



### Training Calendar

21 - 22 March  
Exeter, UK  
QTRA Training - inc  
Estimating Probability of  
Failure (2 days)

23 March  
Exeter, UK  
QTRA Advanced User  
Training

04 - 05 April  
Harrogate, UK  
QTRA Training - inc  
Estimating Probability of  
Failure (2 days)

25 - 26 April  
Warwick, UK  
QTRA Training - inc  
Estimating Probability of  
Failure (2 days)

27 April  
Warwick, UK  
QTRA Advanced User  
Training

09 - 10 May  
Guildford, UK  
QTRA Training - inc  
Estimating Probability of  
Failure (2 days)

01 - 02 June  
Perigueux, France  
QTRA Training

26 - 27 June  
Sydney, Australia  
QTRA Training - inc  
Estimating Probability of  
Failure (2 days)

26 - 28 June  
Varese, Italy  
QTRA Training - inc  
Estimating Probability of  
Failure (3 days)

29 June - 01 July  
Varese, Italy  
QTRA Training - inc  
Estimating Probability of  
Failure (3 days)

17 - 19 July  
Bonn, Germany  
QTRA Training - inc  
Estimating Probability of  
Failure (3 days)

05 - 06 September  
Adelaide, Australia  
QTRA Training - inc  
Estimating Probability of  
Failure (2 days)

11 - 12 September  
Melbourne, Australia  
QTRA Training - inc  
Estimating Probability of  
Failure (2 days)

14 - 15 September  
Hobart, Australia  
QTRA Training - inc  
Estimating Probability of  
Failure (2 days)

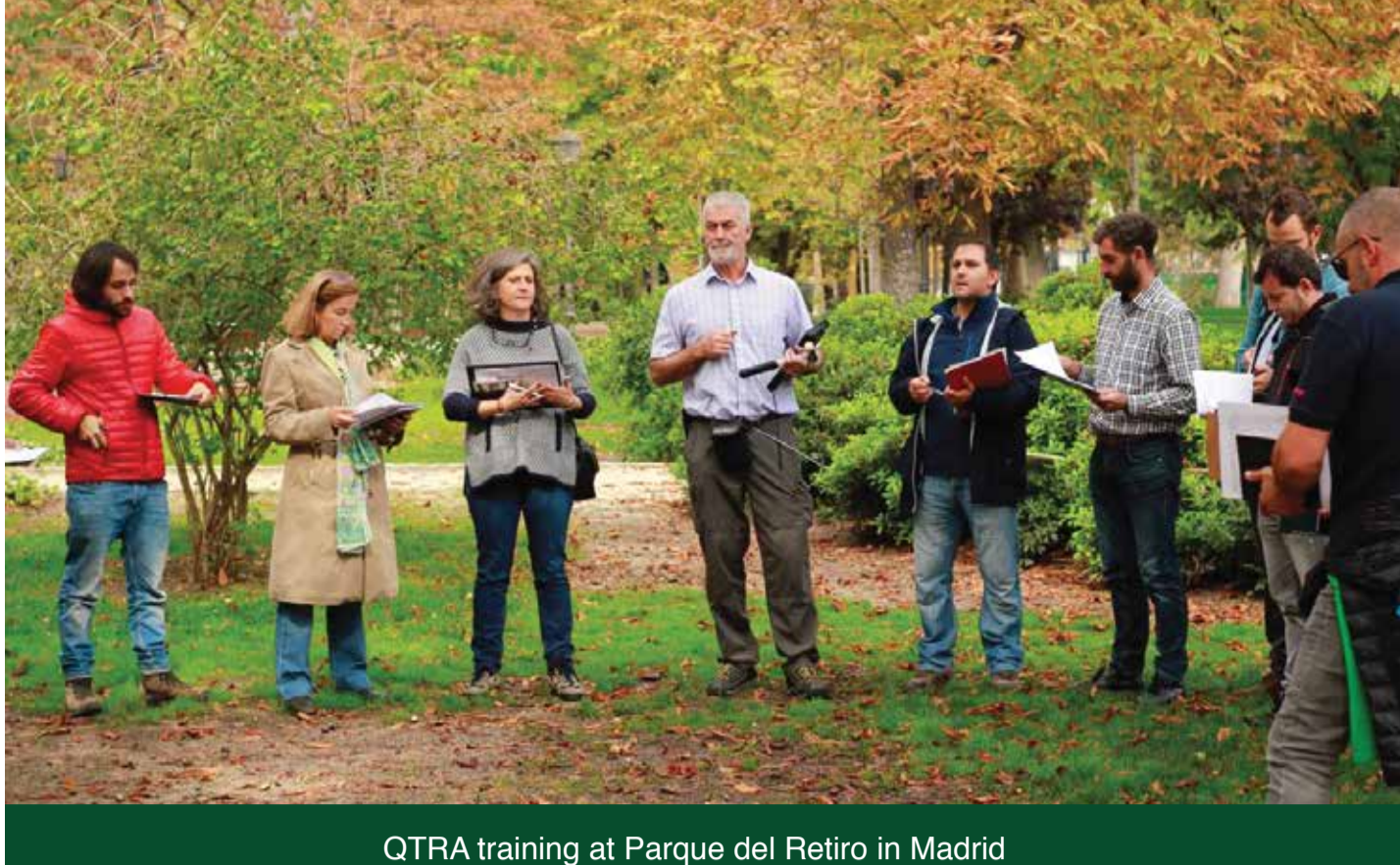
18 September  
Hobart, Australia  
QTRA Advanced User  
Training

