



Tree Frontiers News

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

The coldest summer in 9 years comes to a close and we now prepare for the seasonal changes. Perhaps the most notable change this year will be the drawing in of the nights rather than a significant drop in temperature. However, autumn storms and high winds are always something to watch for, and we have had a record number of named storms for the year (interesting fact – the storm calendar runs from September to August. Who knew? We are now into a New Storm Year).

Talking of which, the winds of change for the arboricultural sector are blowing across the UK. Some change relates to the change of government over the summer with a consultation currently out on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). While trees are not the most pertinent element of the planning sector one significant proposed change will be to charge a fee for submitting Section 211 notices (works to trees in conservation areas) and TPO applications.

As might be expected, we do not support this proposal – the entire planning process is already expensive as it is and punitive charges for these types of notices is likely to simply result in works being done without consent giving rise to in additional costs for local authorities in taking enforcement action at a higher cost than they currently incur in processing applications. Cause and effect...the law of unintended consequences...call it what you will.

However, much more encouraging is the consultation (only 8 years late) on revisions to British Standard 5837 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. This is the guiding document for the management of trees on development sites and is well overdue an update. There are some very welcome changes proposed and also some that are perhaps less welcome or clear. We will review this in more detail in this newsletter.

And finally, a personal request – the team at Tree Frontiers are running in the Oxford Half Marathon on 13th October and we are trying to raise money for Tiny Forests. Championed by Earthwatch, the goal of Tiny Forests is to densely plant 600 trees in a tennis-court size plot in urban setting to get nature to where it is most needed. They have a goal of 600 Tiny Forests across the UK by 2030. Please help us help them achieve this goal by making a “Tiny” charitable contribution on our [JustGiving](#) page.



British Standard 5837 Draft Released

This standard is what all arboriculturists will considered when working on development projects. Most in the industry feel that not only is the current issue outdated, but there are significant shortcomings.

A snapshot review indicates a few fundamental changes:

- New retention categorisations (V - Veteran, X - <10 years life expectancy)
- Arboricultural Constraints and Opportunity Plan (ACOP) instead of Tree Survey Plan (more commonly referred to as a Tree Constraints Plan)
- Inclusion of Canopy Cover assessments as standard.
- Arboricultural Impact Report (rather than Arboricultural Impact Assessment)

There is significantly more detail than the above, so both Nick and Steve have provided a more in depth analysis of the good, the bad and (not quite) the ugly. Use the link below if you want to see our review.

Importantly, the consultation closes on 16th October - If you're an arboriculturist, please review and provide comments on the document. (To view the draft standard and make comments, consultees will need to create an account)

Review the Draft standard

Read Tree Frontiers review of the draft standard



National Tree Safety Group: 2nd Edition Guidance Launched

Nationally recognised guidance on tree-safety management in the UK. It is intended for anyone responsible for trees, including duty holders, who may be landowners of estates or smallholdings, householders, as well as those who manage, advise and work on trees.

[Download 2nd Edition](#)



Grey Belt inquiry launched

The House of Lords Built Environment Committee has launched an inquiry into the Grey Belt. This inquiry will seek to gain a better understanding of What Grey Belt land is, how it can contribute to housing targets and what sustainable Grey Belt development looks like.

The Committee will consider the proposed 'golden rules' of the sequential test for land release.

[Read more](#)



The ecology of plant life affected by all-night streetlights

Scientists believe that the food chain is under threat after noticing that trees in urban ecosystems showed less damage than those in rural. Caused by all-night streetlights, the artificial photosynthesis is causing leaves to become so tough that insects can't eat them, threatening the food chain.

[Read more](#)



Mature trees are able to speed up their rates of CO2 absorption

Scientists at the University of Birmingham have found that mature oak trees exposed to elevated levels of carbon dioxide for seven years increased their production of wood - locking in the greenhouse gas and preventing it from warming the planet.

[Read the full article](#)



Sycamore Gap: Court case ongoing and new basal epicormic growth

One of the men accused of felling the sycamore gap tree denies charges of felling the tree and causing damage to Hadrian's Wall. As most in the arboricultural industry expected, the stump of the felled tree has started to produce epicormic growth.

BBC Article on court case

New basal shoots spotted



Tree Roots and Archaeology

[Oxford Archaeology](#) recently published an article about their recent 'Tree Roots and Archaeology' project.

