



## Designing with trees – Part 1: above ground ambitions

Chair: **Saira Ali**, President-Elect, Landscape Institute and Team Leader for Landscape, Design and Conservation at Bradford Council

Tree selection – What is the right place? What is the right tree?

**Harry Watkins**, Landscape Architect and Director, St Andrews Botanic Garden

Lighting for trees, nature and safety

**Lorraine Calcott**, Director and Principal Designer, it does Lighting Ltd

Trees in urban design

**Christopher Martin**, Co-founder, Managing Director and Head of Design, Urban Movement

Success with trees in open urban landscapes

**Poppy George**, Tree Planting Programme Officer, LB Lambeth

Partners: Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation, Institute of Highway Engineers, Landscape Institute, Urban Design Group

**NB: All recordings and presentations are on the TDAG website along with the information and links from the chat.** <https://www.tdag.org.uk/past-events.html>

### QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND REFERENCES

**Harry's talk raised a number of interesting questions and comments.**

Should there be a requirement that all the necessary consultants MUST be retained from design through to delivery?

Very worrying that local planting guidance isn't more prominent in the plant selection literature - this is usually more relevant to local circumstances and prevailing conditions

**There was a lot of interest around the role of the Council's adopted documents -**

It would be helpful to also refer to Council adopted documents, e.g. Local Plan policies, BAPs and Tree Strategies, for advice on what to include - ignoring these just results in avoidable toing and froing

- To what extent does this depend on the quality and detail of the Local Plans, tree strategies etc?

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- It will depend on the quality / detail of the documents of course. I would also say that each area tends to have landscape architects that work regularly in that area so should 'get to know' what that Council expects, but I find we have to repeat ourselves.
- Part of the problem is that landscape architects or any other in the design team may not actually be local?
- A lack of local knowledge is often a big problem
- But when they are.... Also, could they pick up the phone / email the relevant officers if schemes are not acceptable in the first instance to discuss? Yes common sense would say so!
- As an LA Tree Officer, I would say that tree planting schemes are often "value-engineered" to affordable species!
- Sometimes landscape architects come from outside the UK so know even less about suitable species.
- The problem is each local authority treats trees differently and there is discrepancy in planning conditions.
- Presume that will change with the new NPPF?
- A national program that started here in BC allows doctors to legitimately prescribe 'nature' as part of health and wellness treatments. <https://www.parkprescriptions.ca/> (It is starting to happen in the UK – could be built into planning conditions i.e. providing the environments for health and wellbeing as part of GI?)

### **There was also quite a lot of comment on the question of trees as infrastructure in more than one of the presentations -**

Calling a tree a “thing” equates with calling it “infrastructure” which is a human construct. Trees are living organisms that have essential needs and the right to have those needs accommodated.

- Of course trees have rights but how do we place trees in a way that people who are less interested in trees can see why they must take them seriously?

We need to get off the planting quantity treadmill and think GROWING, starting with what is already in the ground and continuing on with each and every tree we consider planting. The focus needs to get off sticking more and more stems in the ground and instead, growing long term quality.

Please could we have a link to the paper Harry mentioned?

Using the CSR Theory when Selecting Woody Plants for Urban Forests: Evaluation of 342 Trees and Shrubs <https://auf.isa-arbor.com/content/early/2025/04/10/jauf.2025.014>

and

Assessment of plant biosecurity risks to Scotland from large scale tree plantings for environmental benefits | Plant Health Centre

<https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/assessment-of-large-scale-plant-biosecurity-risks-to-scotland/>

What was indicated in Harry’s presentation is that specifications are not finding their way into the ground. This invariably comes back to asking where is the Arb / Consulting Arb insight when the work is being done? That’s the implementation and enforcement essential that seems to be missing

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Excellent Tree Review and delivery on the ground. Another key factor is the growing medium/soils specification

I would argue, yes and no. First retain trees of value and set out parameters for the building envelope based on this at pre-app stage. Second. Plant better by providing larger areas of available rooting volume, with clear goals to achieving maturity without conflict to built structure. In the interim, ensure that mitigation can achieve carbon sequestration parity (such as UBoC model)

During construction, in the standard Contractor Progress Meeting, a common factor is that the Green Infrastructure/Tree expert is not involved directly on the contractors meeting

Landscape Architects are not (necessarily) tree experts as can be seen in the schematic that shows amenity to be of greater importance than the physiological and or structural characteristics of the tree.