We are currently looking  
at training dates for:  
SOUTH AFRICA  
SPAIN  
DENMARK

## What's ahead for 2017

Welcome to the latest edition of the newsletter from QTRA. We have had a busy few months in the run up to the New Year, running training events across the UK, Australia, Spain and New Zealand.

After combining the original two separate days of QTRA introduction training and Estimating Probability of Failure to provide a better integration of hazard and risk assessment, we were unsure how the new format would be received but feedback so far has been overwhelmingly positive.



QTRA training at Parque del Retiro in Madrid

We've also had a great response to our Advanced User training which we introduced in November. The initial workshops began with a refresher for those who have attended training in earlier versions of QTRA and then expanded on application of the method and development of risk management strategy and policy. The session puts an emphasis on application of the method both in the field and record-keeping, and how QTRA outputs can be most effectively used to inform risk decision making. The format of the workshops proved to be very popular, with an emphasis on informal discussion amongst delegates on practical issues and plenty of time to demonstrate solutions in the field.

As might be expected, lessons have been learned and future Advanced User training will only be available to users who are already trained in the current version of QTRA. This will allow us to focus more time on furthering the knowledge of our users and on applying the method in the field.



QTRA training at Parque del Retiro in Madrid

## VETree training day on the Gold Coast, Australia

The Veteran Tree Group Australia (VTGA) invited Mike Ellison to facilitate VETree training: Introduction to Valuing and Maintaining Veteran Trees while on the Gold Coast recently.

The VTGA are interested in trees considered to be exceptional because they are old, provide critically important habitat, are amongst the biggest of their species and are linked to an important historical event or have some exceptional cultural significance.



A veteran Silky Oak in Hinterland Regional Park with a girth measured at seven hugs

The training was held in Queensland at the old Silky Oak in Hinterland Regional Park, Mudgeeraba. The group visited veteran trees in the area and discussed the latest developments and collaborations in the EU and UK on veteran tree management. A worthwhile day with many insightful discussions and great ideas to develop more workshops.

## The creation of the National Forest - a UK success story

25 years ago the barren unused open cast coal mines in the Midlands villages of Moira, Donisthorpe and Overseal made for a bleak spectacle. Now, thanks to the efforts of a group of committed environmentalists, the area is emerging as a beautiful forest containing over 2,200ha of varied wildlife habitat, 60 miles of new hedgerows and over 150 new wildlife ponds.

