



## **SOME MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES RELATING TO URBAN TREES**

### **April 2016**

#### **The Trees and Design Action Group**

- Scoping *Trees, Planning and Development* and setting up steering group
- Continuing to disseminate *Trees in Hard Landscapes*
- Reviewing and updating *Trees in the Townscape*
- Setting up online case study library
- Community Engagement and Urban trees – a 'How to Guide'
- Delivering workshops (eg. 8Cs Review; Cambridge City Deal)
- Speaking at conferences and seminars – see TDAG website for details
- Scoping research on 'What we know and don't know about the social, economic and public health benefits of trees.'

#### **Arboricultural Association**

The Business Plan for 2016 will include actions in respect of greater public engagement and awareness as to the value of trees in urban environments and the AA Media and Communications Committee will be considering a series of publications aimed at the public (probably on a cost price basis) on a variety of topics sold through the widest possible vehicles, working closely with other institutions and organisations.

The AA will be inviting TDAG members to suggest subject matters of interest to the public as these will form the basis of the leaflets/publications.

Contact Karen Martin ([karen@trees.org.uk](mailto:karen@trees.org.uk)) if you have suggestions for topics. (check that Karen is the person to contact)

#### **GI Partnership and the TCPA**

The GIP/TCPA will be holding a GI conference in London on 16 June, but have not yet drawn up the agenda. A GIP newsletter will be sent out every second month starting January 2016. Contact Hilde Steinacker if you have something for the newsletters or your organisation would like to be on the GIP circulation list.

([Hilde.Steinacker@tcpa.org.uk](mailto:Hilde.Steinacker@tcpa.org.uk))

#### **The Woodland Trust: Charter for Trees, Woods and People**

The Woodland Trust is leading 43 organisations in a campaign calling on people across the UK to stick up for trees and help create a new Charter for Trees, Woods and People. As Beccy Speight, Woodland Trust CEO explains: "The Charter ambition is to place trees at the centre of national decision making, and back at the heart of our lives and communities. The charter will provide guidance and inspiration to allow us all to appreciate, preserve and celebrate our trees and woods. "

The charter will be rooted in stories and memories that show us how trees have shaped our society, landscape and lives. To start the campaign the organisations involved are asking people from all walks of life to share their 'tree stories' of treasured moments that would not have been possible without trees, to help create a charter that reflects the true meaning of our trees and woods to the people of the UK. Anyone involved will be part of a UK-wide network of groups leading local events and will represent communities in the national conversation about the future of woods and trees.

Find out more at: <https://treecharter.uk/>

#### **Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission: National Tree Map (Bluesky) and valuations**

This work is led by Nick Atkinson (Woodland Trust) and Mark Broadmeadow (Forestry Commission). The Woodland Trust has purchased Bluesky's National Tree Map (<http://www.bluesky-world.com/#!/national-tree-map/c1pqz>) "which covers the whole of

England and Wales and provides a unique, comprehensive database of location, height and canopy/crown extents for every single tree 3m and above in height" and prepared a report for Fera comparing the results from the Trees in Towns II survey with the National Tree Map. Meanwhile Mark's work has applied conventional ecosystem valuations for forestry to the linear woodland estate.

### **Forestry Commission and Urban FWAC – Urban Forest Vision**

This can be found at [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/urban-forest-final-v4.pdf/\\$FILE/urban-forest-final-v4.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/urban-forest-final-v4.pdf/$FILE/urban-forest-final-v4.pdf)

The introduction has support from Rory Stewart, Defra who is taking a great interest in urban trees. The next step will be an urban forest action plan.

### **Grown in Britain**

The UK has about 12% forest cover compared to the European average of 35%. The primary aim of Grown in Britain is to get more woodlands, which can include urban and peri-urban woodlands, back into sustainable management. This includes a market for the timber (see Woodstock Project <http://www.growninbritain.org/grown-britain-obtains-innovate-uk-funding/>). For managed urban woodlands see the work of Torbay Council (<http://www.torbay.gov.uk/index/council/news?id=123661>).

For more information on Grown in Britain see <http://www.growninbritain.org/about-us/>

### **Trees for Cities**

In January 2016, Trees for Cities welcomes a new Chief Executive, David Elliott, to lead the charity through implementation of its next strategic plan (2016-19). This year TfC plans to continue to plant 50,000 urban trees through urban woodland and neighbourhood tree projects in 15 UK cities including London, Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham, Bradford and Reading. We work in partnership with landowners, local delivery organisations and community groups ([www.treesforcities.org](http://www.treesforcities.org)).

Our Edible Playgrounds create functional food-growing spaces in schools and includes year-round support to embed the edible playground throughout the school curriculum. In 2016 we will continue to roll out our edible playgrounds programme in London, Leeds, Salford, Birmingham, Reading, and Manchester. The programme is supported by City Bridge Trust and players of the People's Postcode Lottery.

If you are interested to discuss potential partnership opportunities, please contact Kate Sheldon [kate@treesforcities.org](mailto:kate@treesforcities.org).

### **Tree Selection for Green Infrastructure Research and TDAG Guidance**

TDAG, Myerscough College and Lancaster University have recently been successful in attracting some funding from the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) to develop some guidance on tree selection for green infrastructure.

These data, along with information from a wide range of published literature and the experience of practitioners will then be used to develop some TDAG guidance on tree selection. It is hoped that this will be a valuable decision making tool to use when making tree selection decisions.

