



Quantified Tree Risk Assessment

Simply Balancing Risks with Benefits

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Welcome to the our first newsletter of the year

QTRA Training Calendar

AUSTRALIA

11/12 March 2019
(2 days)
Perth, WA
QTRA Registered User
Training

14/15 March 2019
(2 days)
Canberra, ACT
QTRA Registered User Training

18/19 March 2019
(2 days)
Melbourne, VIC
QTRA Registered User Training

20 March 2019
(1 day)
Melbourne VIC
QTRA Advanced User Training

25 March 2019
(1 day)
Sydney, NSW
QTRA Advanced User Training

01/02 April 2019
(2 days)
Brisbane, QLD
QTRA Registered User Training

ISA CEUs are available on completion

NEW ZEALAND

07/08 March 2019
(2 days)
Christchurch, NZ
QTRA Registered User Training

ISA CEUs are available on completion

UNITED KINGDOM

24 April 2019

The Success of our QTRA Workshops



Last year we had a huge success with our QTRA workshops. Over 300 people attended our workshops in 2018 and there was a high level of satisfaction with the structure and presentation of the courses. Here's what municipal and consulting arborist, Wassili (Vic) Bijl has to say about our training:

"The QTRA methodology has brought a much needed rationality to the risk management aspect of urban forestry. Its continual application, following the initial 'licensed user' training and the subsequent regular information via the QTRA-user forum, has led to no less than a cultural mind shift in the management of risk.

I think arboriculture owes a debt of gratitude to the comprehensiveness that comprises QTRA. Never before has the industry been provided with training that is based upon a

(1 day)
Cambridge, UK
QTRA Advanced User Training

07/08 May 2019
(2 days)
York, UK
QTRA Registered User Training

14/15 May 2019
(2 days)
Guildford, UK
QTRA Registered User Training

03 June 2019
(2 days)
Bath, UK
QTRA Registered User Training

ISA CEUs are available on
completion

comprehensive study of what actually constitutes risk, which is further strengthened by an active, licensed-users discussion forum, and subsequently followed by the provision of QTRA's advanced-user training.

I found the advanced-user training most beneficial because it is designed to enable discussion and questions among those present. This is unique since many consulting arborists work in relative isolation. The advanced-user training prevents a gradual drifting from the system (e.g. because of isolation) and helps to stay on track by calibrating one's habit against the system. I also valued Mike's attention to detail in teaching the rationale and logic upon which the QTRA methodology is based."

For more information about our workshops and our workshop outlines, log onto our ['Training' page](#). You certainly won't be disappointed.

Steering away from Labelling Trees 'Safe' or 'Unsafe'



The safety of trees is part of a land owner's responsibility and in law there is a duty to 'take reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions which he or she could reasonably foresee may result in harm or injury'. Reasonable foreseeability is about considering the likelihood of an event occurring that has a significant adverse consequence, but where trees are concerned it is all too often that unreasonable assurances are sought to state that trees are **safe** or **unsafe**. A guarantee that no harm will be caused is an unreasonable expectation that can only be achieved by removing the tree and in the quest for absolute safety, trees and their associated benefits are often lost.

Using Quantified Tree Risk Assessment you can steer away from labelling trees safe or unsafe and instead identify the risks from trees as 'broadly acceptable', 'unacceptable' or 'tolerable'. 'Unacceptable'

risks are usually self-evident and the same can usually be said of risks that are so low that they are 'broadly acceptable'. But the real value of the QTRA process is that it enables tree inspectors to quantify those risks that occupy the middle ground and by balancing the risk from a tree with the tree's value and cost of remedial work we can determine whether or not the risk is tolerable - or, in health and safety speak, whether it is ALARP (As Low As Reasonably Practicable). QTRA not only reduces the chance of under or overestimating the risk, it reduces the need for remedial pruning and felling of trees. In short, the QTRA method moves away from what has been the conventional approach of focusing on the defects in trees, and instead offers a realistic perspective on tree risk by incorporating tree value and decision making thresholds of risk into the management process.

QTRA is a benchmark standard for tree risk assessment which has become internationally recognised by many councils, arborists and land managers. It provides an internationally sensible approach to tree risk. Simply put, the QTRA methodology is highly beneficial for tree managers as it is dependable, comprehensible, user-friendly and offers a rational approach when calculating the risk of harm to people and property. It also allows assessors and managers to utilise their own knowledge and experience as they balance tree safety with tree value without having to label trees 'safe' or 'unsafe'.