- Depends on the landscape architect - assuming 'amenity' is their knowledge base is not always true - depends on experience, training etc. But need to work with arboriculturists for specialist knowledge
- Arb Consultants rarely identify new tree planting as part of the schedule of supervision as the feed in is generally the remit of the Landscape Architect.

What do people think of the TDAG species guidance?

- I refer to the tree species selection guide a lot (alongside other docs)
- It is too weighty and still makes it difficult to choose the appropriate species from such long species lists
  - Have you tried downloading the excel sheet, [hiron\\_and\\_sjoman\\_2019\\_supplementary\\_database\\_1.2.xlsx](#)  
You can then "filter" by for example if you want a tree with large stature, that is drought tolerant or moderately drought tolerant suitable for a park it then returns a shorter list of potential species
- Andy Hiron and the Urban Plant Lab are looking at a tool to make this decision making easier...this should be in a TDAG seminar later in the year.

Note: If you have comments or suggestions about the TDAG Species guide, please let us know. [Ahiron@myerscough.ac.uk](mailto:Ahiron@myerscough.ac.uk) and [sue.jamesriba@gmail.com](mailto:sue.jamesriba@gmail.com)

**Lorraine Calcott raised many questions and comments on lighting.**

### **Lighting and human health**

Fascinating information on light. Are references available to support individual follow-up/research?

A national program that started here in BC allows doctors to legitimately prescribe 'nature' as part of health and wellness treatments. <https://www.parkprescriptions.ca/>

- From Lorraine: It's certainly an idea I am fully behind. I am working with doctors in trying to promote what we call social prescribing in the UK. Time in nature cannot be overused and is free, so why do they not prescribe it.

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It is funny how 10-15 years ago this was considered as conspiracy theory and we were forced to avoid sunlight, and now we come back to knowledge from 19-20th century - natural light is best medicine

- From Lorraine: Sunscreen manufacturers drove the sunlight bad narrative which we only started using less than 100 years ago. Even with skin cancer lack of natural light each day is shown to cause more all cause morbidity across the board. The attitude to daylight/sunlight needs to change

Are there safety issues with LED lighting?

- I find more and more articles on LED lights being toxic, very interesting
- Coming full circle, but still LED. <https://www.euronews.com/2026/02/10/from-denmark-to-the-uk-why-european-cities-are-installing-red-street-lighting>
- From Lorraine: Yes, there is growing research to suggest that exposure to LED without the balance of red, infrared etc and limited daylight exposure is being talked about as bad for health as the asbestos impacts. Broad spectrum LED needs to be allowed back into design which is currently blocked by energy targets but at what cost to human health.
- They aren't exactly toxic, but they aren't balance with the fuller spectrum and it does affect cell health if we don't spend enough time outdoors in daylight

International Dark Sky Standards allow for a range of lighting choices which address light pollution issues but still allow for meeting safety requirements. Problem is, as with everything else it's viewed as too expensive or inconvenient to implement

Can you use warmer colour temperatures while retaining the lumens or brightness? Harsh white lighting seems to dominate everywhere...

- I've sought 1800k in my home, and block blue light bulbs where possible. But the streets, whilst thankfully all full of canopy trees here in Brighton are now cold with blue light in 3000k /moonlight LEDs. It really jars the nervous system! Has strong blue light
- From Lorraine: Sad but true across the country. There needs to be pressure on government to push this from the top down. We need change on this now not 20 years from now.

