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## This week's guest editor:

Trees & Design Action Group (TDAG)

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The Trees and Design Action Group promotes collaboration across all sectors of the built and natural environment in the common cause of protecting and enhancing our urban trees, know collectively as the urban forest. We produce best practice guides and online seminars, all without charge. Details are on our website [here](#).

Come to stand C64 to find out more about our work and that of our partners - Forest Research, Fund4Trees, The Greater London Authority, The Mersey Forest, the National Trust and the Woodland Trust. Many TDAG members will be manning the stand over the three days. If you have any questions about trees someone may well have the answer!

The TDAG curated seminar on Day 2 from 2.30-3.15 is on **Healthy Trees, Healthy Places, Healthy People – why we need more canopy cover, tree equity and planting success.**

## OUR OPINION PIECE



T3 is the 110-year-old oak tree felled in January 2025 in Fareham

The Old King George oak, a major presence at all seasons and still standing, but for how long?

# Help protect our mature urban trees – we need to ‘stop the chop’

Sue James for the Trees and Design Action Group

We are losing far too many of our mature urban trees. While tree planting initiatives are valuable, they cannot compensate for the loss of established trees, which provide the greatest environmental, social, and economic benefits. Mature trees reduce urban heat, mitigate flooding, can contribute to improving air quality, support biodiversity, and enhance our health and wellbeing. Yet, despite their immense value, they continue to be felled—often unnecessarily—due to development pressures, risk aversion, and subsidence claims.

Homeowners facing subsidence issues deserve sympathy, but felling should not be the default solution. In many cases, alternative solutions can protect properties while allowing trees to continue delivering their vital benefits to communities.

To illustrate the urgency of this issue, we begin with a **tale of two trees**—cases where our contributors, writing in a personal capacity, have investigated first-hand how so-called tree protection laws are failing. We then turn to an arboriculture consultant for expert insight into what must change.

[The Trees and Design Action Group](#) (TDAG) regularly hears from desperate local groups trying to save much-loved trees. That’s why we are asking for your support for national reform, initiated by our contributors Kat Scott and Laura Ancell, to secure stronger protections for mature urban trees.

READ THE FULL OPINION PIECE HERE

## OUR CHOICE OF ARTICLES TO READ



### How well does the 3-30-300 rule mitigate urban flooding

We find that the creation of new green spaces and tree cover can greatly reduce peak pluvial surface runoff rate at-site, and maintain peak flow reductions of several percent in sub-catchments of several square kilometres, including reductions of over 10 % in some sub-catchments of over 20 km<sup>2</sup> in Paris."

**The University of Birmingham and the West Midlands Combined Authority have joined forces to combat the impact of climate change in the West Midlands**

As Dr Emma Ferranti explains: “WM-Adapt represents a major step forward in our efforts to build climate resilience in the West Midlands. By integrating community perspectives into existing adaptation work, undertaking new modelling of surface water flooding and the urban heat island, and bringing together regional organisations, we aim to create a robust framework that can be replicated across the UK.”



**Building parks in new communities is crucial for clean air**

With house building a priority for the new UK Government, University of Bath engineers have co-authored research that urges city planners not to forget to build parks and to include green spaces in new communities.

**Lost nature – housing developers are failing to deliver their ecological commitments**

A Wild Justice report, written by researchers at the University of Sheffield, has revealed that housing developers are not keeping legally-binding promises to help wildlife on housing developments.

Surveying 6,000 houses across 42 developments found that only half of the promises to mitigate harm to nature had been kept...and 39% of the trees detailed on planting plans were missing or dead, and nearly half of the native hedges that were supposed to be laid did not exist.



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# OUR LONG READ RECOMMENDATION



## Scientists have moved the Doomsday clock to 89 seconds before midnight

This statement from the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists covers a number of threats and risks including climate change and its impacts on human health and natural ecosystems. The Futurebuild 2025 Arena programme curated by the Edge focused on the need to make impact as ‘this is no time for dithering’ and so we should regard the Doomsday Clock projections as an encouragement to take the actions that we, as built and natural environment professionals, can take with enthusiasm and optimism.

[VIEW LONG READ](#)

## MAKING AN IMPACT

### We are making an Impact by...

- Encouraging all local authorities to have an adopted tree strategy, also known as an Urban Forest Management Plan.
- Requiring tree value to be taken into account when decisions are made about felling for subsidence – there are other solutions!
- Supporting urban tree research and dissemination into practice for environmental, social and economic benefits.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM FUTUREBUILD 2024



The conference session on **Water - one of our most critical infrastructure challenges**. As we face both floods and droughts and find development constrained by lack of both water and sewerage capacity, this session demonstrated how vital it is for us to make ‘water’ a priority.

