

Tree Assessment

Land at
Overton
Wrexham

Ref:
VTA/OCC/06/21

Date:
10th June 2021

Commissioned by:
Overton Community Council

Prepared by
S. Shields

Tree Condition & Risk Assessment

Land at
Overton
Wrexham

Contents

- 1.0 Instruction**
- 2.0 Introduction**
- 3.0 Scope & Limitations**
- 4.0 Statutory Controls & Obligations**
- 5.0 Site Description**
- 6.0 Tree Survey Findings and Recommendations**
- 7.0 Conclusion**

Instruction

- 1.1 Shields Arboricultural Consultancy received instructions from Overton Community Council to undertake a tree condition assessment and prepare a report in respect of trees and groups of trees at the above churchyard. The purpose of the survey was to provide an assessment of the condition of the trees on the property and provide advice regarding any works required to the trees to ensure that they are maintained in as safe a condition as is reasonably practicable.

Introduction

- 2.1 It is recommended that all tree owners should have their trees inspected for safety purposes on a periodic basis. The frequency of these inspections will depend on the location of the tree in relation to roads, footpaths and buildings or structures. This is confirmed by HSE guidance relating to managing the risk of falling trees which states that *'there is the duty to do all that is reasonably practicable to ensure that people are not exposed to risk to their health and safety. Doing all that is reasonably practicable does **not** mean that all trees have to be individually examined on a regular basis. A decision has to be taken on what is reasonable in the circumstances and this will include consideration of the risks to which people may be exposed.'*

Scope and Limitations of the Survey

- 3.1 The survey was undertaken in 25th May 2021 by Stephen Shields, principal consultant with Shields Arboricultural Consultancy. This survey updates and supersedes the January 2018 survey.
- 3.2 The survey was carried out from the ground in accordance with the principals of tree inspection and assessment described in Lonsdale 1999 and using Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) techniques as described in Mattheck & Breloer 1994. This term describes an approach to tree surveying using visual observation which allows the surveyor to evaluate the stability and structural condition of a tree. The basis behind VTA is the identification of symptoms, which the tree produces in reaction to, for example, a weakness in its structure, or as a result of external stress factors e.g. drought.
- 3.3 The trees were inspected from the ground level using field glasses and basic equipment such as a soft faced hammer and steel probe. Where required an IML F400 micro drill was used to examine the internal quality of the wood. The inspection followed a set procedure; firstly, the site conditions are assessed to establish if any environmental factors are present that could affect the stability of the trees. This includes an evaluation of the soil conditions to establish if there are any aspects that could inhibit root growth, such as water logging or shallow soils. The exposure and elevation of the site are considered along with any changes to the tree's environment that could affect the tree. Next the root plate and area around the tree are visually inspected for signs of instability or decay, followed by a visual examination of the trunk and branch structure to identify structural defects or decay. Finally, the vitality of the tree is

assessed and any significant pest and diseases identified. Where defects or health issues were identified, these are noted in the report and any required remedial measures recommended. Where no comment is made, it can be assumed that no defects were identified.

- 3.4 The findings of the survey are limited to the date of inspection. The seasonal nature of fungal and decay organisms and other symptoms of stress such as late or early leaf emergence or fall means that indicators of disease and decay may not have been present on the date of inspection.
- 3.5 The risk assessment evaluates the risk of failure in all weather conditions up to and including Beaufort Scale Gale Force 8. All trees are at risk of failure through exceptional weather conditions.

Statutory Controls & Obligations

- 4.1 Forestry Act; the felling of trees is controlled under Forestry Act, which requires that a felling licence is obtained prior to cutting down any trees. The Forestry Act does not apply to the felling of trees growing within an orchard, private garden, churchyard or public open space. The Forestry Commission has the responsibility for enforcing the Forestry Act.
- 4.2 Tree Preservation Orders & Conservation Areas; Local Authorities have specific powers to protect trees through the use of Tree Preservation Orders. Where trees are protected under such orders it is a criminal offence to (subject to any exemptions for which provision may be made by the order) undertake, cause or permit the cutting down, topping, lopping, uprooting, wilful damage or wilful destruction of trees except with the consent of the local planning authority. Similar controls apply to all trees growing within a designated Conservation Area.
- 4.3 Bats, wild birds and other protected species; The Wildlife & Countryside Act & the Conservation (Natural Habitats & C.) Regulations make it an offence to disturb or destroy bats and bat roosts and wild birds and their nests. Other species of plant and animal are also protected. These creatures often inhabit trees and sufficient care must be taken to ensure they are not affected during forestry and arboricultural works.