Are you also experimenting with dynamic lighting responding to movement?

- From Lorraine: Its being explored but it raises issues with compliance with the British Standard and has to be done correctly to achieve compliance. I do feel its likely to be used more as we evolve within the lighting industry.

Really relieved to hear that warm light spectrum is recognised as underserved. And now manufactures are charging £15-20/ bulb for amber lighting or integrating to fittings so they can't be changed. Seems thus not lower carbon

Btw here in Brighton we have mature trees by houses and lights between them- perhaps the LPA standards are specific to each?

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- From Lorraine: Every council has its own version of the BS but that doesn't always mean they are compliant, it just means a member or other agenda has decided what they want. Brighton is well established and not much new building in its centre so avoiding trees that exist already is a lot harder for the reasons I raised.

Yes, 3000 Kelvin LEDs (moonlight) are what we are using here in Surrey, BC. But I am still pushing for ground level, downward focused lighting with lower brilliance for pathways in our biodiversity hotspots.

- From Lorraine: 3000K isn't really what we would call moonlight in colour and 3000K is considered fairly warm. However, I'd like to see us move back towards 2200K or 2500K as its just better for humans and ecology. There are other options and a lighting designer can explore all ways of delivering the space and not just a streetlight, use a professional competent designer who is registered and has knowledge in the type of design you are after, not all designers are the same.
  - I would love to see the lower temps too, but our LED transition plan is driven by higher-level decision making that has been going on for some time, even though it was supposed to include opportunities to do mitigation where lighting upgrades were adjacent to our green infrastructure network or natural areas etc. Unfortunately, Engineering's mandates, safety perceptions and cost savings are the priority.

### **Impact of lighting on trees and biodiversity**

Night lighting also destroys biodiversity which affects human well-being which can be equated in certain ways with "safety"

- From Lorraine: Agreed and of course we don't have to light but where its deemed necessary we do need to deliver something compliant and suitable for humans and ecology. It is possible if done correctly but it is often a fight.

What about the impact of 24/7 lighting on trees' natural cycles? Has this been studied?

- From Lorraine: Not sure of the exact research but I believe its been studied and it definitely impacts them. I mostly have my own observations on this but its known in my industry that its an issue hence the standard distance clearances to try and keep light away from trees where possible and where the layouts allow.

Do you consider bat foraging routes when designing light placement?

- From Lorraine: Absolutely, every time even when there aren't known ecology receptors

Isn't there something around red / orange lighting being better?

- From Lorraine: Yes absolutely. We are often stopped from using them by the local authority specifications. This is changing but not fast enough
- From Lorraine: Red isn't really the answer either as we still need colour perception for human safety but warmer colour temps are definitely possible and still give good colour rendering.

Low level lighting might have been better

- From Lorraine: This is being explored as an alternative for the new BS for lighting but there are limits especially when safety is a concern.

Is there any guidance on feature lighting for trees - eg. uplighters, gobos, string lights to aid with placemaking, wayfinding safety etc

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- From Lorraine: Yes, but a lot of the guidance crosses over across a lot of standards so you have to know what to look at and how to implement it.

### **Need for collaborative teams**

There is agreement in this group that the right design team members need to work together and share information at the right time - why is this happening? Is that a lack of understanding on the client side or is it a money saving exercise?

On a lot of developments, I don't think the arb plan takes account of any highway infrastructure, Lights, sewers etc. Also, from what I have seen I don't think the civils designer sees the Arboricultural plans resulting in conflict during construction

The electrical supply for the light columns also needs careful consideration

There often appears to be no communication between a landscape designer and lighting designer and it comes down to the council officer (again) to point out conflicts.

Lighting engineers never overlay the landscape proposals and end up conflicting with trees with LCs close to trunks, due to a lack of coordination on site during construction, esp if D&B.