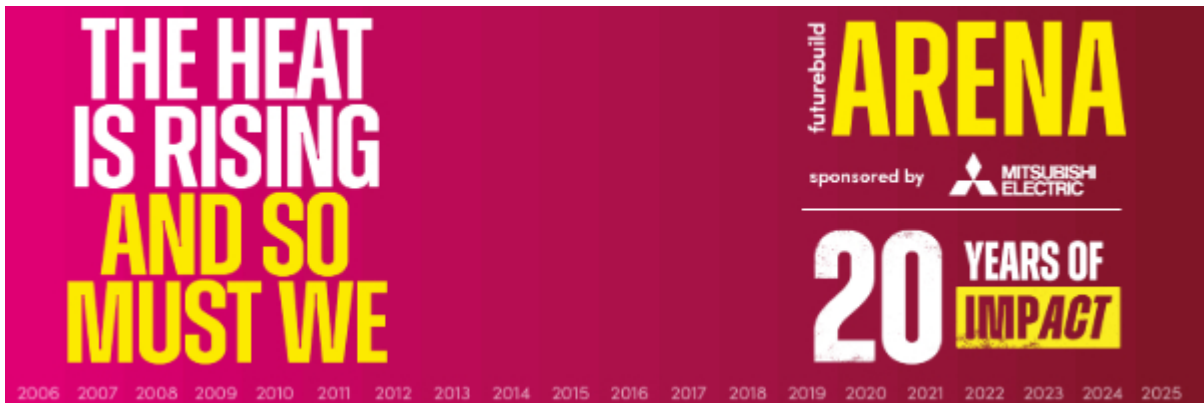
The conference session chaired by Teach the Future, the student led climate education campaign on **the role of education in climate awareness** showed how important education is from the very earliest years to university degrees and professional qualifications in all fields and especially the built and natural environment.

We can’t survive without clean air. The seminar session curated by WM-Air on **Bringing together health, air quality, and climate resilience: examples of best practice from the West Midlands** made a clear case for the importance of clean air for multiple benefits.

Along with ensuring clean air and water we need to protect and restore the health of our soil as outlined in the seminar curated by CIRIA on **Responsible soil management**. This is a task for the construction industry and development as much as it is for farmers!

WATCH ON-DEMAND

## FUTUREBUILD NEWS



## Futurebuild 2025 Conference Arena: 20 Years of Impact

We’re thrilled to launch the **Futurebuild Arena Programme**, proudly sponsored by **Mitsubishi Electric**! Marking 20 years of driving meaningful impact, Futurebuild 2025 arrives at a critical moment. With rising

global temperatures and intensifying climate challenges, urgent action is essential. This year's Conference Arena, curated by **The Edge**, will push us to ask: **Where should we be in 12 months? By 2030? By 2035?** Industry leaders will tackle sustainability, circularity, and social justice—driving bold action for a resilient future.

Our conference campaign, "**The heat is rising, and so must we**" reflects the urgency of the climate crisis and the need for collective change. In line with this, our signature colour has shifted from pink to deep red, a powerful nod to the Ed Hawkins climate stripes. This refreshed identity underscores our commitment to uniting innovators, disruptors, and leaders to tackle the biggest challenges in the built environment and drive real impact.

[VIEW PROGRAMME](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

## THE FUTUREBUILD PODCAST



### New Podcast Episode: Innovating Construction for a Sustainable Future

In this episode of The Futurebuild Podcast, Martin Hurn speaks with **Sam Stacey, former Challenge Director at UK Research and Innovation and founder of Sustain CRE**. They discuss

- Overcoming barriers to innovation in construction
- The role of modern methods of construction (MMC)
- Smarter approaches to retrofitting commercial real estate

Want to experience these discussions live? [Join us at Futurebuild 2025](#) to connect with industry leaders and explore the innovations shaping our future.

[LISTEN NOW](#)

## PARTNER NEWS





## netMAGmedia: Specialist Publishing, Marketing & Industry Insights

netMAGmedia are specialist business publishers for the architecture, construction, social housing and self-build sectors, producing ABC-registered magazines ([Architects Datafile](#), [Housebuilder & Developer](#), [Housing Management and Maintenance](#)) in print and online, alongside our websites, newsletters, Solus and duplex mailers, and audible offerings.

To ensure we are producing the best content possible, we regularly research our audiences and produce intelligence on the issues important to them. We also provide other marketing solutions, including content, design and production, individual bespoke research, contract publishing, PR, and marketing services.

A further marketing platform is a podcast series we publish called [Building Insights](#), which now includes sponsorship from leading brands, and experts providing their take on key design and construction matters. netMAGmedia has also moved into the live events area, developing a programme of sponsored industry round tables discussing specific construction industry topics.

