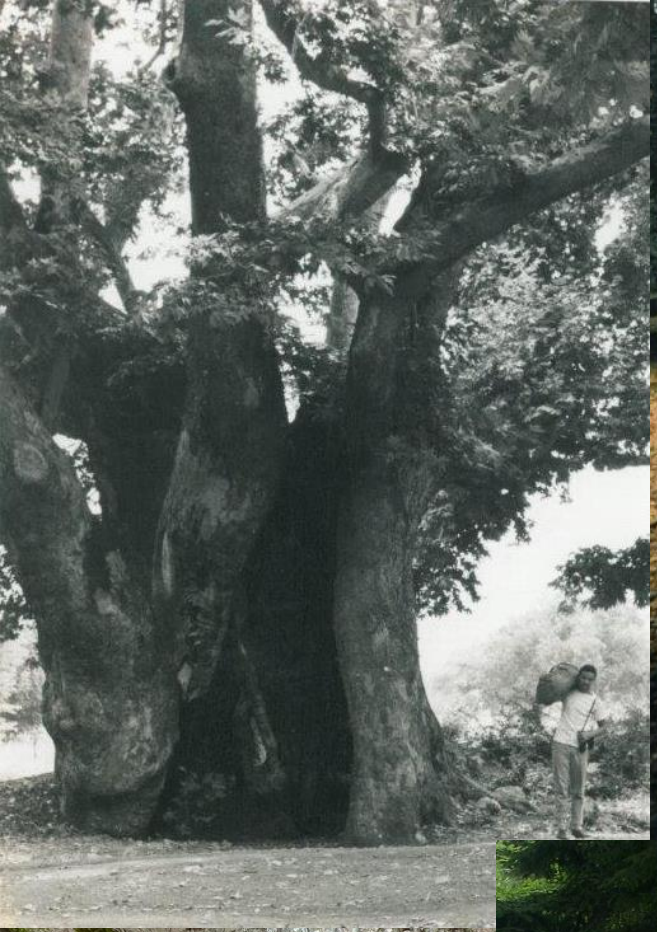
The British treescape, past, present and future at Windsor Great Park

Where was it? What was it? Using old maps to inform restoration and enhancement of ancient treescapes.

John P Smith Mosaic Mapping and the Ancient Tree Forum



onze Oak

Wildgitter

In Oliver Rackham's 1986 book The History of the Countryside he talks of the rural maps of the 1860's and 70's,

'which attempt to record every hut and hedgerow tree; the zenith of rural mapmaking in Britain and perhaps in the world'

Later, he goes further, in "Woodlands" published in 2006 stating

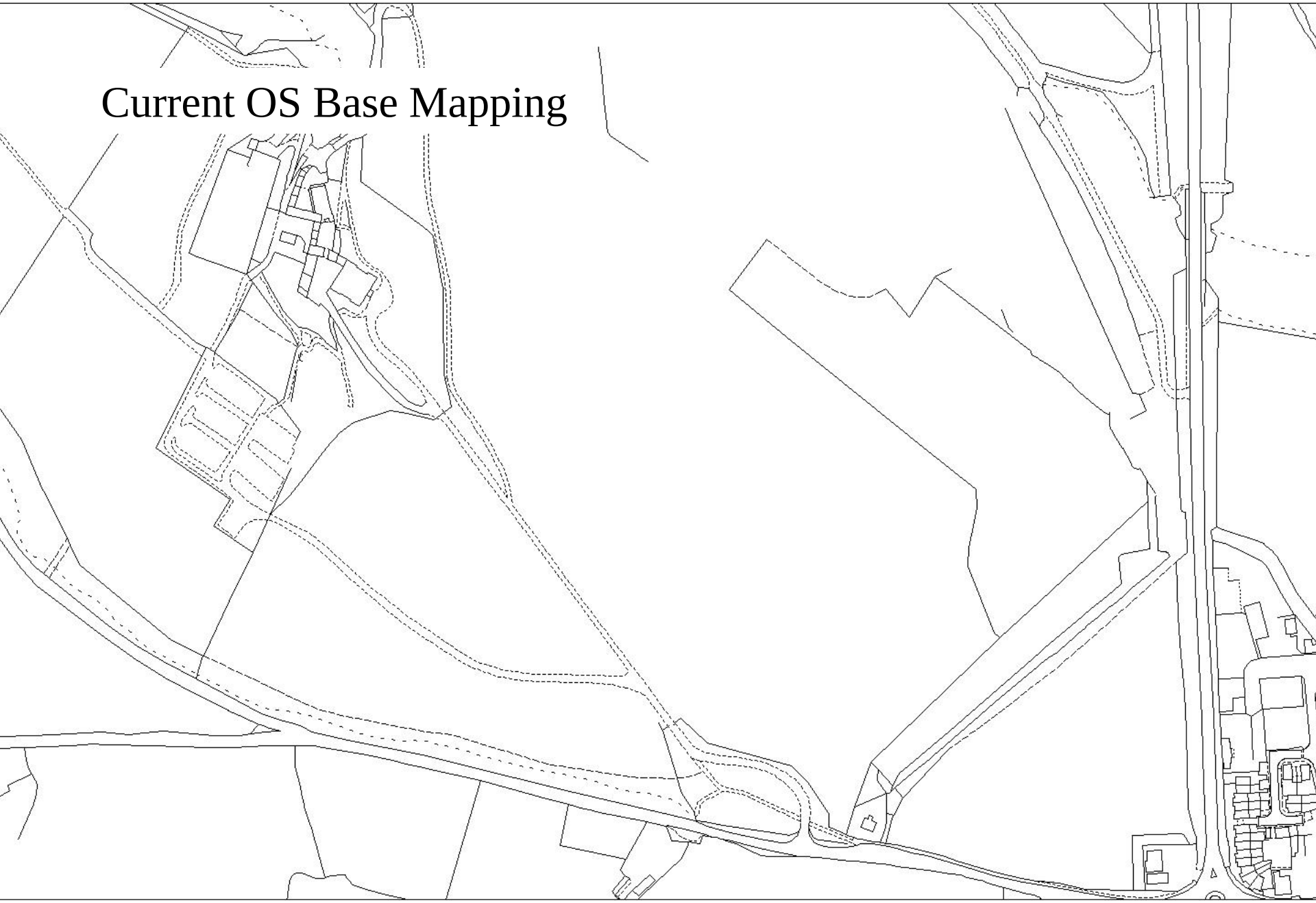
"*in general the first edition 25-inch tried to show every non-woodland tree in Britain, and* ***as far as can be checked*** *got them right."*

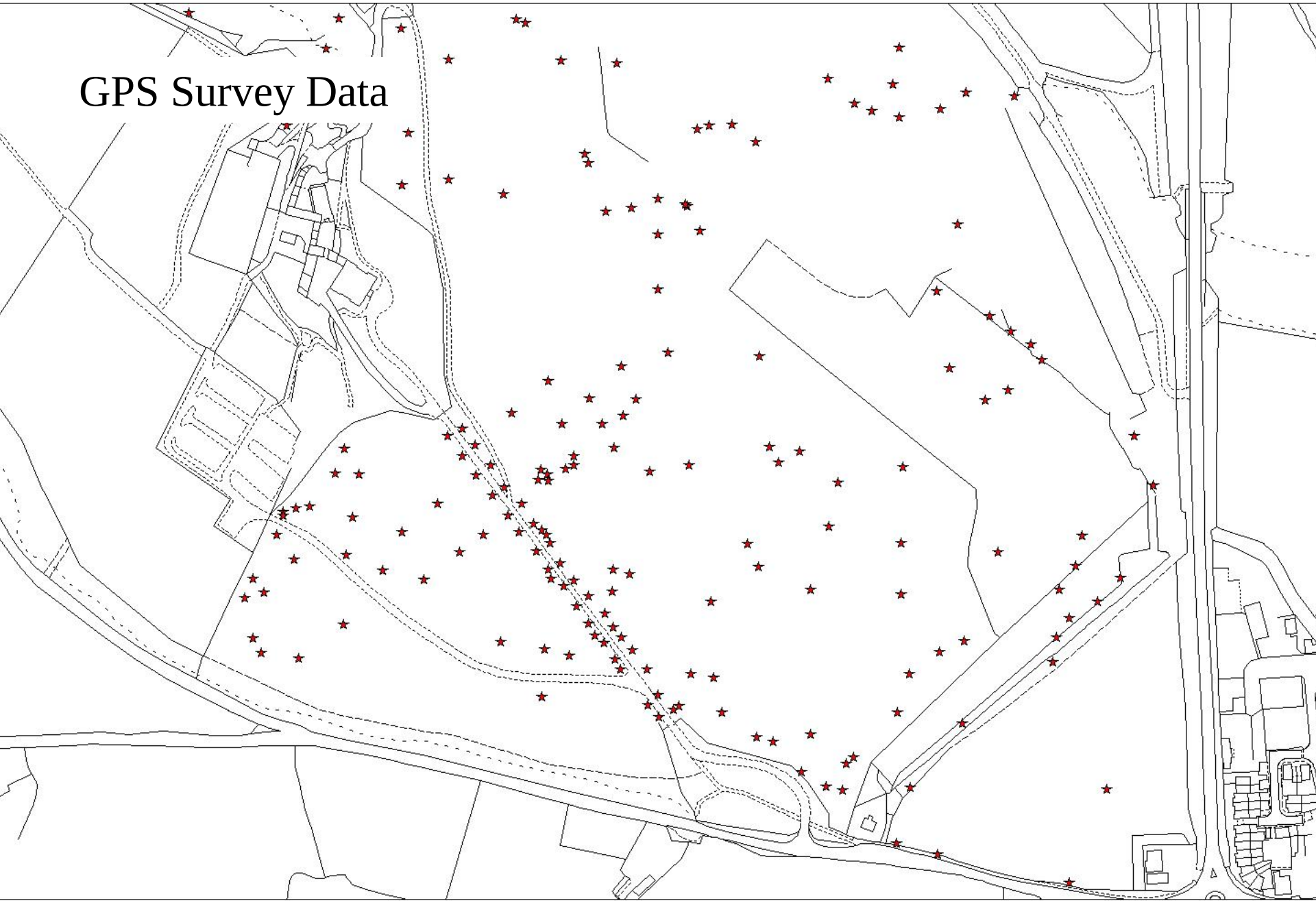
What follows is an example of a site where I have attempted to verify this

