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23.08.24

Phillipa & Darren Bain
27 King St
Mosgiel 9024

Dear Phillipa & Darren,

In our discussion about tree risk we have talked of your concerns about branch or whole tree failure over your house, which I have assessed as being at lower end of Moderate using the ISA Tree Risk system. With climate change coming upon us it is clear that weather events have become less predictable & more extreme, which in turn begs the question of established normal weather patterns generally. In tree risk assessment the guidance is to make assessments according to these accepted normal weather patterns, within any specified locale.

However, there always the outlier events which break the established patterns. Extreme weather events occasionally do occur on the Taieri & such a storm passed over the plain sometime in the late autumn of 2008. I happened to be working in the upper canopy of a large old English Oak at 186 East Taieri - Allanton Highway (SH1) in June 2008. On seeing a tree of similar size uprooted about 400m away in the paddock & went to inspect it out of curiosity; finding a large old English Oak lying on the ground.

The tree was healthy, without any rot & had only recently been uprooted with about a 5 tonne root-plate attached. Some withered leaves were still attached to the branchlets but essentially it had blown over when out of leaf. It was astounding because it appeared impossible that this could happen to a 150 year tree, after standing through so many storms in its lifetime. As arborists we do talk of Oaks as 'bombproof' trees, meaning that they simply keep standing for 5 centuries or more. It certainly would not have seemed credible for a large old Oak tree to be simply uprooted; until I had seen it with my own eyes.

The only explanation of the old Oak tree uprooting could be that an intense period of rain together with sou'west gales had combined to loosen the grip of the root system in saturated soils.

I must stress that this tree being uprooted is an outlier, but with climate change there is an extra element of unpredictability in weather patterns.

If you require any further information please contact me.

