Mapping Suffolk's Ancient Trees

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SBIS for short!

Who are we?

Local Environmental Record Centre

Non-profit organisation hosted by Suffolk County Council

Custodians of Suffolk's biodiversity data

Hold over 6 million species records

Data sources:

- Volunteers
- Local experts
- Surveys
- County recorders
- Wildlife groups
- Consultants

SBIS
SUFFOLK BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION SERVICE

www.suffolkbis.org.uk

Mapping Ancient Trees with STWN

Why Record Ancient Trees?

- Identifying and protecting our natural heritage
- Understanding their distribution
- Informing conservation efforts
- Highlighting their importance to the wider community
- Creating a valuable resource for future generations

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Ancient oak tree cut down by Toby Carvery

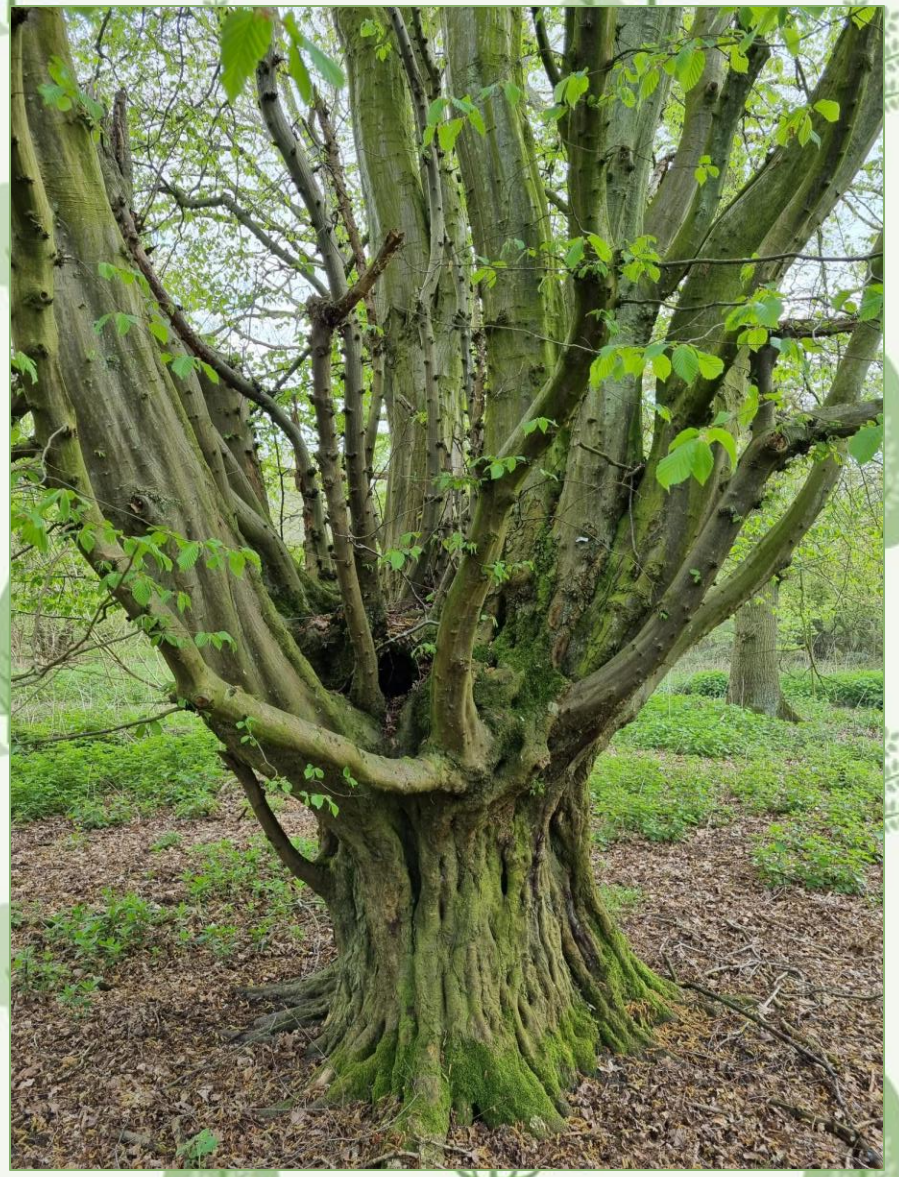
The oak tree was found cut down on 3 April

Tea Party Oak at Ickworth (Photo credit: Feadora Morris)

