



Tree Frontiers News

A newsletter that helps keep you abreast of interesting facts and information from the world of arboriculture and related industries

In the world of trees, the news headlines this month have been dominated by the felling of the [Whitewebbs's Oak](#) in Enfield. This also comes at a time where the Sycamore Gap trial has also been in the news ([Live reporting from Newcastle Crown Court](#)).

The felling of both of these trees raises the question as to whether a review of statutory protection measures for trees needs amending, or at the very least, why neither tree was subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). It is unclear whether the presence of a TPO would've prevented the felling of either of these trees, but it certainly provides the opportunity for greater ramifications.

With the Whitewebb's Oak case, it also raises the question about the credibility of the contractors that undertook the work. News articles have highlighted that there was no company logo, branding or credentials advertised and therefore, were these legitimate and suitably qualified arborists?

There have been significant improvements to the accreditation and recognition of skilled arboricultural contractors over recent years. This is highlighted by an increasing number of [Arboricultural Association Approved Contractors](#). In order to become an approved contractor, the company has to undergo rigorous assessments to demonstrate a high quality of work and adherence to safe practice. However, in light of the recent events, educating the public on which contractors to use remains an ongoing conundrum.

Our plea to all those in related industries is to undertake your own due diligence when you're getting advice or instructing tree works. As you're already signed up to our newsletter, we know this is preaching to the converted, but please raise awareness in colleagues, friends and families too. As a micro-industry, we cannot raise awareness on our own.



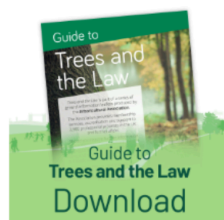
Felled Enfield oak 'had hundreds of years to live'

An ancient oak felled in a north London park on the order of Toby Carvery's owners was healthy and could have lived "for another few hundred years", the leader of the local council has said.

Pub chain Mitchells & Butlers (M&B) said that their specialist arboriculture contractors had advised the 500 year old tree to be cut back due to a potential health and safety risk. This advice appears to contradict that provided to Enfield Council which had commissioned its own survey early that concluded that tree was a "fine specimen). One consequence of this is the government is now reported to be considering a [review of protection to important trees](#).

Read the full story

Public guidance



FREE Arboriculture resource packs

If you're going to an event and need some educational or promotional materials to promote a career in arboriculture, The Arboricultural Association offers a range of technical guides and promotional materials. Download from their website, or request a free pack via their website.

[Find out more](#)



Welcome to Forest Nation World!

Wanted: Minecraft builders to educate the next generation

The challenge of attracting young people into the arboricultural industry is real. Yet, Woodknowledge Wales have found an alternative approach, through the popular game Minecraft.

Minecraft is a video game where players explore, build and survive in a pixelated world, and across the world 1 in 8 people have played the game.

Woodknowledge Wales has created a Minecraft environment called Forest Nation World, encouraging school age learners to "grow" trees and then use resources (such as Spruce timber) to design and construct sustainable buildings - giving a glimpse of a career in forestry. To enable Forest Nation World to grow, they need more teams to work with schools to create projects that align with their approach. Could this be you? Find out more in the below article.

[Read more](#)



Elemental: a new web-based green design tool

The Landscape Institute have launched Elemental, a new green design tool to help landscape professionals optimise the environmental benefits of their projects. The tool is free to the public and provides insights, reports and resources to help landscaping professionals achieve their sustainability goals.

[Read more](#)



Rooted in History: Our Historic Environment Story

Forestry England has published a new document sharing historical stories of the nation's forests. The publication explores significant sites and monuments hidden beneath the trees, each serving as a testament to the diverse and enduring relationship between humans, woodlands, and landscapes.

[Download](#)

