



Newsletter – February 2026

TDAG ONLINE SEMINARS – ALL FREE TO ATTEND

Our next seminar will be held on Zoom on 11th March from 2-4pm GMT on

Designing with trees – Part 1: above ground ambitions

Register for free here: <https://bham-ac-uk.zoom.us/meeting/register/oTH77uOoS9aulvfb-gz8Mg>

This will be followed on 22nd April 2-4pm BST with

Designing with trees – Part 2: below ground challenges

Register for free here: <https://bham-ac-uk.zoom.us/meeting/register/3xYxYuM8Tsm2gc19cMGAHA>

Past online seminars

You can find all the recordings, presentations and chat here:

<https://www.tdag.org.uk/past-events.html>

You can also go to our YouTube page if you just want to see the recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/@treesanddesignactiongroup7020>

TDAG stand at Futurebuild 12-14 May at ExCel London

Please let Sue James know if you would like to do a one-hour stint on the TDAG stand.

Sue.jamesriba@gmail.com

Tony Kirkham and Kenton Rogers will lead a local tree walk on 12th May and will also have copies of their updated Tree Manual for sale – your chance to get a signed copy!

There will be two TDAG seminars one on 13 May 11.30-12.15 on

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

and one on 14 May 13.30-14.15 on

“Integrating Trees and Buildings - they don’t have to be in conflict!”

Entry to Futurebuild is free. Register here:

<https://register.visitcloud.com/survey/3cth5gbf99ne5?actioncode=3166>

SURVEYS

Trees People and the Built Environment 6!

What do you want to see from Trees, People, and the Built Environment 6?

June 2027 (date TBC) | Birmingham

Theme: **Urban tree challenges – what practice needs and what research tells us**

The Trees and Design Action Group with the ICF, Forest Research and The Mersey Forest are looking ahead to TPBE6 and co-design is high on our agenda to develop an event that is informative across the trees and built and natural environment professions. Our vision is to explore five priority topics through the lens of delivery and research to build knowledge and confidence for a healthy sustainable and expanded urban treescape.

Please complete [this short survey](#), which explores your appetite for such a conference day,

seeks your views on which topics are of greatest interest to your profession, and which scenarios you would like to see played out for that real world perspective.

Concerns about trees and the law

One of the most watched seminars from 2025 was about tree protection, but there are wider issues relating to tree law. We are planning a seminar to take place online on 23rd September 2026 to discuss legal issues relating to trees 'in plain English'.

To identify the most useful topics to cover, we would appreciate it, if you could complete this short survey.

[Concerns about trees and the law – Fill in form](#)

EVENTS BY OTHERS

Landscape Institute National Housing and Regeneration Conference 26 March in Cardiff

Exploring landscape led approaches to housing development and regeneration from a Welsh perspective.

[National Housing and Regeneration Conference](#)

Arboricultural Association Green Equity Symposium 13th and 14th April, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire.

This will explore equitable access to, and governance of, trees and green spaces. We have a range of international academics presenting their research, as well as some examples from around the UK to demonstrate how green equity can be worked towards in practice.

There is more information, including details about how to book, here:

<https://www.trees.org.uk/Training-Events/Green-Equity-Symposium-2026>

futurebuild + National Construction Week 12-14 May at ExCel, London

These two events will now run in tandem, each with their own identity but with admission to one also providing admission to the other. There will be a TDAG stand and two TDAG seminars on the Placemaking Stage.

The full programme will be launched shortly as www.futurebuild.co.uk

ICF National Conference 19-20 May in Caerleon, South Wales Innovation for a resilient tomorrow – reimagining forestry and arboriculture

Registration end date is 5th May and early bird saving available until 27 February.

<https://charteredforesters.org/event/national-conference-2026-innovation-for-a-resilient-tomorrow-reimagining-forestry-arboriculture>

CIHT National Conference 21 May in London Roads to Net Zero

The next 10 years will see the future vision of the highways and transport sector in the UK being defined as the new government sets out its plan on how we deliver growth and decarbonisation whilst addressing the challenges of climate change.

<https://www.ciht.org.uk/event/ciht-national-conference/>

Trees and Development 2026: putting nature at the heart of urban design and planning. 17 June 9.30-4.30 at the University of Stirling, Scotland

Following on from a successful 2023 conference, this one-day event will bring together the people shaping Scotland's next generation of greener, climate resilient urban spaces

<https://charteredforesters.org/event/trees-and-development-2026>

Arboricultural Association Conference 7-9 September 2026 at Lancaster University

The call for abstracts will be announced shortly.

Enquiries can be directed to conference@trees.org.uk

Futurescape 13-14 October, Farnborough

<https://www.futurescapeevent.com/>

10th Healthy City Design International Congress 20-21 October, Salford

The programme embeds health and climate-resilience at the heart of city developments locally, nationally and globally.

