

# Urban trees... asset or liability?

**National  
Conference  
7 July 2005  
Millennium Point, Birmingham**

Supported by



**Birmingham City Council**

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Organised by

**NATIONAL  
URBAN  
FORESTRY  
UNIT**



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# Urban trees... asset or liability?

## THE ISSUES

Trees are an important part of our natural life support system: they have a vital role to play in the sustainability of our towns and cities and we need to take better care of them, both now and in the future.

Most people agree that trees are a good thing, and yet the increasing tendency towards risk avoidance is contributing to the loss of urban trees in the UK at an alarming rate. Many of the most significant trees in our towns and cities were planted more than a century ago, so although this living legacy is wonderful, mature trees are under serious pressure and in steep decline. With care, we can continue to enjoy them for many more years, but we also need a programme of large-scale replacement planting to provide the trees and woodlands for the future. Our aim must be to match the vision of the past. With popular support and political will this can be done, but first we need to address the misconception that trees present an unacceptable risk. They are huge natural assets.

How can mature trees be protected as society becomes more risk averse? Is the 'claims culture' dictating the design of our public greenspaces, streets and gardens? How can those engaged in managing street trees or wooded greenspace strike a positive balance? This conference has been carefully structured to present the views of leading experts in their fields, to report on some excellent new initiatives and to promote discussion and the exchange of good practice.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT CONFERENCE?

Tree professionals, local authority legal officers, landscape architects, community leaders, *Local Agenda 21* officers, politicians, recreation professionals, planners, landowners, representatives of the insurance and claims industries, and others involved in urban and community forestry – in fact, everyone with a serious interest in the contribution that trees and woods make to the quality of our urban landscape and a desire to tackle the current threats to their future through the national obsession with risk.

## VENUE

Millennium Point, Birmingham (just a 15 minute walk or a short taxi ride from Birmingham New Street Station and with easy access from M6, M5 and M42 motorways)

## DATE

**Thursday 7 July 2005**

10:00am – 4:00pm

## FEE

**£145 + VAT per delegate**

(please call 01902 828600 for multiple registration discounts, student and charity rates)

## PROGRAMME

### CONFERENCE CHAIR:

#### DAVID RITCHIE

Chairman  
National Urban Forestry Unit

### Welcome and scene setting

Birmingham City Council

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

#### Why our mature trees are worth the risk

#### Professor CHRIS BAINES

Independent environmentalist

### The quality and quantity of the resource: findings of the Government's *Trees in Towns II* survey

#### Dr MARK JOHNSTON

Lecturer in Arboriculture  
Myerscough College  
&

#### CHRIS BRITT

Business Development Manager, Research  
ADAS

### Asset or liability?

#### The view from the insurance industry

#### DAVID HEWITT

Managing Director  
Algarve Insurance Brokers Limited

### Managing the risk: professional risk assessment and sustainable management

#### NEVILLE FAY

Principal Consultant  
Treework Environmental Practice

### The front line: the local authority experience

#### JERRY BIRTLES

Principal Parks Officer (Arboriculture)  
London Borough of Wandsworth

### Striking a balance: the case for objective evaluation of the benefits

#### Dr NICK MICHAEL

Technical Manager  
National Urban Forestry Unit

## Urban trees...asset or liability? Millennium Point, Birmingham 7 July 2005

### BOOKING FORM (Please photocopy for each additional delegate)

Name .....

Position .....

Organisation .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

Telephone .....

Email .....

Delegate's signature .....

Lunch and all other refreshments will be provided. Please give details of any specific dietary requirements or disability/impairment/medical condition that we may need to take into consideration when you attend this seminar:

- Dietary requirements (e.g. vegetarian, vegan, etc)  
 Disability/impairment/medical condition

Fee (£145/delegate) £ .....

Plus VAT @ 17.5% £ .....

**Total** £ .....

I enclose a cheque payable to NUFU

Please contact me to take payment by credit/debit card

Please note that all fees must be paid in advance of the conference in order to gain admittance. A location map and confirmation of registration will be sent on receipt of booking form and fee.

Please return this form and your remittance (if applicable) to:

### Urban trees...asset or liability?

#### National Urban Forestry Unit

The Science Park  
Stafford Road  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
WV10 9RT

Telephone 01902 828600  
Fax: 01902 828700  
Email: info@nufu.org.uk

### Cancellations

Cancellations received in writing by NUFU up to 14 days prior to the date of the conference will be subject to a cancellation fee of £30 plus VAT. No refunds will be made after this date or for non-attendance. Substitutions may be made at any time.

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## NATIONAL URBAN FORESTRY UNIT

The UK's National Urban Forestry Unit (NUFU) is a charity working in partnership with others to help create a more tree-rich environment as an important means of improving the quality of life for the millions of people who live and work in towns and cities.

NUFU works to achieve its aims through a variety of activities, including demonstration projects, advisory work, organisation of events and the production of publications to ensure that practice in urban forestry continues to be improved and that it is widely known, understood and applied. NUFU has particular expertise in the identification of nationally strategic and topical issues relevant to urban and community forestry

## BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

Birmingham City Council can be proud of its environmental credentials with Sutton Park being the only National Nature Reserve and Scheduled Ancient Monument in any urban area of the UK.

Its commitment to its neighbourhoods through localisation and devolution has been recognised through its Civic Pioneer status.

Its commitment to its trees has never been stronger; from the first street tree planting programme in 1870, that continues today – to a comprehensive Tree Strategy for Birmingham due next year.

The Community Strategy for Birmingham will be published with annual 'Greening the City' action plans, later this year, that will encourage communities and partners to work together towards a sustainable future for the city's environment.



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