



22–23 April 2020 University of Birmingham, UK

TREES, PEOPLE AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT 4

International Urban Trees Research Conference

Call for Papers

One of the greatest challenges of our time is climate change, with all its associated issues in both the built and the natural environment. At the time of writing, Governments are proving to be too slow to act and so it is up to others, especially built and natural environment professionals, to take a lead and put forward a clear, unambiguous call for action from Governments.

Trees are proving to be a valuable point to start this discussion as they are, in many ways, significant contributors to some of the solutions required.

This is the fourth international, cross-discipline urban tree research conference to be held in the UK with a focus on both research and practice. For engineers, architects, landscape architects, planners, arboriculturists, social scientists and health professionals, it is a key conference to attend.

Proposals for presentations can now be submitted for Trees, People and the Built Environment 4 (#TPBE4), which will take place on 22 and 23 of April 2020 at the University of Birmingham, UK, and follows on from acclaimed events in 2011, 2014 and 2017.

Trees, People and the Built Environment 4 will focus on **Trees as Infrastructure**. The issues that **Trees as Infrastructure** raise will be explored in the conference under four sub-headings as follows:

(1) Green innovation in infrastructure

We now have evidence of the value of urban greening in providing a wide range of social, economic and environmental benefits, demonstrating the importance of achieving the right balance of built to natural environments in our towns and cities. Cities throughout the world are responding to this challenge by implementing green infrastructure and nature-based solutions. We place trees in a special category because often the parts of our towns and cities that most need canopy cover are the very places where the practical realities of establishment is most difficult. This session seeks papers that present innovative engineering, research and practical projects to show what is possible.

(2) Tree value and natural capital

Putting the business case for valuing trees and natural capital has proved persuasive in gaining support from both politicians and investors. Used effectively the value argument is a useful tool for achieving a sustainable balance of natural and built elements in our urban environments, but can also provide a more detailed case to reduce biodiversity loss and encourage the planting and long term maintenance of trees and green spaces. This session will explore the latest examples of why valuing urban forests and the ecosystem services they provide can assist in delivering the benefits we need.

(3) Governance and planning

Governance and planning continue to be key to gain both political and public support for our urban forests. Decision making about trees is becoming increasingly complex, involving a wide range of Government,

business and community factors. Research papers and case studies are sought that address the impacts of tree diversification, urban population changes, urban densification and their impacts on urban forests, as well as examples of advances in urban forestry planning and management. This session will discuss innovative approaches and partnerships for better urban forest governance and planning at the neighbourhood, metropolitan and national scales.

(4) Collaboration is the key to achieving real change

A combination of factors, including short-sighted governance, poor professional practice and contract deficiencies, mean that work is too often carried out in isolation without considering peripheral adverse impacts. We must move on from the silo mentality that has resulted in the wider benefits of urban tree planting and greening being missed. This final session will pull together important emerging threads from the programme to highlight innovative thinking and less conventional approaches, fostering urban tree collaborations that turn research aspirations into action on the ground while also identifying where further research, especially collaborative research, is required.

Papers that address the conference topics in both the social and natural sciences are welcomed. These will either be:

- **Original research papers** presenting new work in a specific subject area
- **Case Studies** demonstrating research being brought through to practice.

Selected authors will join invited keynote speakers in presenting to an audience of more than 400 built and natural environment delegates from across the world. With the conference offering both local and international perspectives, papers from overseas authors will be welcomed by the selection committee.

Guidelines for Abstract Submission

Please send an abstract of not more than 300 words. All submissions must comply with the following:

- Have a title and details of authorship (including affiliation)
- Have no more than five keywords
- Identify if the submission is an original research paper or a case study
- Be submitted by email in MS Word format by 12:00 GMT, 26 July 2019.

Papers will be reviewed by members of the Conference Steering Group. Authors whose papers are then selected will be invited to present their work at the conference. Most presentations will last between 20 and 30 minutes. The authors whose papers are accepted must provide a one page executive summary of their presentation in advance, in accordance with conference guidelines for speakers. The executive summary will be published at the end of the conference.

Authors whose papers are selected will be notified by 10 September 2019. Those authors who are not successful may be given the opportunity to present a poster at the conference or an alternative speaking opportunity.

Full papers of selected presentations and executive summary must be received by 31 January 2020 without exception, in accordance with conference guidelines for speakers.

The author or main author of selected papers will be given a complimentary place at the conference and will have their travel expenses reimbursed and accommodation and meals provided, in accordance with conference guidelines for speakers.

All abstract submissions and academic enquires should be directed to:

Russell Horsey, #TPBE4 Programme Co-ordinator. russell.horsey@charteredforesters.org

Conference Steering Group

I am very pleased to have an excellent, cross-disciplinary steering group to review submissions and help to set the programme, including:

- Jeremy Barrell FICFor, Managing Director of Barrell Tree Consultancy
- Dr Keiron J. Doick, Head of Urban Forest Research Group, Forest Research
- Dr Emma Ferranti, Research Fellow, School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham
- Russell Horsey MICFor, #TPBE4 Programme Co-ordinator
- Sue James RIBA, Convenor of Trees and Design Action Group
- Professor Chris Rogers CEng, Professor of Geotechnical Engineering, University of Birmingham and Chair of the Institution of Civil Engineers' Innovation and Research Panel
- Professor Alister Scott, Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences, University of Northumbria
- Professor Alan Simson CMLI, Professor of Landscape Architecture and Urban Forestry, Leeds Beckett University

Professor Cecil C. Konijnendijk
Conference Chair