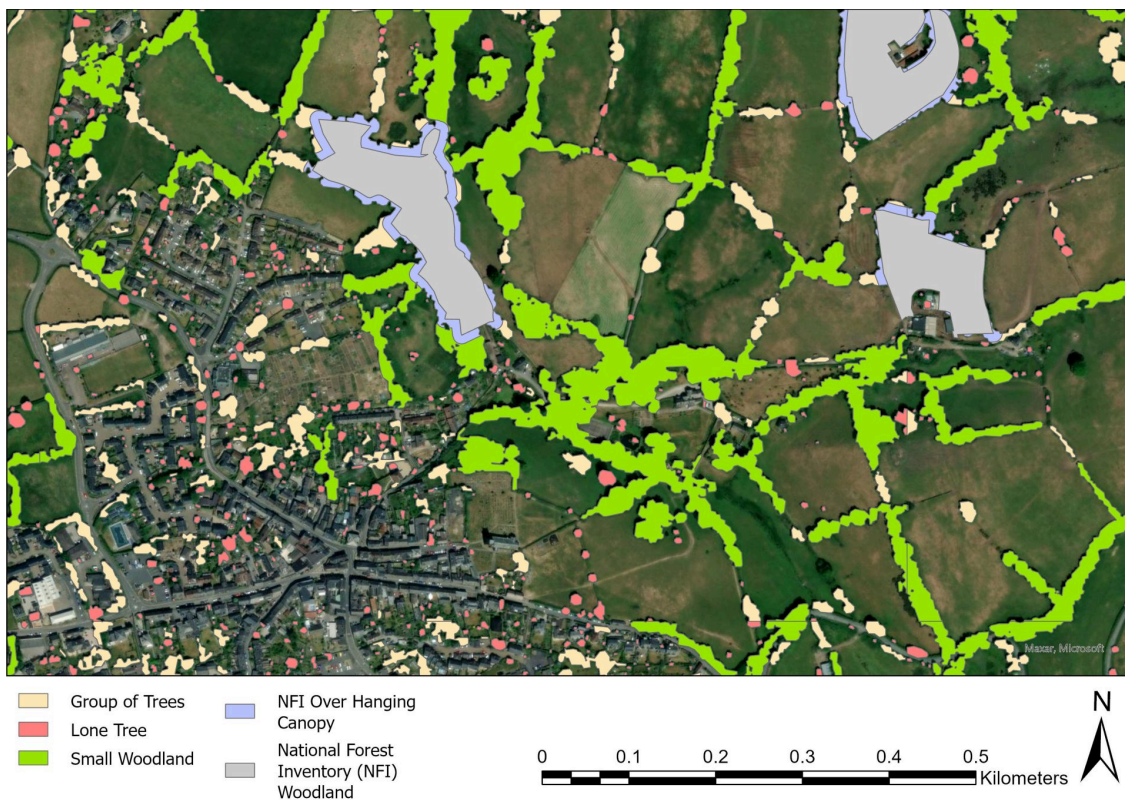


New reform focuses on nature & economic growth

Earlier this month, Environment Secretary Steve Reed announced major reforms to environmental regulation that will streamline and modernise the current process to unlock growth, deliver 1.5 million

homes and do more for nature. A new review of the regulations finds the current system outdated and inconsistent, and delivers for neither nature or growth. The review makes 29 recommendations for streamlining regulation, all of which are under consideration.

[Read more](#)



A third of England's tree cover is non-woodland trees

Using the latest laser detection and satellite imagery, scientists at Forest Research have been able to build a comprehensive picture of non-woodland trees across England, revealing that these trees make up nearly a third of the UK's tree cover.

The map will provide a clearer picture of areas affected by nature depletion, allowing for more accurate targeting of tree planting efforts. It will also identify isolated trees that can be linked to nearby wooded areas, enhancing habitats for wildlife. This initiative supports the government's commitment to expanding nature-rich habitats and aims to increase England's woodland canopy to 16.5%.

[Read more](#)



The European spruce bark beetle has been found in the UK

A beetle that has previously devastated Norway spruce populations in continental Europe has been found to also be attracted to Sitka spruce. Experts warn that this could significantly impact commercial forestry.

The eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle has now been detected in the UK, raising concerns for Sitka spruce, which comprises a quarter of Britain's forest cover and half of its commercial plantations.

Researchers initially questioned the beetle's attraction to Sitka spruce. They studied its host preferences using freshly cut logs and confirmed their findings in the field in a region with an endemic beetle population.

In addition to the above, it is important to look out for signs of Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) as this has spread outside of London Boroughs. This is a reportable pest and advice can be found on the risks to people and trees below.

[Read more](#)

[OPM](#)



