Newsletter – December 2025

TDAG ONLINE SEMINARS – ALL FREE TO ATTEND

Our final t seminar for 2025 will be held on 9th December from 2-4pm GMT
Resilience through BNG? What have we learned – a two-year review
Free to attend – you can register here: Zoom registration

Seminars for 2026
We are planning these now. Many thanks to all those who have sent in suggestions. The first online seminar will be held in February 2026 and the details will be on our website and our LinkedIn page
https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-trees-and-design-action-group-trust/

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

Interview with Martin Kelly, Chair Trees and Design Action Group Trust
Kenton Rogers, Treeconomics and Martin Kelly, TDAG exchanged views of the future of urban trees. You can access the recording here: https://treeconomics.co.uk/resources/recordings/

Futurebuild 3-5 March 2026 at ExCel, London

TDAG has a stand in the Placemaking area (F92 close to the placemaking theatre).
The theme for the stand is *The Urban Forest – research into practice*.
There will also be two TDAG curated sessions on the Placemaking programme:

4th March 11.30 – 12.15 on 'Urban trees - biodiversity value, climate resilience, and canopy cover – what we need to know' with Andy Hirons, Kevin Martin, and Kieron Doick

5th March 13.30-14.15 on 'Integrating trees and buildings' with Richard Smith, NHBC, Gary Winn, architect, building engineer and arboriculturist and Julie Futcher, Urban Climate Consultant.

Entry and attendance in all conference and seminar sessions as well as the exhibition is free. Details of the full programme will be found in due course at www.futurebuild.co.uk

RESEARCH ROUND-UP: IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTITIONERS

This section of the newsletter invites researchers to submit 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:

None have been received this month. Please do let us know if you have any current or completed research that would be of interest to the wider TDAG community.

National Emergency Briefing on Climate and Nature

This was held at Central Hall Westminster on 27th November 2025.
Chris Packham opened the event and this was followed by a range of expert briefings with the latest assessments across all dimensions of the crisis from food security to national security, and outlined science-based pathways forward.

There be an official film but meanwhile there is a recording here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-PFKT1SNc4

You can also sign a letter to Kier Starmer and broadcasters
Details here: https://www.nebriefing.org/open-letter-keir and
https://www.nebriefing.org/open-letter-keir

EVENTS BY OTHERS

TCPA: Wednesday 10 December 12-1pm online.
Planning for the Climate Crisis: A guide for local authorities (launch webinar)
Join the TCPA and the **RTPI** for the launch of the fifth edition of their authoritative guidance on planning for climate change. This edition of the climate guide takes a new format, being formed of a series of topic resources grouped under the headings of 'introduction and policy context', 'climate mitigation', and 'climate adaptation'.

The webinar will include an overview of the new guide, a case study from Winchester City Council, reflecting on their work to secure climate policies in their new local plan (currently at examination), and updates from the TCPA and the RTPI on their work on this agenda.

Register for your free ticket: Planning for the Climate Crisis: a guide for local authorities

Environmental Data Networks: 11th December 3-4.30pm online
Tree Data – the recently published *State of Woods and Trees* from the Woodland Trust and introduction to the Bunce Survey.
Register here: the Tree Data Webinar

NEW PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION FROM OTHERS

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

Treeconomics 3-30-300 Mapping tool
This is timely following our recent TDAG seminar with Professor Cecil Konijnendijk, who developed the 3-30-300 rule. This new mapping and analysis tool is designed to help local authorities understand how neighbourhoods perform against the 3-30-300 principle - an emerging standard for healthy, nature-rich urban environments. Find out more here.

From Russell Horsey – front garden forest and flood resilience project
Working with the Rain Northants team as part of their Defra funded flood resilience project where are focused on using more natural flood management techniques including community focused tree planting.
https://rainnorthants.co.uk/introducing-front-garden-forests/

***Parks, pride, and place: The role green spaces can play in building pride in place and support at the ballot box,'* new research from More in Common, with support from the TCPA and WFET.**
You can find a full report of the research findings here:
https://www.moreincommon.org.uk/our-work/research/parks-pride-and-place/

TCPA - Stewardship for new communities
How can we ensure that new large-scale developments are places that improve over time, and in which people will want to live for generations to come? Read the **i**nsights from our recent New Communities Group webinar: Stewardship for new communities

Our new guides help communities to put sustainable planning principles into practice. The resources focus on the most pressing climate-related challenges affecting communities**:** flood risk**,** overheating and retrofit**.**
View the guides: Practical Hope: inspiration for community action
Watch the launch webinar: Community planning guides webinar

Natural England's Strategy – recovering nature for growth, health, and security
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/natural-englands-strategy-recovering-nature-for-growth-health-and-security/natural-englands-strategy-recovering-nature-for-growth-health-and-security

Defra Tree Action Plan
https://observer.co.uk/news/national/article/redwoods-take-root-in-uk-plan-to-meet-climate-crisis-targets

How soil could help us meet climate targets
https://theconversation.com/how-soil-could-help-us-reach-climate-targets-269533

What do trees remember?
https://theconversation.com/what-do-trees-remember-268499

Tree species for the future – planning for future forests
https://www.forestryengland.uk/nature-wildlife/species-for-the-future

New national forest in the Ox-Cam corridor
https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nation-to-benefit-from-two-new-national-forests-backed-by-1-billion-investment-in-tree-planting

Action oak: threat to new seedlings
https://fgc6x.r.a.d.sendibm1.com/mk/cl/f/sh/SMK1E8tHeGZMXfMkogHUXhsM8I5Q/tcr2olDCQJN0

Honey fungus
https://www.theguardian.com/science/2025/nov/01/hot-summer-and-damp-autumn-cause-uk-boom-in-destructive-honey-fungus

London Urban Forest Partnership
From Anne Jaluzot, Senior Policy and Programme Officer, GLA

I am delighted to share that the *Future Climate Suitability Assessment of London's Public Realm Trees*, prepared by Dr Andy Hirons and Kevin Martin, is now ready for you to use.

This groundbreaking report provides London-specific future climate suitability scores for over 100 species based on conditions anticipated for 2090 - around 65 years from now - and sets out key recommendations to help us protect the trees that protect us from the impacts of climate change.

When drafting the *London Urban Forest Plan 2025 Actions Update*, we agreed that securing the resilience of London's trees is a core principle for success. Acting on this commitment, the Forestry Commission and the Greater London Authority commissioned this bespoke, science-led assessment - a first of its kind worldwide. Understanding risks is a critical step toward mitigating them, and thanks to this work, the partnership is now on the front foot.

To make it easier for all partnership members to integrate future climate suitability into planning and management, the Greater London Authority has also published an update to the *London Public Realm Tree Map*. The **prototype version**, live today, includes species and location data for over 1.1 million public trees, along with 2090 climate suitability scores. The interface has been enhanced for easier filtering and viewing at different scales. In the coming weeks, we will add a more advanced reporting tool and contextual overlays such as canopy cover and Index of Multiple Deprivation data.

The report features a 2-page executive summary (see pp6-7), which I strongly recommend.

Explore the resources:

- Download the report: https://www.london.gov.uk/media/110943/download
- Access the updated London Tree Map: https://apps.london.gov.uk/public-realm-trees/

Observatree
Early warning system for tree health. https://www.observatree.org.uk/

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/

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO WORK TOGETHER FOR TREES IN 2026.

As ever, 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