We are so used to hearing negative news stories about mankind's destruction of the environment so a success story about RE-forestation in the UK is a welcome change. The National Forest is one of the biggest environmental projects the UK has ever seen, transforming 200 square miles of former mining and industrial wasteland in the Midlands into a 7169ha new forest, attracting a wide variety of wildlife including butterflies, buzzards, red kites, skylarks, butterflies, otters, bats and owls.

The success of the regeneration has had a welcome impact on local communities. Just as the area is now enjoyed by hundreds of walkers, cyclists, birdwatchers and campers, the locality has gone from one of a derelict mining and industrial landscapes to one that people increasingly want to move to. This has led to economic and social benefits to once run-down areas.

Since the idea for the National Forest was first born in the Countryside Commission in the late 1980's, 8.5 million trees have been planted in the last 25 years, around half way to the 16-17 million expected total. Species have been carefully selected to create a resilient forest, using a majority of broadleaved species with some areas left to grassland and open pasture.

The first major forest to be planted in England in 1,000 years has come at a cost of only £60m, most of which has been funded by EU farm subsidies. Considering the Chief Executive's belief that the forest has stimulated nearly £1bn of inward investment and improved health and local cohesion, this is a project that can definitely be called value for money.

"The National Forest is recognised as one of the most ambitious and imaginative sustainable development projects in the country." stated Sir William Worsley, Chairman of the National Forest Company

A second new forest has now been proposed for elsewhere in Britain, possibly south Wales or a rural area of northern England.

