

# TDAG Events Programme 2023

Registration will be available at least  
six weeks ahead of each event

# TDAG seminar and workshop series

## Seminar series

Basically, trees know how to grow, thrive and live long lives. The problem we give trees in many urban environments is asking them to grow successfully and enjoy long lives delivering to us their many benefits in conditions that are alien to them. Apart from the too frequent acts of vandalism that trees suffer, this is the main reason failure rates for tree planting can be disappointingly high.

Of course, engaging the public to build up community support and care for their local trees will be beneficial in terms of reducing human-imposed damage. But that is only one part of the solution, the other is establishing the purpose, location, species choice, method of planting and aftercare for long term survival to close the 'performance gap' between planting ambitions and long-term tree survival.

Decisions about trees as with any decision making in our urban environments, must be considered taking into account our three over-arching challenges of:

- Climate Change: the increasing vulnerability of our towns and cities.
- Biodiversity loss and the requirement for net gain as well as linking urban and national nature recovery networks.
- Economic and social inequality, human health and wellbeing.

Trees have a vital role and deliver increasing benefits as they mature, but only if we can 'get it right'.

This series of six seminars will focus on the issues and solutions.

## Workshop series

TDAG also runs online workshops focusing on a variety of issues.

## Seminar series

### Seminar One (See Past Events)

**Why plant a tree?**

### Seminar Two (See Past Events)

**Creating climate resilient urban treescapes** (Held in person and online)

### Seminar Three (See Past Events)

**Trees and the underground (Part A) – understanding the conditions, regulations and relationship with utilities** (Held online)

### Seminar Four (See Past Events)

**Trees and the underground (Part B) – which method to use where, why and how** (Held online)

### Seminar Five (See Past Events)

**Closing the performance gap: Tree establishment and their aftercare and recovery** (Held online)

### Seminar Six – 13th December

**Tree costs and financing options** (Held online)

## Workshop series

### Workshop One – 9th May (See Past Events)

**Trees and Subsidence – understanding the issues, balancing the solutions, reducing future problems** (Held online)

### Workshop Two – 20th September (See Past Events)

**Carbon storage, net zero and a low carbon public realm – how do we put it all together?** (Held online)

### Workshop Three – 15th November (See Past Events)

**First Steps in Urban Water: Managing Water as a Resource** (Held online)

# How to deliver the multiple benefits of urban trees

**Date**  
**9th March**

**Time**  
**11.30-12.15 GMT**

**Place**  
**ExCel, London**

**Register**  
**[futurebuild.co.uk](https://futurebuild.co.uk)**

'Trees' seem to be the solution to many of the physical placemaking and health challenges in our urban environments. The NPPF calls for all new streets to be 'tree-lined'; trees can help to reduce increased summer temperatures and, combined with SuDS, the impact of the increasing heavy rain events; people are more inclined to walk and cycle on tree-lined routes. But how do we ensure that we retain, protect, plant, and establish trees in such a way that trees can deliver their many benefits over their long lives? Most importantly, how do we manage our green and grey infrastructure to reduce its embodied carbon?

This session will show how successful outcomes can be achieved.

## Agenda

**Chair: Amy Burbidge**, Head of Master Development and Design, Homes England

**Trees as infrastructure: an update on trees for cooling research and valuing trees for the 'infrastructure' services they can provide**

**Dr Kieron Doick**, Head of Urban Forest Research Group, Forest Research

**Dr Madalena Vaz Monteiro**, Urban Forest Research Group, Forest Research

**Deciding how to plant street trees: right reason, right place, right tree, right way**

**Jim Smith**, Urban Forestry Adviser, Forestry Commission

**Protecting trees on development sites**

**Jeremy Barrell**, Managing Director, Barrell Tree Consultancy

**Embodied carbon in infrastructure**

**Richard Quartermaine**, Head of Sustainability, Urban&Civic

You can also visit us at the TDAG stand (B42) adjacent to the Sustainable Infrastructure seminar theatre. Entry to Futurebuild for the exhibition and conference and seminar sessions is free.

# Creating climate resilient urban treescapes (Held in person and online)

Date  
24th April

Time  
9.30-4.00 BST

Place  
The Exchange  
3 Centenary Square  
Birmingham  
BD1 2DR

Register (in person)  
[Eventbrite](#)

Register (online)  
[Eventbrite](#)

Trees and future hot summers: What can we learn from 2022? How can we create heat-resilient treescapes for the future?

