



Issue 13, November 2013

Events Calendar

UNITED KINGDOM

Grantham

13 Nov 2013 - QTRA Update

AUSTRALIA

Brisbane

29 Nov 2013 - QTRA Update
02 Dec 2013 - QTRA Training
03 Dec 2013 - VTA Training

Perth

11 Dec 2013 - QTRA Training
12 Dec 2013 - VTA Training
13 Dec 2013 - QTRA Update

Sydney

17 Dec 2013 - QTRA Training
18 Dec 2013 - VTA Training
19 Dec 2013 - QTRA Update

NEW ZEALAND

Wellington

05 Dec 2013 - QTRA Training
06 Dec 2013 - VTA Training

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Quantified Tree Risk Assessment Version 5.0

After more than a year of development, the new version of the QTRA method is due to be released this month. In Version 5 there are several changes that have resulted in significant improvements, both in the ease of use of the method and in the results that it produces.

Probably the most important change is the use of Monte Carlo simulations, which enable us to output a mean value as our Risk of Harm. In previous versions of QTRA, the Risk of Harm has always been the result of a cautious calculation that erred on the side of safety by operating at the upper values of the three input ranges; estimated land-use, tree size and the likelihood of tree failure. The new approach is more evenly balanced and enables us to account for a degree of uncertainty in our estimates of the three inputs. The Monte Carlo approach may initially seem complex, but in QTRA it remains in the background and **doesn't affect the risk assessment process. It's one of those under-the-bonnet components that the risk assessor doesn't come into direct contact with.**



As we move forward with the development of QTRA, the method becomes increasingly robust and along with improvements in the method of assessment, we are providing additional guidance for tree owners on how

QTRA can inform their risk management decisions. As part of this process, we have developed a new colour-coding system, which follows the traffic light approach, using red, amber, yellow and green.



In Version 5.0 of the Practice Note and User Manual, we also provide additional guidance for tree managers who have to consider the costs and benefits of risk control when making tree risk management decisions. Adopting widely used thresholds of risk acceptance and tolerability, our Decision Informing Framework is available to help tree managers make the reasonable allocation of resources easier to justify.

To simplify the use of QTRA in the field, we have produced a new QTRA calculator, both as a pocket-size manual calculator and computer applications. The applications have been developed for use on Windows® Desktop, Android® devices and the iPhone®. The calculator applications will be available to Registered Users, who will be able to download and activate one copy each of the Windows® desktop version and a handheld application. The calculator applications can also be supplied under licence to third-party developers of tree survey software.

Events Calendar

UNITED KINGDOM

Surrey

25 Feb 2014 - QTRA Update

Cardiff

04 March 2014 - QTRA Training
05 March 2014 - VTA Training

Gloucester

01 April 2014 - QTRA Training
02 April 2014 - VTA Training
03 April 2014 - QTRA Update

Chorley

08 April 2014 - QTRA Training
09 April 2014 - VTA Training
10 April 2014 - QTRA Update

Glasgow

29 April 2014 - QTRA Training
30 April 2014 - VTA training

Northern Ireland

24 March 2014 - QTRA Training
25 March 2014 - VTA training

FRANCE

Périgueux

12/13 June 2014
QTRA Training (2 days)

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We have recently introduced a short test for all new Registered Users of QTRA. Following the Registered User training, users will be required to complete the test, which comprises both multiple choice and questions requiring a written answer. The test is not intended as a pass or fail exercise, rather to demonstrate that the user has sufficient understanding to apply the method and to locate information when required. The test is marked and returned giving the user the opportunity to review any errors or incomplete answers before being included in the QTRA Registered User Directory. We are currently revising the directory to include the dates on which users completed their initial training, when they completed the Registered User test, and the dates that they attended any subsequent update training.

The next stage in the development of QTRA is expected to be a training program for advanced users to develop a higher level of understanding of the QTRA approach.

During October we have already run four QTRA registered user training workshops and an update workshop for existing users in England and Ireland using Version 5. We have further workshops scheduled over the coming months, beginning with an update workshop at Grantham in Lincolnshire, UK on 13 November, followed by workshops in New Zealand and Australia during November and December. If you would like us to run QTRA Registered User training, a QTRA Update workshop, or our Practitioners Guide to Visual Tree Assessment in your area, feel free to get in touch and we will look into scheduling training.

Visit our website at www.qtra.co.uk for more information on the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment method and how it can help you to manage the risks from falling trees at a reasonable cost.



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