This work was commissioned by the Forestry Commission. The report identifies that there are many

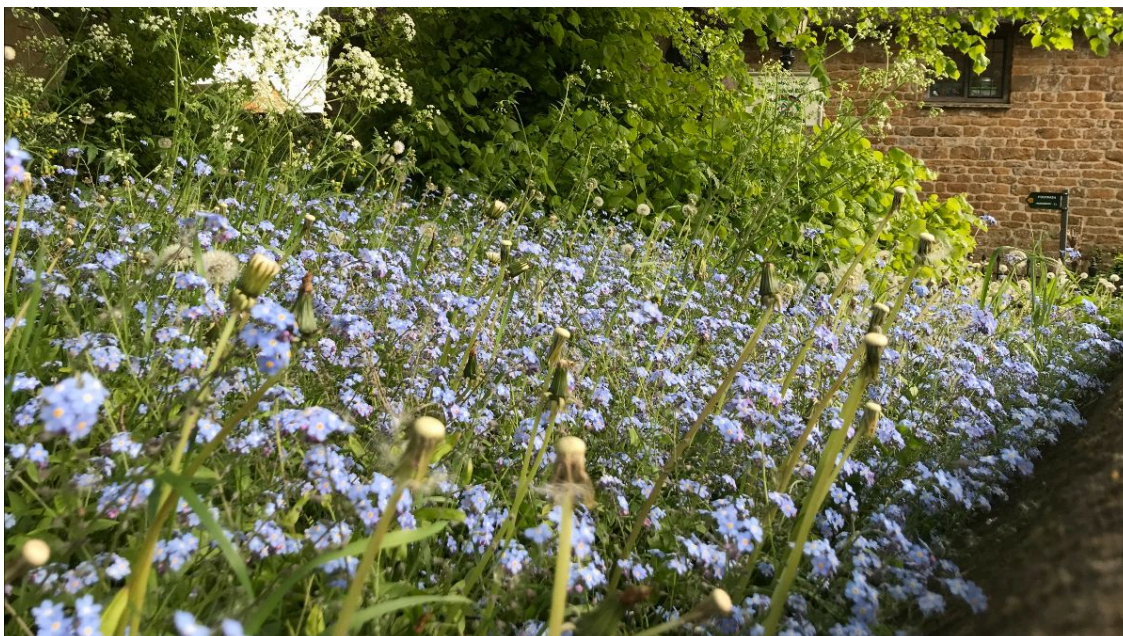
different aspects that determine the impact of tree roots on archaeology (tree species, archaeological features, soil type etc.)

A concluding remark from the report states:

'Accordingly, the presence of archaeology should not necessarily be seen or used as a block to new tree planting schemes, but rather a factor that needs to be considered and balanced alongside other ecological and environmental factors on a site-by-site basis.'

The report does note that additional research is required and perhaps a reassessment of historical negative perceptions of the interaction between tree roots and heritage assets.

[Read the full article](#)



Updated Guidance on BNG Exemptions

BNG guidance has recently been updated on exemptions. This specifically relates to custom and self-builds as this has been an area of concern since the publication was originally released.

[Read the updated guidance](#)



Tree of the Year Contest: Ancient Oaks Showcased

The Woodland Trust runs an annual competition, with the goal of awarding 'Tree of the Year' to one tree every year. This year, the competition is focussed on 12 oak trees across the UK.

Voting is open until 21st October.

[Cast your vote](#)



Do we need to help trees migrate northwards?

With the impacts of climate change, with increased periods of drought over larger portions of the UK, there is a risk to native tree species. The article reports that species are travelling north at a median rate of 17km a decade to reach cooler climates. Unsurprisingly, trees cannot achieve this.

One possible solution is assisted migration of tree species, but there are concerns about the unintended consequences and irreversibility of wholesale movement of ecosystems.

[Read the article](#)



'NYC needs more trees'

As we are experiencing the impacts of increased temperatures in the UK, a recent article published by CityLimits explains that trees can be the answer. This is particularly in low-income areas that are devoid of green space.

This is not ground-breaking research as it has been well documented for the last decade that urban trees help combat the Urban Heat Island (UHI) affect. However, NYC is developing it first legally required citywide urban forest plan. It will be intriguing to see how this is developed and what details are contained.