Our climate is changing, and hotter temperatures and heatwaves will become more frequent. Trees are vital during hot weather events for they provide urban residents with shade and have a localised cooling effect on the surrounding neighbourhood. But trees also need to be resilient to hot temperatures, and their survival and cooling ability often depends on their access to water. This event will consider the impact of summer 2022 on street trees, and how we can optimise tree species selection, in order to provide towns and cities with a diverse and resilient palette of trees that can thrive in challenging urban environments. The workshop is for all with an interest in urban trees, including: arboriculturists, architects, civil/structural engineers, designers, landscape architects, landscape contractors, non-profit organisations, planners, and tree officers.

Join urban forestry practitioners and academics to discuss how we can create climate resilient treescapes for the future. Event organised by TDAG, University of Birmingham and Myerscough College. Event funded by the [RECLAIM network](#).

## Agenda

**Chair: Prof Kathryn Moore**, Birmingham City University

### Session One – Warming future climates

- **Summer 2022 and changing UK climate**  
**Dr Emma Ferranti**, University of Birmingham
- **Impact of summer 2022 on urban street trees**  
**Chryse Tinsley**, Landscape Architect and **Ase Wilson**, Tree Officer, Leicester City Council
- **Trees influence climate and climate influence trees**  
**Dr Madalena Vaz Monteiro**, Forest Research

### Session Two – Tree species selection for warming climate

- **What do warmer temperatures mean for trees?**  
**Dr Jon Banks** and **Chris Percival**, Bartlett Tree Research
- **Tree species selection for a warmer climate**  
**Dr Andy Hiron**, Myerscough College
- **Warmer climates and the implications for pests and diseases**  
**Dr Harry Watkins**, St Andrews Botanic Garden

### Session Three – Planting for future resilient urban treescapes

- **Designing with trees – what are you trying to achieve?**  
**Dr Phil Askew**, Director Landscape and Placemaking, Peabody
- **Strategic planning for trees, a 30-year perspective**  
**Simon Needle**, Principal Arb. & Principal Ecologist, Birmingham City Council
- **Optimising tree selection for future ecosystem services**  
**Dr Lis Larsen**, RHS
- **Tree nursery methods – which one and why?**  
**Keith Sacre**, Urban Forestry Director, Barcham Trees

Optional tree walk through central Birmingham following the event. This event is hosted by [RECLAIM network](#) (Reclaiming Forgotten Cities – Turning cities from vulnerable spaces to healthy places for people) is a £1.2m EPSRC-funded Network+ grant. It is led by the University of Surrey's Global Centre for Clean Air Research (GCARE) in collaboration with the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Universities of Bath, Bangor and Warwick.

# Trees and Subsidence – understanding the issues, balancing the solutions, reducing future problems (Held online)

Date  
9th May

Time  
2.00-4.00 BST

Place  
Zoom

Register  
[Eventbrite](#)

Subsidence can occur for low rise buildings (up to four storeys) on shrinkable soils whether or not trees or other vegetation are present.

In cases where trees are implicated, we need to consider the relationship between trees and buildings in the context of climate change given the evidence-based roles that trees can play to reduce urban heat, reduce peak flows with heavy rain events apart from their many other benefits for carbon storage, ecosystem services, increased health and wellbeing and of course their value to placemaking and general quality of place. Factoring ‘tree value’ into the equation will influence the approach to identifying the best overall solutions to subsidence issues.

This session will explore the issues to seek a balance approach to resolving present problems and reconsidering low rise construction to mitigate them in the future.

## Agenda

**Chair: Robin Nicholson CBE**, Hon FStructE, Convenor of the Edge, Fellow Cullinan Studio

### **The anticipated impacts of climate change on subsidence patterns across the country**

**Tim Farewell**, Independent academic and environmental data scientist

### **What is subsidence and what causes it? How can we ‘future proof’ low rise construction going forward?**

**John Patch**, Director, Team Patch and Honorary Member, ASUC

### **The relationship between existing trees and subsidence and how to make decisions taking into account tree value and ecosystem services in a changing climate**

**Jim Smith**, Urban Forestry Adviser, Forestry Commission

### **Trees, subsidence and the law**

**Sarah Dodd**, Founder, Tree Law

### **Community perspective Representatives of SHIFT**

**In association with: Institution of Structural Engineers**

# Trees, Planning and Development in Scotland

How can the planning system, policy and practice help protect and expand our trees and which make up our Urban Forests?

