

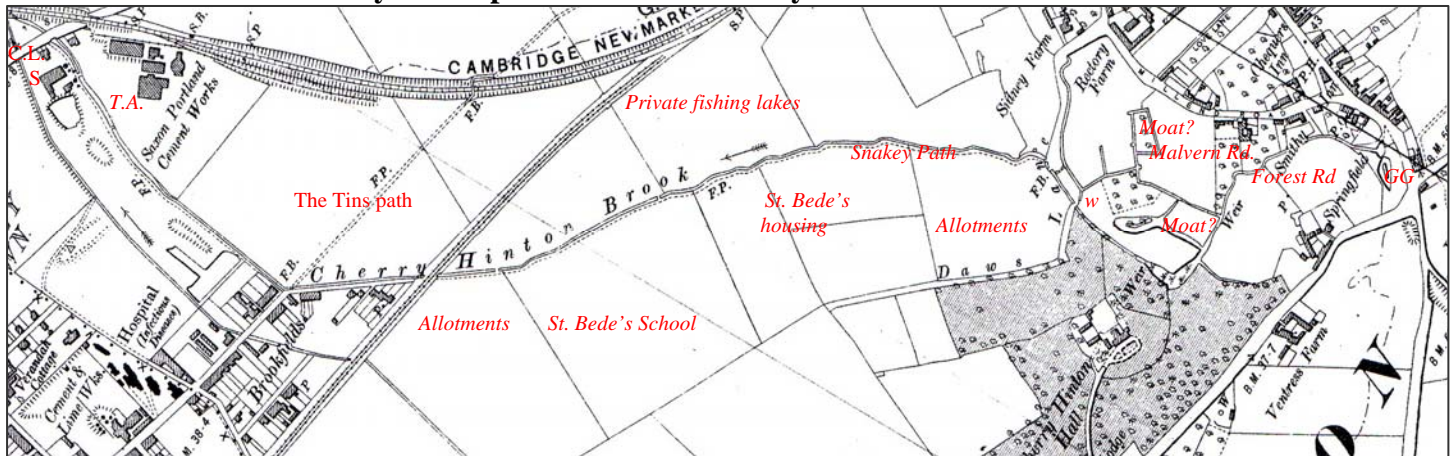
Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook: Occasional Titbits, No. 16, January 2011

www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk

Chairman: John Collins Secretary: Holly Anderson

Please forward or print out and pass on to anyone else who may be interested. If you have items suitable for inclusion please let me have them as they arise. If you wish to be taken off this group email list please let me know.

1. More than one hundred years of pressure on the Cherry Hinton Brook



The O.S. map, dated (revised) 1901, is best viewed onscreen at 150 or 200%. It shows that by that date Cambridge had spread as far as Burnside, then in the Parish of Cherry Hinton (See Titbits 15). The **private fishing lakes** did not exist then of course but the Saxon Portland Cement works were on the present site of the **Territorial Army**. The railway branch line cut across the end of Burnside and along the side of the future site of the allotments.

Although Romsey Town spread across mainly agricultural land, it abutted onto a polluted, industrial landscape and a scene of environmental desecration (a scene which was to become much more scarred by the quarrying of the 20C), not to mention the Hospital for Infectious Diseases and, just off the map, across Coldham's Lane, a Smallpox Hospital.

On the present **Sainsbury** site an L-shaped building is shown. If viewed at 500%, five circular buildings can be seen to lie between it and the Brook. The diameters of the two largest are each about equal to the width of a terraced house. This is presumably the brick and tile works (beside a clay pit) known to have been on **Coldham's Lane** at this time. The site was later occupied by the Atlas Stone Company. An 1888 map shows a coprolite works near the trig. point north of the Hospital for Infectious Diseases. So this immediate area (now crossed by Brooks Road) must have been stripped of soil and several feet of rock as evidenced by the symbols for pits and spoil heaps.

The Brook and Snakey Path trend from Daws Lane towards the north-west. On their south-west side the layout of the modern **allotments**, **School**, and **St. Bede's housing** reflects the pattern of the 1901 field boundaries. The broad swathe of the ancient Daws Lane (now owned by Peterhouse) survived the encroachment of Cherry Hinton's 20C suburban growth. The Sidney Farm buildings were on the present site of the dormer bungalows of Daws Close. Viewed at 500% it can be seen that the complicated pattern of water in the grounds of the Hall is but a remnant of a larger pattern of water extraction from the Brook which included the supply for a presumed manorial **moat** in the area of the present Malvern Road and a conduit on the south edge of the Daws Lane 'swathe' which took water to Sidney Farm. A **watermill** used to exist near the former ford where Daws Lane now crosses the Brook. The Brook rises at **Giants Grave**.



2. The March frog march

Following our representations made to Guy Belcher, the City Conservation Officer, the City Council has lowered the kerb in Burnside at four places using money from a special Environment Fund. The photograph shows the work started before the cold spell. The new arrangement will enable amphibians during the breeding season to migrate to the Brook, across the road from ponds and gardens behind the houses to the left, where they hibernate (see Titbits 11).

3. Meeting of the Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall, 19 January

Michelle Bullivant gave a fascinating talk which was brimming with clues about the tantalising history of the Mill End of Cherry Hinton. Contractors have cleared vegetation overhanging the Brook between the ponds in the grounds of the Hall and Daws Lane, but the channel is still a mess. In this corner of the grounds a safety barrier is being erected near

Daws Lane, beside the deep end of the channel alongside the back gardens of houses in Malvern Road.