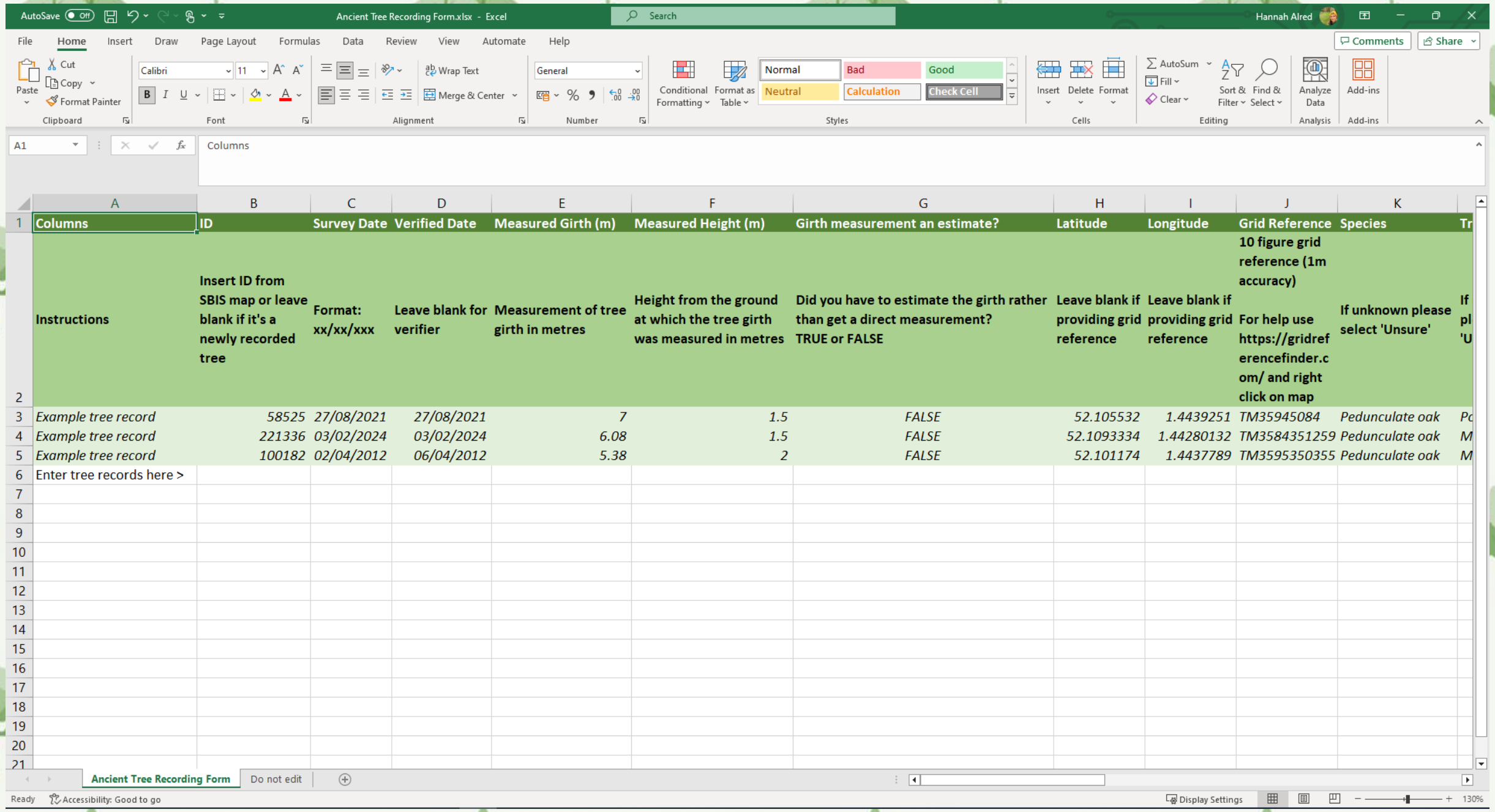
What to record

ID
Survey Date
Verified Date
Measured Girth (m)
Measured Height (m)
Girth measurement an estimate?
Latitude
Longitude
Grid Reference
Species
Tree Form
Recorder

Local Name
Town
Standing Status
Living Status
Public Access Notes
Veteran Status
Condition
Threat
Protection
Special Status
Epiphyte
Fungus



