

## ***Gazetteer of historical sites with wildlife interest***

- ***Binsey Green.*** Formerly a large open space of 18.5 acres in front of the houses with a pond next to the Perch. Until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Binsey householders grazed their flocks of geese on the green and these were described in c.1910 as being “a spirited feature of the little hamlet.” Since the 1960s, the green has been fenced to limit access by motor vehicles.
- ***Botley Park.*** Part of Twenty Pound Meadow and acquired by the City as a recreation ground by 1924.
- ***Ferry Hinksey causeway.*** Probably on or near the site of a prehistoric route and a secondary Roman road. The medieval causeway, for foot traffic only, led to a ferry at North or Ferry Hinksey. When Willow Walk was opened up as a public path in 1923 the ferry became redundant and the older route gradually became overgrown. The right of way was restored with bridges over the Bulstake and Hinksey Streams in 1994 and it is now sometimes called ‘The Monks’ Causeway’.
- ***Hinksey Meadow.*** Area of ancient grassland north of Willow Walk, saved by public enquiry in 1961 from being zoned for industry and now owned by the Oxford Preservation Trust. Towards Botley Road, contains traces of the old course of the Hinksey Stream that formerly marked the boundary between Oxford and Berkshire.
- ***King George’s Field.*** Donated to the City as a recreation ground by St. John’s College after 1935 as part of a national scheme to commemorate George V’s Silver jubilee.
- ***Oatlands Road recreation ground.*** The southern portion of Oatlands Meadow, left undeveloped before the First World War and acquired by Raymond ffennell of Wytham Abbey in 1926 to make sure that it would remain as open space. He persuaded the City to buy it as a recreation ground in 1927.
- ***Osney cemetery.*** Formed on part of the site of Osney Abbey church, the cemetery was created in 1848 for the combined parishes of south and west Oxford. Until the 1960s, there was a chapel inside the lych-gate and a keeper’s house on the corner of Mill Street and Osney Lane. Most of the older gravestones were then removed to make grass-cutting easier.
- ***St Frideswide’s churchyard.*** St Frideswide’s church, designed by Samuel Sanders Teulon, was built between 1870 and 1872 on a triangular piece of land bordered by the Botley road and by side-streams of the river Thames. The churchyard forms an attractive green space with mature horse chestnut trees fronting the road.
- ***River Thames towpath.*** The present navigation stream follows the course of a millstream dug by the monks of Osney Abbey in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. In 1790 prisoners from Oxford Castle built the first pound lock at Osney and boats began to use the improved river channel up to Medley. The railways robbed the upper Thames of most of its commercial traffic in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Horse-drawn boats needed a towpath clear of all vegetation but waterside plants and trees flourish by the towpath today.
- ***Tumbling Bay.*** On the Bulstake Stream, the former Thames navigation stream, and named after the lasher or weir installed in about 1790. Became a city bathing place for males only in 1853 and for females as well from 1892. It was officially closed as a bathing place in 1990.
- ***Willow Walk.*** Built in 1877-78 as a road link between Oxford and a proposed middle class housing estate above North Hinksey. After that scheme failed Willow Walk remained a private road until 1923 when it was opened up as a public path.