Image: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/brown-tree-and-green-leaf-51329/>

Woods and Well-Being



The definition of 'well-being' can be a complex matter, but despite its complexity it is often considered as the state of being comfortable, healthy or happy. Yet, in the environmental sector, well-being is generally associated with healthy and aesthetically pleasing environments. Such environments play an essential role in healthy living as they provide air, water and land on which people, animals and plants live. Recent [noteworthy studies](#) have highlighted that outdoor green areas have a significant positive effect on physical, mental and social health. These studies coincide with research undertaken in Pennsylvania in 1982 by [Roger Ulrich](#) who observed two groups of 23 patients recovering from cholecystectomy in hospital: one group had been allocated a room with a view of natural scenery while the other group had a similar room with a view of a bricked-wall building. The patients who were able to see natural scenery had shorter post-operative

hospital stays, received fewer negative evaluative comments in nurses' notes, and took fewer potent analgesics than those of the 23 matched patients without a natural view.



Nowadays, exposure to nature and physical activity are known separately for their health benefits, but when combined as 'green exercise' these benefits can be enhanced as this combination provides: provision of opportunities for exercise, relief of stress and attention fatigue, and the facilitation of social contact through recreational activities. Since the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) in 2001, well-being has had an association with the environment and has gradually become a fundamental component of Government policy. The Forestry Commission (FC) also have a strong focus on well-being and health, alongside education and community

cohesion, all of which are stated in their National Forestry Strategy. Yet, a study carried out by Church, Ravenscroft and Rogers (2005) found that outside the public/non-profit sectors, recreational access to woodlands was not a leading priority, or in most cases, even part of private owners' broader objectives, and that 'owners associated the provision of access with a range of costs and lost opportunities'.

However, it needs to be recognised that not everyone has access to wooded areas and their associated benefits, which leads to the question; 'Should more private woodland owners provide public access through their woodlands?' and if so 'Should the Government implement a new grant scheme solely based on improving public access to wooded areas? Such an innovative grant could potentially change woodland owners' perspectives and help to encourage more people to engage in 'green exercise' in our healthy and aesthetically pleasing environments.

Image lady, trees and snow: Tim Gouw - www.pexels.com

Image wood with snow path: Pixabay - www.pexels.com

Government's Tree Champion Urges for Stronger Protection for England's Trees



The Government's Tree Champion Sir William Worsley urges for stronger protection for England's trees and has launched an urban tree manual, titled 'The Right Tree in the Right Place for a Resilient Future'. The manual provides advice on selecting the right tree for the right place in towns and cities, and for rural upland forests in and around towns and cities. It is aimed at local authorities, community groups and charities but specifies that residents and local communities should be "properly consulted" before street trees are felled. Worsley also suggests that residents' views be taken into consideration before any decisions are made. The manual also provides tips on how to choose the correct type of tree and soil conditions to maximise environmental benefits, as well as highlighting the long-term threats from disease, pests and climate change.

Sir William Worsley said, "Whether trees are rooted in the countryside, woodland or urban cityscapes, trees make our environment more attractive and a healthier place to live and work - which is why expertise in the planting and maintenance of urban trees is vital". He hopes that the Urban Tree Manual will help to improve decision making around the country to ensure trees are preserved now and for generations in the future. The Government have also set out their approach to enhancing our trees in a 25 Year Environment Plan which includes a rather unambitious one million trees to be planted in our towns and cities, and eleven million trees nationally.

The Government's environment plan and Worsley's urban tree manual are necessary steps forward in promoting the increase of urban trees which will help protect and enhance the quality of our cities and towns. Urban trees are vital for the environment as they help increase urban biodiversity and contribute to ecosystem services. However, an urban area with trees with greater tree canopy will experience more benefits than cities and towns with lower canopies. The Woodland Trust state that the recommended tree cover for towns and cities is 20% but presently the average canopy cover is only 16% in England. This 4% canopy gap needs to be filled to sustain and protect our environment. With the many benefits trees provide, it is easy to comprehend that more tree cover in urban areas will bring increasing value to our towns and cities along with environmental, economic, social and aesthetic benefits, which in turn will make our urban areas greener, healthier and happier places to live in.

References

Image - Michaela - <https://www.pexels.com/photo/big-ben-photography-704930/>

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