Burgate Wood Hornbeam Photo credit: David Appleton

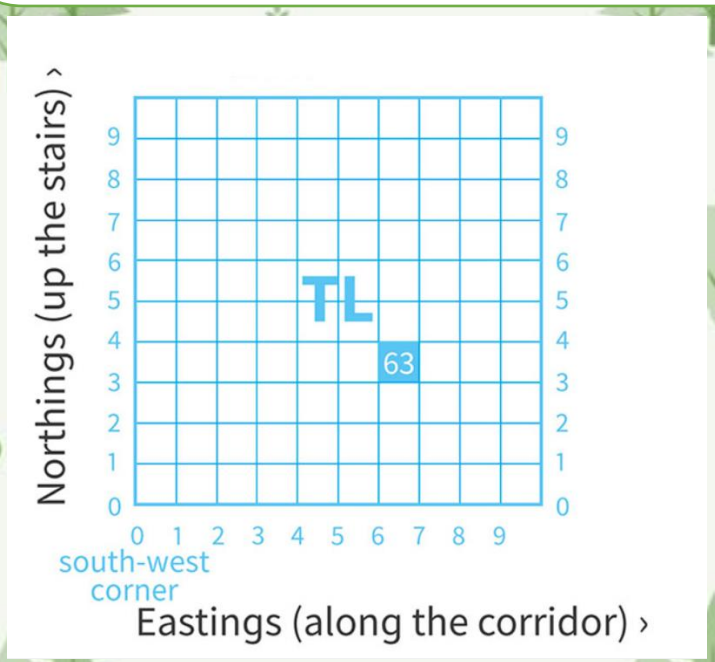


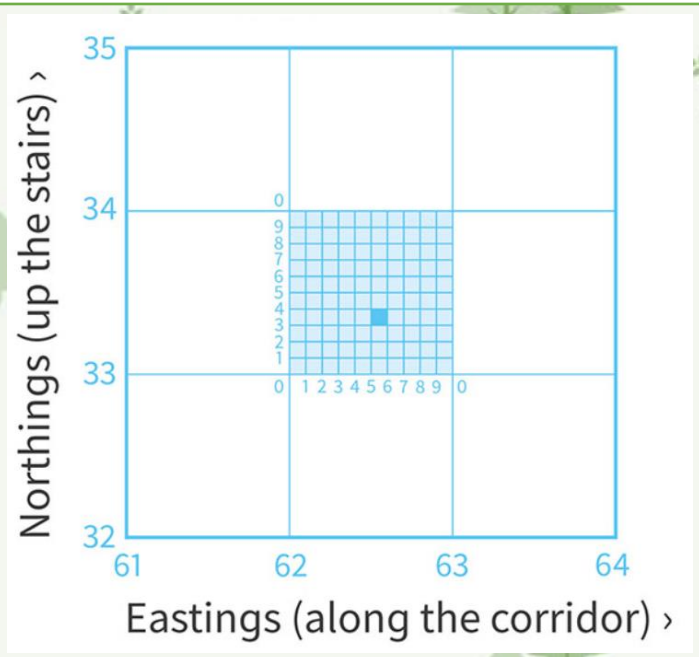
Columns	ID	Survey Date	Verified Date	Measured Girth (m)	Measured Height (m)	Girth measurement an estimate?	Latitude	Longitude	Grid Reference	Species	Tr
Instructions	Insert ID from SBIS map or leave blank if it's a newly recorded tree	Format: xx/xx/xxx	Leave blank for verifier	Measurement of tree girth in metres	Height from the ground at which the tree girth was measured in metres	Did you have to estimate the girth rather than get a direct measurement? TRUE or FALSE	Leave blank if providing grid reference	Leave blank if providing grid reference	10 figure grid reference (1m accuracy) For help use https://gridreferencefinder.com/ and right click on map	If unknown please select 'Unsure'	If pl 'U
Example tree record	*58525*	*27/08/2021*	*27/08/2021*	*7*	*1.5*	*FALSE*	*52.105532*	*1.4439251*	*TM35945084*	*Pedunculate oak*	*Pc*
Example tree record	*221336*	*03/02/2024*	*03/02/2024*	*6.08*	*1.5*	*FALSE*	*52.1093334*	*1.44280132*	*TM3584351259*	*Pedunculate oak*	*M*
Example tree record	*100182*	*02/04/2012*	*06/04/2012*	*5.38*	*2*	*FALSE*	*52.101174*	*1.4437789*	*TM3595350355*	*Pedunculate oak*	*M*
Enter tree records here >											

Grid References

Why so important?