Ancient Tree Inventory data

Parke, Devon

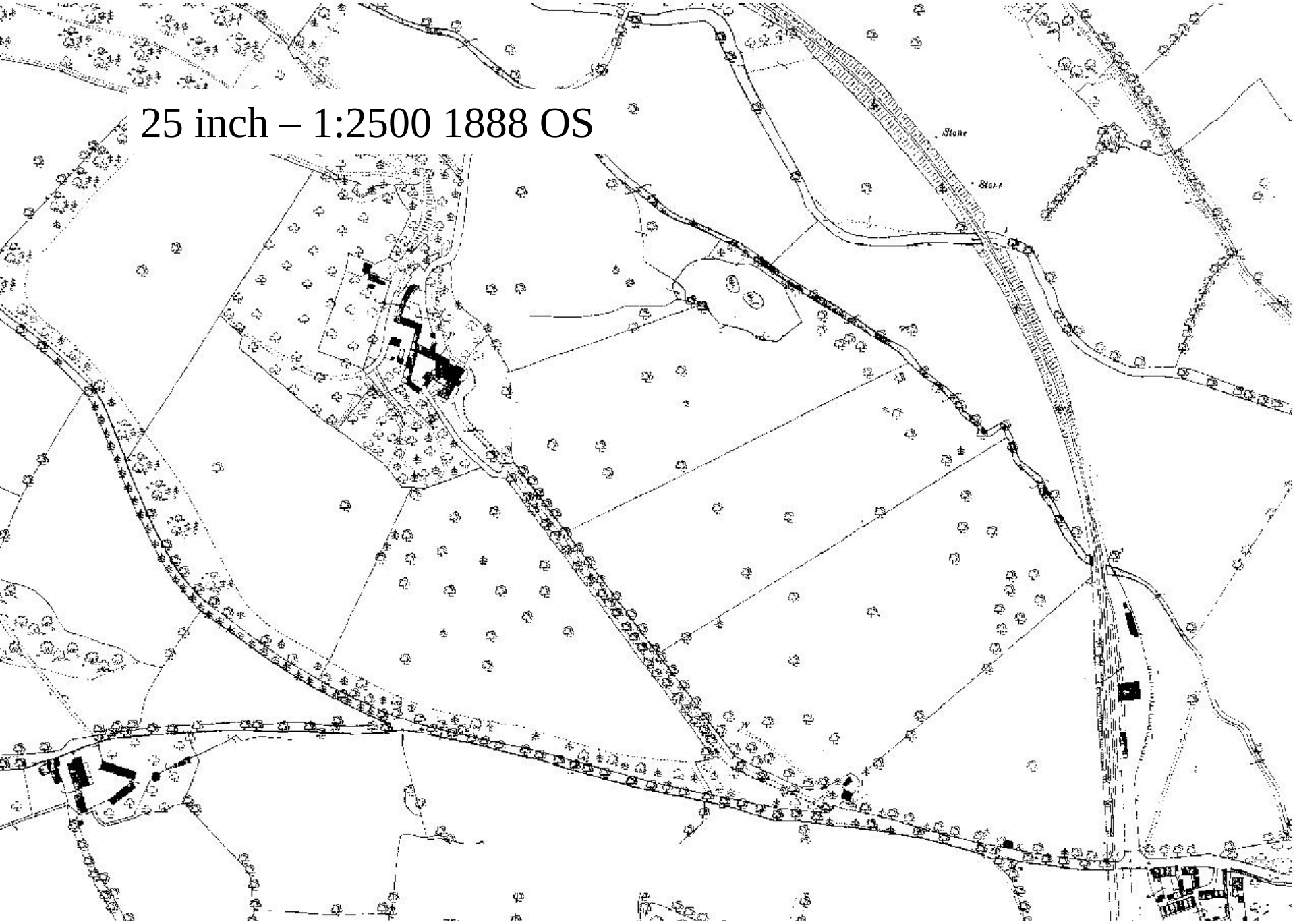
Current OS Base Mapping

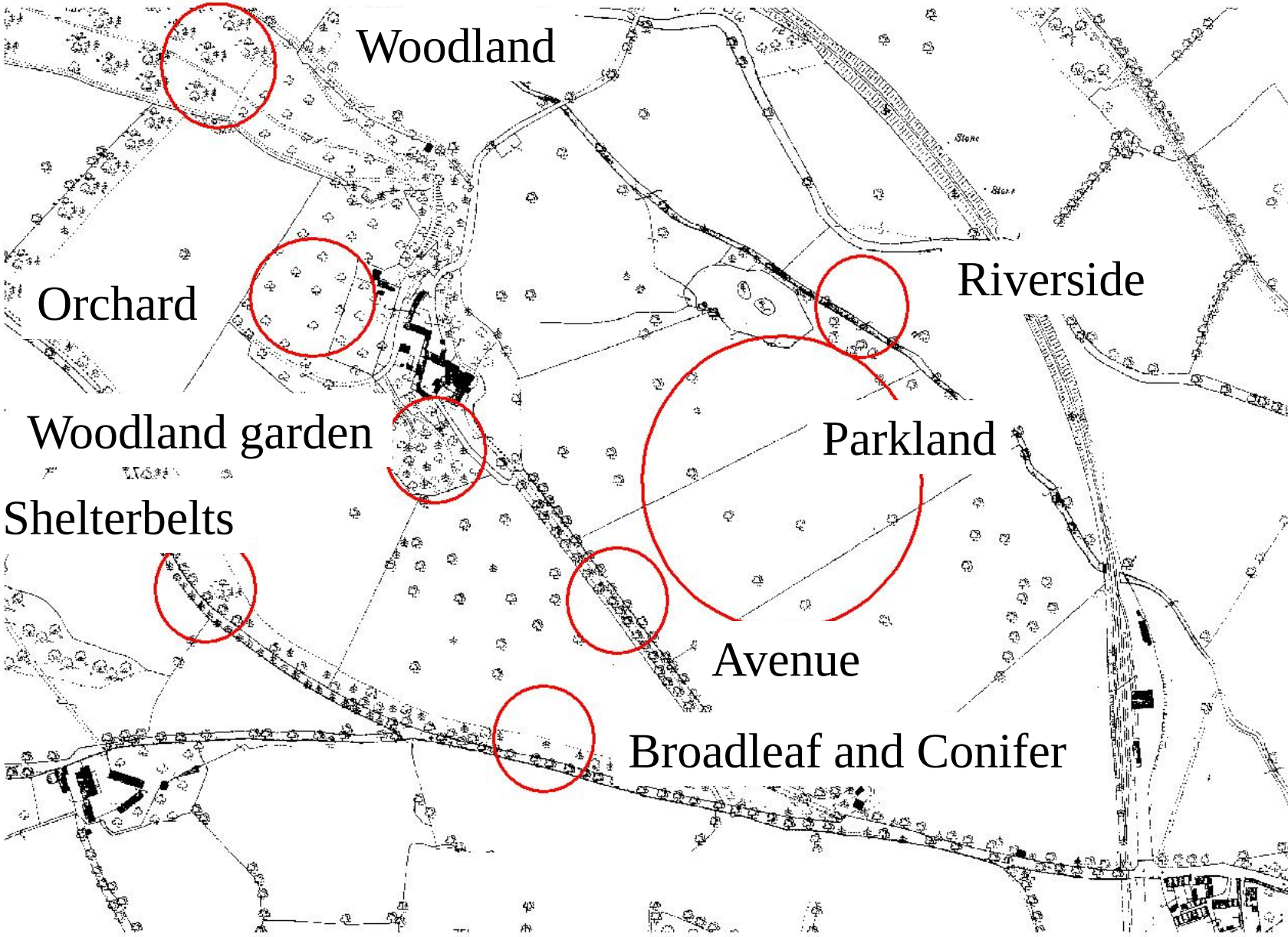



GPS Survey Data

With air imagery