[Read the full article](#)

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Firewalk Fundraiser

Our very own Steve Westmore will be braving the hot coals as he attempts to firewalk with Opendoorz in aid of the Chipping Norton Theatre's community programme. Their projects use art and drama to create real, positive change by supporting mental health and promoting inclusion for those who are disadvantaged or marginalised.

We wish him all the best - as soon as his feet have (hopefully!) recovered he'll need to get his trainers back on ready for the Half Marathon in a few weeks' time!

Help support Steve

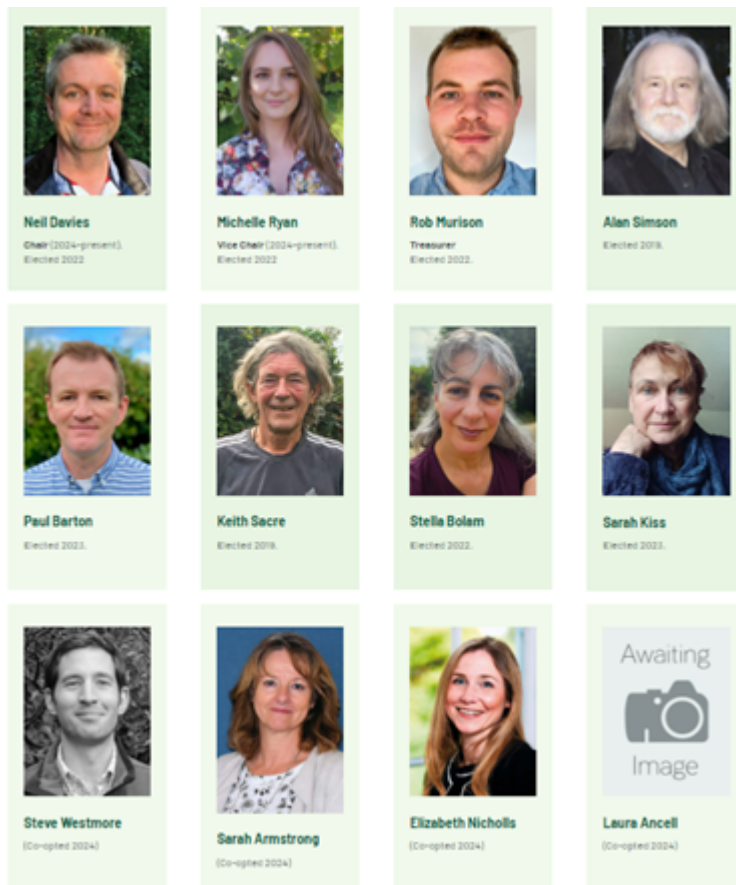


Half Marathon update from team Tree Frontiers

It is now less than six weeks until the Tree Frontiers team will run their first Half Marathon! We are getting closer to achieving the distance and starting to work on our pace. As tree enthusiasts we have chosen to run for the tree-related charity Tiny Forest, after seeing the success of their project in Witney. Tiny Forest is part of Earthwatch Europe, helping to connect communities and raise awareness of the many benefits provided by trees.

We would welcome any donations.

Keep us moving



Arboricultural Association AGM

Steve was delighted to have been co-opted as a Trustee of the Arboricultural Association at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the end of August.

This means he will continue to assist in the governance of the organisation, alongside fellow professionals and new Chair (Neil Davies) and Vice Chair (Michelle Ryan).



Case Study - John Radcliffe Theatre Canopy Cover Assessment

Following the submission of a planning application for a new modular theatre at John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, we were engaged to provide technical support for a Canopy Cover Assessment.

We were instructed to assess the tree canopy cover within the site, area proposed for replacement planting and new trees. This assessment concluded that a minor gain in canopy cover would be achieved after 25 years, with significant gains at 40+ years.

Planning consent was obtained last month.

(Sadly we didn't get mentioned in the BBC article, but brilliant to see the project getting media coverage)

Case Study Article

BBC Article



Tree of the month

Our tree this month has become a popular choice as a street tree, thanks to its ability to tolerate the challenging growing conditions of urban settings. Have you enjoyed the shade of its dense crown?

What Tree?



Share



Forward



Share

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