- Accurate mapping is key to making our data useful.
- Finding a tree is not always that easy …
- Works by dividing the map into a grid of squares, with each square having a unique reference
- Suffolk covered by TM and TL grids
- Further divided into smaller squares – TL 63 and TL 625 333

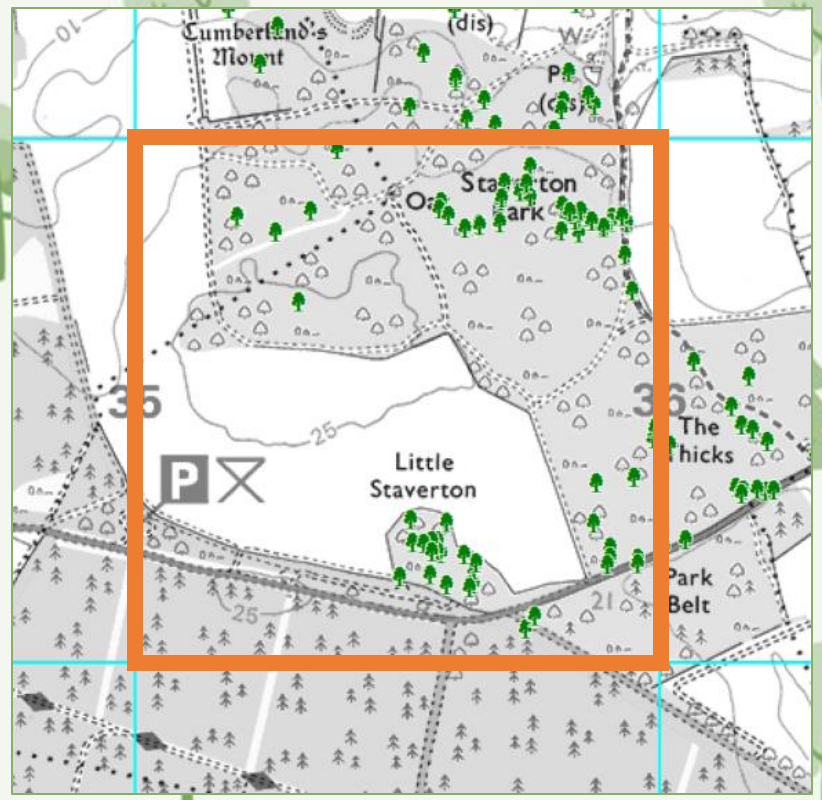




			HO	HP		
			HT	HU		
	HW	HX	HY	HZ		
NA	NB	NC	ND	NE		
NF	NG	NH	NJ	NK		
NL	NM	NN	NO	NP		
	NR	NS	NT	NU		
	NW	NX	NY	NZ	OV	
		SC	SD	SE	TA	
		SH	SJ	SK	TF	TG
	SM	SN	SO	SP	TL	TM
	SR	SS	ST	SU	TQ	TR
SV	SW	SX	SY	SZ	TV	

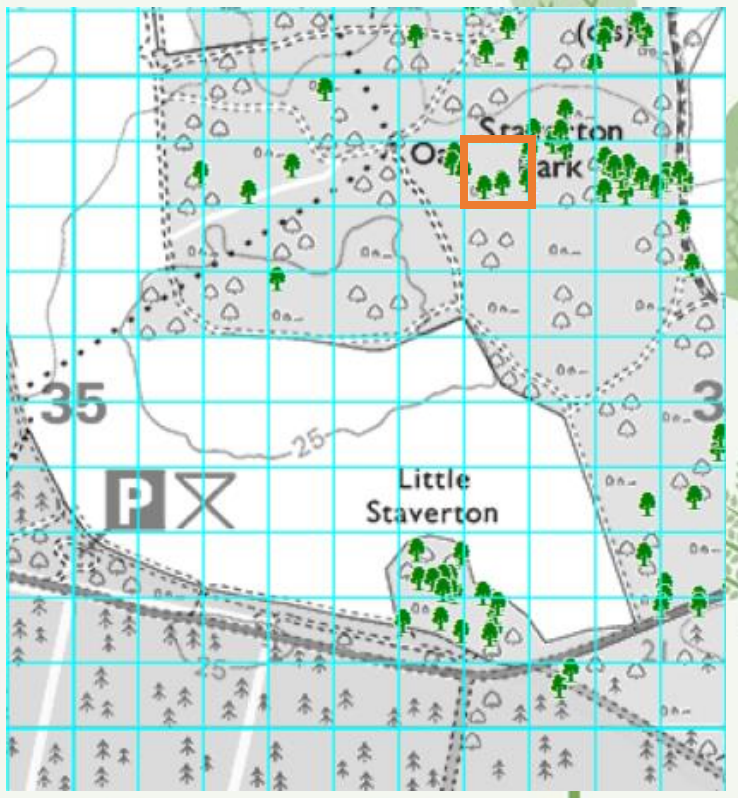
Source: https://getoutside.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/guides/beginners-guide-to-grid-references/