Site Description

- 5.1 The trees to be inspected occupy three sites within the village of Overton. The first site is an avenue of trees situated off the A458, Wrexham Road. This avenue runs North-west south-east for a length of some 250 metres, and is comprised large mature trees and some recently planted replacement specimens. A footpath runs up the centre of the avenue and the area is used for informal recreation. During the summer months the area is used for village fates. The second site is adjacent to the avenue and is used as a children's play park. In this location the majority of the trees are in early maturity, with the exception of one oak tree. The third site is the cemetery off Church Road. All trees are considered to be within a red zone,

- 5.2 All three sites are level and at an elevation of approximately 90m above average sea level. Sites one and two are slightly exposed to the north and west, whilst site three is relatively sheltered by surrounding buildings. The soils on all the sites appeared to be free draining and no evidence of water logging was noted. Geological maps indicate glacial sand and gravel drift over a Permo – Triassic sandstone.

Tree Survey Findings and Recommendations

Summary of Tree Work

Tree Tag#	Operation	Priority
51, 52, 53, 65, 84, 116	Removal of deadwood, hung-up branches, ivy etc.	Moderate
72, 75, 78, 79, 86, 89, 91, 94, 95, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 106, 107	Removal of deadwood, ivy.	Low
68, 69, 70, 72, 75, 78, 79, 86, 87, 91, 93, 97, 100	Undertake prescribed remedial works to help improve root environment and stimulate an increase in vitality and in immune response. Full details are in appendix A.	Medium
51	Consider felling and replacing tree as part of long-term management.	Low
62	Crown Lift over cricket Pitch	Low
118	Prune out reversion growth.	Low

- 6.1 The inspection commenced with the avenue trees, in a clockwise direction from the south west corner, then to the trees adjacent to the play area to the north of the A528, and then on to the trees in the cemetery. All trees have been marked with an individual identification tag, with the exception of those in the cemetery. Numbers run from 51–121. The survey assessed 75 trees and 2 groups of trees. Full details of the tree inspections and work recommendations are provided in the Arboricultural Inspection Record at appendix A.

- 6.2 As previously, it was noted that a number of the trees within the avenue, mainly oaks, were indicating signs of reduced vitality such as low bud density, die back and deadwood in the upper crown and epicormic growth (thin leafy branches on the stem and main limbs). The cause of this is not clear but may be a combination of soil compaction from the recreational uses and cultural practices on adjacent land. A program of root zone improvement has been prepared and its implementation may benefit the trees and improve their condition.
- 6.3 The management of aerial deadwood should also be given careful consideration. This provides an important habitat and where the fall of deadwood would not present a risk it should not be removed, unless particularly large.
- 6.4 Ensuring that the trees within the areas remain in a reasonably safe condition, can normally be achieved through periodic inspections and monitoring of trees that may have progressive defects. In addition to inspections by the owner it is recommended that a professional inspection is undertaken every 5 years or after any storm where wind speeds exceeded gale force 8 or where damage is noted.

Conclusion

- 7.1 There is some minor concern over the apparent decline in the vitality of some of the trees but this can hopefully be slowed or reversed by the prescribed methods.

