

Tree Survey, 59 Garfits Lane, West Skirbeck

22 November 2023

Introduction

No59 Garfits Lane is a residential property with a well wooded garden with mature trees. This is the report of a survey of those trees. The trees were surveyed from ground level visually and using a sounding hammer and probe.

All the trees are thought to be protected by Tree Preservation Order West Skirbeck No2 1957.

Trees with notable structural faults or management recommendations were recorded and are identified using numbered aluminium tags attached at 2m above the ground.

The locations of trees are plotted using the app What3words.

Findings and Recommendations

The locations of the recorded trees are shown on the map below. Trees with notable structural faults are recorded in Table 1 below.

3x trees were recorded with management recommendations: 2x crack willows that have grown to maturity and are starting to break up.

Number 599 has vertical splits in the stems and is hollow and overhangs the property to the north.

Number 604 is also twin stemmed and is collapsing with one limb resting on another tree and on a powerline.

Both trees should be felled or could be pollarded as directed in Table 1, the recommendations should be implemented within 6 months. The powerline company should be notified of tree 604 and may wish to take it down themselves.

Sycamore tree number 600 has extensive fruiting bodies of the decay fungus *Kretzschmaria deusta* on its base, these look like charcoal and cause brittle fracture. This tree should be felled within 6 months.

Sycamore number 601 has a large stub of a dead stem that is decayed and full of woodpecker holes. This tree is not imminently unsound and has a value for wildlife so can be retained for now.

Ash tree 602 has fruiting bodies of the fungus *Inonotus hispidus* on its upper stem this fungus decays the heartwood of ash and is typical of mature ash trees. The tree leans over the pond and appears otherwise healthy so can be retained for now.

Horse chestnut tree 603 has a strip of exposed wood down the south side of the stem from the base to 10m, this is characteristic of chestnuts that have had bleeding canker and recovered but leaving the wood exposed to infection by decay fungi. There was no decay fungus apparent at the time of inspection but the tree should be monitored for fungal fruiting bodies in autumns.

Ash tree 605 leans over Garfits Lane and is forked to the base with "included bark" which makes a structurally weak fork. The lean of the tree was probably caused by it growing away from the large sycamore, the tall stump of which remains. The tree appears healthy but should be monitored on future inspections.

To the north of the bungalow are small self-set elm trees and Portuguese laurel growing close to the house and touching the roof, these should be pruned to give the building 2m clearance.

All these proposed works will require consent from Boston Borough Council under the TPO.

Future inspection period

In the report on the oak tree that overhangs the bungalow it is recommended that the tree is inspected every 2 years by a qualified arboriculturist, it would be worth them inspecting the other trees on the site at the same time.

Inspector's Qualifications

Nigel Sardeson is a Chartered Forester and Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association, he holds the LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection Certificate.