TM 35 50



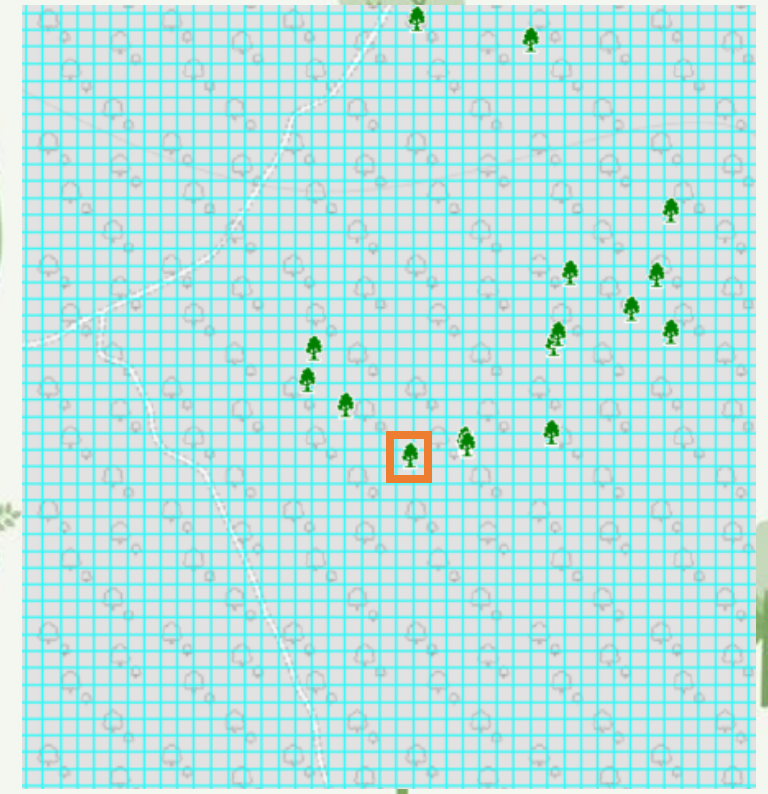
1 km x 1 km

TM 356 508



100 m x 100 m

TM 35631 50830



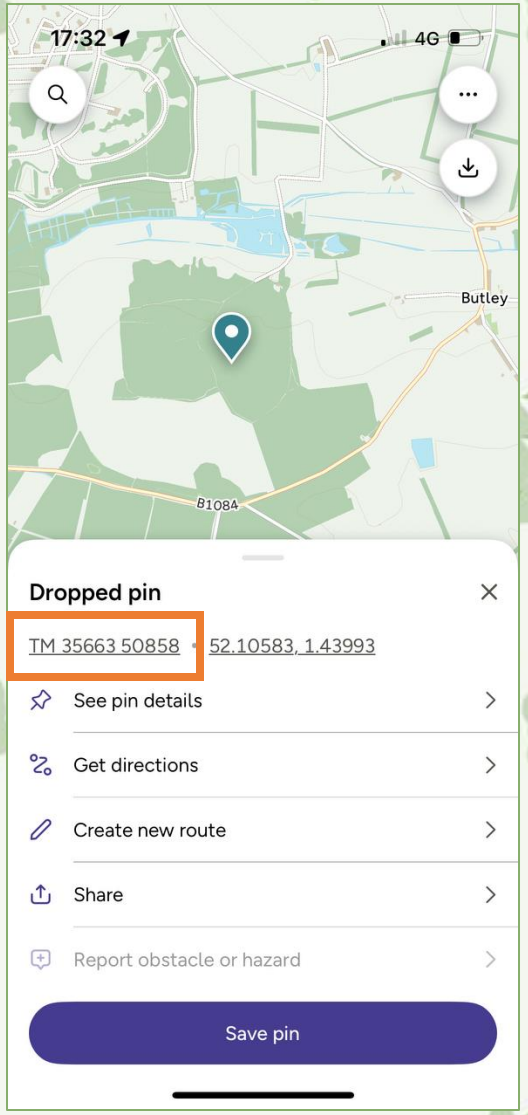
1 m x 1 m

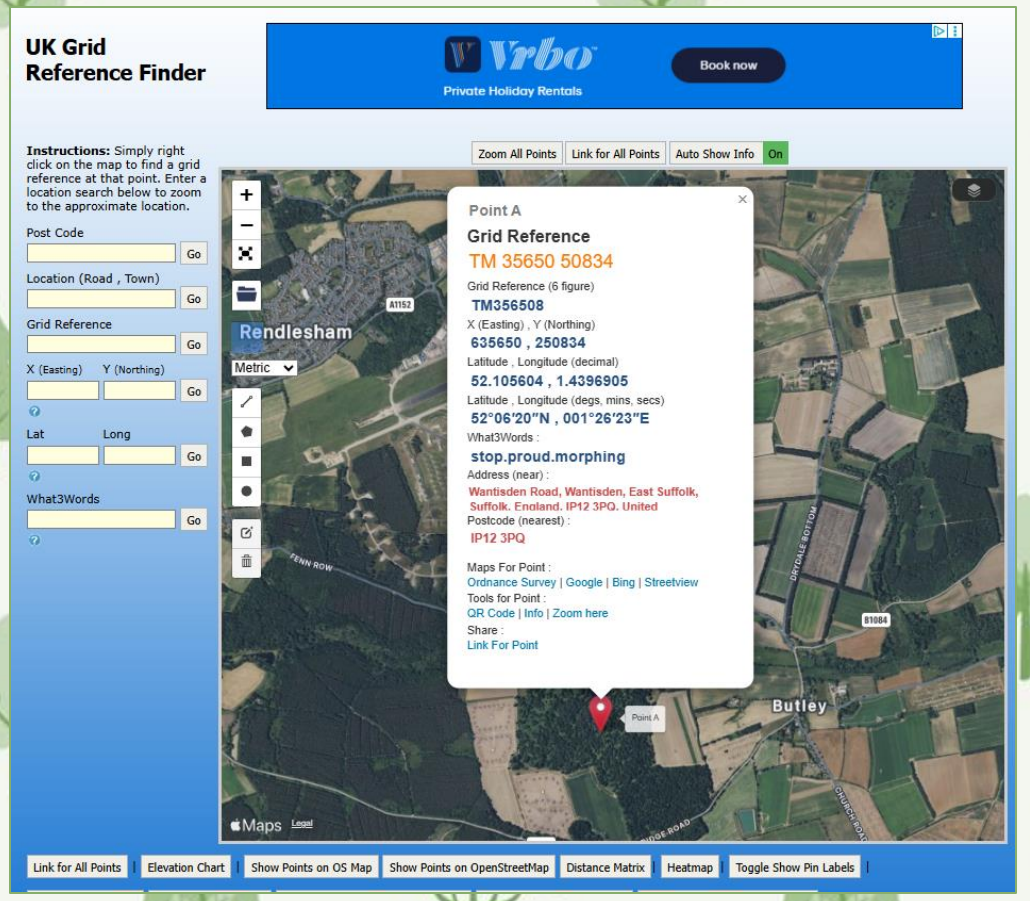
Obtaining a 10-Figure Grid Reference

- Smartphone Apps:
  - OS Locate App (Ordnance Survey)
  - What3words (useful for cross-referencing, but use GR for data)

- GPS Devices: Handheld GPS units

- Online Mapping Tools:
  - OS Leisure Maps website
  - Grid Reference Finder website





