



Quantified Tree Risk Assessment

Simply Balancing Risks with Benefits

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QTRA is Changing the Way that Tree Safety is Managed

QTRA Training Calendar

UNITED KINGDOM

22/23 May 2018 (2 days)
Bath, UK
QTRA Registered User Training

05/06 June 2018 (2 days)
Usk, UK
QTRA Registered User Training

12/13 June 2018 (2 days)
Sheffield, UK
QTRA Registered User Training

25/26 June 2018 (2 days)
Glasgow, UK
QTRA Registered User Training

CANADA

11-15 Jun 2018 (5 days)
Laval, Quebec
QTRA & VTA Training

AUSTRALIA

30/31 Aug 2018 (2 days)
Perth, WA
QTRA Registered User Training

01 Sept 2018 (1 day)
Perth, WA
QTRA Advanced User Training

04/05 Sept 2018 (2 days)
Adelaide, SA
QTRA Registered User Training

08 Sept 2018 (1 day)
Adelaide, SA
QTRA Advanced User Training

10/11 Sept 2018 (2 days)

At QTRA, we have been supporting arborists and tree managers for the past 13 years and we are keen to stay at the forefront of our field. One of the most evident trends in tree management over this period has been an increasing focus on the risk from falling trees in both the public and private sectors. This trend has led us to develop an unequalled two-day training workshop that combines the application of a robust risk assessment process with guidance on assessing the structural integrity of trees and how to reasonably and proportionately manage risks from trees with limited resources.

Assessing and estimating the likelihood of tree failure can be a challenging concept for many, but one that is crucial to tree risk assessment if we are to avoid risk averse management decisions. A tree assessor needs to account for the tree's environment and consider the biomechanical indicators of strengths and weaknesses in the tree's structure when estimating the likelihood that a tree or branch will fall. With this in mind, QTRA creator Mike Ellison, following an exchange with an Australian academic in 2013, developed a robust method for estimating the probability of tree and branch failure. Using a system of benchmarking, this approach removes the need to consider likelihood in terms of numbers that are incomprehensible to most people, and thus provides QTRA users with an approach in which they can have confidence.

QTRA helps arborists and tree managers to discharge their duty of care at a reasonable cost and without the unnecessary loss of the all important tree asset. For more information about our training workshops and to download the workshop programmes, go to the 'Training' section on our website. You won't be disappointed. The one-day workshop is 7 hours CPD and accredited 7 ISA CEUs and the two-day workshop 14 hours CPD or ISA CEUs.

Sydney, NSW
QTRA Registered User Training

NEW ZEALAND

13/14 Sept 2018 (2 days)
Auckland, NZ
QTRA Registered User Training

15 Sept 2018 (1 day)
Auckland, NZ
QTRA Advanced User Training

SPAIN

14-16 Nov 2018 (3 days)
Madrid, Spain
QTRA Registered User Training

SWEDEN

15-17 October 2018 Nov
2018 (3 days)
Gothenburg
QTRA Registered User Training



See what arborist Marc Buckland has to say (below) about the two-day QTRA workshop held at Shrigley Hall in March.



Marc assessing a tree in the grounds of Shrigley Hall near Macclesfield in Cheshire, UK

"The course benefited me as an arborist by introducing the statistical side of making decisions about trees safety, categorisation of trees by numbers which are used across a broad spectrum of situations and not just tree risk.

I particularly enjoyed being outside stood by the trees discussing various points about their health and the risk they pose to the general public. The QTRA course draws together tree people who have various roles in the industry and varying experience, and this combination gave a very well rounded view, and with Mike's knowledge and patience, it made a great day of learning."

Network Rail's Planned Removal of Trees that Impact on the Reliability of Services



The Guardian newspaper has recently reported that "Millions of trees are at risk in a secretive nationwide felling operation launched by Network Rail" the arms length public body of the Department for Transport that manages most of the rail network in England, Scotland and Wales. The company is reported to have said that they "remove trees that are, or could be dangerous, or impact on the reliability of services that serve over 4.5m people every day". An engineer involved in the removal of trees in London this weekend is quoted as having said that "they were carrying out a 'pre-emptive strike' in case branches or leaves fell on the line in future".

Perhaps it is possible that Network Rail can provide a financial justification for their programme of felling, but aside from the financial what are the real costs of what often appears to be a risk averse approach to managing safety on the railways? The cost to the environment in terms of wildlife conservation could be immense, where track-side land provides corridors of vegetation that interconnect a diverse range of habitats. These might be woodlands, marshes and meadows through to domestic and industrial sites that provide homes and foraging for wildlife and are linked by railway land. When they balance the costs and benefits of risk control measures, does the company consider, as a cost, the impact of felling on the many thousands of people who live close to train lines and rely on this very vegetation to provide some separation from the rail infrastructure and passing trains?

Is it time for Network Rail to take a more balanced approach to vegetation management and consider all of the stakeholders affected by its actions rather than just those to which it owes some contractual obligation? On this point, there is probably a case for intervention by Natural England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act where it is an offence to "damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built".

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/apr/29/millions-of-trees-at-risk-in-secretive-network-rail-felling-programme>

Rising Temperatures put Millions of Australia's Urban

Trees at Risk



Trees play a vital role in Australian cities as millions of urban trees cool our built environment, slow down stormwater run-off and provide important ecosystem services. They also yield habitats for birds and animals. But heatwaves and rising temperatures in Australia are believed to have put almost 25 per cent of trees in urban areas at risk as it is predicted they will not perform well in extreme heat. They will also be more susceptible to diseases in the future.¹

To reduce these risks, techniques to screen urban trees need to be considered to ensure they will be resilient against disease and increasing temperatures. This screening process will be vital in the future, especially for land managers who strive to “build cooler greener cities and urban forests resilient to rising temperatures,” says Lyndal Plant, University of Queensland PhD graduate and co-author of the report *Risks to Australia’s urban forest – from climate change and urban heat*.² From this perspective, land managers will need to implement a range of strategies such as fostering the promotion of resilience by improved tree maintenance, careful site selection for vulnerable species and by selecting trees that are better adapted to future climates, and for more important trees, providing irrigation to improve environmental conditions or improving disease and pest management.²

Dr Dave Kendal, project leader of Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub (CAUL) who led the research, is convinced that “meaningful engagement with the community and industry will help create successful urban forests of the future that provide a wide range of benefits for people and wildlife in cities.”¹ The New South Wales Government is said to have already made decisions to tackle the issue of heat in Sydney by pledging to plant five million trees to boost the city’s existing canopy from 16 per cent to 40 per cent by 2030.³ And according to NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklina “councils across the country have also implemented canopy policies and targets.”³

¹ <https://www.uq.edu.au/news/article/2017/11/millions-of-trees-risk-rising-temperatures>

² https://www.nespurban.edu.au/publications-resources/research-reports/CAULRR07_RisksAustralianUrbanForest_Oct2017.pdf

³ <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/sydney-to-be-cooled-by-an-extra-five-million-trees-by-2030-20180411-p4z8x7.html>

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European data protection law is changing so we have updated our Privacy Statement.

Your trust is important to us, so we would like you to take a look at our [Privacy Statement](#) to find out how we use your data and your rights with that data.

Visit our website www.qtra.co.uk to subscribe by simply providing your email address and be assured that we will not share your details with anyone.

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