



Newsletter – May 2025

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 treescapescapes |
| 4 th November | Growing a resilient research base |
| 4 th December | Resilience through BNG? What have we learned – a two-year review |

Our next seminar is on **Resilience to pests and diseases, 10 June, 14.00-16.00 BST**
Register here: https://bham-ac-uk.zoom.us/meeting/register/K8TSM91FSxOqtINkr1_sAQ

We will keep the meeting open until 16.15 for 'Any other business'.

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>

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!

Complete this form to have your research included in a future TDAG newsletter: <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>)

This month's research submissions:

From **Andrew Walton**, Tree Strategy Manager, Staffordshire County Council

Analogue forestry for food and timber security

My latest research, published in the Journal of Agroforestry and Environment, highlights the potential for nature analogous species assemblages or polycultures within a temperate forest garden system. The research provides a framework for choosing species that are analogous with native plants taking plant structure, function, phenology and soil preferences into account along with additionality provided by potential yields of food, fiber and medicine. Results show that it is theoretically possible to create a polyculture of different successional layers that is both productive and analogous with a native species assemblage. The results support the creation of food forests within urban settings to increase social and ecological resilience.

<https://jagroforenviron.com/modelling-a-nature-analogous-polyculture-within-a-temperate-forest-garden-system/>

From **Matthew Underwood**, GE Consulting

The impact of monthly weather patterns on the growth rates of street trees

Growth rates of urban trees are poorly understood. Limited research has been undertaken to assess the impact of drought, temperature, and precipitation on trees in the urban environment. The annual growth rates of trees are multi-factorial and highly regionally and species specific. Core samples were taken from four common species of street tree and compared to climate data. In contrast to previous studies, monthly temperature and precipitation were found to have a greater impact on annual growth rates than specific drought events. The impact of temperature and precipitation were species specific, although all species responded positively to increased precipitation in the previous summer and in spring prior to bud burst. This study will have an impact on species selection and efficacy of watering, particularly in regions with high rainfall.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03071375.2025.2491246>

From **Kieron Doick**, Forest Research

Enhancing understanding of the social and cultural values of urban trees: the i-Tree Eco Portsmouth project.

It is well established that i-Tree Eco provides a comprehensive way to more fully understand a city's urban forest with respect to its species composition, structure and condition, and to appreciate some of the ecological benefits the trees provide to residents and workers.

The Portsmouth project also sought to consider the social dimensions of the treescape by undertaking a survey of the local population. This survey aimed to capture the diverse ways that people value trees, how they engage with them, and views about how the treescape is managed, to inform the Council's strategy and management of Portsmouth's treescape. *Implication for practitioners:* read this report to learn more about this approach for understanding the social dimensions of urban treescapes, the types of results obtained and how the results can be used.

If you'd like to use this approach in your work, watch this space for new guidance to be released shortly.

<https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/i-tree-eco/i-tree-eco-projects/i-tree-eco-portsmouth/>

SOME TDAG ACTIVITIES

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.

EVENTS BY OTHERS

Climate Walk 15 May 3pm in Birmingham

The Birmingham Urban Climate Walk focuses on how the physical form and fabric of urban landscapes shape local climate conditions. It challenges the conventional view that buildings are passive elements, instead highlighting how they actively influence air movement, solar exposure, and energy flows. The walk is not just about observing buildings or greenery but understanding how spatial configurations, surface materials, and built forms interact to create diverse microclimates. By exploring these dynamics firsthand, participants gain practical insights into how existing towns and cities can become more sustainable and climate-responsive.

More details and registration information here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/liwm-urban-climate-walking-tour-tickets-1337460994839?aff=oddtcreator>

WoodBUILD 2025, Wood Knowledge Wales 3-4 June in Llandudno

<https://woodknowledge.wales/woodbuild-2025/>

Integrating trees into architectural design 11 June 15.00-16.30

This webinar will bring together leading experts to explore the key issues architects need to consider when integrating trees into their designs, ensuring both successful retention and planting in urban spaces, helping to create greener, more sustainable urban environments.

https://riba-academy.architecture.com/ilp/pages/description.jsf?menuId=1106&utm_campaign=May%20Academy%20Bulletin&utm_content=Book%20Now&utm_term=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Adestra#/users/@self/catalogues/150435/courses/3685934/description

The Great Big Green Week 7-15 June 2025

The UK's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature.

<https://www.greatbiggreenweek.com/>

BIFor Annual Meeting 2025: Forest Trace 24-25 June in Edgbaston

An exploration of trace gas exchange within forests and the traces of social, cultural and past ecological imprints they hold.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bifor-annual-meeting-2025-forest-trace-tickets-1320166977969>

Arboricultural Association Conference 15-17 September, University of Warwick

<https://www.trees.org.uk/Amenity-Conference>

SALUS Healthy City Design 14-15 October in Salford

This is a global forum for the exchange of knowledge on the research, policy, practice and investment in designing healthy and sustainable cities and communities. This year's event will take place in Salford on 14-15 October and the theme is Transitions to health: Impact through planning, policy and investment.

The Call for Papers has been launched, with the deadline of 28 May.

<https://www.healthycitydesign.global/>

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/>

NEW PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION

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

Effective street tree and grass designs to cool European neighbourhoods

- **Street trees are significantly more effective at cooling than grass.** Covering streets entirely with grass only reduced the average temperature (Physiological equivalent temperature) by a small amount (up to 1.1 °C), while street trees could lower it by up to 8.7 °C.
- **Neighbourhood layout matters.** Neighbourhoods with wide, radiating streets tend to be hotter initially and benefit more from green interventions.
- **Strategic tree placement is key.** Planting two rows of large trees on the main streets is more effective for cooling than planting a single row on both main and smaller streets, especially on the side that receives more sunlight.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212095525000926?via%3Dihub>

Climate Change Committee: "The country is not prepared for climate impacts

<https://www.theccc.org.uk/2025/04/30/the-country-is-not-prepared-for-climate-impacts-say-advisors/>

Satellite to monitor the state of the world's forests

<https://www.airbus.com/en/newsroom/press-releases/2025-04-airbus-built-forest-monitoring-satellite-biomass-successfully>

Corry Review: an independent review of Defra's regulatory landscape

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/delivering-economic-growth-and-nature-recovery-an-independent-review-of-defras-regulatory-landscape>

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