QTRA Quantified Tree Risk Assessment

Simply Balancing Risks with Benefits

Issue 30 | Newsletter and Training Calendar June 2019

Subscribe

QTRA Training Calendar

UNITED KINGDOM

03-05 August 2019
Tree Anatomy Workshop
Cardiff (3 days)

01/02 October 2019
QTRA Registered User Training
Kenilworth (2 days)

08/09 October 2019
QTRA Registered User Training
Sheffield (2 days)

15/16 October 2019
QTRA Registered User Training
Carlisle (2 days)

29/30 October 2019
QTRA Registered User Training
Exeter (2 days)

AUSTRALIA

19/20 August 2019
QTRA Registered User Training
Brisbane, QLD (2 days)

22/23 August 2019
QTRA Registered User Training
Sydney, NSW (2 days)

26/27 August 2019
QTRA Registered User Training
Melbourne, VIC (2 days)

29/30 August 2019
QTRA Registered User Training
Perth . WA (2 days)

31 August 2019
QTRA Advanced User Training
Perth, WA (1 day)

QTRA - Upcoming Workshops

Welcome to the June edition of our QTRA newsletter. We have had a busy few months and have been delighted with the feedback received from the 11 workshops we held from January to May this year. In response to the success of our invaluable workshops, we are now offering a further 14 two-day QTRA Training events spread over three countries: the United Kingdom, Australia and Italy from June to September this year.

For those living 'down under' who have attended a two-day workshop, we are also offering Advanced User Training sessions in Perth and Adelaide in August and September. The workshop begins with a recap of the methodologies and concepts covered in the initial QTRA two-day training session and then moves onto the detail and application of the method used in the field, with an emphasis on structuring assessments and record-keeping. The Advanced User Training workshop also places emphasis on developing the skills of ‘walkover’ tree risk assessments and looks at the importance of identifying strategic objectives when making risk management decisions and developing policy.

Over the years, tree managers and arborists have found great value in our one-day and two-day workshops as the QTRA approach not

02 September 2019
QTRA Advanced User Training
Adelaide, SA (1 day)

03/04 September 2019
QTRA Registered User Training
Adelaide, SA (2 days)

ITALY

13-15 June 2019
QTRA Registered User Training
Florence (3 days)

23-25 September 2019
QTRA Registered User Training
Florence (3 days)

IRELAND

22/23 October 2019
QTRA Registered User Training
Ireland (2 days)

only quantifies the risk of significant harm but also balances tree safety with tree values whilst predetermining limits of tolerable or acceptable risk. In a nutshell, QTRA workshops provide the skills necessary to carry out reasonable and proportionate risk assessments and informed balanced management decisions.

3 - day Tree Anatomy Workshop

If you are a tree professional making decisions about tree health and risk, Mark Hartley, a highly respected arboricultural consultant and teacher from Australia, will introduce you to the inner workings of trees in a hands-on, laboratory-based workshop taking place in Cardiff on the 3rd, 4th and 5th August 2019. For more information about this unique and informative 3-Day Tree Anatomy workshop, download the workshop flyer https://tinyurl.com/y3nzo6w7. Bookings can be made in the 'Training' area of the QTRA website https://tinyurl.com/y3w3ukyo or by contacting admin@qtra.co.uk . All proceeds will be donated to research into 'Fungi in standing trees' at Cardiff University.

Ancient and other Veteran Trees at Risk from Inappropriate Risk Management

Over recent years public interest in and awareness of veteran trees have increased not only because of the ancient trees' aesthetic, cultural and historical values but also because of their contribution to biodiversity. Yet, according to the Ancient Tree Forum, ancient and other veteran trees are under threat through unnecessary or inappropriate risk management.

Having a keen interest in old trees, QTRA founder Mike Ellison visited an ancient oak tree, the Marton Oak, near Macclesfield (North West England) in 2000. In the region of 1000 – 1500 years old. The tree had been under threat

of removal in the 1980s during redevelopment of the farm on which it stands. The tree's future was temporarily secured by an architect working on the redevelopment of the site who designed a mock-Tudor Wendy house in the hollow of the tree.