S.J.A. Shields

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Chartered Forester

10th June 2021

Arboricultural Inspection and Recommendations

Location: *The Avenue & Cemetery, Overton, Wrexham. .*

Weather: *Overcast, calm.*

Date: *25th May 2021*

Surveyor: *Stephen Shields*

Tree Tag #	Species	Size Class*	Age Class*	Strut. Con.	Health & Vitality	Notes from initial inspection or last Re-inspection	Notes from Re-inspection	QTRA Score
51	Larch	L	M	G	G	No significant defects noted, however see previous comments. Recommendations: Consider removing T1 as part of long-term management strategy. Work must be carried out by contractor qualified to work in close proximity to power lines.	Ivy on stem. Recommendations: Remove ivy. See previous comments about long-term management.	40K Low
52	Red Oak	L	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	Ivy on stem. Deadwood and hung-up branch in crown. Recommendations: Remove ivy, hung up branch and deadwood.	<1M V Low
53	Oak	L	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Ivy on stem. Recommendations: Remove ivy.	<1M V Low
54	Oak	M	M	G	F	Minor deadwood. Moderately suppressed by adjacent tree. Recommendations: No work required.	Minor deadwood Recommendations:	<1M V Low

55	Oak	L	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
56	Oak	S	Y	G	G	Replacement planting. No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
57	Oak	L	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	Minor deadwood appears stable. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
58	Beech	S	NP	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
59	Oak	S	EM	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
60	Horse Chestnut	L	M	F	G	Stem bifurcates at 2.5m some fluxing and possible cracking on limb extending east. Response wood present. Tree was noted as having bleeding canker in previous survey. This appears to be progressing. Recommendations: There are a number of steps that could be taken to improve the conditions	Felled, replaced by NP oak. Recommendations:	<1M V Low

						<p>for the tree and thus its ability to resist the spread of the disease. The simplest approach, causing the least disturbance would be to treat the tree with a dose of potassium phosphonate fertilizer, sold as "<i>Uncle Tom's Plant Tonic</i>". This should be applied using a soil drench method over the root zone of the tree. In practice this would mean making up quantities of the fertilizer in a watering can as per manufactures instructions and applying at a rate of approximately 1 litre per 10m² to the ground around the tree out to and just beyond the canopy spread. This product is highly effective in stimulating the immune system within the tree. An additional benefit can be gained by adding sugar to the mix at a rate of 10g per litre. The application should be made in early spring, around the time of bud break on the tree.</p>		
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						Other treatments could include mulching the root area of the tree with organic mulch. This would help to suppress the growth of grasses and other plants within the root zone of the tree, reducing competition for water and nutrients. The mulch should be to a depth of approximately 50mm and cover the area from the stem out to the drip line of the canopy. The tree should be annually monitored to assess the progress of the bleeding canker and its ability to resist this pathogen.		
61	Red Oak	L	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	Felled replaced by NP oak Recommendations:	<1M V Low
62	Oak	L	M	G	G	Minor deadwood. Complaints have been received from the Cricket Club, who use the adjacent land to the southwest as their pitch, that low branches on the trees are coming into contact with the mowers used to cut the grass.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: Crown lift over cricket pitch.	<1M V Low

						<p>Recommendations: Crown raise over adjacent cricket pitch (southwest) to a height of 3.5 metres above ground level. No branches over 75mm diameter are to be removed. Remove deadwood over cricket pitch.</p>		
63	Oak	M	M	G	G	<p>Deadwood present in upper crown. Recommendations: As 62</p>	No significant defects. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
64	Red Oak	VL	M	G	F	<p>Reduced vitality, epicormic growth present. Recommendations: As 62</p>	Felled	
65	Oak	L	M	G	F	<p>Deadwood present in upper crown. Reduced vitality. Recommendations: As 62</p>	Reduced vitality, hanging branch present in crown. Recommendations: Remove branch.	<1M V Low
66	Beech	S	SM	G	G	<p>No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.</p>	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
67	Red Oak	VL	M	G	G	<p>Minor deadwood and broken branch. Lean to east. Recommendations: No work required</p>	Felled. Replaced by NP Oak. Recommendations:	<1M V Low
68	Oak	S	M	G	P	<p>Low vitality. It was suggested in the previous report that this tree could</p>	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: See previous advice.	<1M V Low