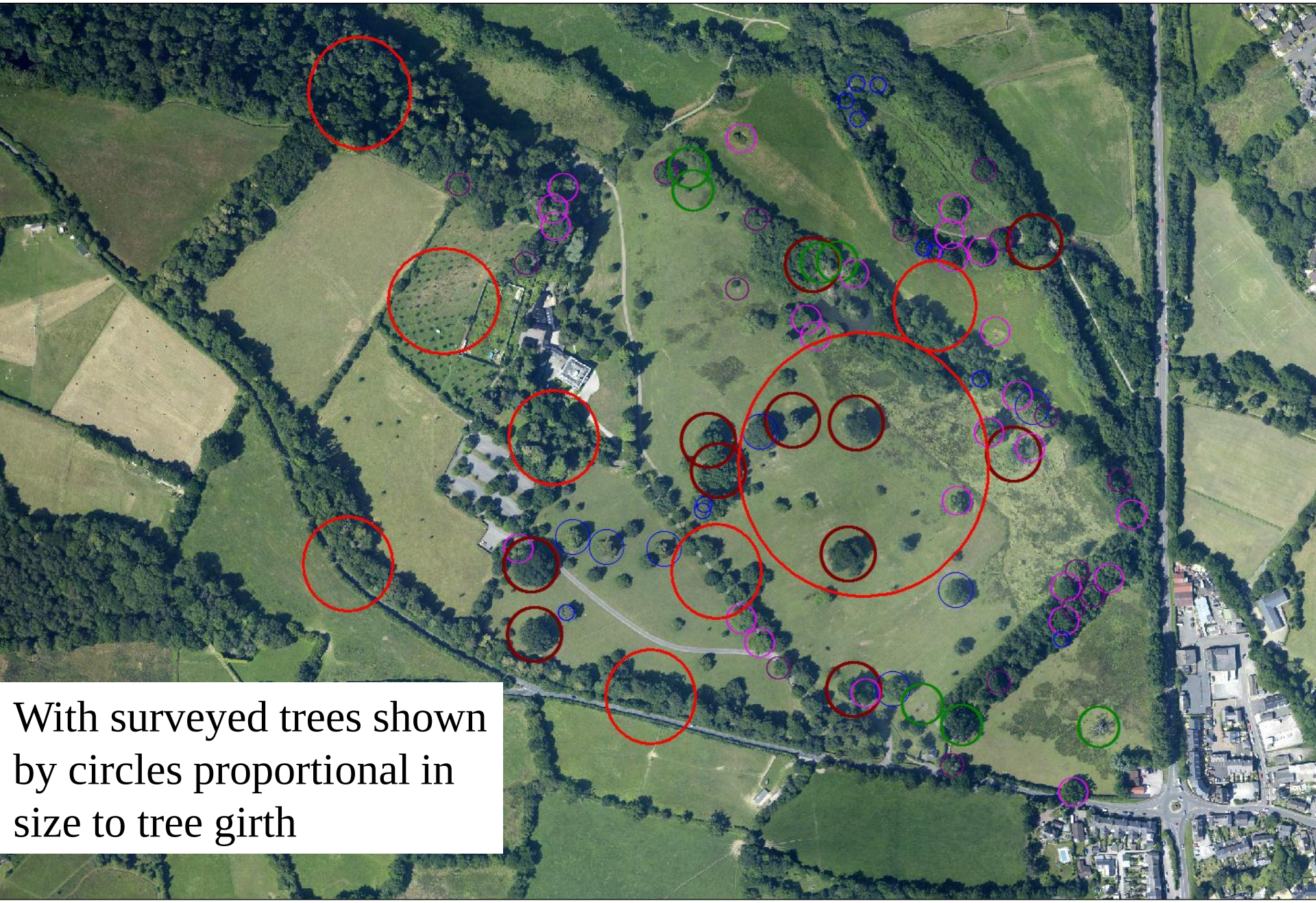
ATI Early OS mapping


25 inch – 1:2500 1888 OS

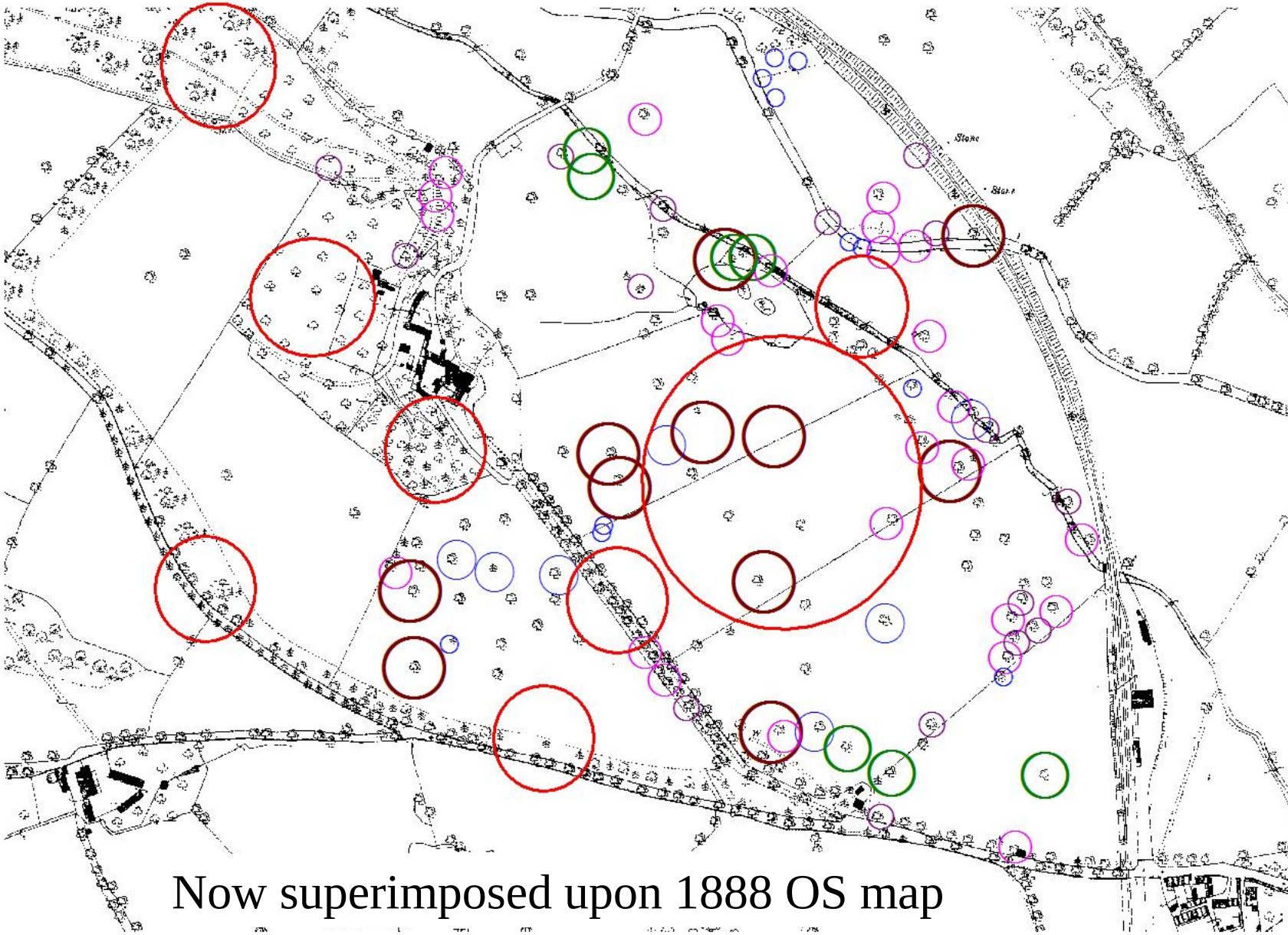

Woodland
Orchard
Riverside
Woodland garden
Parkland
Shelterbelts
Avenue
Broadleaf and Conifer