- From Lorraine: Not all lighting engineers as I always ask about trees at every stage, but not all lighting professionals are invited into the team at the start. I insist on it where possible as it avoids conflicts later. Not a perfect system and planners also don't check on lighting until detailed stage so very easy to have issues that aren't flagged until the end.
- I always coordinate -then go back to site when built and it's upside down. So depressing.

Trees and lighting columns should not be in conflict. All this can be resolved at design stage but isn't because the developers do not bother to cross reference.

- Clients think they can get a manufacturer design and miss out a lighting professional and end up coming unstuck at the end where I then have to retrospectively design to sort it out for approvals, not ideal
- ...and the redesign often results in a reduction in tree number because they can't be accommodated anymore

The ambition to plant trees needs to be designed in from the outset and not seen as the final add on at the end of the job

- Of course - a lot is down to poor Project Management not identifying team properly and not appreciating need for early input

Designing these layouts need to include consideration for essential soil volume and rooting structure for sustainable/resilient canopies.

Place lighting on building elevations as elsewhere in Europe

- Places like Copenhagen suspend streetlights off cables attached to buildings either side.
- Potentially an option where interrogated at early design stage or if a conflict has been identified/deficiency in street greening, low UGF.

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- I lived in DK for 9 years, it is a very different street configuration pattern compared to the UK. Similarly, we do not really want to be introducing further obstructions within air space - there is already conflict with telephone wires.
  - From Lorraine: In the UK normally the issue is with gaining wayleaves so it's not as easy as that. It causes a huge maintenance issue and therefore is avoided here.  
Europe has different standards and whilst I love their approach, we cannot yet use other options and still comply with the multitude of criteria I need to hit on a design.

### **We diverted into considering how often the car has adverse effects on place**

The car is always king. New developments should build underground parking or improve transport links...

- And remove more soil carbon??
- Good point, but imagine how much planting could be done out on the streets...
- Gardens - how nice that would be!
- Car free developments in areas of good public transport and infrastructure.
- Agree. It seems that a fair percentage of city dwellers still insist on having cars though. Think it's all down to behaviour change and advertisers taking responsibility for what messages they push out.

### **Foundations should be tree resilient**

Developer's don't want to build foundation depths (or find any alternative solutions) that are suitable for street trees that offer a substantial tree canopy and have us remove or reduce size so only crappy little nothing trees can be used

- National requirement with very high expectations for delivery through the NPPF Of tree-lined streets – but distances from low rise buildings on shallow/standard foundations on shrinkable soils may make this impossible to deliver?
- NHBC impacts - developers don't want the cost of large trees v foundations
- Good quality pre-app advice, requiring a landscape parameters plan at Outline stage that can be used at reserved matters stage

### **Christopher Martin brought another dimension to the discussion looking at the unintended consequences of 'pulling a thread in the system' and seeing it unravel.**

**This raised the question again about the terminology for trees as infrastructure.**

Trees are NOT infrastructure which is defined as HUMAN CONSTRUCT. Calling them something that we as humans create reinforces treating trees as jewellery or amenities and not as living organisms with rights and needs, both of which must be accommodated.

- But they are assets. By not considering green infrastructure, we end up with a predominance of hard landscape. This is a different discussion from protecting natural environments. Except for ancient woodland in and around cities, pretty much every other landscape we encounter in cities is man made
- Cambridge dictionary definition of infrastructure: the basic systems and services, such as transport and power supplies, that a country or organization uses in order to work effectively
- If a word will make an impact to wider understanding, then I will go with that!