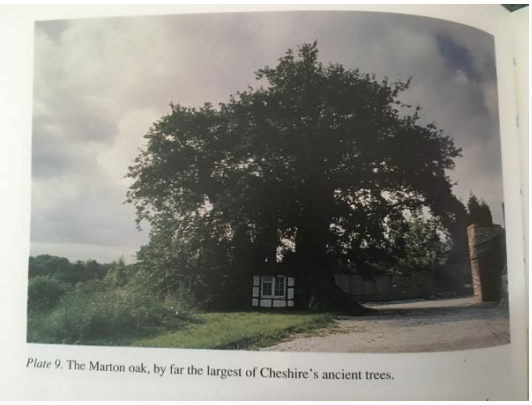
Before building the Wendy house, a local tree contractor was engaged to re-install an artificial prop supporting one of the branches and to remove dead branches from the tree, which can be seen here being burned. As is so often the case with important old trees, seeking to retain the tree in a ‘safe condition’ led to part of its character and valuable habitat for fungi and invertebrates being lost.

By the time Mike visited the tree, the property had changed hands, and the new custodians had removed the Wendy house to reveal the true magnificence of what is the largest girth oak tree in Britain. Following a discussion with the elderly owners, it was decided that whilst the tree was relatively safe in their hands, future occupiers might not have the same passion to conserve it. With the owner's agreement, Mike approached the local Council with a request to legally protect the tree by making a tree preservation order. The Marton Oak Tree Preservation Order was served in February 2002 and will provide some added security for what is one of the most important trees in Britain. A photograph of the tree taken in 2002 can be seen against an etching that is thought to date back to the mid-1700s.

Healthy trees strengthen themselves by producing structurally adaptive growth that compensates for weaknesses or altered external conditions. It is imperative that when managing ancient, veteran and other important trees, a balanced and well-informed risk assessment is undertaken to establish whether faults, structural and mechanical weaknesses represent a significant risk.

When there are significant risks to people, property and to the tree itself, management should be designed to optimise the benefits from the tree whilst keeping the risks within tolerable limits. Interventions should be based on the best available science and avoid causing dysfunction on the tree's vascular system. QTRA considers other broader issues when assessing a veteran tree, such as the landscape value and nature of the habitat that the tree provides for wildlife.

The association of trees with fungi and a wide range of flora and fauna are also considered.



Although safety often takes precedence over ecological and landscape values, this does not mean that a potentially dangerous veteran tree should be felted if the risk of tree failure can be reduced or the land-use can be controlled.

By taking a reasonable and proportionate approach, balancing the benefits of risk control with its costs, the QTRA methodology helps land managers to discharge their 'duty of care' without unnecessary degradation of the veteran tree asset.

For more information about our QTRA training, log onto: www.qtra.co.uk

---

National Trust of Australia (Victoria) - Victorian Tree of the Year Announced

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) has announced the River Red Gum in Bulleen as the Victorian Tree of the Year. The 300-year-old tree stands 20-metres high and has a canopy spread of 17 metres. This ancient tree captured the hearts of Victorians and judges which is hardly surprising due to its age, appearance and history, yet this magnificent tree currently faces removal to make way for the North East Link Project.

Fortunately, the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) is an advocate for the protection of trees so they will be contacting the North East Link Authority to explore options to retain this valuable tree. Interestingly, the tree was once saved by a local resident when the area was cleared to make way for a service station. Let's hope the National Trust are successful in their endeavour to save this precious tree.

Progress on New Zealand's One Billion Trees Programme

Since New Zealand's One Billion Trees Programme was announced in 2018, 60,967,000 trees (defined as woody perennial plant species that can grow to a height of at least five metres), have been planted, 67,475,000 tree seedlings have been sold, and the Government has directly funded 7,570,000 tree seedlings committed for planting.

Last year, the Government set a goal to plant a billion trees between 2018 and 2027 with 55 million trees to be planted in 2018, rising to 70 million in 2019. The initiative still needs a combined effort of landowners, commercial foresters, regional councils, iwi (Maori people or Maori community), conservation groups and communities, and help from The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to boost planting rates to achieve the goal.

Contact Us
admin@qtra.co.uk
Quantified Tree Risk Assessment Limited
9 Lowe Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 7NJ, ENGLAND