

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

A Well-Adapted UK. Climate Change Committee (May 2026)
https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/a-well-adapted-uk/

The Green Gap: How BNG exemptions deepen nature poverty across England's most deprived communities.
This timely report was commissioned by Wildlife and Countryside Link and Partners and looks at how over-wide Biodiversity Net Gain exemptions would harm the poorest communities in England the most. Reported in the Guardian Here: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/jun/04/englands-poorest-communities-face-deepest-cuts-green-space-planning-law-changes-report-warns.

The full report is here: https://www.wcl.org.uk/docs/green_gap_report.pdf

Books

EAT THE PLANET WELL. Davd Goulson (2026), Jonathan Cape

The Response: A Story of Fire and Flood in Britain's New World of Extremes
David Shukman (2026), Witness Books

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