Symbol used to depict broadleaf trees as individuals - particularly in parkland

Symbol used as a general representation of broadleaf trees

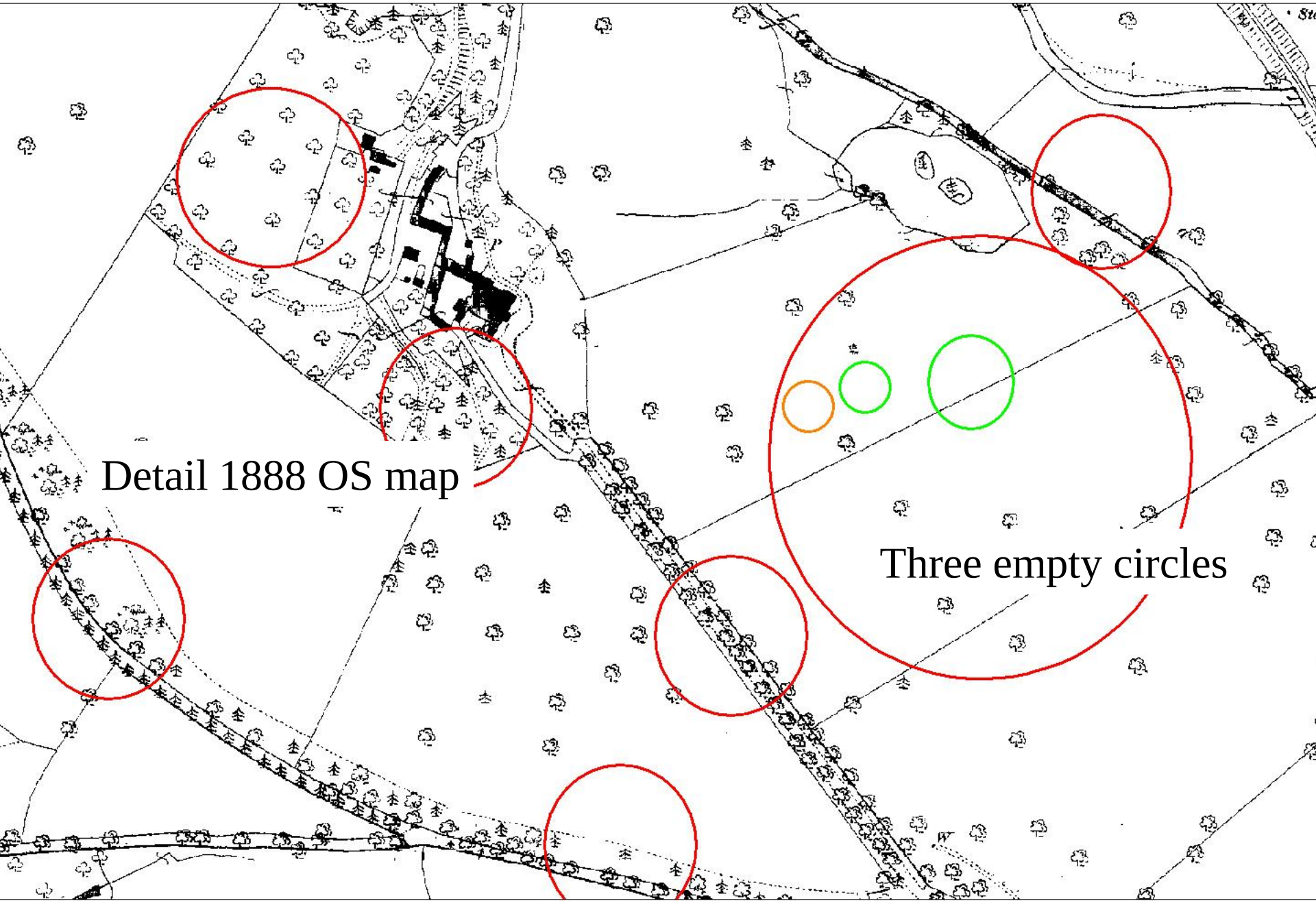


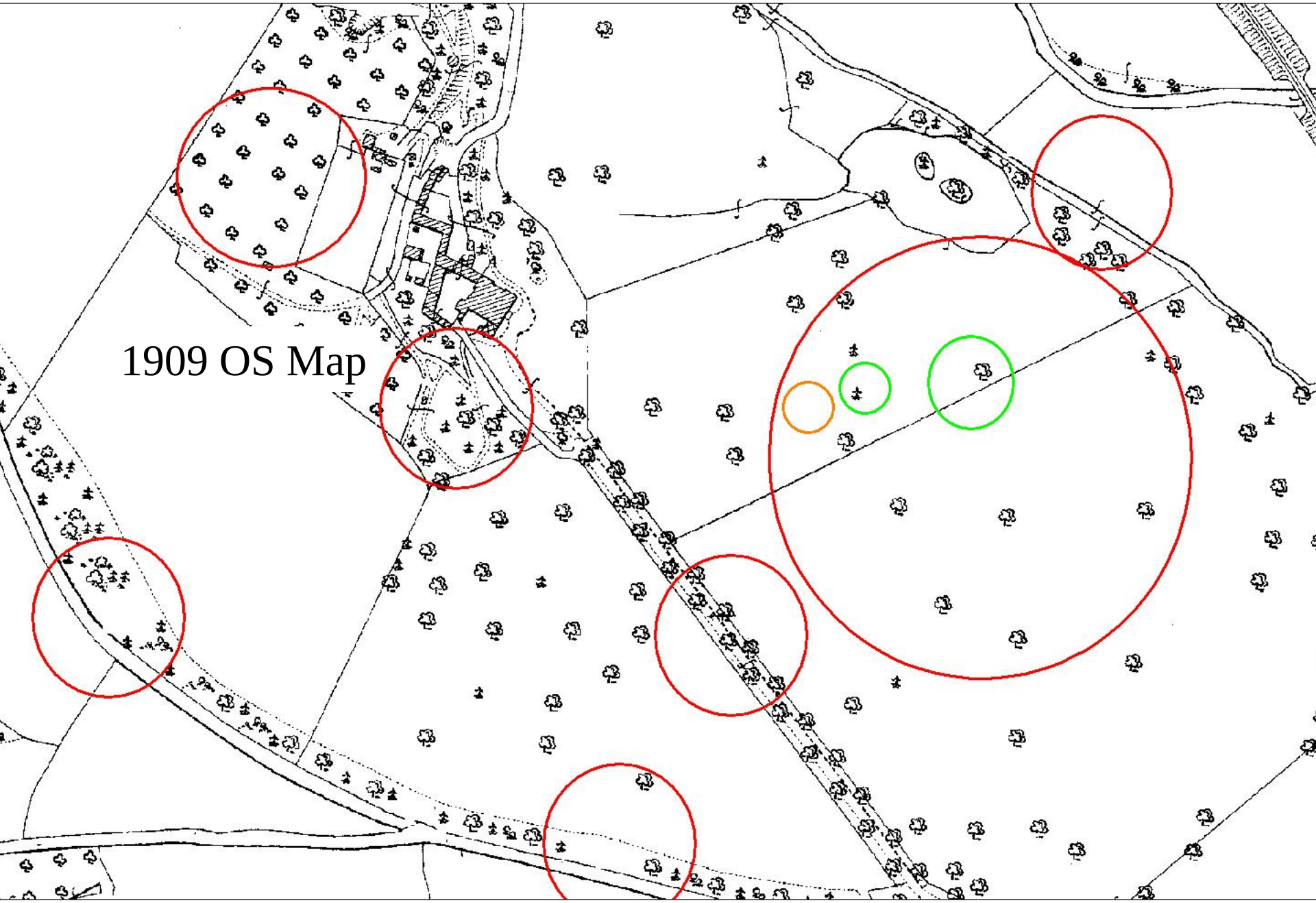
With surveyed trees shown by circles proportional in size to tree girth



