

**Taking a look at the wooded area bordering Blakes Lane (to the south) and the National Trust field (to the north) in East Clandon, Surrey.**

**24<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

First, I walked approx. 100m. E to W along the NT field facing the north boundary of the trees, between (approx.) opposite Blakes Lane Farm and the fence boundary which runs between the trees and the A246.

Mature Trees, most are very tall. Ages estimated at c. 150 years??? Growing in apparently random order.

Sycamore	10 trees
Ash	4
Field maple	3
Horse chestnut	6
Beech	4
Scots (?) pine	2
Lime	7
Copper beech	1

(I went no further than the fence across field to A246)

Sycamore, Horse chestnut and Lime are the most prevalent, closely followed by Beech and Ash

Copper beech, and Scots pine unexpected.

No Oak

No Elm (nor visible remains)

No Sweet chestnut

I then headed back, west, inside area of trees.

Mature trees appear to be in a line along the north border with field, but in places it looked as though there is a double line of mature trees.

Some fallen trees. Trees in centre and to south side (Blakes Lane side) are generally very spindly and thin and less mature (are they self-sown, or the result of natural coppicing, or growth from fallen stumps). Some have definitely grown from stumps.

Understorey.

Not much variety: low light level. Thick with fallen, decaying leaves. Very uneven – fox earths and badger setts. Much agricultural debris! Mainly wire, posts; some patches of piled up dead wood.

Hedera helix – ivy

Mercurialis perennis Dogs mercury

Gallium aparine Cleavers

Anemone nemorosa Wood anemone

Veronica sp Speedwell

Achillea millefolium Milfoil

Allium ursinum Wild garlic (single large patch)

Some poorly developed spindly trees

Plants identified along margin with NT field, thick shade.

