

FC London Annual Review 2014-15

This report summarises the key activities and outcomes during financial year 2014-15, reflecting the work we set out in the [FC London work plan 2014-15](#). These achievements have only been possible through the close partnership and collaborative working with other people and organisations in London and beyond.

1 Tree Health

OPM

- Delivered as per agreed OPM control programme:
 - FC sprayed trees across 330 sites
 - FC surveyed 54,000 trees across 2,576 sites
 - Nest removal
 - FC set up 302 pheromone traps
 - Overview of total work by all stakeholders
 - Communication including 80,000 leaflets, 2,400 posters, 3 news releases and media engagement
 - Stakeholder liaison during planning, implementation and review
- Operational review of 2014 work to inform 2015 control programme
- Research into OPM population dynamics in woodland and biological control with nematodes through genetic sequencing
- Ministerial approval of 2015-16 OPM control programme after consultation with stakeholders. Plans communicated widely including Local Authority leaders, LTOA and London Councils

Other tree health

- Plane wilt – Facilitated a partnership so LTOA inspect and report to FC GB Plant Health on London plane wilt, making best use of shared resources/legislation/knowledge
- Ash Dieback – Liaison with stakeholders to keep them informed about first observation of Chalara in London; dissemination of key messages; publication of a London focussed [Chalara guidance leaflet](#)

2 Regulations

- Felling Licences administered with associated consideration of other regulations such as Environmental Impact Assessment, Countryside and Rights of Way, Forest Reproductive Materials and Plant Health
- Advised LTOA on definition of the public open space exemption with reassurance that there are no new implications

3 Deer, Grey squirrels and invasive species

- Limited work in London - whilst a major work area nationally, there is limited work in London going on – deer are not a major issue at present other than a few specific locations; Grey squirrels are well established and generally attractive to London residents and visitors; and the main invasive species we're dealing with is OPM. A regular watching brief of invasive species is maintained.

4 Resilience

Kew Urban Forest Resilience Conference 4th June 2014

- Organised and delivered a conference that attracted over 100 delegates and high profile set of speakers
- National sector interest, social media threads and sector articles in e.g. Institute of Chartered Foresters

London i-Tree Eco Project

- The project is largest of its kind in the world and the largest in terms of volunteer engagement, so of interest worldwide
- Over 300 iTree volunteers signed up Summer 2014 to take part and through introductory events and training courses they were equipped to carry out the survey.
- Survey completed autumn 2014; back up plots/quality assurance checks performed before the data was sent to the US for data handling
- Analysis of results in progress and report will be produced in autumn 2015
- The results are expected to have a transformational impact on how London's urban forest is valued and managed by everyone from public bodies to businesses and individuals

Develop and promote the Right Tree for Climate Change

- The database has been migrated to Forest Research and remains a valuable decision support tool to help build a more resilient urban forest

5 Sustainable Forest Management

Woodland evidence and Community Woodland Management projects

- GIS analysis and validation through workshops with Tree Officers and other key landowners/managers has helped build a picture of the ownership and management of London's woodlands
- Workshops and a survey have also identified issues and opportunities in order to increase the amount of woodland in active management

- Initial results show significant areas of woodland are being sustainably managed, and that some woodlands are really groups of trees in a private garden or parkland environment
- Online woodland advice resource for urban community groups went live March 2015
- Workshops and a seminar for landowners and communities involved in (or wanting to be) woodland management highlighted fantastic examples of community empowerment, but also the challenges that have to be overcome
- The evidence base being built through these projects will help inform where resources should be directed in future and potentially form the evidence base for an urban woodland funding bid

RELEAF Community Grant Scheme

- 21 projects were supported with £88k of GLA funding including 4000 trees planted and variety of community/education/health benefits delivered

Approval of woodland activities and grants

- EWGS closed to new applications in 2014 so support for owners focussed on completing work, notably production of woodland management plans
- EWGS funding was approved for a wide range of biodiversity and public access woodland management activity in London between 2007 and 2014
- Development of Countryside Stewardship (also available in London) under the new Rural Development Programme

6 Expansion

Mayors Street Tree Initiative (MSTI)

- 4,601 trees planted this final round utilising £585k of GLA funding, delivering the 10,000 MSTI target / 20,000 Mayoral target comfortably.

Big Tree Plant (BTP)

- The conclusion of this project saw the millionth tree planted in England. 18,899 trees were planted in 2014-15 with BTP funding, bringing the total number in London over 3 years to 84,438 trees.

7 Managing Organisation Change

- Input to the Woodland Policy Enabling Programme to help ensure local issues are considered and recognised, as well as highlighting - where appropriate - urban matters in national organisational changes.

8 WP8 – Indicators

- The woodland management evidence work explained earlier will inform national indicator methodology / reporting.

9 WP9 - Rural Development Programme for England

- Input to development of targeting statements for London NCAs
- Fed into FC/NE discussions about how CS will operate, including mention where appropriate of urban factors to consider.

10 WP10 – Enable the sector

RE:LEAF Tree & Woodland Awards

- The [2014 awards](#) were a great success with fantastic winning projects/people and coverage in national sector news / general media
- Case studies of the winners were published on the FC website and regularly used to promote / inspire others intent on planting and managing trees in London
- 2015 awards preparation in progress during 2014-15 with new categories such as Trees & Development Award

RE:LEAF London Tree Week (LTW)

- The 2nd year of LTW was bigger and better than the first with good attendance at organised events.

Supporting cross sector working through the RE:LEAF partnership

- We continue to chair the RE:LEAF steering group, to ensure the tree sector are working collaboratively and discuss particular subjects such as Community Tree Nurseries.

Making a Bee-Line for London (MABLFL) Project

- Joint Defra single voice role with NE on the MABLFL Steering Group, on the basis it offers opportunities to increase, improve and better connect urban forest habitat to other semi-natural habitats

London Fire Brigade (LFB) 150 year anniversary tree planting

- Facilitated partnership between the LFB and Thames Chase Community Forest to plant an anniversary woodland in 2016

London Strategic Plans

- Input to strategic plans being developed to ensure the urban forest is appropriately recognised e.g. London Infrastructure Plan 2050 and associated Green Infrastructure Chapter / GI Task Force.

Urban Forest Advocacy

- Published a document of Urban Forest benefits on the FC London website and promoted through events and presentations.