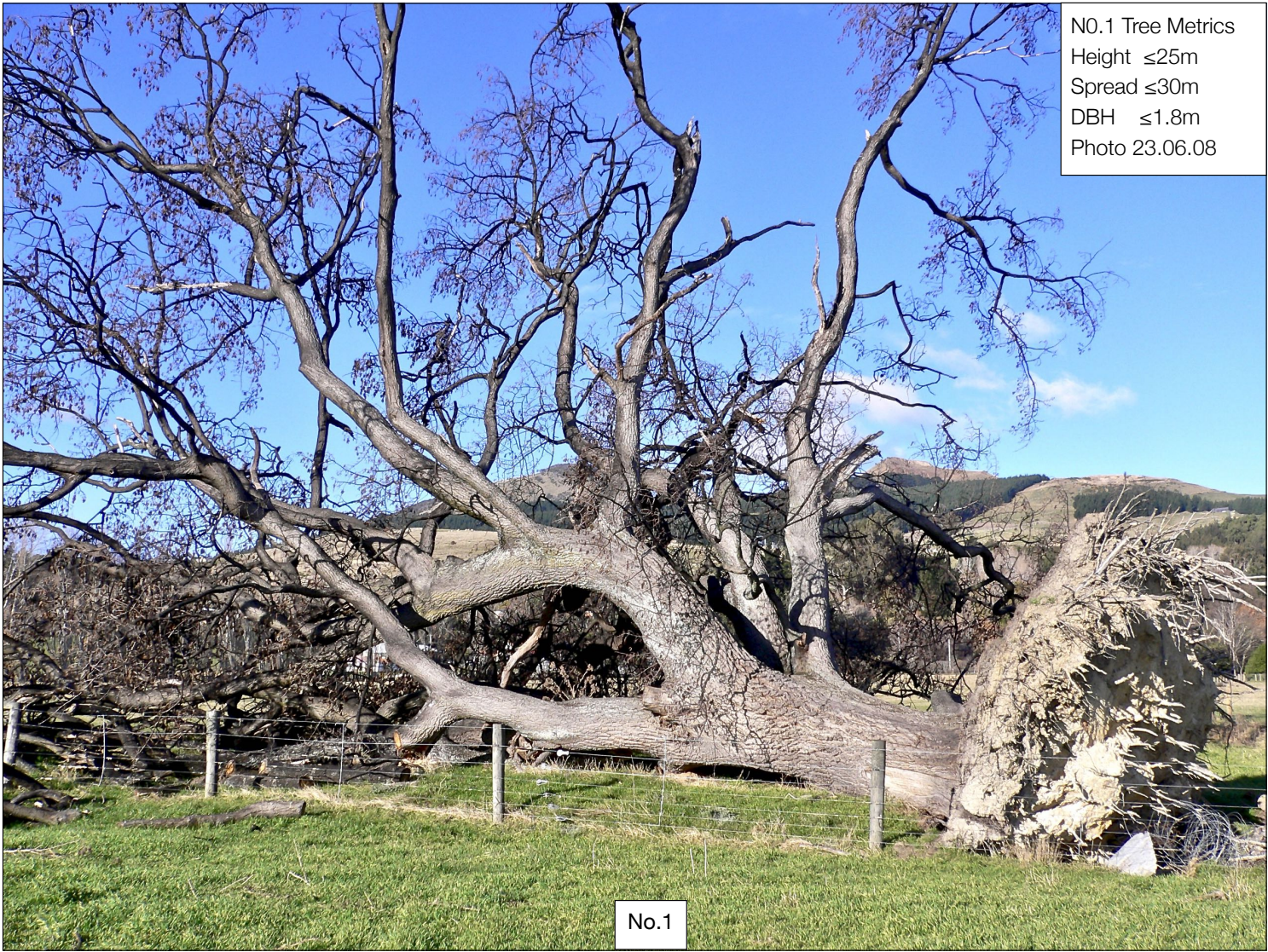
Yours sincerely,



Peter Waymouth



2x Large 150 year old healthy English Oaks: No.1 uprooted in a storm at East Taieri - autumn 2008 & No.2 still standing on the East Taieri straight - 2024



