

# Tree Frontiers News

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

A month has passed on the new Labour government have already released a [Draft National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF). This is out for consultation until September 2024. In the planning world, the obvious discussions are about the ambitious targets and use of 'Grey Belt' land for development opportunities. While this will inevitably have an impact in the world of arboriculture, possibly of more significance is Question 93, which asks: '*Are there any application types for which fees are not currently charged but which should require a fee?*'

This specifically lists Tree Works applications (both those subject to a Tree Preservation Order and in a Conservation Area) in the associated text.

While the principal of charging for tree works applications seems like a good way of recouping fees for a Local Planning Authority, we remain sceptical that this will work in practice. If implemented, we would anticipate that this will lead to more breaches of unconsented tree works, as home owners will opt to forego the application. Local Planning Authority tree teams are already under resourced and facing mounting pressures, is this just another unnecessary load?

Furthermore, it is unclear how charging for such an application will remove the overburden on existing Tree Officers. This is something we will watch with interest following the consultation period.



# New Draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is seeking views on how the NPPF may be revised. As recently highlighted by Landmark Chambers, the consultation seeks views on the following:

- Re-casting the basis for the Standard Method, using housing stock instead of household predictions
- Changing paragraph 11d both in terms of triggers for the tilted balance and its wording
- Introducing the concept of grey belt into green belt considerations
- Changing affordable housing and mix policy
- Refocusing design policy on good design rather than 'beauty'

Consultation is open until 24th September.

## NPPF Consultation

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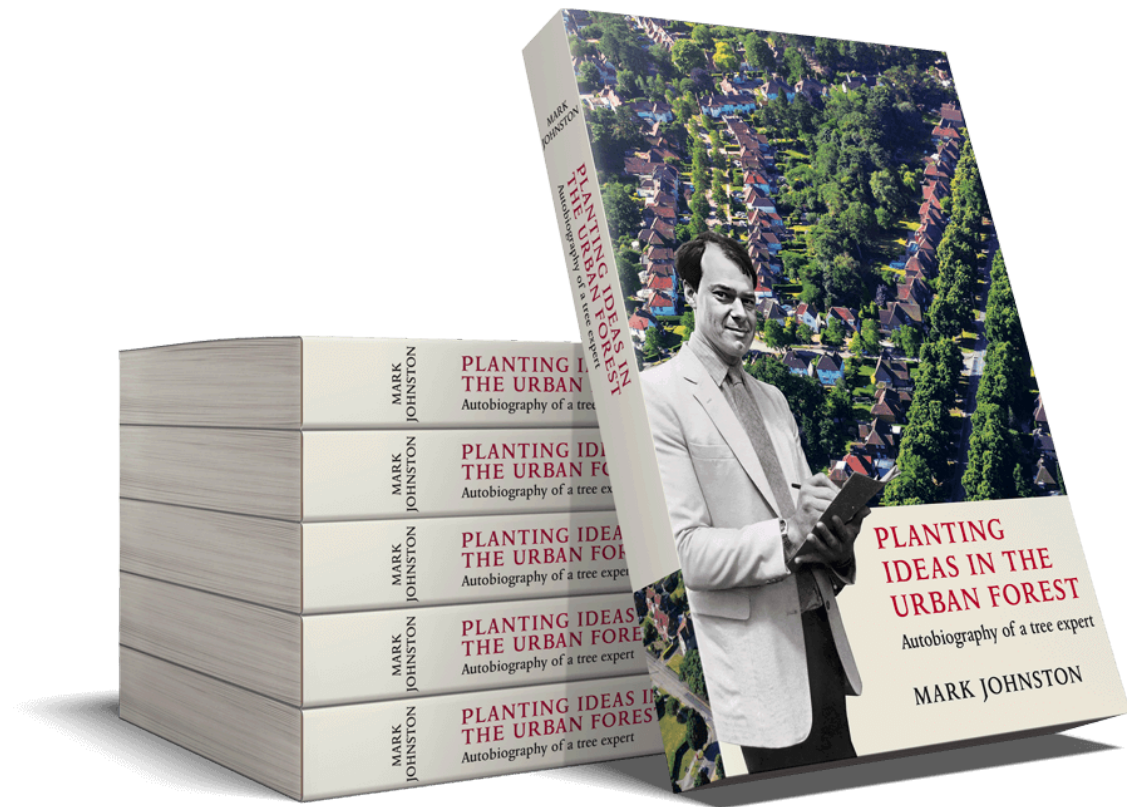
## Thousands sign a petition against A38 tree felling

More than 2000 people have signed an online petition calling for a halt to the felling of trees along the A38 in Bromsgrove. The aim of the project is said to reduce congestion and that any tree-felling would be kept to a minimum.