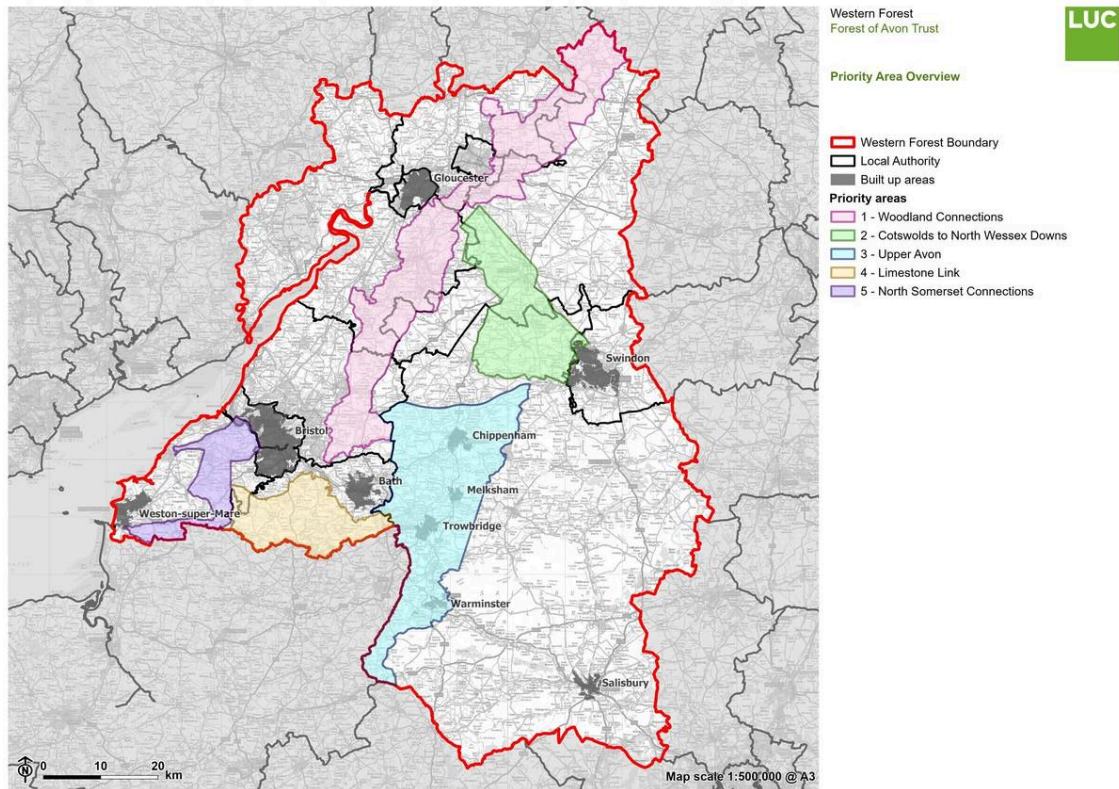
Winner of the European Tree of the Year Award

The Heart of the Dalkowskie Hills, a stunning 300-year-old beech tree, has won Poland the European Tree of the Year award for the fourth consecutive time.

Located in Dalków's historic park, this deep-red tree is a cherished community symbol. Visitors often toss peanuts into a hole in the tree, hoping their wishes will come true.

The contest highlights our connection with nature by featuring unique and beautiful trees from across the continent.

[Read more](#)



Plans to plant a new national forest with 20m trees

The UK government has revealed plans to plant a new national forest, stretching from the Cotswolds to the Mendips, to help meet a legal environment target of 16.5% woodland cover in England by 2050 (it's currently at 10%). Over the coming decades, 20 million trees will be planted, creating at least 2,500 hectares of new woodland.

The aim is to revitalise existing woodlands and other habitats to create a forest network, while also integrating trees into the farmed landscape through agroforestry and farm woodlands.

[Read more](#)



The future of a historic tree is boosted by The National Lottery Heritage Fund

More than £10,000 has been awarded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund to help safeguard the future of the UK's oldest and most important heritage trees - The Great London Plane of Ely.

Believed to be the first ever National Lottery grant allocated to an individual historic tree, the funding will allow innovative bracing and pruning work, using techniques never used in the UK.

[Read more](#)



Frozen trees to extend planting season across Scotland

Forestry and Land Scotland is trialling frozen tree planting across the Highlands as part of exploring ways to extend its planting season. Freezing young trees increases dormancy time so they don't use any nutrient reserves for growth, and allows them to be planted after the recognised winter season October to March. Low temperatures also make the plants less susceptible to mould, disease or pest damage.

[Read more](#)



Inspiring the next generation of arborists

The Arboricultural Association recently exhibited at The National School and College Leavers Festival, the UK's largest careers event for young people aged 15-24.

This event highlighted the importance of engaging with young people and inspiring them to consider a career in arboriculture. With over 50 sign ups already for the Arb Ambassadors programme, and a growing list of careers events they're attending this year, the Arboricultural Association hope to promote careers in arboriculture to our next generation.