MORE INFORMATION

## EXHIBITORS MAKING AN IMPACT

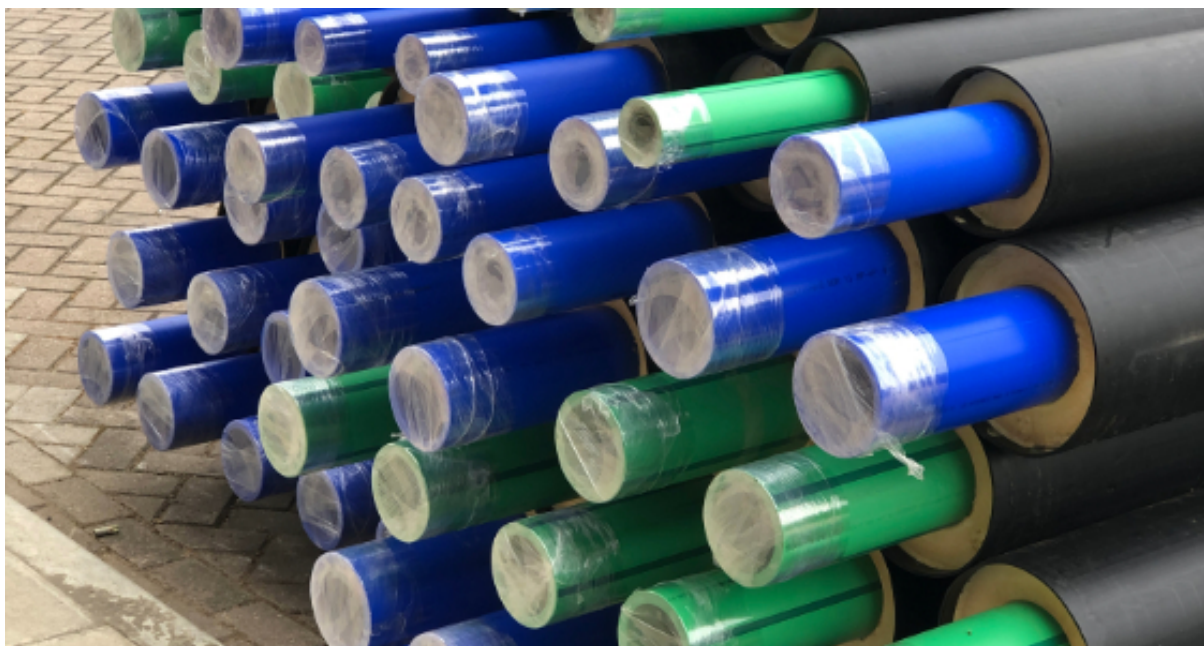




## **SDS Infrastructure are making an Impact** by designing and delivering innovative, sustainable water management systems that protect, treat and reuse surface water to create a more resilient future

SDS designs, engineers, manufactures and installs water management systems for sustainable infrastructure. The company is the UK's leader in sustainable drainage systems and has an extensive portfolio comprising solutions for flood prevention, drought mitigation and pollution control. It is also a leading developer of innovative systems that benefit from smart technology. Every SDS solution is created to protect water effectively and efficiently and to treat, store and, wherever possible, reuse surface water.

[Check out their profile](#) for more information and visit them on stand **B60** at **Futurebuild 2025!**  
[Register here](#) to claim your free ticket to Futurebuild.



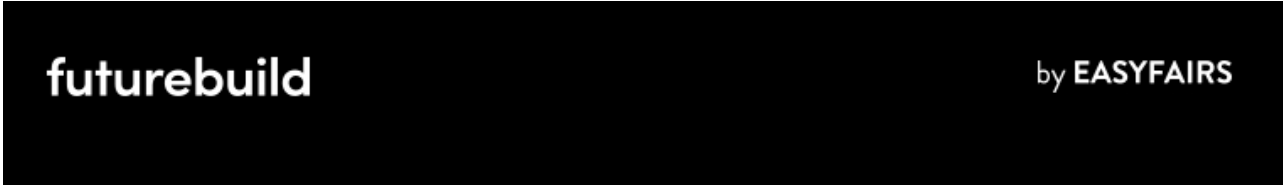
## **Aquatherm are making an Impact** by contributing to low carbon heating with low carbon products



Their pipe products for district heating systems all come with Environmental Product Declarations, detailing their low embodied carbon production process. A smoother surface than traditional steel means that pumps don't need to work as hard in an Aquatherm system. A smoother surface than traditional steel means that pumps don't need to work as hard in an Aquatherm system. This reduced friction leads to greater energy efficiency, lowering both operational costs and carbon emissions.

[Check out their profile](#) for more information and visit them on stand **M30** at **Futurebuild 2025!**  
[Register here](#) for your free ticket and see their products live.

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