Now superimposed upon 1888 OS map

Time to look at a real tree
Old field boundary markers


Detail 1888 OS map
Three empty circles


1909 OS Map

1936 OS Map
782
I·422

Summary

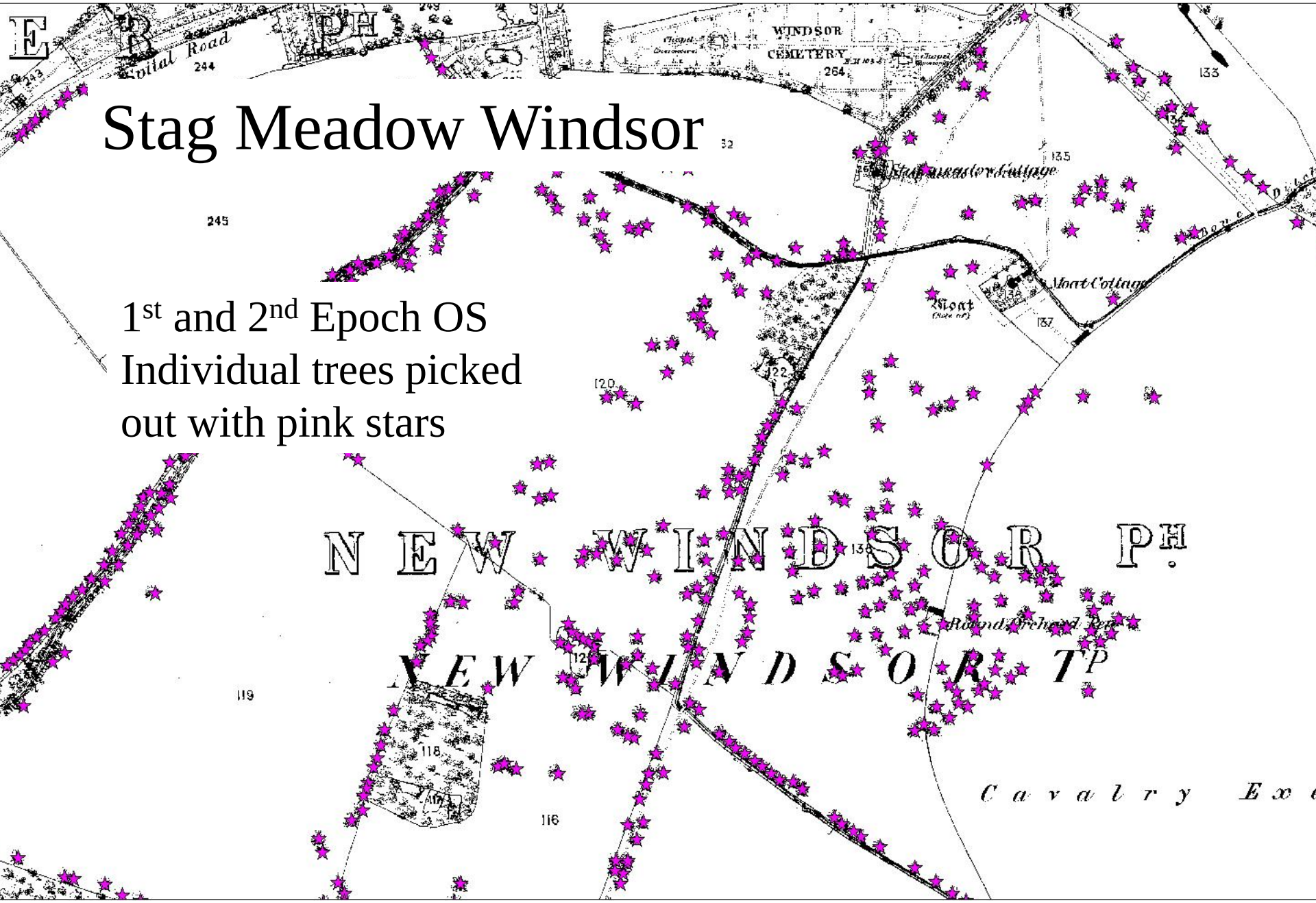
- Old OS mapping, remember, this was carried out by gangs of surveyors using chains, can be very accurate
- Surveyors were human, mistakes were made
- Later Editions were updated, presumably by resurvey

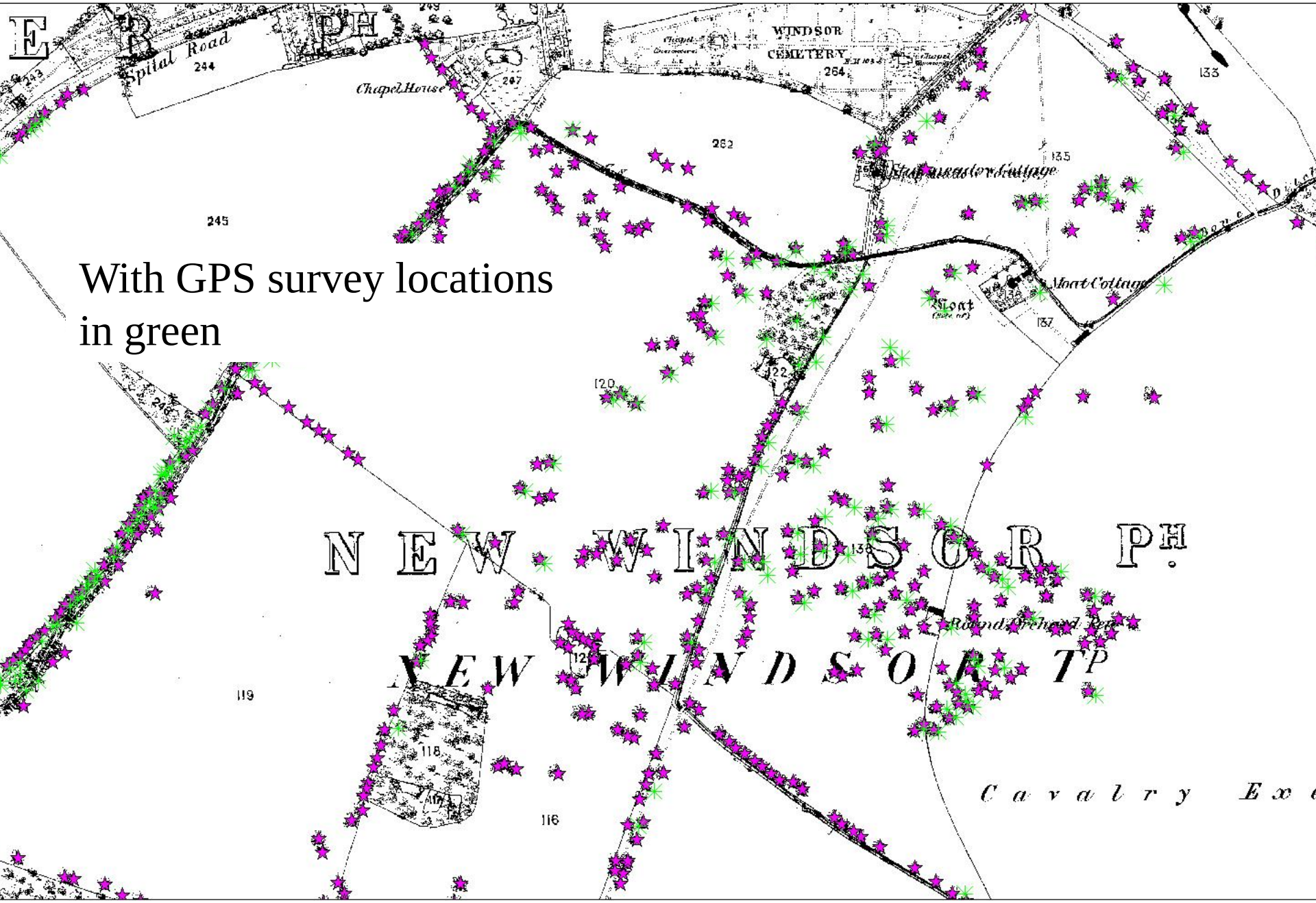
We can use this information to give an insight as to how we might restore our Ancient Treescapes