Tree Locations 59 Garfits Lane

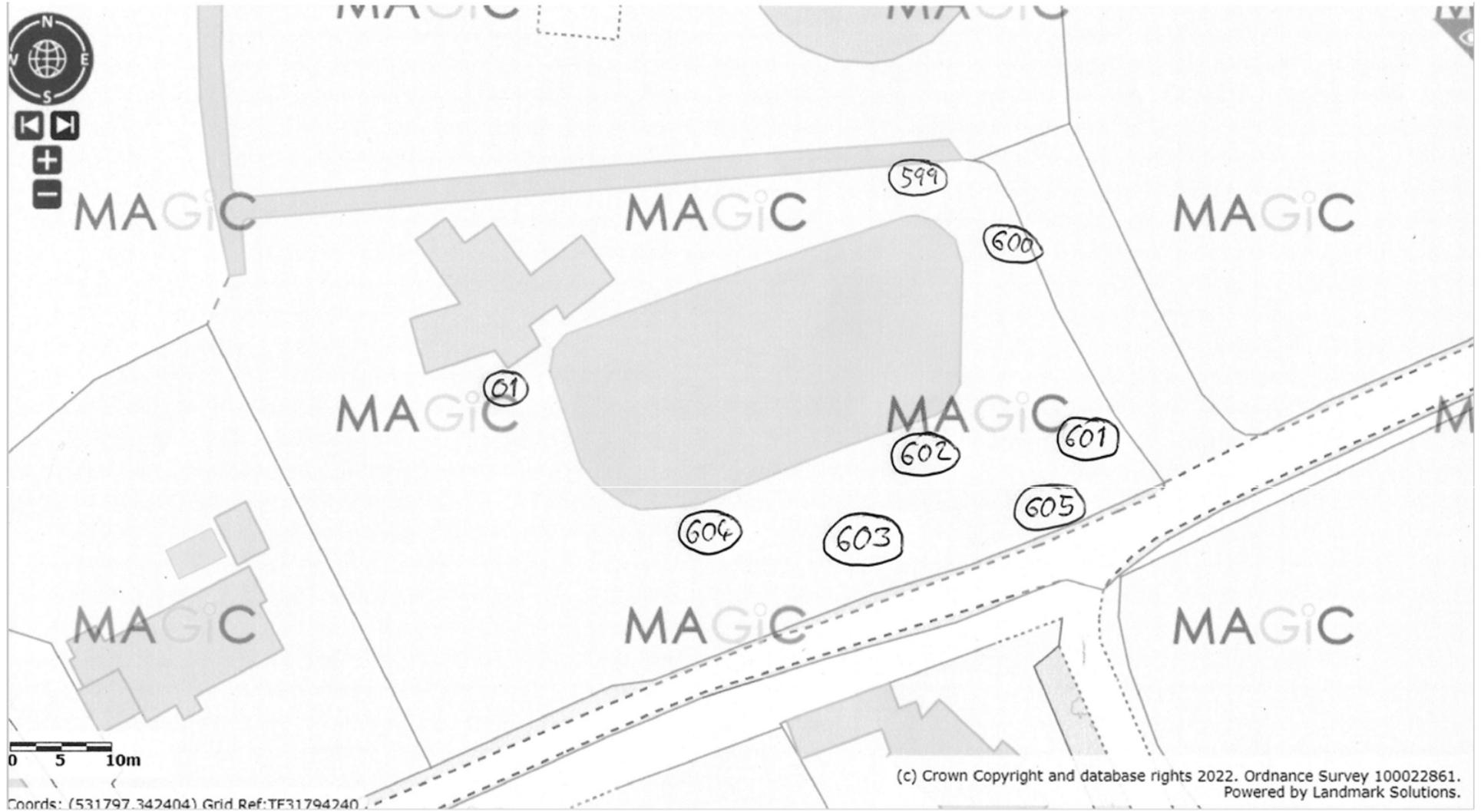


Table 1.

Ref.	Species	Location: What3words	Measurements	Survey Notes	Recommendations
599	Crack Willow (<i>Salix fragilis</i>)	Mute.catch.chart	Height (m): 20 DBH (cm): 90 Stems: 2	Split, decayed stems, healthy crown	Coppice to 2m Timescale: 22-May-2024 (6 Months)
600	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Cube.nobody.entertainer	Height (m): 18 DBH (cm): 90	Extensive Kretzschmaria between buttresses	Fell Timescale: 22-May-2024 (6 Months)
601	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Salads.oddly.across	Height (m): 16 DBH (cm): 50	Dead stub of limb at 6m, woodpecker holes, decayed,	Tolerable, wildlife value
602	Ash (<i>Fraxinus sp.</i>)	Terms.Monday.outfit	Height (m): 16 DBH (cm): 70	Inonotus at 10m, healthy crown, lean over pond	Tolerable
603	Horse Chestnut (<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>)	Span.retail.trap	Height (m): 17 DBH (cm): 80	Strip of dead down south side of stem 20cm from base to 10m,	Monitor for decay fungi
604	Crack Willow (<i>Salix fragilis</i>)	Firmly.track.remind	Height (m): 18 DBH (cm): 90 Stems: 2	Collapsing, resting on neighbouring trees and powerline!	Fell or pollard to 4m, contact power company Timescale: 22-May-2024 (6 Months)
605	Ash (<i>Fraxinus sp.</i>)	Cheer.chin.hungry	Height (m): 18 DBH (cm): 50 Stems: 2	Included bark in fork at base, lean over road,	Monitor lean
T001	Pedunculate Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)		Height (m): 22 DBH (cm):115	Good condition	Monitor