



Tree Frontiers News

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

There is never a dull moment in the world of development. Earlier this week the Government released the [Planning and Infrastructure Bill](#), with the headline:

"The Bill will speed up and streamline the delivery of new homes and critical infrastructure, supporting delivery of the government's Plan for Change milestones of building 1.5 million safe and decent homes in England and fast-tracking 150 planning decisions on major economic infrastructure projects by the end of this Parliament."

While there isn't any specific reference to 'trees' in the bill, Part 3 addresses Development and Nature Recovery: *"The Bill establishes the Nature Restoration Fund (NRF), an alternative approach for developers to meet certain environmental obligations relating to protected sites and species. It allows Natural England (or another designated delivery body) to bring forward Environmental Delivery Plans (EDPs), that will set out the strategic action to be taken to address the impact that development has on a protected site or species and, crucially, how these actions go further than the current approach and support nature recovery. Where an EDP is in place and a developer utilises it, the developer would no longer be required to undertake their own assessments, or deliver project-specific interventions, for issues addressed by the EDP."*

Furthermore, is additional funding of £14 million sufficient for enabling Natural England to facilitate EDPs? There are obvious concerns about whether in streamlining development the Bill would lead to environmental regression. Under the FAQs, there is a response that addresses this:

"We are clear in our desire to deliver a win-win for nature and for the economy and are committed to exploring how taking a more strategic approach can secure improved outcomes for the environment."

We will have to wait and see whether this has further ramifications on how trees specifically are considered as part of the design process and whether there will be significant knock-on effects for related industries (Forestry, Landscape etc.).

It will also be interesting to see what the outcome of the revised British Standard 5837 will be later this year and how this aligns the importance of trees in development proposals with other environmental disciplines.



What if everyone in the world planted a tree?

Take a minute (well, 2) to find out what difference this would make in the fight against climate change.

[Read more](#)

More than 10,000 trees damaged following Storm Eowyn

Storm Éowyn is said to be ‘probably’ the strongest storm to hit the UK in the last 10 years. The January storm saw widespread travel disruption, fallen trees and damaged buildings and roads caused by the 100mph winds.

Watch the short film from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh to learn about the devastating impact of the storm and the recovery efforts that lie ahead.

The National Trust reported that more than 10,000 trees were toppled across Northern Ireland and the North of England. Due to the damage sustained, they are appealing for donations to help repair the damage caused by the storms.

[Donate](#)

[Read more](#)



#FreetheTree Campaign launched

The Arboricultural Association has launched their #FreetheTree campaign in hope to reduce the number of 'strangled-on-stake' trees across the UK. When a tree is planted, it's often supported using stakes or tree-ties. These should be removed 3-5 years after planting as the pressure of the tree-tie can constrict the growth of the tree, causing damage to the bark and limiting the resources it needs to survive.

The #FreetheTree campaign aims to educate the public in identifying a strangled tree and take action that helps the tree to survive.

[Read more](#)



Data Explorer helps us to understand UK forestry in a changing climate

Forest Research have a shared five additional REINFFORCE experiments assessing tree species for UK forestry in a changing climate, in their data explorer. The experiments help to understand how different species might grow under current and future climates.

[Explore here](#)

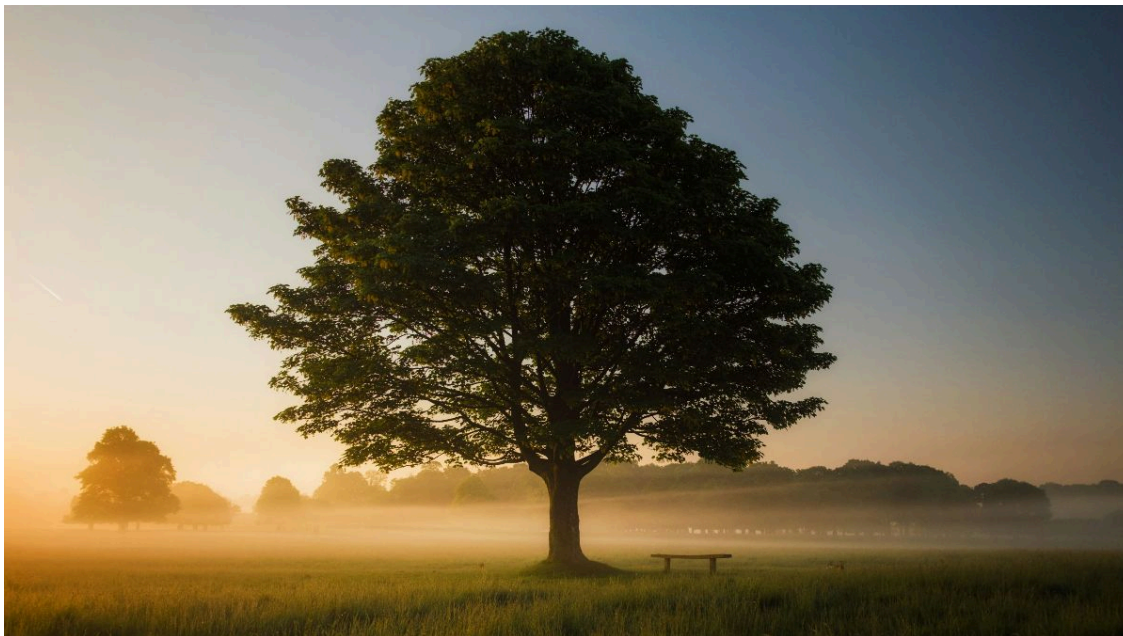
Trees for Cities are asking members of the public to take part in Urban Tree Watch 2025, documenting a tree over a year long period. Spending just 10 minutes a month, completing a short survey can help to understand people's relationship to urban nature.