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- Language can be adapted and changed to suit the audience its the message that needs to land
- 'Infrastructure' also relates to a development's programme. Infrastructure gets planned in and built out first - that's where we want nature to be. Not an afterthought.
  - From Lorraine: They still normally get agreed before the lighting is finalised and that is where the biggest conflict then happen
  - Many times, I need to delete proposed trees due to the lack of space underground (mostly utilities) which is every time some disappointing. :(
- The tree wouldn't be there unless humans had planted it, therefore it could be considered a human construct
  - That's a most unfortunate idea as it continues denial of rights and needs and it perpetuates the human control of all instead of a focus on natural systems as what guides our approach
  - Not really, as I said there is a difference between the urban and natural environment and it is a big one. Infrastructure in this context relates to those things which make life 'liveable' and this should include trees. You mentioned a very good definition relating to water clarity which explained the elements which all would go well to enhance the built environment. Woodlands, heritage Orchards would generally and more rightly founded in the natural environment and there are dangers in mixing the two.
- Trees usually come as the last element in urban infrastructure in wherever is left, not necessarily at best locations.
- But, in that context, it's just stems in the ground without any consideration for what a tree is, and what it needs in order to live and thrive.  
That's the reality of how this thought process affects outcomes
- I like critical theory applied to urbanism. "Infrastructure" is often something people think of as belonging to the realm of experts. It makes urban spaces more technocratic and less democratic. Yet there is a lot of ideology attached to this technocracy. Motonormativity, for example. Removing the expert terminology makes urban design more political.
- Infrastructure doesn't have to be human, there's also more-than-human infrastructure. It can also be social or cultural. Anything supporting the functioning of a society or environment is part of an infrastructure
  - Disagree as using the term carries human construct baggage and at the very least should be accompanied by a reminder that trees, soil, natural associates are living organismst hat have needs and the right to have those needs accommodated.  
Anything less just continues the disaster we have created.  
Just look in the street and see the impoverished planting site conditions - that's an INFRASTRUCTURE thought process
  - I would suggest you take a walk down the street and really look at the plight of trees that have been planted into a paved environment as INFRASTRUCTURE with absolutely no consideration for needs or rights.  
This is the impact of using the INFRASTRUCTURE related trees as jewellery or amenities

Christoper - please can you share your slides with name places of the precedent images - they're great examples - thank you

- The presentations are on the TDAG website under Past Events

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Such poetry translated into practical insights. Inspiring presentation. Thank you.

Fantastic and emotive presentation @christopher martin

### **Poppy George outlined her challenges and approach as a tree planting officer in Lambeth.**

This is the first I've ever heard of a tree planting officer, what a great job to have!

Parks just seen as space for trees.

Do you think that planting targets are a basic source of failure in terms of design for a start?

- Definitely - a very blunt tool to address a major issue but often with no design consideration
- Quite - as we are now saying - it's about tree establishment and ability to reach maturity, which needs maintenance and management, not simply a numbers planted exercise.
- Very much so, as it rarely considers how to GROW what actually is already in the ground as a strategy for GROWING canopy.

We should be measuring establishment not planting numbers

- What would be your criteria? We have a 3 year 'free to grow' standard (for trees planted by the city), after which more intense maintenance is reduced depending on seasonal conditions. But given climate change impacts and human stressors, maybe we should be thinking a minimum 10 years, especially for trees planted by developers.
- We must all start using establishment., rather than Planting. Planting has too many negative implications, in my view, regarding swathes of dead trees associated with big infrastructure schemes.
- Planting is definitely just a one off, but I would suggest that it's well beyond just establishment so much as the entire thought process of GROWING. - what will that tree that will be planted in terms of site accommodation and establishment criteria to enable long term growth
- Planning planting conditions should talk about successful establishment, rather than failure. Measurable. Growth rates perhaps?

Cities should "invest" in scanning public realm on urban areas that are potentially spaces where natural/green infrastructure can be incorporated (meaning without utilities underground), earmark these areas and plan ahead on how to protect and design for incorporation into the urban landscape (with trees and vegetation).

- This could setup a potential system in which the planning and design of urban infrastructure would put green infrastructure as a main feature over other elements (roads/ hard pavement)
- Whatever space between you think you need, double it!

