QTRA Quantified Tree Risk Assessment

Simply Balancing Risks With Benefits

OUTLINE FOR THE ESTIMATING PROBABILITY OF FAILURE DAY

Title: Estimating Probability of Failure – A Field Day for Arborists

Venue: As scheduled on the QTRA website (www.qtra.co.uk)

Date: Various dates as scheduled on the QTRA website

Facilitators:

- Mike Ellison
- Mark Hartley

Outline: Assessing the structure and stability of trees is an important part of the tree risk assessment process. When using QTRA, we estimate and quantify the likelihood of tree failure in seven broad ranges using a system of benchmarking.

During the day, we will look at a range of different trees and follow a structured process to discuss and evaluate:

- the physiological condition of the tree
- its exposure to loading
- defects and residual strength
- species specific considerations.

With this information we hold a vote on which of the two benchmarks (extremes) our observations take us closest to. Benchmark 1 being the tree that is structurally compromised in the extreme and Benchmark 7 being the tree that is structurally optimised under normal weather conditions. We then hold a second vote on how far our estimate is from the chosen benchmark.

Estimating likelihood of failure with any degree of confidence has always been a challenge but after a day of assessments, group discussion and voting exercises, we begin to calibrate our estimates and the votes usually cluster around one of the seven ranges.

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