**Date**  
19th May

**Time**  
8.45-4.30 GMT

**Place**  
University of Stirling

**Register**  
**Eventbrite**

There will be a charge of £55 towards the cost of the venue, lunch and refreshments

## What we need to discuss

We need to protect and expand the trees and woodlands which collectively make up our Urban Forests for the multiple social, economic and environmental benefits that they can deliver. However, ambition as represented by government policies (NPF4) and recent legislation (Planning Scotland Act 2019) along with the need for healthy place making and climate resilience, does not often or, indeed, very rarely coincides with successful delivery on the ground.

## Key questions:

- *How can we close the gap between ambition and successful delivery on the ground?*
- *Who are the key players?*
- *What are the barriers and how can they be overcome?*

## Our aims for this seminar

We aim to identify and discuss the key steps required to make a positive shift in the planning and development process aligned with emerging policy and best practice. The seminar seeks to inform and empower those working in planning and development control and those involved with delivery on site. This seminar is aimed at everyone who has the potential to impact trees and woodlands during the planning, design and development stages.

This seminar provides seven hours of CPD.

**8.45-9.30 Registration: tea, coffee and exhibitors' stands**

**Chair for the day: Fiona Melville**, Arboricultural and Urban Forestry Consultant

**9.30-9.40**  
**Introduction**

**9.40-10.10**  
**Keynote**  
**Brian M. Evans**, Professor of Urbanism and Landscape, Glasgow School of Art and Glasgow City Urbanist

## 10.10-11.15 – Morning session

### The planning perspective – how can planners and the planning system drive the protection and long-term sustainability of the urban forest?

The key players who are in a position to drive implementation of both policy and aspirations, are those in planning and development control, from pre-application stage through to setting planning conditions for successful delivery and enforcement of best practice. A 'level playing field' should be consistent in setting out what is required and what should be aspired to in any development, large or small.

This morning session will focus on how the planner can drive the Urban Forest agenda. What information do they need? How can they ensure that the right professionals and decision makers are engaged at the right time?

**Session Chair: Dr Caroline Brown**, The Urban Institute, Heriot-Watt University

**10.10-10.15**  
**Chair's introduction**

**10.15-10.35**  
**Biodiversity and development**  
**Simon Brooks**, Strategic Planning Manager, NatureScot

**10.35-10.55**  
**How does the planning process for trees and biodiversity work in practice?**  
**Steve Milne**, Arboricultural Officer City of Edinburgh Council and Vice Chair Scottish Tree Officer Group (STOG)

**10.55-11.15**  
**Discussion and Q&A**

**11.15-11.45 Break: tea, coffee and exhibitors' stands**

# Trees, Planning and Development in Scotland continued

How can the planning system, policy and practice help protect and expand our trees and which make up our Urban Forests?

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**11.45-13.15**

## **Achieving successful delivery on the ground**

A successful planning application has been approved and there is a commitment to both retention of existing healthy trees and a fulfilment of the statutory duty to “support positive effects for biodiversity” through skilled selection and planting of a diverse palette of tree species to increase canopy cover and climate resilience. The choices will complement the development design and make for a sustainable robust urban forest. All parties are focused on a successful outcome – so what can go wrong?

This session will outline some of the common pitfalls and how to overcome them.

**Session Chair: John Parker**, Chief Executive, Arboricultural Association

**11.45-11.50**

## **Chair’s introduction**

**11.50-12.10**

## **From planning permission to implementing and supporting successful delivery on the ground**

**Jeremy Barrell**, Managing Director, Barrell Tree Consultancy

**12.10-12.30**

## **Designing with Trees – Case Studies**

**Kirsty Maguire**, Director, Kirsty Maguire Architect Ltd.  
Case Studies: The Seed, and Urban Woodland House

**12.30-12.50**

## **Central Scotland Green Network and its relevance to the planning process and NPF4**

**Dr Emilie Wadsworth**, Operations Director, Green Action Trust,  
Chair Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) Partnership

**12.50-13.15**

## **Discussion and Q&A**

**13.15-14.30 Lunch break: networking and exhibitors’ stands**

**14.30-16.30 – Afternoon Session**

Having explored our subject area, in this session we return to the key questions and interrogate our answers:

- *How can we close the gap between ambition and successful delivery on the ground?*
- *Who are the key players?*
- *What are the barriers and how can they be overcome?*

**Chair: Fiona Melville**

**14.30-14.35**

## **Chair’s introduction**

**14.35-14.55**

## **Successful Delivery of sustainable greenspaces and urban woodlands through local planning policy and partnership working**