Details are here: <https://www.healthycitydesign.global/>

Town and Country Planning Association Annual Conference 28 November, London

Details to follow.

COURSES

Reclaim Network – CPD Courses focused on Green-Blue-Grey Infrastructure

These cover air pollution, urban overheating, flooding, noise pollution, biodiversity loss, carbon storage and mental health. Ongoing and free to access for now.

Details are here: [CPD Courses — RECLAIM](#)

CONSULTATIONS

Updated NPPF: consultation closes 10th March 2026

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/69417a0958a21370f58f3010/December_2025_NPPF_Consultation_document.pdf

and

https://consult.communities.gov.uk/planning/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-f/consult_view/

+ on the same closing date:

[Design and Placemaking Planning Practice Guidance - GOV.UK](#)

RESEARCH ROUND-UP: IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTITIONERS

A reminder to researchers to submit and share your work with practice.

Send us a 200-word overview of a completed project or completed output/thing to look at/read/use outlining why it is relevant to those working with trees in the urban environment along with a link to the research itself for those who want to know more!

Complete this form to have your research included in a future TDAG newsletter:

<https://forms.office.com/e/HA5t0rqQ0A>

Research outcomes in a TDAG newsletter will be moved to the Research section of the TDAG website for future reference <https://www.tdag.org.uk/research.html>

This month's research submissions:

A comprehensive handbook, '[Woodland and grassland creation on sites requiring intervention: guidance for land regeneration](#)'.

Summary text:

This guidance aims to support the creation of woodland and grassland on sites that require intervention prior to vegetation establishment. Such sites are often associated with land that has previously been developed and are characterised by a range of challenges, most notably a lack of suitable soil resources. These challenges can be overcome with planning and preparation.

The five main stages of woodland and grassland creation are considered in discrete chapters. The site selection chapter concerns site identification, characterisation, and

evaluation. The planning and design chapter addresses the selection of suitable species and stock types, the design of planting areas, and the selection of establishment techniques. The site preparation chapter considers the implementation of the necessary interventions to ready a site for planting. The establishment chapter informs on planting and seeding and weed and animal protection; and the management chapter considers the ongoing maintenance, including monitoring, that is essential to successful establishment and long-term success.

Implication for practitioners:

The handbook is a one-stop-shop for understanding the added challenges of successfully establishing woodland on previously used land. Aimed at all involved in land regeneration this guidance will be useful for both the experienced and the newcomer. It does not aim to comprehensively cover all activities required, rather it focuses on the key aspects relevant to sites requiring intervention.

- **A free tool, [Optimal Thickness of Soil \(OpTS\) Model](#)**

Summary text:

The Optimal Thickness of Soil (OpTS) Model is a web-based decision support tool to help land regeneration practitioners in the UK estimate the minimum required soil thickness to support water requirements for trees on regenerated land. It considers current and future projected growing period rainfall, tree crop type, soil texture, stoniness, and site preparation methods to estimate the water usage and water availability on site and identify if additional soil materials may be required.

Implication for practitioners:

The model calculates the optimal soil depth for planting on previously used land, while accounting for future climate change. Users enter site locations and soil variables, then calculates the minimum soil thickness needed to help ensure that mature trees receive enough water during the growing season.

- **A new factsheet, [‘Climate change and woodlands on previously used land, What are the additional risks to trees?’](#)**

Summary text:

Trees and woodlands deliver wide-ranging benefits to people and the environment. Reclaiming previously used land to create accessible woodland can help to deliver these benefits, including in areas currently with low tree canopy cover. There are many inherent challenges related to previous land use that can make woodland creation challenging is not carefully addressed due regeneration. These include, and are not limited to, shallow or compacted soil, poor drainage and waterlogging, low soil organic matter and unusual nutrient ratios. Climate change may further exacerbate some of these risks.

Implication for practitioners:

The factsheet explores how reclaimed land, the creation of woodland and climate change interact. Four climate change risks impacting trees and woodlands on previously used land are outlined, along with suggestions for addressing them

NEW PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION FROM OTHERS

With thanks to the Natural Cambridge Partnership, TCPA, GI Partnership, Urban Design Group, the Reclaim Network, and others.

TPOs: The missing piece in insurers’ climate logic

Sarah Dodd highlights the missing piece in insurers’ approach: the unseen carbon consequences of claims decisions.

[TPOs: The missing piece in insurers’ climate logic | LocalGov](#)

Urban Greening 'How to' Toolkit. Reclaim Network

Easy to follow advice on using trees, green roofs, rain gardens, ponds and more to tackle a wide range of urban challenges.