						be removed and replaced. However the Council has expressed a desire to retain the tree if possible. Recommendations: As tree 60		
69	Oak	L	M	G	F	Reduced vitality Recommendations: As tree 60	Minor deadwood in crown, Recommendations: See previous advice.	<1M V Low
70	Oak	L	M	G	F	Minor deadwood, reduced vitality. Recommendations: As tree 60	Minor deadwood in crown, Recommendations: See previous advice.	<1M V Low
71	Beech	S	SM	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
72	Oak	M	M	G	F	Minor deadwood. Recommendations: As tree 60	Deadwood in crown, Recommendations: Remove unstable deadwood. See previous advice.	<1M V Low
73	Beech	VL	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
74	Oak	L	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
75	Oak	L	M	G	F	Deadwood Recommendations: As tree 60 and remove any large deadwood.	Honey Fungus present around base of tree. Some deadwood present in crown. Recommendations: Remove unstable deadwood. Consider intervention as for T60.	<1M V Low

76	Red Oak	L	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	Felled. Replaced by NP red oak. Recommendations:	<1M V Low
77	Beech	L	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
78	Oak	L	M	G	G	Minor deadwood. Recommendations: No work required.	Deadwood present in crown. Reduction in vitality. Recommendations: Remove unstable deadwood. Consider intervention as for T60.	<1M V Low
79	Oak	L	M	G	F	Reduced vitality. Recommendations: As tree 60	Deadwood in crown, Recommendations: Remove unstable deadwood. See previous advice.	<1M V Low
80	Beech	L	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
81	Beech	S	EM	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
82	Oak	S	SM	G	G	Replacement tree. No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
83	Horse Chestnut	VL	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low

84	Red Oak	VL	M	G	F	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	Ivy on stem, minor deadwood. Condition being to decline. Recommendations: Remove ivy.	<1M V Low
85	Beech	L	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	Ivy on stem. Recommendations: Remove ivy.	<1M V Low
86	Oak	L	M	G	F	Deadwood, reduced vitality. Recommendations: As tree 60	Reduction in vitality. Ivy on stem. Minor deadwood. Recommendations: Consider intervention as for T60.	<1M V Low
87	Oak	L	M	G	F	Reduced vitality, some dieback and deadwood. Recommendations: As tree 60	Felled. Recommendations: Consider intervention as for T60.	<1M V Low
88	Oak	M	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
89	Red Oak	L	M	G	F	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	Very large deadwood in crown. Minor root decay. Minor deadwood and die-back. Condition beginning to decline. Recommendations: Remove unstable deadwood.	<1M V Low
90	Oak	L	M	G	F	Rib and loose bark on north east side of Stem. Possible canker. Recommendations: No work required.	Felled.	<1M V Low
91	Oak	L	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	Deadwood present in crown. Reduction in vitality.	<1M V Low

							Recommendations: Remove unstable deadwood. Consider intervention as for T60.	
92	Beech	S	EM	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
93	Oak	L	M	G	F	Slight reduced vitality. Recommendations: As tree 60	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required. Consider intervention as for T60.	<1M V Low
94	Oak	L	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	Deadwood in crown, Recommendations: Remove unstable deadwood.	<1M V Low
95	Oak	L	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	Deadwood in crown, Recommendations: Remove unstable deadwood.	<1M V Low
96	Red Oak	VL	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	Minor deadwood in crown. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
97	Horse Chestnut	L	M	G	F	Signs of bleeding canker. Bark missing at stem base. Recommendations: As tree 60	Bleeding canker on primary branch. Some die-back. Recommendations: Consider intervention as for T60.	1M Low
98	Oak	L	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low