It would be good to collaborate on any other tree species research so please let Sue James ([suejamesriba@gmail.com](mailto:suejamesriba@gmail.com)) or Andy Hirons [ahirons@myerscough.ac.uk](mailto:ahirons@myerscough.ac.uk) know of any work that you are doing in this field.

## Forest Research – Physical

### Prog 1

4.2.3	Report on the compatibility and suitability of key datasets for mapping urban forest canopy in the UK
4.2.4	Report on the resilience of UK urban forests to the 2050 UKCP climate projections
4.2.5	Risk assess urban forest vulnerability and resilience to extreme weather event, a scoping study

### Prog 3

5.1.3	Prepare a series of evidence notes to support species selection of urban trees
5.1.5	Article on species drought tolerance trials
5.2.1	Maintain FR's Centre of Excellence for land regeneration to greenspace, including managing the Best Practice Guidance in Land Regeneration series.
5.2.2	Event day in collaboration with the British Land Reclamation Society (BLRS): 'the role of ecology in land regeneration'
5.2.3	PhD thesis 'assessment of woodland planting on brownfield land on soil quality and provision of wider ecosystem services'
5.2.4	Maintain and expand the resourcefulness and use of the URGP (in partnership with the Green Infrastructure Partnership).
5.2.5	Prepare a concept note for valuing urban forest creation on brownfield land

### Prog 4

1.1.1	Report on resistance-distance modelling in preparing connectivity indicators networks for urban greenspaces
1.1.2	Report on use of Gravity modelling in mapping use of urban greenspaces
1.1.5	Scoping review of expert based approaches to amenity tree valuation.
1.1.10	Review of existing cultural ES indicators and the current data sets that could be used to inform these indicators
1.2.11	Completion of assessment of air temperature reduction afforded by trees within an urban area papers including 'mapping the cooling boundaries of urban greenspaces', 'quantifying the shading and evapo-transpirational cooling mechanisms of urban trees', 'varying roles of different sized greenspaces in cooling London'
1.2.12	FC Research Note (a follow up RN) consolidating research into the role of trees/GSs in urban climate regulation
1.3.13	Report on variance in urban tree growth rates
1.3.14	Report on variance in urban tree leaf area indices
1.3.15	Report on variance in urban tree allometry

For further details please contact Kieron Doick ([Kieron.doick@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Kieron.doick@forestry.gsi.gov.uk))

## Forest Research – Social and Economic

Below is work related to Programme 4 that is currently on-going over the next couple of years. The green rows are for work that is complete, although might not yet be out in print or pdf.

1.1.3	Paper on barriers to children accessing nature – in collaboration
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	with the Norwegian Nature Research Institute. 3 published. new webpage created <a href="http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/childrenandnature">www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/childrenandnature</a>
1.1.9	Report on action research of using integrative methods and tools 'in situ' in different decision contexts.
1.1.10	Review of existing cultural ES indicators and the current data sets that could be used to inform these indicators (linked with Programme 1)
1.1.11	Internal report on whose values are being sought and any evidence of values being taken into account in decision making
1.1.12	Participation in COST Action FP1204 Green infrastructure and urban forestry
1.1.13	Paper – Socio-cultural services and benefits of urban forestry and GI in Europe –Cost Action Book chapter on social distribution of socio-cultural benefits from GI – Cost Action
1.1.14	Paper – 'Ecosystem services and the idea of shared values' from NEAFO project
1.1.15	Supervision of PhD on forests and health inequalities. University of Edinburgh
output	Journal paper 'Wild Flowers to the people' Evaluation of grow wild programme led by Kew Gardens – links to Prog 4 WA1.1 due to CES values and benefits associated with planting native wildflower seeds. (in review)
output	Book chpt for Green Exercise book - O'Brien, L. Ambrose-Oji, B. Waite, S. 2015. Learning on the move: green exercise for children and young people. (in press)
output	Paper based on conference presentation 'Edwards, D. 2015. From commercial coppicing to celtic revivalism: the intangible cultural heritage of Britian's woodlands and trees. (in press)
2.1.1	Advantages and disadvantages of ecosystem markets and other formal and informal mechanisms: review comparing regulatory and voluntary evidence
2.1.2	Potential policy 'nudges' and other behavioural insights to encourage adoption of resilience 'best practice'
2.1.4	Interdisciplinary case studies involving interviews with a range of land managers to explore the role of different mechanisms in their decision making processes e.g. PES, advisory, networks.
2.1.5	Report on different mechanisms impact on land managers to inform management and woodland creation
2.1.6	Review and Interviews/focus groups with community groups to identify mechanisms that might enable communities to engage with trees and woodlands
2.1.7	Paper on mechanisms that encourage communities to engage with trees, woods and forests
2.2.1	Interviews / workshops with a range of land managers on advisory and informal mechanisms they use / know about – joint with WP2.1. above
2.2.2	Paper on the role of advisory and informal mechanism to deliver forest ecosystem services
2.2.3	Paper – Promoting sustainable behaviours through forestry (in review)

For further details please contact Liz O'Brien  
[liz.obrien@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:liz.obrien@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

**If you have any projects to add to this list please contact**  
**Sue James** ([suejamesriba@gmail.com](mailto:suejamesriba@gmail.com))