Clematis vitalba Old man's beard

Urtica dioica Stinging nettle

Cirsium vulgare Meadow Thistle

Gallium aparine Cleavers/goosegrass

Hedera helix Ivy

Geum sp Avens/herb bennet

Rubus fruticosus bramble

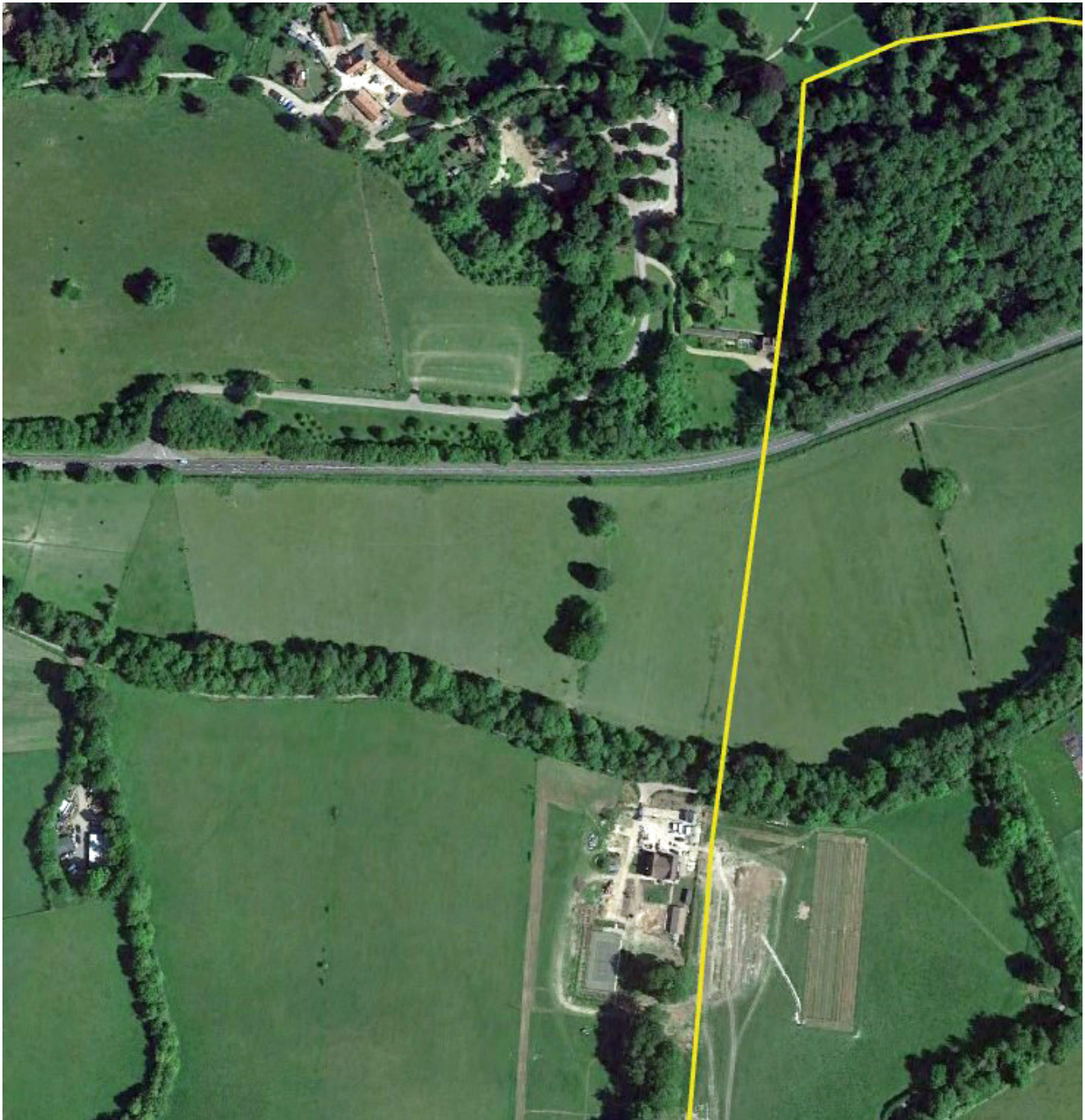
Cirsium sp thistle

Mercurialis perennis Dogs mercury

Arum maculatum Cuckoo pint

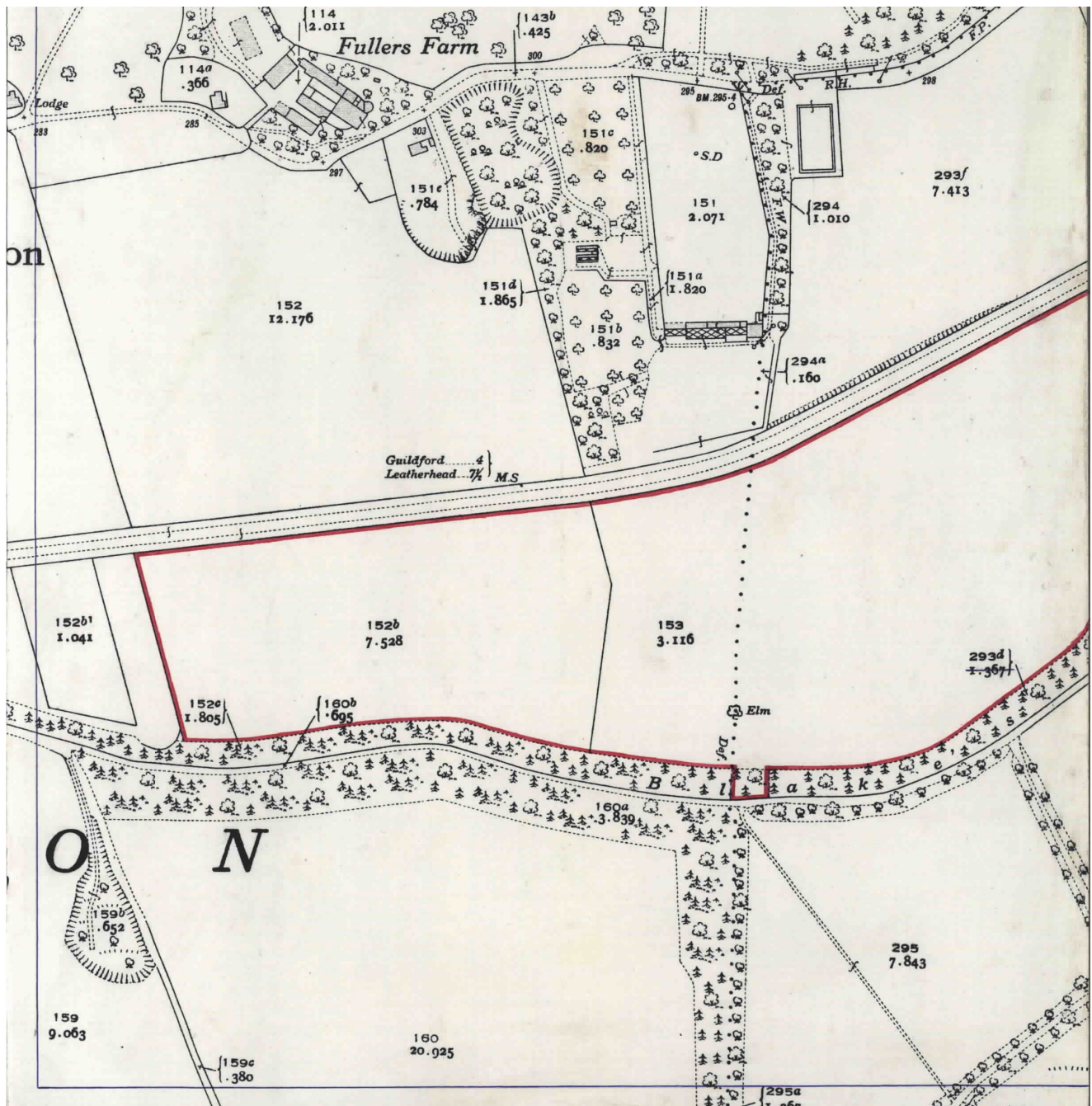
Alliaria petiolate Jack by the hedge

Geranium sp Herb Robert



A September 2021 Google Earth view of the part of the shaw located within East Clandon parish. Land west of the yellow boundary is within East Clandon Parish.





A 1961 map of the Blakes Lane 'shaw' with extensive wooded areas on each side of the lane and up the valley to the south. In 2023 the only wooded areas are those north of Blakes Lane and the BOAT on (lower right) heading south up the hill (in West Clandon parish).

25<sup>th</sup> May

**East, from junction of Blakes Lane with the BOAT**

I walked approx. 100m W to E along the NT field, as far as opposite Woolgars Farm. This whole length was in shade (10am) while the length looked at yesterday was already in full sunshine.

Generally appeared to be a less defined line of large trees facing NT field.

Fewer Horse chestnuts

Mix of Beech, Lime, Sycamore

One Copper beech

Some holly, privet, elder – understorey /self sown probably

Hawthorn

Beeches are very tall

A few tall Scots(?) Pine, more towards the east.

I then accessed the interior.

Very dense and in several places almost impenetrable and low light level.

Thin, sapling, spindly trees; much dead wood with thick dead leaf mulch / branches underfoot

Ground cover mainly Dogs mercury, patches of Cuckoo pint.

Many yews scattered throughout, some large and multi-stemmed.

Some holly

