

# FC London Annual Review for 2015-16

## Purpose

This review provides a summary of activity during 2015-16, based on the FC London work plan published at the beginning of the year. These achievements have only been possible through the close partnership and collaborative working with other people and organisations in and beyond London – for which we are grateful for their help and support.

## 1 Tree Health

### Oak Processionary Moth

- Delivered as per agreed OPM control programme, utilising £1.5M funding:
    - FC sprayed 17,203 trees, surveyed 44,082 trees across 3744 sites and removed nests from infested trees in the control zone
    - 900 pheromone traps set up. We are developing our understanding of the relationship between trap captures and infestation
    - Overview of all OPM work carried out by stakeholders
    - Communication including 95,000 leaflets, 3,000 posters, 4 sets of banners, 8 news releases and social media engagement with a reach of >23,000 people
    - Stakeholder liaison during planning, implementation and review
  - Operational review of 2015 work to inform 2016 control programme
  - Research into OPM population dynamics in woodland and biological control with nematodes through genetic sequencing
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- Input to the Defra evaluation of 3 year pilot programme
  - Ministerial approval of 2016-17 OPM control programme

### Other tree health

- Plane wilt survey – continued partnership with LTOA who inspect and report to FC GB Plant Health on London plane wilt. This makes best use of each organisations powers & resources
- Tree Health Conference “Reducing the impact of new and future tree threats” – held at RHS Wisley 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016

## 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

## 3 Resilience

### London i-Tree Eco Project

- The report of findings and key messages was published in December 2015, and launched at the House of Lords, attended by senior representatives from the urban forest and built environment sectors
- Dissemination of report findings through 1000 copies of the report, via stakeholders and events e.g. RE:LEAF partnership
- The report attracted significant traditional and social media attention and the findings are being used in a variety of ways, including political weight promoting the value of the urban forest
- A summary of the report has also been produced, providing headline information in a readily accessible format to a wider audience

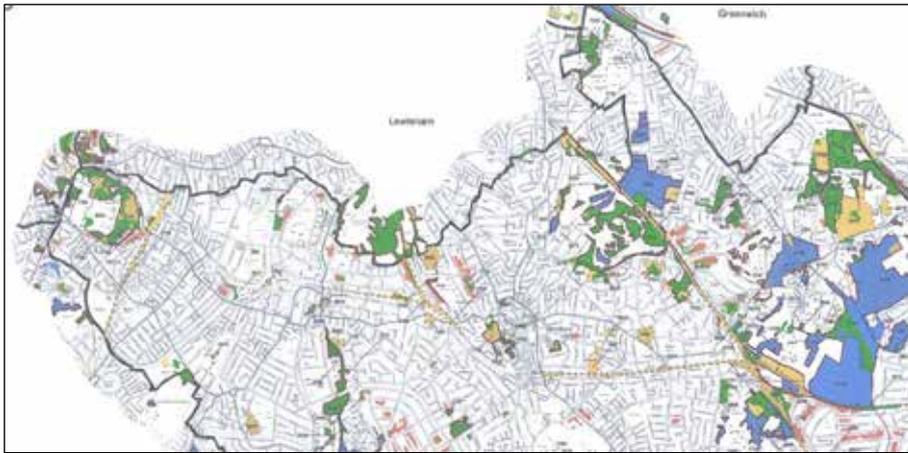


*Lord Framlingham and Sir Harry Studholme with the first copies of the London i-Tree report at the House of Lords launch 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015.*

## 4 Sustainable Woodland Management

### **Woodland evidence and Community Woodland Management projects**

- Report on London Woodland Evidence drafted, to be published in London Tree Week 2016. Key findings included:
  - Better understanding of the composition of woodland in London, and recognition of groups of trees that are part of a parkland or garden landscape
  - There is more managed woodland than current indicators suggest, but the majority are not being managed or their opportunities maximised
  - Key issues for management identified include public concern about tree felling, resource pressures, low prioritisation, lack of empowerment of local people, nervousness about community engagement, silvicultural upskilling
- Publication of a report on community involvement in woodland management, including case studies of good examples and development of a community woodland management plan



The woodland evidence project used maps and local intelligence to build an up to date picture of woodland ownership and active management across London. The map on the left shows a section of Bromley Borough with colour coding to indicate different woodland management activity

### RELEAF Community Grant Scheme

- 25 projects were supported with £140k of GLA funding tree and woodland management activities. It also supported community, education and health related activities / benefits

### Approval of woodland activities and grants

- Countryside Stewardship was launched in 2015 with funding available to produce management plans and manage woodlands particularly for biodiversity and water
- Continued legacy funding of woodland work under the English Woodland Grant Scheme for biodiversity and public access improvement

## 5 Expansion

- Countryside Stewardship funds became available for woodland creation
- Input to the Mayor's Community Grant Scheme that planted >2000 trees

## 6 Business Management & Development

The [London Tree & Woodland Awards 2015](#) was 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

*The Hillingdon Group of LWT receiving their award at City Hall in May 2015. From left to right: Ian Elliott, Roger Taylor, Kevin Gates, Val Borrell, Andy Willmore (LWT West Region Manager), Ray Smith, Ian Gambles (Director of FC England) and Roger Evans (Deputy Mayor of London)*



- During London Tree Week 2015 the FC hosted an OPM awareness event and supported events hosted by other organisations
- The FC continues to chair the RE:LEAF steering group, helping ensure the London tree sector is working collaboratively. This year specific have included production of a Community Tree Nursery report and input to the woodland evidence project
- 'Defra single voice' approach with Natural England on the Making a Bee Line for London Steering Group, maximise resource efficiency on representation work. The project offers opportunities to increase, improve and better connect urban forest habitat to other semi-natural habitats
- Supported the London Wildlife Trust in their successful HLF bid on the Great North Wood project and discussing opportunities to work together
- Input to strategic plans being developed, to ensure the urban forest is appropriately recognised e.g. the Green Infrastructure Task Force report

Craig Harrison

14<sup>th</sup> April 2016