Get involved

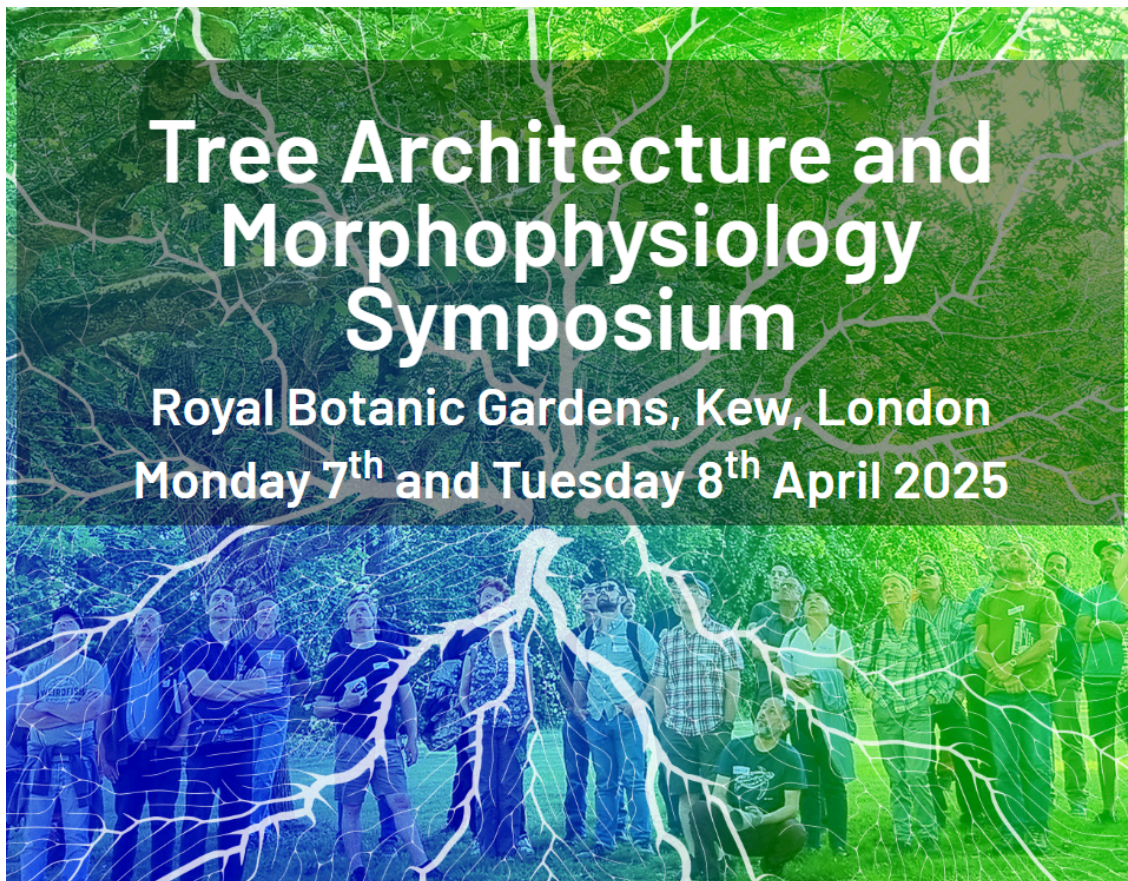


LANTRA Internal Tree Inspection Programme

The Internal Tree Inspection Programme (ITIP) is a two-day training course designed to equip arboriculturists with the skills to assess the internal condition of trees using visual tree assessments, tomography and the microdrill. This Lantra-accredited Customised Award is exclusively developed and delivered by a Lantra-approved training partner and aimed at arborists, arboricultural consultants, tree surveyors, tree officers and tree managers with an arboricultural interest.

[Search for course locations](#)

Tree Frontiers News



Attendance at the Arboricultural Association symposium

Earlier this month Nick attended the [Arboricultural Association's annual symposium](#), this year focussing on Tree Architecture and Morphophysiology. The aim was to introduce UK audiences to these concepts which have been widely adopted in Europe and Canada.

In brief, Tree Architecture offers a formalised system of tree growth which differs from the UK's traditional

terms of form and habit, and therefore provides a clearer understanding of how tree growth can inform tree management. Morphophysiology evolved from tree architecture, and can be defined as 'the study of tree shape and structure in relation to function to achieve the goal of sustaining life'.

The symposium encouraged a shift in how trees are perceived and managed, and the outcome of discussions was that there is a need for a more standardised language in our industry which could lead to better communication and understanding among arborists.



Travelling tree nerd!

Flis recently took her family on holiday to Zimbabwe, but as well as looking out for the usual suspects such as lions, zebra and giraffes she also found herself drawn to the trees - they face a harsh existence, being eaten to virtually bare stumps every year and having whole limbs ripped off by elephants. However some manage to survive, including this 1,200 year old Baobab tree.



Here are a couple of her holiday snaps, proof that she is slowly becoming a tree nerd like Steve and Nick!





We're Hiring - Arboricultural Consultant

With an increase in demand across a wide range of sites, we are looking to appoint a qualified and experienced arboricultural consultant on a full- time, permanent basis.

While experience is a desirable quality, we are focused on finding the right person for the job - someone driven, forward thinking and pragmatic, has an ability to interpret as well as listen, and for whom high quality delivery is normal.

The role is varied as our consultants are involved in every stage of a project, from preparing the brief, carrying out the survey, drafting reports and plans and working with the wider project teams. Take a look at the job spec below, and we're happy to chat through the role on 01608 692705.

[See the full job spec](#)



Tree of the month

Hopefully you will have already spotted our featured tree this month as it is covered in blossom during the spring. Once believed to ward off evil spirits, these days it is mostly planted in parks and gardens for people to enjoy. Find out more below.

What Tree?

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