**Douglas Worrall**, Operations Director, Green Action Trust

**14.55-15.15**

## **Where are we now? What should we do next?**

Discussion and Q&A with all chairs and speakers

**15.15-15.40 Break: tea, coffee and exhibitors’ stands**

**15.40-16.00**

## **Closing address – how policy and effective governance is a key to the protection and expansion of resilient Urban Forests in Scotland making positive connections between people and nature**

**Dr Fiona Simpson**, Chief Planner, Scottish Government

**16.00-16.20**

## **Discussion and Q&A**

**16.20-16.30**

## **Fiona Melville: summary of the day**



# Trees and the underground (Part A) – understanding the conditions, regulations and relationship with utilities (Held online)

Date  
15th June

Time  
2.00-4.00 BST

Place  
Zoom

Register  
[Eventbrite](#)

The ‘underworld’ is a heavily contested space and there can be claims made by users to protect ‘their’ surroundings which may or may not be supported by law or regulations. Unfortunately, in England, we did not take a comprehensive approach to underground space soon enough and this has led to extensive ‘rights’ exercised by utility companies. In the case of highways (carriageways and footways), the retrofitting of shared service ducts is expensive and unlikely to happen in many cases. This is causing many of our highways to be closed for utilities access and not necessarily reinstated to the standard required and in some cases after extensive and expensive public realm improvements have been made. Shared service ducts should be mandatory for all new developments so that the problem is not perpetuated. This seminar will outline the issues, questioning some of the ‘myths’ around the ‘conflict’ between tree roots and services and propose some solutions going forward.

## Agenda

**Chair: Nicole Metje**, Professor of Infrastructure Monitoring, University of Birmingham

### Mapping – what is there?

**Holger Kessler**, Science Lead, Future of the Subsurface, Government Office for Science

### Rules and regs – what can go where, overcoming conflicts with utilities?

**Pete Stevens**, Environmental Consultant, AJS Flood Risk Consulting Ltd

### From masterplan to underground – above ground aspiration to below ground delivery

**Kenton Rogers**, Co-founder, Treeconomics

### Root barriers – when to use, when not to use and long-term ineffectiveness

**Keith Sacre**, Urban Forestry Director, Barcham Trees

**Partner: IHE**



# Trees and the underground (Part B) – which method to use where, why and how (Held online)

Date  
19th July

Time  
2.00-4.00 BST

Place  
Zoom

Register  
[Eventbrite](#)

Of course, trees need to be considered in four dimensions – what their roots are doing underground, what their trunks are doing at ground level, what their canopies are doing above ground and how all of these change and increase over the fourth dimension of time. At TDAG we do not talk about ‘tree planting’ we talk about ‘tree establishment’ and the key to successful establishment, apart from the health and quality of the tree stock, is ‘where’ and ‘how’ the trees in planted in the first place. This seminar will take a balanced look at different planting methods and which method is most appropriate for which location with a particular focus on street trees and podium planting.

## Agenda

**Chair: Jim Smith**, Urban Forestry Adviser, Forestry Commission

### **What highway engineers need to understand about planting highway trees in hard and soft landscapes**

**Hen Abbott**, Principal Highways Coordinator, Gloucestershire County Council

### **Stockholm 20 years on**

**Bjorn Embren**, Arboricultural Consultant and former tree officer for the City of Stockholm

### **Or do we combine methods?**

**Martin Gammie**, Director, Consulting with Trees

### **Case study: podium garden in Seething Lane, City of London and the role of cell systems**

**Steve Chatwin-Grindey**, Commercial Director DeepRoot Urban Solutions

**Partners: IHE, CIHT**

# Carbon storage, net zero and a low carbon public realm – how do we put it all together? (Held online)

Date  
20th September

Time  
2.00-4.00 BST

Place  
Zoom

Register  
[Eventbrite](#)

The ambition expressed for net zero or at least low carbon buildings, whether new build or retrofit, should also be extended to the spaces between to achieve a low carbon the public realm. This represents numerous challenges from choices of materials to the introduction of trees and nature-based solutions to lighting, modes of transport and how people's behaviour responds.