Curious how prevalent street tree/shade tree management plans are with your local govts, or urban forest management plans.

- There is a current project that is collecting and reviewing Urban Forest Management Plans and most of these documents do not really live up to the incorporation of Standards of Practice that are published by ANSI as well as the European arboricultural Council

Unless you are creating an understorey in a multi-layer urban forest

Sharon Durdant-Hollamby gave a presentation at our February seminar which had an answer to this issue of ensuring that delivery is achieved on site etc.

As the Biodiversity Conservation Planner, I work closely with our Sustainability team who oversee our Climate Change Action Strategy. They are in Community Planning, and I am in Parks (where our Urban Forestry team is as well). We recognize the synergies between our strategies and objectives. Mind you, a lot of this is driven by who we are individuals within our organization. ☺

### Trees in private gardens

Do you ever encourage private landowners, houses to plant as I feel a lot of pressure is put on councils to plant with a very limited amount of space available and resources. If every homeowner planted one tree we could improve canopy cover, climate etc a lot quicker.

- Could be a co-ordinated approach with Water companies for example with a reduction in stormwater run-off fees.
- We have started insisting on dedicated metered watering points within a specific distance from planted spaces

Is there a reason more trees aren't planted in new development private gardens to increase the quantity and health benefits?

- I'd suggest that developers won't plant unless they have to...
- Money
- The householder may then remove the tree too - they prefer the choice?
- Depends on LPA Policy /SPDs
- I heard its due to some sort of clauses that stop them putting them there.
- Developers have told me that homeowners don't like trees in their gardens...do we believe them?
  - When we hear of the health benefits perhaps they'd change their minds :)
  - I think that can be true even if people like trees it's often a case of 'not in my back yard'...!!
- If you don't have tree removal compensation requirements, or development permit requirements it just doesn't happen. Having said that, many local govts (e.g., Parks Depts) can and do support tree giveaways or tree sales. We do tree sales that 4xyr., mix of fruit trees, ornamental trees and some native spp. Typically they sell out.
- BNG - I understand back gardens and private landscaping wouldn't be counted so developers don't bother. Down to officers to argue other policies require it
- Another being the NHBC guidance on foundation depth and design in proximity to trees. The developers don't want to spend an extra penny if they don't have to and including trees/shrubs could mean they would need to.
- Also, the poorly planned placement/routing of underground services can put constraints on what can be planted where
- Just a simple moving in leaflet to houses with a tree in on how to look after the tree to get into full size and why it is important to keep the tree alive.
  - Would be nice to give householders a choice of tree too, but I'm not holding my breath on this happening anytime soon.
    - Unfortunately that would unlikely provide much canopy because they would generally go for a little lollipop tree even if only to save conflict with neighbours who may have a different take on anything that shades their property

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- Don't have to give them a free choice - would be from an appropriate list.
  - Here's a planning condition for you: 2 The residents who first occupy each dwelling, shall be provided with a Landscaping Welcome Pack (LWP). The LWP shall incorporate a plan showing the public landscaped areas, the approved landscaping plan and summarise the approved landscaping maintenance schedule. The LWP shall set out the details of organisation responsible for the maintenance and their contact details. A copy of this will be sent to the Local Planning Authority.  
Reason? To help ensure that new residents are fully informed as to the quality of landscaping that can be expected and in order to help new residents take ownership of their open spaces and therefore ensure that their management is undertaken as it should be.
  - How do we ensure institutional memory, so that this information is passed on to future residents/owners. Or ensure that realtors convey this info to future owners etc.
  - You can TPO trees not yet planted, if they are of particular importance as part of a landscaping scheme. (NB. This is something that TDAG has long advocated)
- The difficulty would be how you ensure the tree is retained and managed once planted in private property, at least trees within the public realm can be managed and protected
  - More trees within gardens would definitely help boost most new build developments and create a better setting than back to back bare gardens
  - Also, people expect freedom to do what they want in their own gardens. Not to mention who would enforce any of this?
  - Hopefully, by the time new people move in, the landscaping will already be successfully established. The critical part of the equation in my opinion

I agree we need to plant non-natives. There is too much emphasis from ecologist to plant native in urban context including hostile pavement environments. Totally wrong approach!