[Read article](#)

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## Life of a tree expert

Mark Johnston, previously a lecturer to our very own Steve Westmore, has written an autobiography charting his life as a tree expert. This free book is available via the link below - it's bound to be a fascinating read!

Get your free copy



## Social and Cultural Values of Trees Research

Now in its fourth year, the Forest Research socio economic research is released, sharing the findings and recommendations for the year ahead. Download the report - Social and cultural values of trees, woods and forests to access the latest update.

## Download the reports

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## Online media training for tree professionals

With continued awareness around the role of trees in fighting the climate emergency, tree professionals are increasingly being approached by the media to comment on current environmental policies and research.

The Institute of Chartered Foresters are hosting an online webinar that will provide media training for professionals working across the forestry and arboriculture sector. This half day will cover a range of topics which will help delegates to understand the media and what makes a story in more detail.

The session is on 29 November, find out more below.

## Find out more and book

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## Kew tree species at risk due to climate change

In 2022, Kew Gardens lost 400 trees during the summer drought, prompting further research into potential loss in coming decades. The study has found that more than half of the tree species are at risk of death because of climate breakdown. This has led Kew to write a succession plan to replace some of the trees most likely to die.

[Read more](#)

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## UK off track for Net Zero

Only a third of the emission reductions required to achieve the 2030 target are covered by credible plans. The Climate Change Committee has published its annual Progress Report to Parliament and urges the new government to address uncertainty around the UK's commitment to Net Zero.

[Read more](#)

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## Public's most favoured and valued professions named

Britain's farmers and growers have been named as one of the public's most favoured and valued professions, second only to nurses. A new study commissioned by the NFU surveyed 2,000 adults, finding



74% recognise the hard work and dedication that farmers and growers put in to produce food for the nation.

[Read the article](#)

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## Tree bark can remove methane

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, 80 times more powerful than carbon dioxide over its 20 year lifespan. Researchers at University of Birmingham found that microbes within tree bark or in the wood itself remove methane as well as carbon dioxide. This means that trees are 10% more beneficial for the climate than previously thought.

[Read more](#)

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## Community programme creates the Forest for Cornwall

The Forest for Cornwall programme began in 2019, involving businesses, farmers, community groups and schools across the country. Just 5 years on, they have planted one million trees - with the goal of increasing nature for residents and absorbing carbon emissions.

[Read the full story](#)

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Tree Frontiers News





# 2024

YEAR END STATS

## Our Projects

198  
projects



123 Trees & Development

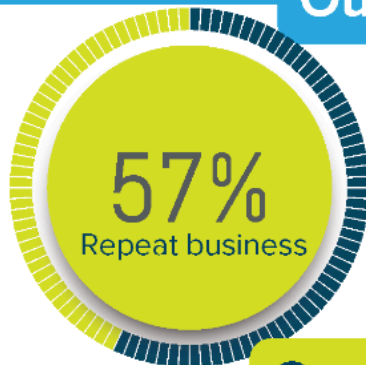


36 Tree Risk & Condition



21 Trees & Law projects

## Our Clients



45

New Clients



## Our Activities

6

CPDs  
delivered



+1

to team



15

meetings / workshops  
attended  
(as Arb Association  
volunteers)



Careers Fairs attended

4

14

Conferences & Training  
Events attended

## A time to reflect

Having recently come to the end of our financial year, we wanted to reflect on the past year and see what we've achieved. The easiest way of sharing this was by producing the above.

A huge thank you to everyone that we have worked with over the past year. We look forward to working with you all over the coming months and years.



## On the road with team Tree Frontiers

As a team we're embarking on our first charity challenge – the Oxford half marathon in October.

As tree enthusiasts it probably isn't that surprising that we will be running for a tree related charity. Having seen the success of the Tiny Forest project in Witney, we will be running to raise money for Earthwatch Europe to help connect communities and raise awareness of the many benefits provided by trees.

We would welcome any donations.

Keep us moving



## Tree of the month

Our focus of What tree this month is one which bears fruits known as 'chequers'. This happens to be the name of one of the Public Houses in Chipping Norton near to where we captured photographs of this months tree.... Coincidence? most likely, but an interesting observation.



## What Tree?

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Share



Forward



Share

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