[Find out more](#)

Guidance on plan-making update

The Government Guidance on plan-making has been revised to clarify the evidence needed to plan for the natural environment and biodiversity.

[See the latest update](#)



Upper Tribunal Land's Chamber decision on TPO compensation claims

The Chubb vs Enfield case caught our attention last month when the Upper Tribunal dismissed a claim for compensation by Chubb European Group SE, the insurer of a property allegedly damaged by subsidence due to a protected oak tree. Special thanks to Sarah Dodd from [Tree Law](#) for preparing a booklet with all past LT reported TPO decisions.

[View the booklet here](#)

Homegrown seed that will kickstart Douglas Fir Trees

Douglas Fir is a timber-producing tree for Britain and regularly used in construction. Native to North America, the UK has imported the Douglas fir seed for over 100 years, however with demand rising, there is a stronger need for a strain that is specialised for British conditions. A project led by the Conifer Breeding Co-operative have developed a British Douglas fir seed suited to our conditions and will grow the next generation of Douglas fir from British tree seeds.

[Read the full story](#)

What happened to climate COP29 in Azerbaijan?

The recent climate COP in Azerbaijan - the annual decision-making meeting for signatories to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - spent two weeks discussing rules for carbon markets, emissions trading and climate finance for countries in the Global South most affected by and vulnerable to climate change. Find out what happened in this summary from the Woodland Trust.

[Read more](#)



6,000 trees planted to improve raw water quality

United Utilities have pledged to plant one million trees on its estates by 2030, beginning with 6,000 native trees at Stybeck Farm near Thirlmere reservoir in Cumbria. United Utilities is working with West Cumbria

Rivers Trust, who said that the trees would capture carbon and improve raw water quality around the reservoir.

[Read more](#)



Sooty Bark Disease cases on the rise

Cases of Sooty Bark Disease have been affecting maple trees that are already in a deteriorating condition. The management of trees with sooty bark disease is a tricky issue because of the health risks to those in charge of removing the tree – however a new protocol issued gives a good picture of how personal protection should be applied when processing a tree with Sooty Bark Disease.

[Read more](#)

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Lunchtime CPD sessions delivered

This month we have delivered lunchtime CPD sessions to [Morgan Elliot Planning](#) and [SFK Consulting](#). Not only is it a great opportunity for us to meet teams (that we ordinarily only interact with virtually), but we get to impart our knowledge and wisdom on all things trees.

The sessions covered a variety of themes including National Planning Policy, canopy cover assessments, ancient/veteran trees and how best to ensure planning/development success when trees are involved. We also outlined the potential for using drones and 360 videos to give a more comprehensive and detailed view of trees, and allowing tree data to be manipulated using the most up-to-date technology.

If your team would benefit from a tailored CPD session please get in touch: info@treefrontiers.com



Case Study - Residential Development in Gloucester

Tree Frontiers were asked to provide arboricultural input and reporting to accompany a live planning application for a residential development. Read about how our input addressed objections from the local authority and aided in the successful planning outcome.

[Read the full Case Study](#)



Tree of the month

This month we are heading north, featuring a tree which provides essential habitat for red squirrels, capercaillies and crossbills. Once considered sacred by the Celts, today it is key in commercial forestry. Find out more below.

What Tree?



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