Couldn't make out a defined row of yew and holly (which might have indicated an old drovers' track way); but some of the yew looks very old.

This would be better investigated by a "countryside historian", or an ecologist who can also identify the ages of trees. Such a person could identify the reasons for the growth of this band of woodland: the age of the mature trees, how much was deliberately planted, for example. If, as I think, the trees are all less than 200 years old this points to planting in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Shaws**

What is/was a "shaw". Is it just an old word for a wooded area?

How wide was a shaw – and what determined its length?

Why were they planted or was it natural woodland?

Where were they planted?

What trees did they consist of?

Were they actively worked?

What shaws exist today?

Are they associated with place names e.g. Ottershaw, Bramshaw, Withenshaw?

### **From wikipedia**

Shaw is (a masculine name) of English origin, meaning "wood" or "thicket." Derived from the Old English word sceaga, which points to a person or "dweller by the wood,"

As a topographical name, Shaw was used for someone who lived by a copse, wood, or thicket, derived from the Old English pre 7th Century "sceaga", copse, small wood. As a locational surname, Shaw is derived from any one of the numerous small places names Shaw, from the Old English "sceaga", such as those in Berkshire, Lancashire, and Wiltshire. Shaw in Berkshire is recorded as "Essages" in the Domesday Book of 1086, and in Lancashire as "Shaghe" in 1555, and a place in Wiltshire as "schaga" in the 1167 Pipe Rolls of the county.

See photos below.





1. Looking E along line of trees facing NT field



2. Area of wild garlic





4. Understorey. Predominantly Dogs mercury



5. Area opposite start of junction with BOAT, looking west