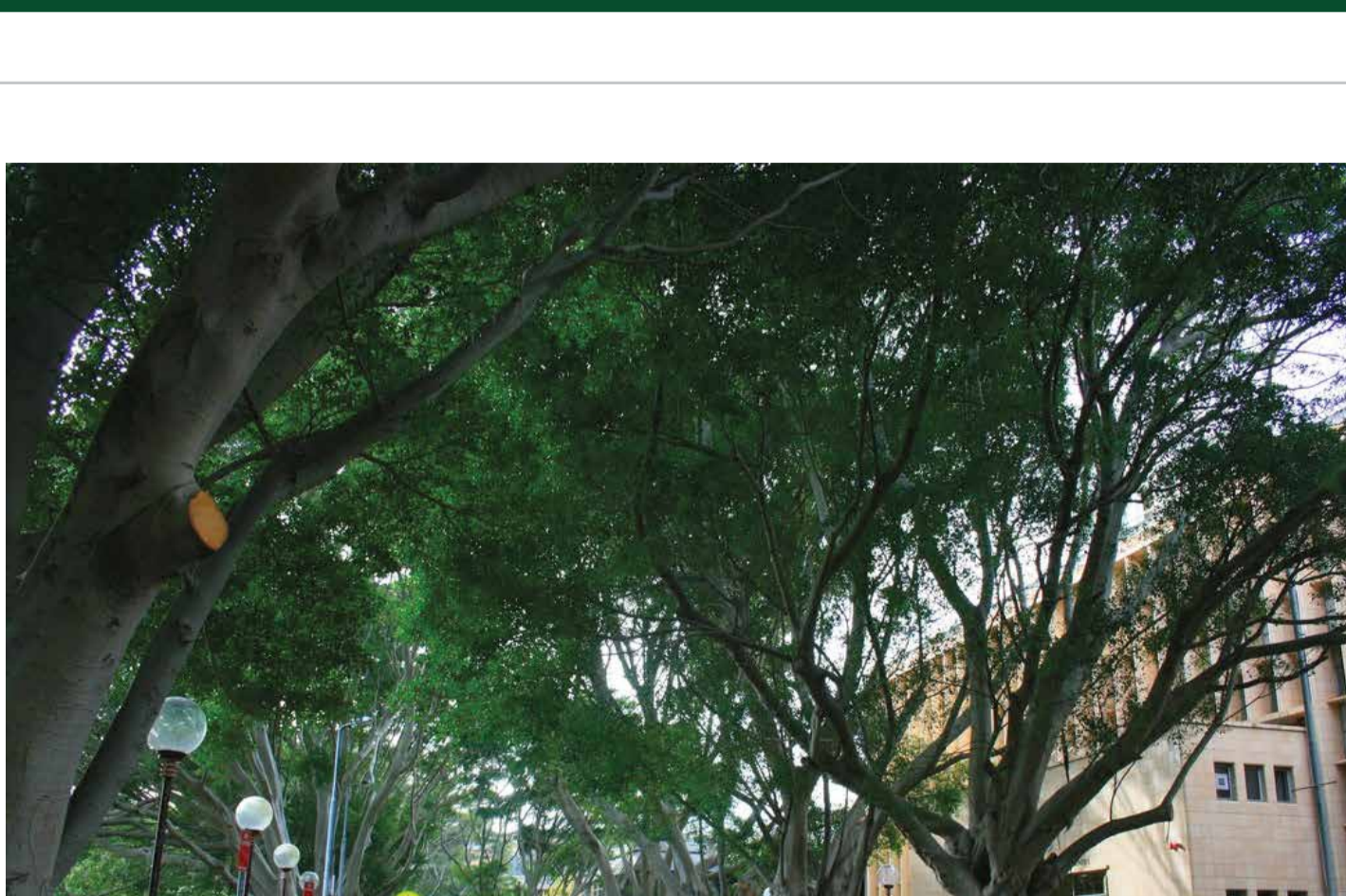


Hicks Lodge in Leicestershire has been left scarred by open cast mining

Source: National Forest

## Laman Street Figs: four years on

Just under four years ago 14 iconic fig trees were controversially cut down in Newcastle's Laman Street. The council's unpopular decision to remove the historic trees in January 2012 represented the culmination of more than two years of debates, 22 council meetings, two court cases, death threats and \$1.6 million.



The Laman Street figs in 2011

The council's official reason for removing the figs, "Council is of the opinion that the Fig Trees are likely to cause danger to traffic, property and persons in the use of Laman Street and are a traffic hazard in severe weather events."

However, it was later released that the council wanted the figs gone for lots of "considerations other than risk" including "environmental, financial, liability, social and heritage studies, as well as practical and political considerations".

Save Our Figs group lead the fight to save the decade-old trees with overwhelming community support. QTRA founder and UK arborist Mike Ellison was commissioned by Save Our Figs to inspect the trees and assess the risks associated with them figs. His report, which can be found on the QTRA website, found the risks and the majority of the trees was very low and that all were well within the limits of tolerability that might ordinarily be applied by a reasonable and informed landowner.

100 metres from the site of the 14 fig trees, Newcastle's revitalisation program is now well underway with a new courthouse and university campus completed, and work started on a \$510 million light rail system.



An aerial view of Laman street in 2016, post Figs

Recently, fresh fig shoots appeared in Laman Street. The 4 metre trees, which were cultivated 40 minutes south of Newcastle on the Central Coast, will grow in vaults to prevent their roots interfering with surrounding infrastructure. Local people live in the hope that the trees will grow to replace the iconic 'fig cathedral' that was lost four years ago.

Prominent Newcastle Judge Margaret Sidis summed up the Laman Street issue in an address shortly after the trees were cut down: "Whether you classify the trees as heritage, iconic, historic or a lethal danger, when it comes down to it they are objects of great natural beauty that demanded that every effort be made & enquiry directed to searching for a solution that would render them safe & preserve them from wanton destruction for the benefit of future generations. To me, a uniform outsider of what was happening in the City Council, the decision to destroy them was incomprehensible. At best, this indicated a public relations failure on the part of the Council. At worst, it indicated a failure in the decision making process that brought about this result. My hope is that those next elected to Council will recognise that, attached to the powers conferred on them by virtue of their election, is a responsibility to listen to the voices of those they were elected to represent."