Case study - Windsor

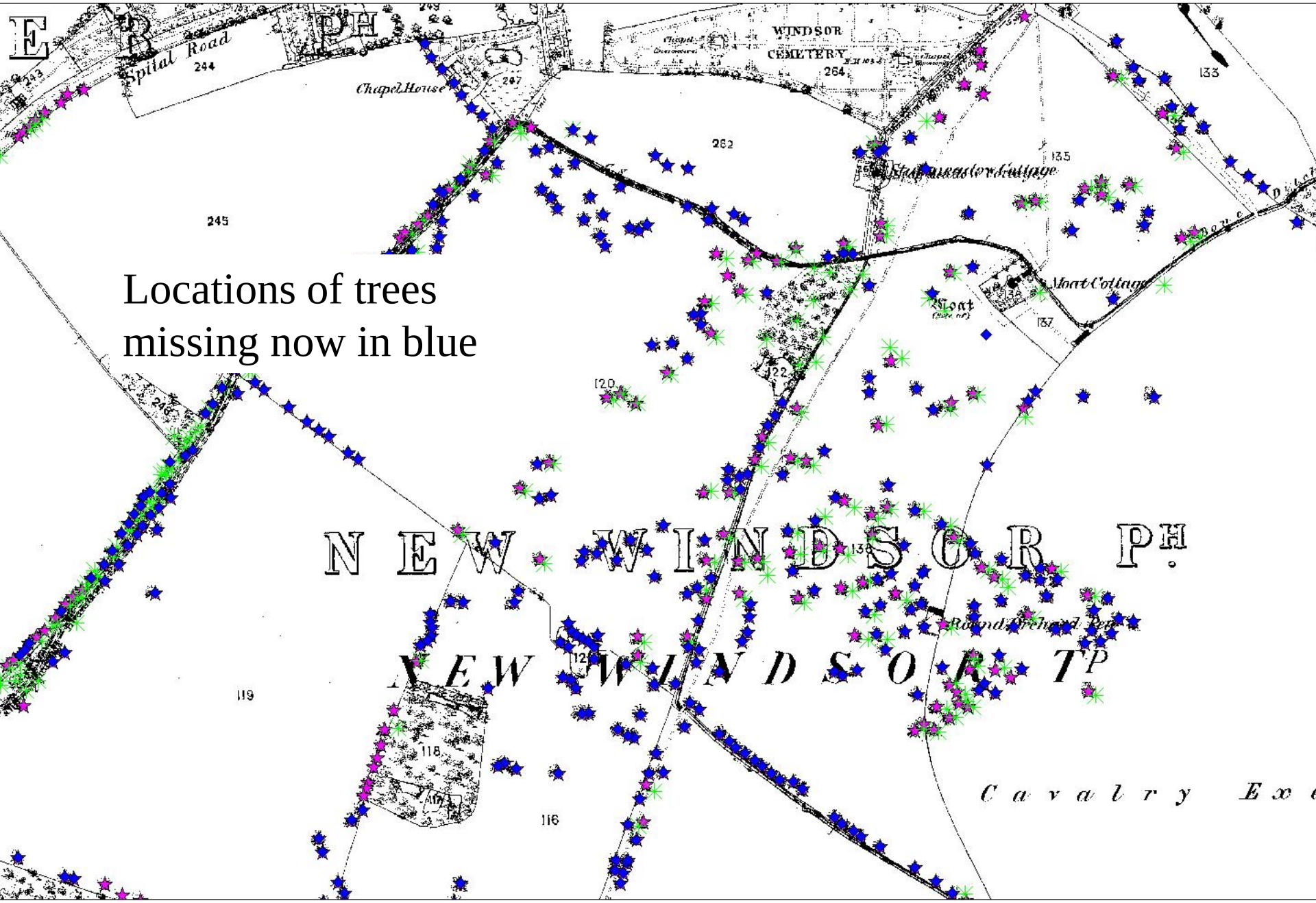
Stag Meadow Windsor

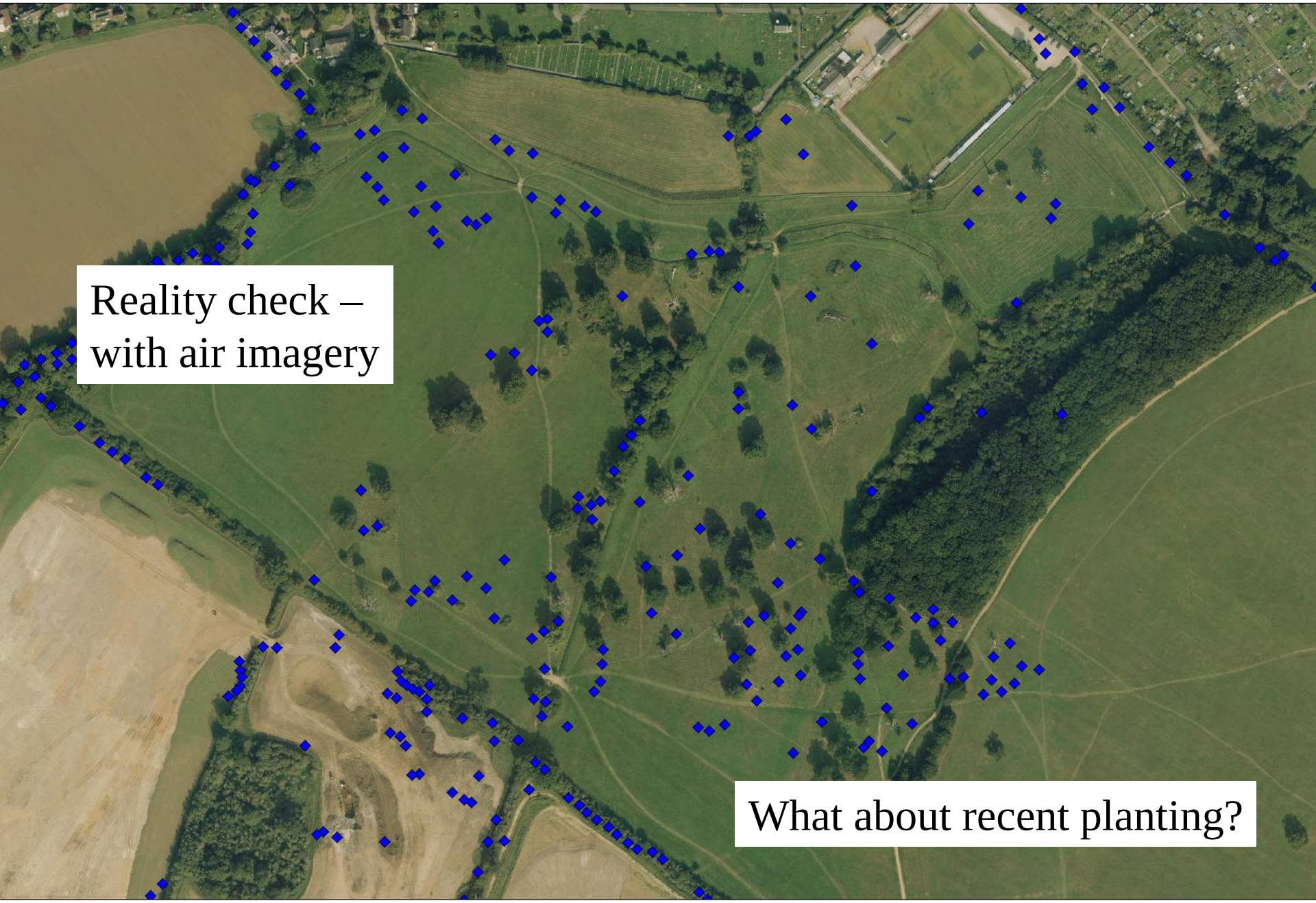
1st and 2nd Epoch OS
Individual trees picked out with pink stars