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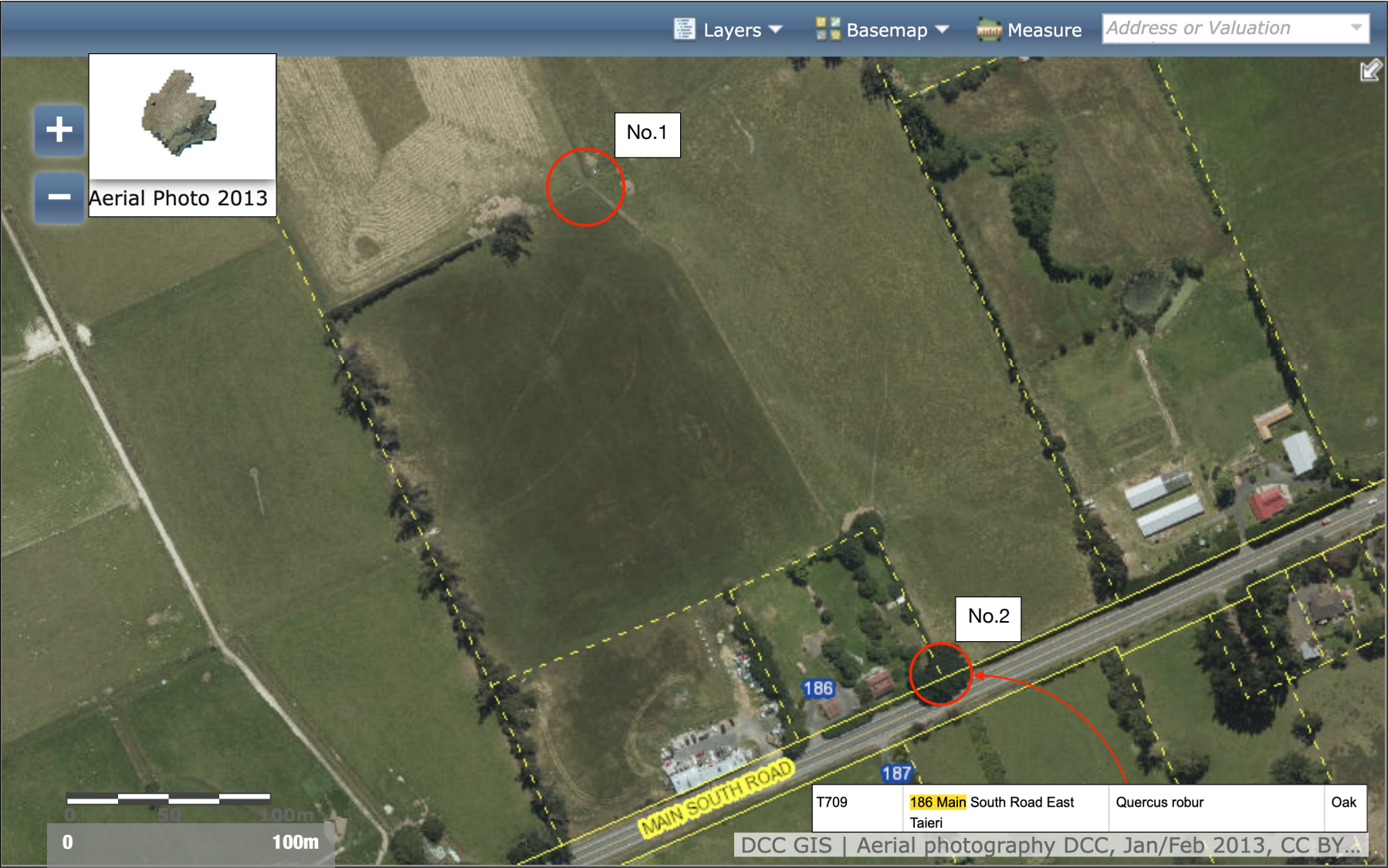
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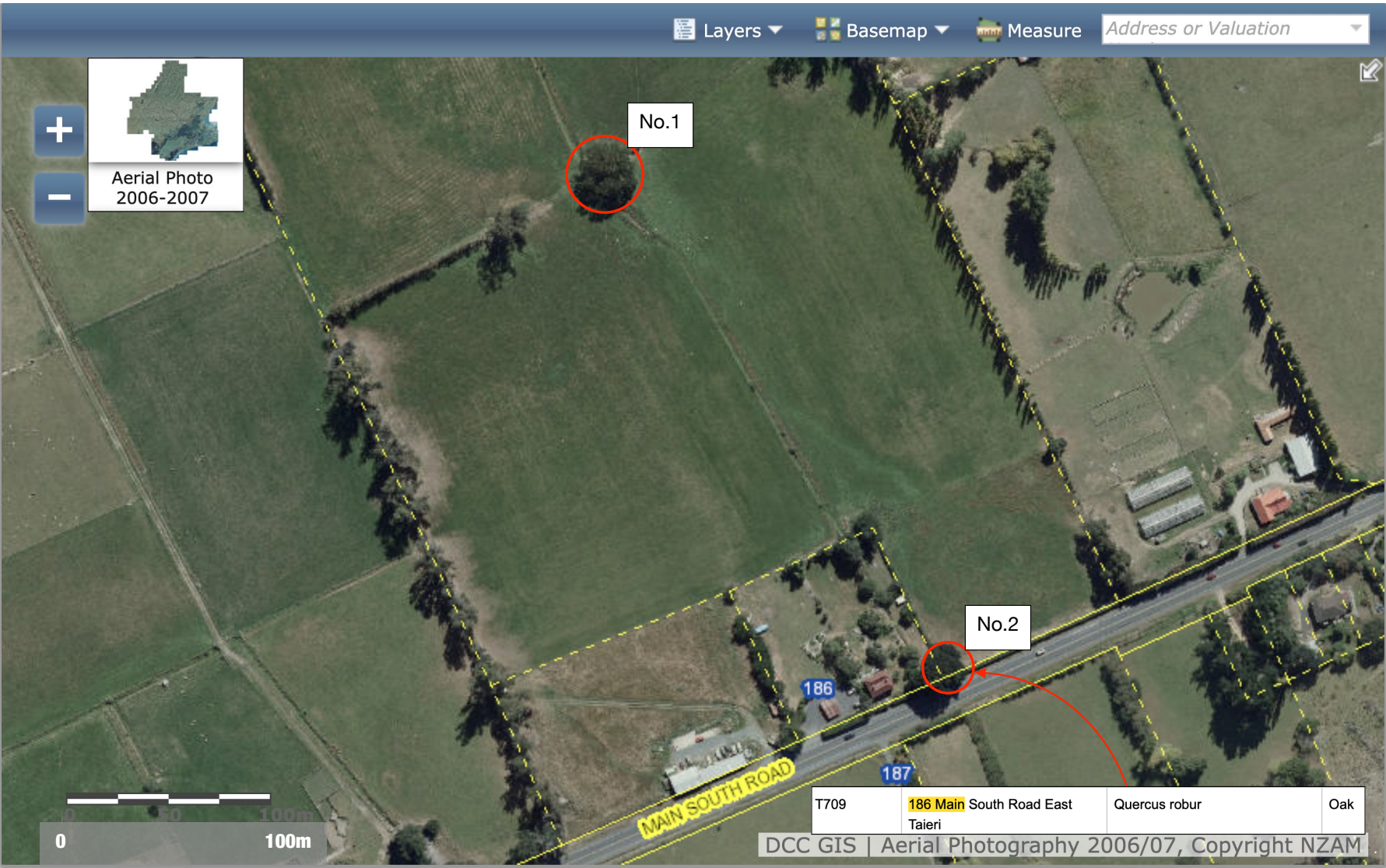
No.2 Tree Metrics
Height ≤22m
Spread ≤25m
DBH ≤1.5m
Photo 23.06.08

