

# A Guide to Tree Species Selection for Green Infrastructure – Helping to Grow a Resilient Urban Forest



This seminar will take place on **13th March 2018** 10.00-16.00 at the Building Centre, Store Street, London, WC1E 4BT

## Event Host and Organiser

**Dr. Andrew Hiron**

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The Built Environment Trust

## 09.00 for 10.00 start Registration and coffee

### The purpose of this seminar

Trees enrich our lives. They make positive contributions to many aspects of our urban environment and those that encounter them. Well-managed trees within our green infrastructure are also strategically important for meeting many future challenges. However, if trees are to become appreciating assets, it is vital to make appropriate species selection for any given location. This seminar introduces new guidance on tree selection for those engaged with green infrastructure projects and explores some key strategic issues for those involved with establishing the urban forest.

### Who should attend this seminar?

All those engaged in the built environment including design professionals, developers, planners, natural environment specialists and health professionals who recognize the value of a healthy and resilient urban forest.

## 10.00-10.10 Welcome and outline for the day

**Chair: Tony Kirkham**, Head of Arboretum, Gardens & Horticulture Services, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

### Session 1: Introducing the *Species Selection Guide for Green Infrastructure*

**Dr. Andrew Hiron**, Senior Lecturer in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry University Centre Myerscough

**Dr. Henrik Sjöman**, Scientific Curator, Gothenburg Botanical Gardens and researcher and lecturer at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

## 12.00-12.45 Lunch

### Session 2: Future visions and strategic issues

#### 12.45-13.15 Green Infrastructure and Urban Air Quality

**Professor Rob Mackenzie**, Professor of Atmospheric Science and Director BIFor, University of Birmingham

#### 13.15-13.45 Provision of Multiple Ecosystem Services by Urban Hedges

**Dr. Tijana Blanus**, Principal Horticultural Scientist, RHS

#### 13.45-14.15 Biosecurity and Green Infrastructure

**Dr. Charles Lane**, Consultant Plant Pathologist, Fera

#### 14.15-14.45 Working in the Wider Context

**Anne Jaluzot**, Green Infrastructure Planning Consultant and TDAG Lead Researcher and Writer

## 14.45-15.15 Tea

### Session 3: What is the action plan for the UK?

**15.15-16.00**  
Panel session where the audience is invited to ask questions and help to formulate recommendations for action

**16.00**  
Seminar ends

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# Speaker Biographies



## Tony Kirkham

Following an apprenticeship in the forestry industry and 2 years as an arborist, in 1978 Tony started at The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew on the 3 year Diploma course, graduating in 1981. In 2001 he became the Head of the Arboretum and Horticultural Services, responsible for the management and curation of over 14,000 trees in the collections and since 2014 curates and manages to hardy herbaceous collections as well. He has participated and led several plant collecting expeditions to Chile and the Far East of Asia, including China, Taiwan, Japan, S. Korea and Russia.

In 2009 he was awarded the Associate of Honour by the RHS for distinguished service to horticulture and Honorary Lifetime fellow of the Arboricultural Association.

## Dr. Andrew Hiron

Andrew is a Senior Lecturer in Arboriculture at University Centre Myerscough, UK. He began his career in arboriculture as a climbing arborist and plant health care technician, gaining experience in Australia, America and the UK before joining the arboriculture department at Myerscough in 2004. He teaches on the fulltime and online higher education courses, delivering modules relating to tree biology and tree management. His current research activity is motivated by the need to create resilience in our urban forests, and is focused on using plant traits to inform species selection for urban environments.

## Dr. Henrik Sjöman

Henrik Sjöman's work is mainly focusing on developing knowledge of site adapted plant use for urban environments. How the capacity of different trees will vary in context to its urban environment and in delivering ecosystem services has become the prime driver in Henrik's work and as such how to extend the knowledge of diversifying the urban treescape. Finding "plants of tomorrow" means to combine traditional plant hunting of less common species with research and evaluation; creating a diversified approach to a resilient urban forest.

## Professor Rob MacKenzie

Rob joined the University of Birmingham in August 2011 as Professor of Atmospheric Science. His expertise is in computer simulation of various atmospheric processes, including the effects of vegetation on the composition of the atmosphere. He was the first to show the effect of trees on summer smog pollution in London, and has carried out a number of studies on trees and air quality in developed and emerging economies. Linking this air pollution work with research across urban regeneration and sustainability, Rob has developed a much broader appreciation of the interdisciplinary issues surrounding resilience.

## Dr. Tijana Blanusa

Tijana is a plant physiologist, studying the impact of differences in plants' structure and function on delivery of several regulating ecosystem services (cooling, rainfall mitigation, air quality improvement), in the urban context.

## Dr. Charles Lane

Charles has worked in plant health and biosecurity for over 25 years investigating the causes of new and emerging plant health diseases – he was the first person to identify *Phytophthora ramorum* in the UK. In his role as a plant health consultant he has worked widely with government, NGOs, industry, voluntary groups and citizens in developing good biosecurity practice and raising awareness of plant health issues. He has also been leading the skills agenda for Defra and the Government Office of Science developing a new programme of work 'to inspire the next generation of plant health scientists'.

## Anne Jaluzot

Anne is an urban planner, with 13 years of experience primarily gathered in the US and the UK in environmentally led approaches to urban policy, design and regeneration. After working for the City of Chicago and CABE Anne now works as an independent consultant continuing to advise on, assess, facilitate or lead the development of tools, strategies, projects and knowledge on urban greening. This led her to undertake the research and writing of the [Trees and Design Action Group \(TDAG\)](#)'s two latest publications: *Trees in the Townscape: A Guide for Decision Makers* (2012) and *Trees in Hard Landscapes: A Guide for Delivery* (2014) – two action-oriented urban forestry best practice guides on using trees in 21st century cities. She is currently undertaking research for the next TDAG document *Trees, Planning and Development: A Guide for Delivery*.

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