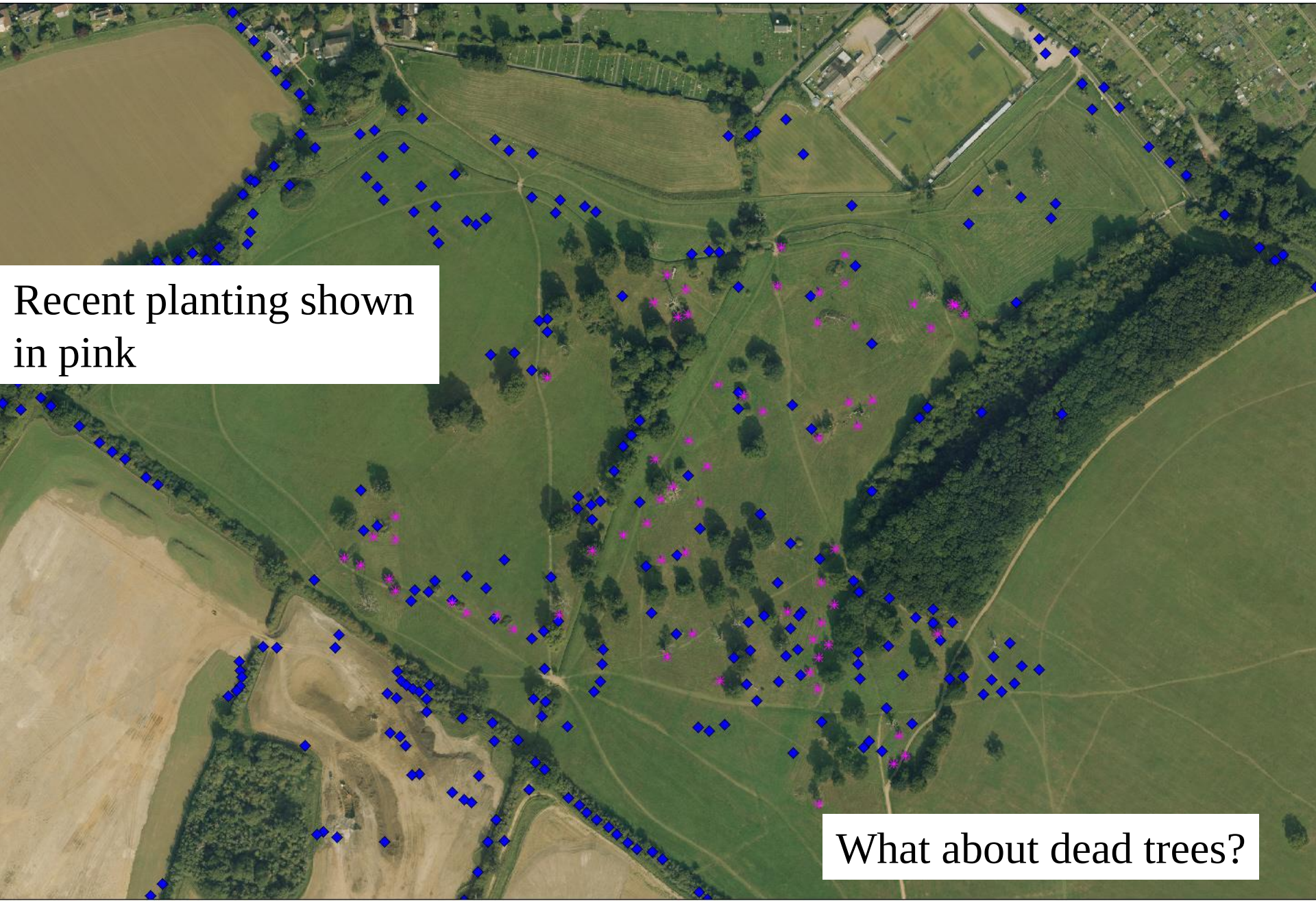


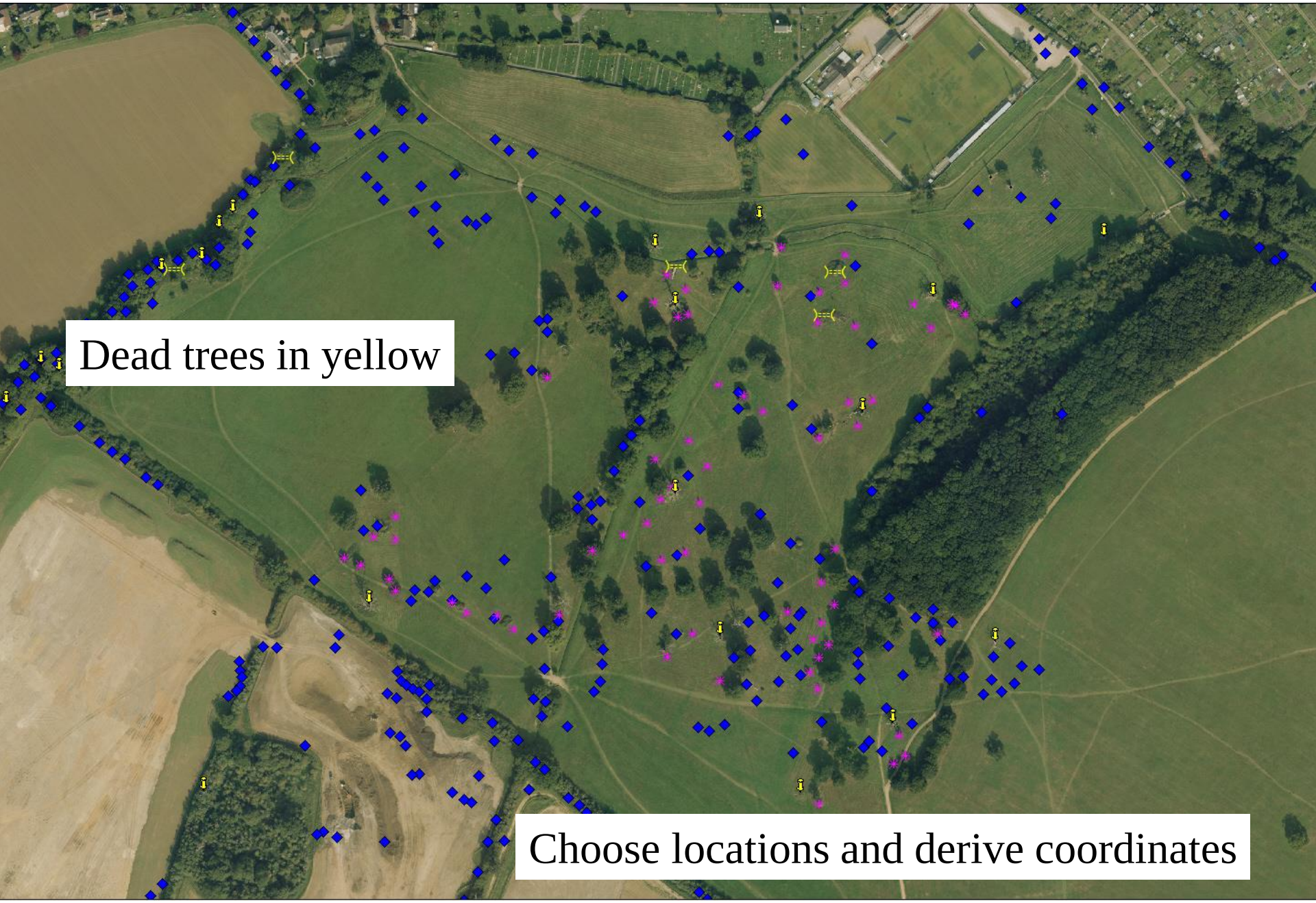


With GPS survey locations in green


Locations of trees
missing now in blue
Spital Road
Chapel House
WINDSOR
CEMETERY
Moat Cottage
NEW WINDSOR PH
NEW WINDSOR TP
Cavalry Ex


Reality check –
with air imagery
What about recent planting?


Recent planting shown in pink
What about dead trees?


Dead trees in yellow
Choose locations and derive coordinates

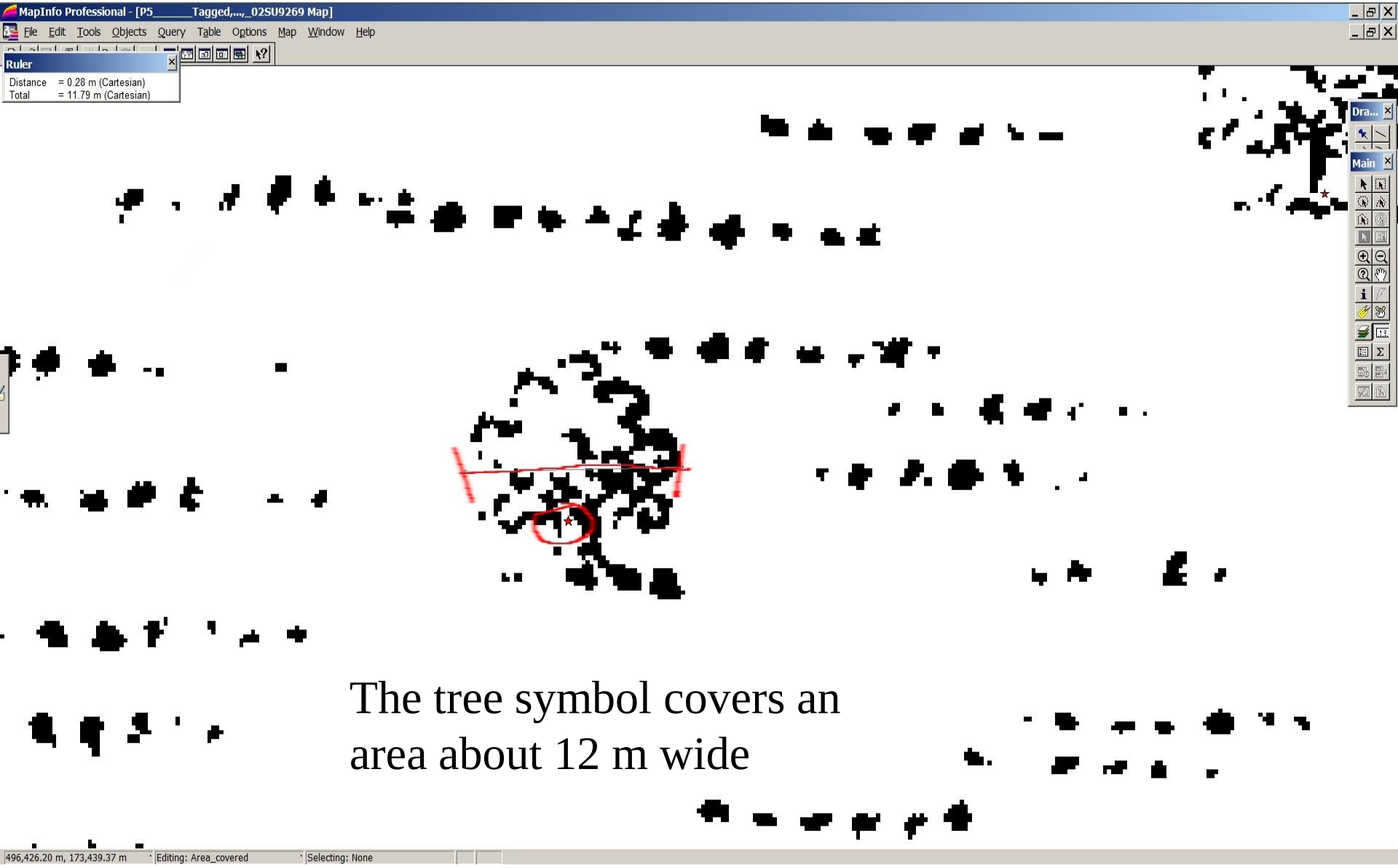
No	Area	LOCATION	FROM MAP East	FROM MAP North
1	7	NW Bronze Oak	496331.14	173500.66
2	7	NW Bronze Oak	496340.38	173503.74
3	7	NW Bronze Oak	496347.36	173499.02
4	7	NW Bronze Oak	496354.76	173495.31
5	7	NW Bronze Oak	496362.56	173491.41
6	7	NW Bronze Oak	496365.44	173503.12
7	7	NW Bronze Oak	496382.69	173510.73
8	7	NW Bronze Oak	496384.95	173499.22
9	7	NW Bronze Oak	496393.37	173501.68
10	7	NW Bronze Oak	496407.55	173514.02
11	7	NW Bronze Oak	496417.35	173486.95
12	7	NW Bronze Oak	496350.84	173546.36
13	7	NW Bronze Oak	496402.5	173610.8
14	7	NW Bronze Oak	496435.08	173624.64
15	7	NW Bronze Oak	496441.65	173633.28