## Agenda

**Chair: Amy Burbidge**, Head of Master Development and Design, Homes England

**Street design and net zero carbon – and how you can reduce embodied and whole life carbon from the choices you make about street design**

**Graeme Phillips**, Partner, JTP

**Changing attitudes and use to repurposing street space**

**Charlotte Glazier**, Programme Manager, Greening the public realm in Islington

**Ludo Pittie**, Director and Head of Landscape, WSP

**Tree Management with Carbon Dioxide Uptake Calculations**

**David Winlo**, Director, Mapscape

**Retaining embodied carbon – an afterlife for felled trees**

**Joel De Mowbray**, Creative Director, Yes Make

**Partners: Urban Design Group, ICF, CIHT, IHE**

# Closing the performance gap: Tree establishment and their aftercare and recovery (Held online)

**Date**  
18th October

**Time**  
2.00-4.00 BST

**Place**  
Zoom

**Register**  
[Zoom](#)

At TDAG we prefer to talk about ‘establishing trees’ rather than ‘planting trees’. However, at some point in time the tree is ‘planted’ so what will ensure success to achieve establishment and long-term independence to avoid what we now see as the ‘performance gap’ between planting ambition and tree survival. This would seem to be too often the situation in the case of street trees. This session poses the questions to clarify the simple steps that are needed following the actual planting (assuming right place, right method which was discussed in the previous session) and why so many trees that are ‘planted’ fail to thrive.

## Agenda

**Chair: Colleen O’Sullivan**, Tree Officer, London Borough of Camden and Chair, London Tree Officers Association

**Does planting size make a difference for trees to establish?**  
**Andy Hiron**, Senior Lecturer – Arboriculture, University Centre, Myerscough

**How do we close the performance gap and enable ‘establishment’?**  
**Keith Sacre**, Urban Forestry Director, Barcham Trees

**When do you remove protection and decide the tree is independent in the landscape?**  
**Rupert Bentley-Walls**, Senior Arboricultural Officer, Suffolk Council

**Partner: Arboricultural Association**

# First Steps in Urban Water: Managing Water as a Resource (Held online)

Date  
15th November

Time  
2.00-4.00 GMT

Place  
Zoom

Register  
[Eventbrite](#)

After air, water is the most essential element for life. Climate change is impacting weather patterns with more, heavy rainstorms and longer hot dry periods exposing us to both flooding and drought. Some parts of the UK are severely water challenged. How we manage our water and especially our urban water is a major challenge. We cannot continue to use water as freely in some places, we need to consider natural flood management upstream to avoid downstream (urban) flooding, and we need to focus on sustainable drainage systems (green-blue infrastructure) to manage urban surface water. We need to treat water as a precious resource in our decision making. This new TDAG guidance outlines how this can be done.

## Agenda

**Chair: Cllr Katie Thornborrow**, Executive for Planning, Building Control & Infrastructure, Cambridge City Council

### Overview of the document and why we need a holistic approach

**Pete Stevens**, AJS Flood Risk Consulting Ltd

### Natural flood management

**Amanda Crossfield**, NFM Programme Manager at Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust

### SuDS - getting it right

**Ian Titherington**, Senior Adviser - Sustainable Drainage, Welsh Government

**Partners: Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM), Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA), Water Resources East (WRE)**

# Tree costs and financing options (Held online)

Date  
13th December

Time  
2.00-4.00 GMT

Place  
Zoom

Register  
Zoom

You have identified the key issues of why, when, what and how, but all actions, whether in new developments or retrofitting, come with costs.

We know that trees can deliver multiple social, economic and environmental benefits but, while these are quantifiable – such as the saving to health of improving air quality, they rarely offer actual ‘cash’ inputs. So, the costs of planting and ensuring ongoing survival and success (maintenance) are real costs that have to be paid. What are these costs and what methods have been shown to be successful and fair to all in financing them? For adopted street trees we really need a national standard for commuted sums – a question for the meeting is how to develop this? So, overall, what are the actual costs and what methods have been shown to be successful and fair to all in financing them?

## Agenda

**Chair: Dr Susannah Gill**, The Mersey Forest

### **What does it cost to plant and maintain a tree in hard and soft landscapes?**

**Philip Simpkin**, Natural Environment Officer, Buckinghamshire Council

### **Cost benefit comparison of smaller and larger tree planting and impact on the ecosystem, sense of place and community**

**Luke Fay**, Managing Director, Treework Environmental Practice

### **Urban Forest Accelerator – a costing approach**

**Anne Jaluzot**, Green Infrastructure Planning Consultant and **David Coughlin**, Project Manager, Urban Forest Accelerator for the National Trust

### **Funding support for local authorities**

**Rob Taylor**, Scientific Officer – Tree Health, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

**Partners: IHE, CIHT, AA**