No.2	T709	186 Main South Road East Taieri	Quercus robur	Oak
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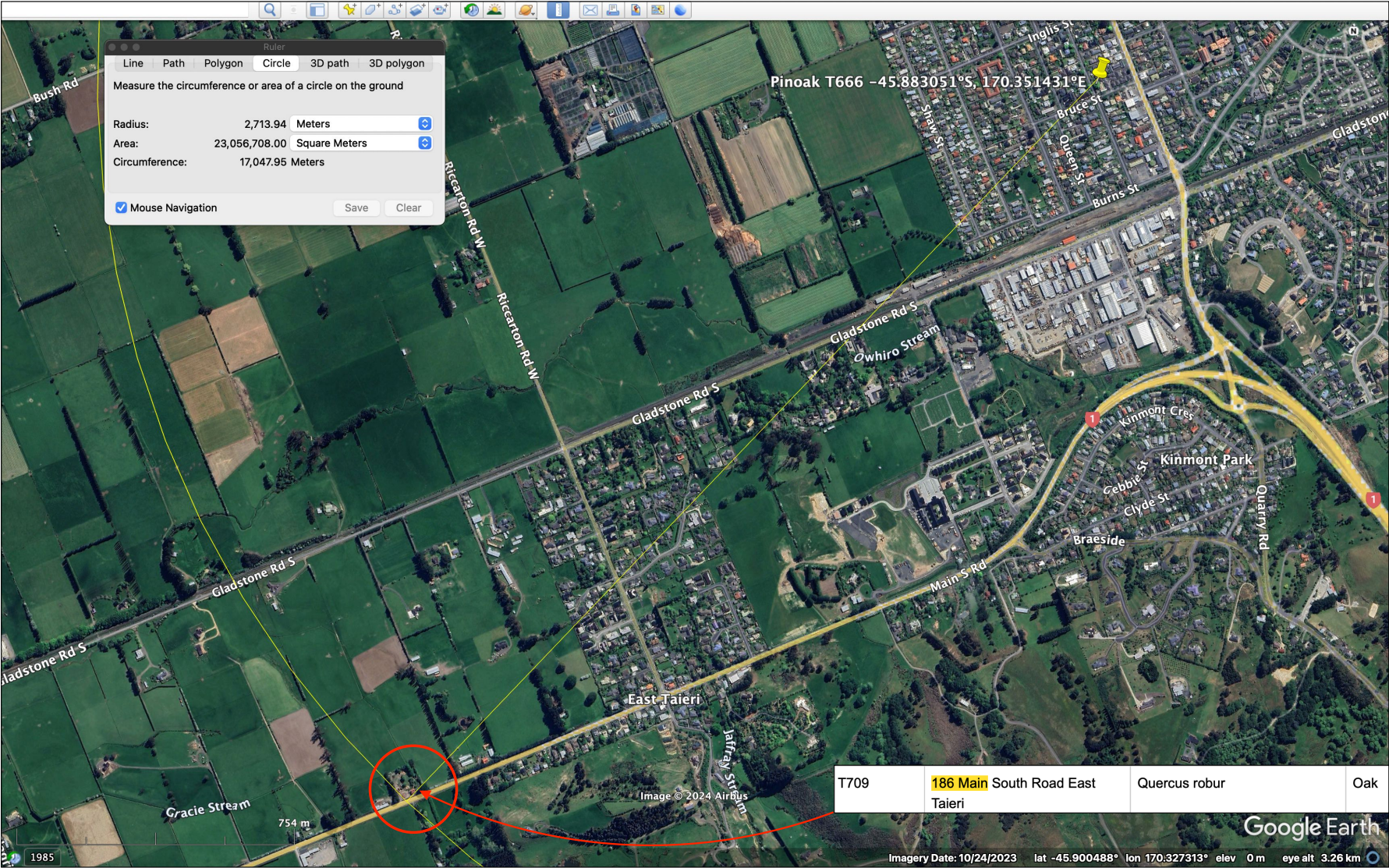
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