

Desk Study

We are quite familiar with the ground conditions in Donington and indeed in the north Spalding area. The ground is generally known as a brown silty clay and according to the British Geological Survey website 'Geology of Britain Viewer' the ground conditions are Terrington Beds. This is confirmed by the record of a trial pit excavated by Sydney B J Skertchly FGS in about 1870 where he recorded that there was 13 feet of blue clay overlying boulder clay.

The book by Sydney B J Skertchly FGS referred to, entitled 'The Geology of the Fenland' published by HMSO in 1877 is an excellent reference book. The ground conditions are as stated generally are silty brown clay which at times can be shrinkable, particularly if planted with trees and shrubs.

There is a large Weeping Willow about 15m from the rear right corner of this house and there appears to be a Poplar tree and a Willow tree at a similar distance on the west boundary of the garden along with what may be a Beech tree. It is quite likely that Leylandii were planted along the site boundary, looking at the sawn off stumps that stand in the ground, and then in the south-east corner of the garden stands a 20m high Eucalyptus tree with a trunk diameter of about 500mm.

These trees represent the potential for major damage to the house because both the Willow and the Eucalyptus are high water demand trees that should not be planted within a distance equivalent to at least their mature height away from a property and with the Willow twice the mature height away.