

# TDAG Online Seminar Series 2026

Registration will be available at least  
four weeks ahead of each seminar



Working in collaboration  
for better places

# TDAG Online Seminar Series Hosted on Zoom

We will provide full details of each seminar as part of a rolling programme

## Trees as critical urban infrastructure

Well-functioning infrastructure is at the heart of making places at all scales liveable. It includes transportation, communications, water (both drought and flood management), power, community services such as schools, hospitals, housing as well as economic activities and nature i.e. everything that can create health and wellbeing for both people and the natural environment which need to support one another while reducing and avoiding risk.

When we say that trees should be considered as part of critical urban infrastructure, we are recognising their role as the largest living element capable of living long, transgenerational lives and delivering multiple benefits across the social, environmental and economic spectrum.

The TDAG seminars for 2026 will explore the role of trees in this context.

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**Seminar One: Tree success stories**  
11th February, 2-4pm GMT ([See Past Events](#))

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**Seminar Two: Designing with trees – Part 1: above ground ambitions**  
11th March, 2-4pm GMT ([See Past Events](#))

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**Seminar Three: Designing with trees – Part 2: below ground challenges**  
22nd April, 2-4pm BST

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**Seminar Four: Urban trees – biodiversity value, climate resilience and canopy cover – what we need to know**  
13th May, 11.30-12.15 BST. In person at Futurebuild + UK Construction Week, ExCel, London

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**Seminar Five: Integrating Trees and Buildings – they don't have to be in conflict!**  
14th May, 13.30-14.15 BST. In person at Futurebuild + UK Construction Week, ExCel, London

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**Seminar Six: Topic tbc**  
10th June, 2-4pm BST

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**Seminar Seven: Topic tbc**  
15th July, 2-4pm BST

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**Seminar Eight: Tree protection in plain English**  
23rd September, 2-4pm BST

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**Seminar Nine: Trees and Planning – an update**  
21st October, 2-4pm BST

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**Seminar Ten: Growing a resilient research base for urban trees – the Second TDAG/Mersey Forest Ideas Lab Early Career Research Prize**  
18th November, 2-4pm GMT

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**Seminar Eleven: Trees in the townscape 2035 – what will it look like?**  
9th December, 2-4pm GMT

Date  
11th February

Time  
2-4pm GMT

Registration  
Zoom

There is widespread concern that many tree planting projects do not have the rate of success that they should. This seminar considers the issues under 4 themes to demonstrate what success looks like and how it was achieved.

## Agenda

**Chair: Tony Kirkham** MBE, author, tree expert, TDAG Patron and former Head of the Arboretum, and Horticultural Services at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

### **A project that has stood the test of time**

**Jane Findlay**, Founder, Fira and Past-President of the Landscape Institute

### **The importance of social and cultural values for resilient treescapes**

**Rachel Bryan**, Green and Healthy City Project Officer, City of Portsmouth

### **Achieving tree success in complex, dense urban environments**

**Sharon Durdant-Hollamby**, Director, Sharon Hosegood Associates

### **Regeneration led by landscape – Sighthill, Glasgow**

**Rory Wilson and Kirstin Taylor**, Directors, LDA Design

**Partners: Landscape Institute, Town and Country Planning Association, Urban Design Group**

Date  
11th March

Time  
2-4pm GMT

Registration  
Zoom

It is now well understood that urban trees deliver multiple environmental, social and economic benefits, but how well the trees can deliver depends on how we design with them – both to retain existing trees (which is vital) and also planting new trees. If we are to achieve our above ground ambitions, we will need collaboration amongst the key players in understanding the issues and resolving the conflicts so that trees can be integrated as part of our critical urban infrastructure for long term success.

## Agenda

**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**

Date  
22nd April

Time  
2-4pm BST

Registration  
Zoom

It is recognised that there are challenges to resolve with some urban tree locations especially urban streets – both in new developments and retrofitting – and in constrained urban sites where trees and green infrastructure compete with density and below ground congestion. All these challenges need to be understood and overcome if city dwellers are to have access to nature and greenspace as recommended by the 3-30-300 rule, for example, and the vital need to increase biodiversity and ensure improved human mental and physical health and wellbeing. This seminar will examine some of the practical challenges and how they can be resolved.

## Agenda

**Chair: Holger Kessler**, Senior Stakeholder Manager, Atkins Réalis

### Legal rights to the subsurface

**Sarah Dodd**, Founding Director, Tree Law

### What do tree roots need and can we predict their behaviour?

**Andrew Hiron**, Director at Urban Plant Lab and a Senior Lecturer in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry at University Centre Myerscough

### Trees, SuDS and utilities can co-exist

**Katrina Wylie**, Associate Civil Engineer, Team Civic

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

# Urban trees – biodiversity value, climate resilience and canopy cover – what we need to know

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13th May

**Time**  
11.30-12.15 BST.  
In person at  
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Construction Week,  
ExCel, London

Details for this seminar are in development.

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2-4pm GMT

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