



Trees & Design
Action Group

Newsletter – April 2025

FUTUREBUILD 2025

Many thanks to all who helped on the stand. We have been given a stand for 2026 – so forward planning needed here!

TDAG ONLINE SEMINARS – ALL FREE TO ATTEND

2025 online seminars

We are developing these and adding them to our 2025 events guide which is here: <https://www.tdag.org.uk/events.html>

The central theme is 'resilience'. Resilience relates to more than climate resilience. We need environmental, economic and social resilience to the multiple challenges that we find ourselves facing. Trees can make a remarkable contribution to many aspects of resilience, as well as the need for us to help trees to be resilient themselves. Still to come are:

Date	Topic
13 th May	Resilience through planning for trees
10 th June	Resilience to tree pests and diseases
8 th July	Resilient streets integrating green, grey and blue infrastructure
11 th September	Creating tree resilience in response to changing weather patterns
8 th October	How education in schools can encourage resilience for urban treescapes
4 th November	Growing a resilient research base
4 th December	Resilience through BNG? What have we learned – a two-year review

The next seminar is **Resilience through planning for trees**

It is free to attend and you can register here: https://bham-ac-uk.zoom.us/meeting/register/5NBbclCRSJqN2Ir_RvRGew#/registration

Otherwise save the dates!

Registration details will be in the events guide as soon as each session has been finalized and at least 4 weeks before the seminar date.

2024 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>

EVENTS BY OTHERS

Urban Tree Festival 10-18 May 2025

<https://urbantreefestival.org/>

CONSULTATIONS

There are a large number of policy announcements including the Land Use Framework consultation which closes on 25th April. Land use and land use data is critical for all decision making, so please let Sue James know if you would like to be involved in a response from TDAG. sue.jamesriba@gmail.com

RESEARCH ROUND-UP: IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTITIONERS

This is a new section for the newsletter inviting 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!

Please use this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/HA5t0rqg0A>

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>)

SOME TDAG ACTIVITIES

Research on tree planting Bartlett Tree Experts on their University of Reading campus.

This is the result of the Community Planting guidance below and is a partnership project with leading tree nurseries to provide consistent guidance on aspects of tree planting.

Homes England Tree Standard. This is being developed with Homes England, supported by Tibbalds and a steering group in an attempt to reduce the 'performance gap' for trees planted in living (soft) landscapes which too often fail to survive.

Street Tree Planting

This is ongoing working with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government which is updating the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code and the Department for Transport which is updating the Manual for Streets.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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/>

NEW PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION

TDAG

- Canopy cover part 2: Site assessments due soon – check on the website
- A First Steps Guide on urban trees and noise researched and written by Forest Research – due soon and, again, check on the website.
- How to Plant Larger Trees: A Guide for Community Groups. Developed with the National Trust as part of the Urban Forest Accelerator Programme.
<https://www.tdag.org.uk/how-to-plant-larger-trees.html>

By others with thanks to the Natural Cambridge Partnership, TCPA and others.

Assessing Pest and Pathogen Risks in the Urban Forest.

Nicholas Porter is leading on this project by Forest Research for Defra looking at both existing risks and anticipated risks for pests and diseases and how these might be reduced or managed. FR is due to send their final report to Defra in May this year but the final publication date will depend on Defra's internal review process.

Using morphophysiology to help trees

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cgl054xxk48o>

Invasive alien species

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/mar/10/immigration-plants-animals-insects-native-invasive-alien>

Viewing nature helps people feel less pain

<https://news.exeter.ac.uk/faculty-of-health-and-life-sciences/watching-nature-scenes-can-reduce-pain-new-study-shows/>

Democratic planning: a vital tool for social and environmental justice

The Planning and Infrastructure Bill could be the platform for the delivery of healthy communities designed to enhance nature and secure healthy, affordable and resilient homes. However, to achieve that goal, the legislation requires significant amendment. See the latest from the TCPA - [Read our latest briefing](#)

Cash-strapped councils struggling to fund the upkeep of green spaces

Julia Thrift (director, healthier place-making) was quoted in a [BBC News](#) article on funding for maintaining green infrastructure, *'Green spaces are really good for people's health, they're great for the environment, they're great for climate change. But getting all those benefits means they have to be really well run. That means thinking about them right from the start, how they're designed and how they're going to be funded and maintained.'*

Sue, Emma and Dee for the Trees and Design Action Group