[Urban Greening "How to" Toolkit – RECLAIM](#)

Overlooked considerations for prescribing green and blue infrastructure solutions for urban environments. Reclaim Network

The full paper is here: [Overlooked considerations in prescribing green and blue infrastructure solutions for urban environments: The Innovation](#)

Nature security assessment on global biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and national security

This strategic assessment explores how global biodiversity loss and the collapse of critical ecosystems could affect the UK's resilience, security and prosperity

[National security assessment -](#)

[_global biodiversity loss ecosystem collapse and national security.pdf](#)

[Suppressed climate report warned of mass migration and nuclear war](#)

Progress on improving the natural environment in England 2024-25

Office of Environmental Protection

Government remains off track to meet its environmental commitments, and its actions now will determine whether or not key targets for biodiversity and the protection of land and sea by 2030.

<https://www.theoep.org.uk/report/progress-improving-natural-environment-england-20242025>

BS8545 – Trees from the nursery to independence in the landscapes (2026) with amendments has now been published

This document was amended to align it with BS5837 which is still under review.

Available at a cost from the BSI www.bsigroup.com

London Arboretum

In this provocative and timely book, architects, ecologists, artists and activists argue that trees deserve a more central role in the city's design—not as decorative afterthoughts or technical fixes, but as spatial and cultural protagonists.

<https://shop.architecturefoundation.org.uk/collections/publications/products/pre-order-london-arboretum>

Tree-covered buildings - for and against

Chris Foges, RIBA Journal, January 2026

[https://www.ribaj.com/intelligence/trees-on-building-](https://www.ribaj.com/intelligence/trees-on-building-facades/?utm_campaign=20%2F01%2F2025%20Editor%27s%20cut&utm_content=Tree-covered%20buildings%3A%20the%20for%20and%20against&utm_term=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Adestra)

[facades/?utm_campaign=20%2F01%2F2025%20Editor%27s%20cut&utm_content=Tree-covered%20buildings%3A%20the%20for%20and%20against&utm_term=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Adestra](https://www.ribaj.com/intelligence/trees-on-building-facades/?utm_campaign=20%2F01%2F2025%20Editor%27s%20cut&utm_content=Tree-covered%20buildings%3A%20the%20for%20and%20against&utm_term=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Adestra)

SOME PUBLICATIONS FOCUSED ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND RISK: –

National Emergency Briefing on Climate and Nature

This took place in November 2025, but it is still vital watching and listening as it is a live campaign and the briefing clearly articulates the issues and the evidence with proposals for action.

<https://www.nebriefing.org/>

Climate realism: bridging the gap between rhetoric and reality.

A series of talks by Professor Sir Dieter Helm

This series of talks, covering all aspects of the challenges we face from the transition fallacy to generational equity, explains why we are not making progress and what we must do if we really want to tackle climate change.

<https://dieterhelm.co.uk/books/climate-realism/>

Climate Outreach – Britain talks climate

In-depth analysis on how we think and feel about climate and nature and the strategic implications for policy and communication.

Our research finds overwhelming evidence that getting the story right has never been more crucial. When we fail to connect with people’s realities and aspirations, we undermine our own hard-won progress. But when we get it right, we build strong and almost universal support for bold action on climate change.

This is important if we are going to achieve the degree of behaviour change needed.

<https://climateoutreach.org/btc/2025/>

World Economic Forum Global Risks report 2026

This report analyses global risks balancing current crises with longer-term priorities with “uncertainty is the defining theme of the global risks outlook in 2026” as multilateralism is in retreat, economic risks are intensifying, technological risks are growing, largely unchecked and environmental concerns are being deprioritized in the short term with a new competitive order emerging in the changing global political environment.

<https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-risks-report-2026/>

This report should be read in conjunction with the UK Government’s Chronic Risk Analysis published in 2025, and covering a critical subject the Edge’s future work programme.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6890acc9e8ba9507fc1b09a6/Chronic_Risks_Analysis_CRA_.pdf

Nature security assessment on global biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and national security

This strategic assessment explores how global biodiversity loss and the collapse of critical ecosystems could affect the UK’s resilience, security and prosperity. You can read the full report here: [National security assessment - global biodiversity loss ecosystem collapse and national security.pdf](#)

and an article by George Monbiot here: <https://www.monbiot.com/2026/01/29/30-x-never/>

SOCIAL MEDIA

Just a reminder that TDAG now has two social media accounts (we decided to delete the Twitter/X account):

- BlueSky <https://bsky.app/profile/tdagtalktree.bsky.social>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-trees-and-design-action-group-trust/>

Let us know of any events, publications, or other matters of interest to share!
Sue, Emma and Dee for the Trees and Design Action Group