99	Oak	L	M	G	G	Main scaffold limb, snapped on east side. No significant decay. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
100	Oak	L	M	G	F	Reduced vitality. Deadwood. Recommendations: As tree 60	Deadwood in crown, Recommendations: Remove unstable deadwood.	<1M V Low
101	Lime	L	M	G	G	Minor deadwood. Recommendations: No work required.	Deadwood in crown. Ivy on stem. Recommendations: Remove unstable deadwood and ivy.	<1M V Low
102	Oak	L	M	G	G	Possible decay in stem base, very minor. Recommendations: No work required.	Deadwood in crown, Ivy on stem. Recommendations: Remove unstable deadwood and ivy.	<1M V Low
103	Lime	L	M	G	G	Minor deadwood. Recommendations: No work required.	Deadwood in crown. Ivy on stem. Recommendations: Remove unstable deadwood and ivy.	<1M V Low
104	Oak	VL	M	G	G	Decay fungus present on base, Griffon frondosa. Moderate deadwood in crown. Recommendations: Remove unstable deadwood. Monitor tree	No significant change in condition. Deadwood in crown. Recommendations: Remove unstable deadwood. Monitor tree.	<1M V Low
105	Oak	L	M	G	F	Minor broken branch on west side of crown, touching ground. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Minor deadwood. Recommendations: No work required.	1M Low

106	Oak	L	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	Deadwood in crown. Recommendations: Remove unstable deadwood.	<1M V Low
107	Oak	L	M	G	G	Fluxing from old wound on south side of stem. Recommendations: No work required.	Deadwood in crown. Recommendations: Remove unstable deadwood.	<1M V Low
Trees in Play Area								
108	Weeping Ash	S	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
109	Cherry	S	M	G	G	Minor broken branch on west side of crown. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
110	Cherry	M	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
111	Whitebeam	S	SM	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
112	Cherry	M	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
113	Norway Maple	M	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low

114	Weeping Ash	S	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
115	Holly	M	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
116	Oak	L	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	Minor deadwood present over play area. Recommendations: Remove unstable deadwood.	<1M V Low
117	Weeping Ash	S	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
118	Weeping Ash	S	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	Reversion growth from graft. Recommendations: Remove reversion growth.	<1M V Low
119	Weeping Ash	S	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
120	Weeping Ash	S	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
121	Norway Maple	M	EM	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low

Trees in Cemetery								
122 (T69)	Irish Yews	M	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
123 (T70)	Irish Yews	M	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
124 (T71)	Irish Yews	M	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
125 (T72)	Irish Yews	M	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
126 (T73)	Irish Yews	M	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
127 (T74)	Lawson Cypress	M	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	Removed.	<1M V Low
128 (T75)	Irish Yews	M	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
129 (G1)	Lawson Cypress x1 Irish Yew x 3	M	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	Lawson has been removed.	<1M V Low

130 (G2)	Irish Yew x 4	M	M	G	G	No significant defects noted. Recommendations: No work required.	No significant change in condition. Recommendations: No work required.	<1M V Low
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KEY

Size Class

Stem

- S Less than 5m height and / or 150mm trunk diameter
- M 5m– 15m height and /or 150mm – 500mm trunk diameter
- L 16m – 25m height and / or 501mm -1000mm trunk diameter
- VL Over 26m height and or over 1001mm trunk diameter

Age Class:

- NP - New Planting less than 5 yrs
- Y - Young Trees less than 1/3 life expectancy
- EM - Early Mature 1/3 – 2/3 life expectancy
- M - Mature over 2/3 life expectancy
- LM - Late Mature exceeds normal life expectancy for species
- VET - Veteran Tree has characteristics of veteran tree, see Read (2000)

Health & Vitality:

- Good - No significant health problems
- Fair - Some health problems that will reduce vitality
- Poor - Significant health problems that are affecting the tree's ability to survive
- Dead - Dead

Structural Conditions:

- Good - No significant faults
- Fair - Some faults that can be rectified through surgery
- Poor - Major faults that can not be rectified through surgery
- Env - Environment in which the tree stands.

Hazard Rating:

- Low Re-assess within 5 yrs if adjacent to public access, schedule work as required*.
 - Mod. Re-inspect annually/after storms (Force 10+), undertake work within 12 months*.
 - High Remediate within 3 months, or as specified.
 - V. High Remediate within 1 month.
- * Unless otherwise specified

Numeric rating refers to QTRA score and indicates risk of harm. E.g. 40K = 1 in 40,000.