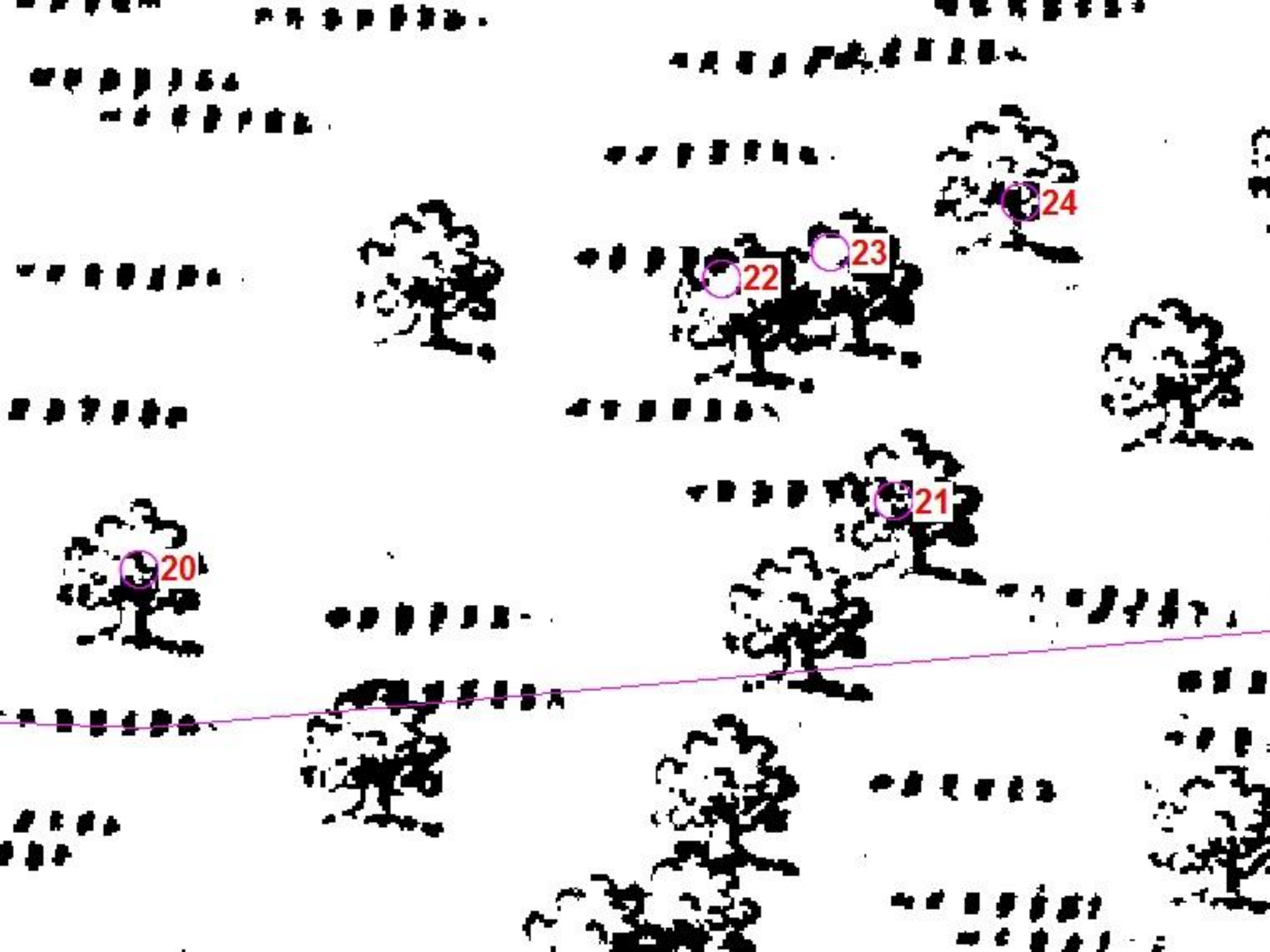
I'm strong and sturdy

Stump hollow

No	Area	LOCATION	FROM MAP	FROM MAP	SET OUT	SET OUT	Difference M				Displaced = near track, other tree etc	Comment
			East	North	East	North	Tree Number	East	North			
1	7	NW Bronze Oak	496331.14	173500.66	496331.33	173500.63	7.1	0.19	-0.03			
2	7	NW Bronze Oak	496340.38	173503.74	496340.44	173503.94	7.2	0.06	0.20			
3	7	NW Bronze Oak	496347.36	173499.02	496347.04	173498.68	7.3	-0.32	-0.34			
4	7	NW Bronze Oak	496354.76	173495.31	496354.70	173495.41	7.4	-0.06	0.10			
5	7	NW Bronze Oak	496362.56	173491.41	496362.54	173491.55	7.5	-0.02	0.14			
6	7	NW Bronze Oak	496365.44	173503.12	496365.35	173503.10	7.6	-0.09	-0.02			
7	7	NW Bronze Oak	496382.69	173510.73	496383.88	173510.80	7.7	1.19	0.07		Displaced	
8	7	NW Bronze Oak	496384.95	173499.22	496384.94	173496.72	7.8	-0.01	-2.50		Displaced	Centre of stump hollow
9	7	NW Bronze Oak	496393.37	173501.68	496394.83	173500.41	7.9	1.46	-1.27		Displaced	
					496397.16	173505.45	7.9a					Extra tree in hollow
10	7	NW Bronze Oak	496407.55	173514.02	496407.74	173507.79	7.1	0.19	-6.23		Displaced	
11	7	NW Bronze Oak	496417.35	173486.95	496412.48	173484.85	7.11	-4.87	-2.10		Displaced	
12	7	NW Bronze Oak	496350.84	173546.36	496350.92	173546.72	7.12	0.08	0.36			
13	7	NW Bronze Oak	496402.5	173610.8	496403.51	173610.23	7.13	1.01	-0.57		Displaced	Centre of stump hollow
14	7	NW Bronze Oak	496435.08	173624.64	496434.77	173624.51	7.14	-0.31	-0.13			
15	7	NW Bronze Oak	496441.65	173633.28	496437.53	173638.02	7.15	-4.12	4.74		Displaced	

Double-checking


MapInfo Professional - [P5_____Tagged,..._02SU9269 Map]
File Edit Tools Objects Query Table Options Map Window Help
Ruler
Distance = 0.28 m (Cartesian)
Total = 11.79 m (Cartesian)
Dra...
Main
The tree symbol covers an area about 12 m wide
496,426.20 m, 173,439.37 m
Editing: Area_covered
Selecting: None


24
23
22
21
20

This has been about where to plant
But what!
Oak would seem to be a natural choice for much.

But much of Windsor is public access
OPM?

But whatever, plenty of scope to restore such treescapes

Barcham
The Tree Specialists

THANK YOU

WINDSOR GREAT PARK

THE CROWN ESTATE