https://gridreferencefinder.com

Suffolk Ancient, Veteran and Notable Trees

Legend

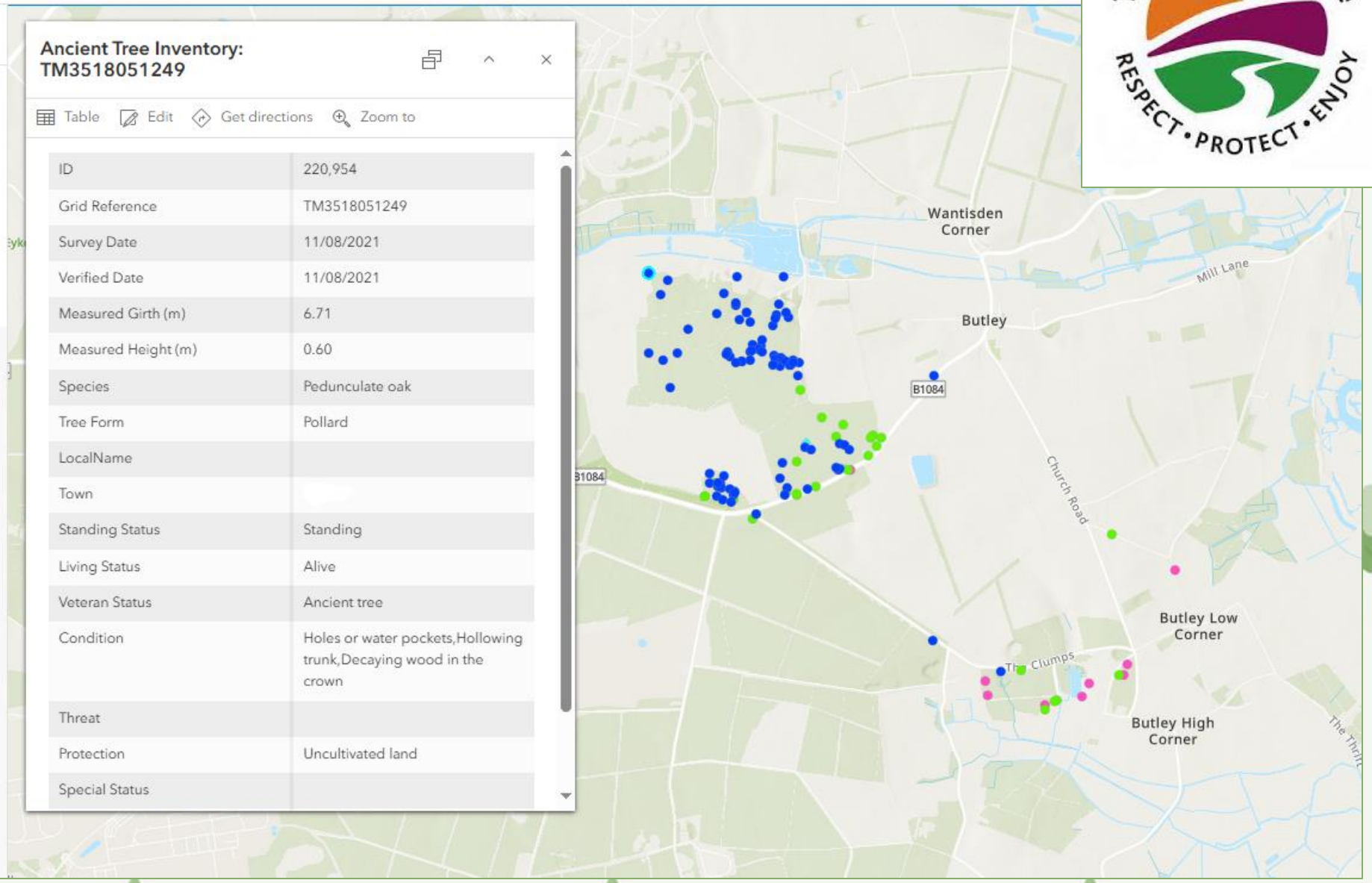
Suffolk ATI

- Ancient tree
- Veteran tree
- Notable tree
- Lost Ancient tree
- Lost Veteran tree
- Lost Notable tree

Ancient Tree Inventory: TM3518051249

Table | Edit | Get directions | Zoom to

ID	220,954
Grid Reference	TM3518051249
Survey Date	11/08/2021
Verified Date	11/08/2021
Measured Girth (m)	6.71
Measured Height (m)	0.60
Species	Pedunculate oak
Tree Form	Pollard
LocalName	
Town	
Standing Status	Standing
Living Status	Alive
Veteran Status	Ancient tree
Condition	Holes or water pockets,Hollowing trunk,Decaying wood in the crown
Threat	
Protection	Uncultivated land
Special Status	



The Countryside Code
RESPECT • PROTECT • ENJOY

Sweet chestnut at Redgrave Park Photo credit: David Appleton

Thanks for listening!