As Poppy mentions, but i have noticed a lot of tree standards at 1.8m seem to really struggle to get growing and normally sapling can quickly overtake. Is there any research into this and is it realistic better to plant saplings?

Many thanks, Poppy - good exploration of the issues as you raised them!

Great presentation @Poppy George, lots to think about.

Great presentation - thanks Poppy


I agree we need to plant non-natives. There is too much emphasis from ecologist to plant native in urban context including hostile pavement environments. Totally wrong approach!

A very solid approach Poppy. I'm sure you will have great success into the future

**The general discussion picked up a number of issues mainly focused on why there can be a lack of delivery on site in accordance with the planning permission and why, when planted, there are such high failure rates for trees to become established.**

### Enforcement and making sure that what is planned is what is planted and gets established

We need to require Arb watching briefs and or Arb monitoring

- It is not the requirement of Arb monitoring and watching briefs that is the problem and a real problem. It is the enforcement of them that is the issue. too often they are treated as paper exercises by developers.
- I've always offered an Arb Clerk of Works service as part of my tree consultancy for this very reason
- In Bradford as a Local Authority we are involved from the beginning and see it through to the end.
- How about this planning condition:  Within three months following completion of the approved landscaping (excluding private garden spaces) in each phase of the development, a statement of conformity, prepared by a qualified landscape architect, shall be sent to the Local Planning Authority to confirm the landscaping scheme has been successfully implemented and approved planting specification undertaken in accordance with the details approved under conditions X, X and X, for that particular phase. The statement of conformity shall be submitted on an annual basis for a period of five years.  
Reason? To ensure the successful implementation and the long term success of the approved landscaping scheme.
- The UK has a specific legislative framework, however BS5837 is quite succinct that enforcement is the remit of the LPA, we could always simply TPO all retained trees and all new planting but improving schemes such as considerate constructor / CSCS would be better
  - There is now vanishingly little funding / staff / knowledge for enforcement.

### Tree species

How much focus is there on introducing non-native pioneer species, in anticipation that one day climate change will have an irreversible effect on our native stock?

- From Harry: This is a really interesting question: we had a go at developing a metric for evaluating biodiversity value of trees, regardless of nativeness:  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/392220626\\_Towards\\_a\\_biodiversity\\_metric\\_for\\_urban\\_tree\\_species](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/392220626_Towards_a_biodiversity_metric_for_urban_tree_species)
- Our regional district has developed a climate change mitigation guide for member municipalities.  
<https://metrovancover.org/search/Pages/results.aspx?k=Urban+Tree+List+for+Metro+Vancouver+in+a+Changing+Climate>

It would be good to have an updated TDAG species list with smaller species that are suitable for urban streets :) (NB. The key message is the appropriateness of the species to the location – if there is room for canopy spread, then large trees etc)

### Utilities

Suggest something to reign in PD activities of utilities? Have just seen a utility tear through an entire neighbourhood of TPO'd trees (with connections at each property) many of those tpo'd trees in an urban LWS.

Reduced space underground will provide smaller canopy trees

- Build houses better and with better designed foundations (NB. TDAG is working on this with NHBC and others)

**Trees and water uptake – where is the evidence?**

Do all trees need similar amounts of water? Or am I misunderstanding the idea that "water demand" is not a useful term?

- Andy Hirons and others are looking at this
- Case Law relates to avoiding the desertification of London. Tree Related Subsidence is a complex issue.
  - Indeed. Also needs to be a place for foundation depths and designs
  - Being adequate so we can retain existing trees and plant new trees