

The Oakington Enclosure Act 1834

The Oakington Enclosure (“Inclosure”) Act was approved by Parliament in 1834, and defines a number of objects in the village at that time – land ownership, status of roads and their maintenance, and status of watercourses (“Drains”) and their maintenance. It is a lengthy volume, handwritten in script with a small number of copies, of which the Parish Council holds one. Ownership and divisions of land have of course changed a lot since then, and their history is recorded at the Land Registry and by individual deeds of ownership. The roads have changed too, mostly by addition of side-streets and the closure of some routes over the airfield, though many of the routes described are still recognisable. The Drains have changed very little, and their maintenance remains of great interest to most residents in the village today. Below is a transcription from parts of the handwritten script of the section of the Act relating to these Land Ownership, Roads and Drains, where they lie or run and details of allowed usage and required maintenance.



There is also a fold-out map in the book, which is available elsewhere on this website.

Note for readers – in a few places a word is unclear, a best effort transcription is shown [thus]. Grammar like sentences, punctuation and capital letters seems in places to be a thing of the future, the transcription generally follows the original text.

Oakington Inclosure Award 1834

I <name> do swear that I will faithfully impartially and honestly according to the best of my skill and ability execute and perform the several Trusts Powers and Authorities vested and reposed in me as a Commissioner by Virtue of “An Act for enclosing lands in the Parish of Oakington in the County of Cambridge, and for committing the Tithes of the said Parish” according to equity and good conscience and without Favour or Affection Prejudice or Partiality to and person or persons whomsoever. So Help Me God. <name>

Taken and Subscribed the Fifteenth day of July One thousand eight hundred and thirty three. Before me <name>.

{This section appears several times, successively signed and witnessed by Alex’r Watford, Jacob Nockolds, James Richardson, and Martin Nockolds the younger.}

To the Commissioners for Inclosing Lands in the Parish of Oakington in the County of Cambridge for commuting the Tithes of the said Parish:

Whereas by an Act of Parliament passed in the Third year of the reign of His Present Majesty King William the Fourth it is (amongst other things) enacted that it should be lawful for the Commissioners acting under and by virtue of the said Act by and with the consent in writing and at the request of the respective owners or proprietors of any homesteads, gardens, orchards and other inclosed lands or grounds within the said Parish of Oakington whether such owners or proprietors should be bodied politic corporate or collegiate corporations, aggregate or sole or tenant or tenants in fee simple or for life or in fee [tail] general or special or by the courtesy of England or for years in determinable or any life or lives by and with the consent of the Lessor or Lessors or any such homesteads gardens or orchards and old inclosed lands or grounds holden for years determinable as aforesaid and not otherwise or with the consent of the guardians trustees feoffees for charitable of

other uses husbands committees or attornies of or acting for any such owners or proprietors as aforesaid who should be infants [ffemes] covert lunatics or under any other legal disability or who should be beyond the seas or otherwise disabled to act for themselves himself or herself (such consent to be retrospectively testified by writing under the Common Seal of such bodies politic corporate or collegiate and under the hands of the other consenting parties respectively) to order and direct such homesteads gardens orchards and old inclosed lands to be considered as allottable lands and part and parcel of the lands and grounds thereby authorised to be divided allotted and inclosed and such allowance should be made to the respective owners or proprietors of such homesteads gardens orchards and old inclosed lands or grounds on account of the situation or other beneficial circumstances thereof as the said Commissioners should adjudge to be just and reasonable and the said Commissioners should, and they were thereby required to set out allot and award unto and for the respective owners or proprietors or such homesteads gardens orchards and old inclosed lands and grounds in lieu thereof so much and such part or parts of the lands and grounds thereby directed to be allotted and inclosed as they should think reasonable and just subject to the rules orders and directions in the said Act and the said first therein recited Act mentioned. Now therefore the several owners and proprietors of the homesteads gardens orchards and the inclosed lands and grounds within the said parish of Oakington hereinafter specified DO by this writing testified in manner required by the said Act their consent and do request the Commissioners under and by virtue of the said Act to order and direct that such homesteads gardens orchards and other inclosed lands shall be considered as allottable lands and as part and parcel of the lands and grounds by the said Act authorised to be divided allotted and inclosed (that is to say)

All that piece or parcel of old inclosed land or ground (No 2) called New Close and containing two acres and thirty perches given up to be allotted by Edward Linton.

And also all those two other pieces or parcels of old inclosed land or ground (Nos 3 and 3a) called Pitt Close and [Spurnay] and containing together six acres three roods and sixteen perches also given up to be allotted by the President or Master and Fellows of Queen's College.

And also all that other piece or parcel of old inclosed land or ground (No 10) called Hog Yard Close and containing one rood and sixteen perches given up to be allotted by Martha Papworth.

And also all that other piece or parcel of old inclosed land or ground (No 11) called also Hog Yard Close and containing two roods and thirty three perches given up to be allotted by William Linton of Oakington.

And also all that other piece or parcel of old inclosed land or ground (No 15) called Bush Close and containing two acres one rood and twenty three perches given up to be allotted by Henry John Adeane Esquire.

And also all that other piece or parcel of old inclosed land or ground (No 18) called Worboys Close and containing one acre and twelve perches given up to be allotted by Richard Starwood.

And also all that other piece or parcel of old inclosed land or ground (No 25) being a Public House and Garden containing twenty five perches given up to be allotted by Jonathan Norman.

And also all that other piece or parcel of old inclosed land or ground (No 26) being a Garden and containing fourteen perches also given up to be allotted by Henry John Adeane Esquire.

And also all that other piece or parcel of old inclosed land or ground (No 32) called Spring Close and containing one acre and two roods also given up to be allotted by Henry John Adeane Esquire.

And also all that other piece or parcel of old inclosed land or ground (No 35) part of a Close called Alehouse Close and containing twenty three perches given up to be allotted by Henry John Adeane Esquire.

And also all that other piece or parcel of old inclosed land or ground (No 36) called the Homestead and Close containing fourteen perches given up to be allotted by Henry John Adeane Esquire.

And also all that other piece or parcel of old inclosed land or ground (Nos 37 and 38) other parts of Alehouse Close aforesaid and containing together one rood and thirty four perches also given up to be allotted by Henry John Adeane Esquire.

And also all that other piece or parcel of old inclosed land or ground (No 40) called Little Green Close and containing two acres one rood and four perches given up to be allotted by William Linton of Oakington.

And also all that other piece or parcel of old inclosed land or ground (No 41) called Tingles Close and containing one acre one rood and ten perches given up to be allotted by William Day.

And also all that other piece or parcel of old inclosed land or ground (No 42) called Broad Green Close and containing two acres and thirteen perches given up to be allotted by the Churchwardens and Overseers of Oakington.

And also all that other piece or parcel of old inclosed land or ground (No 43) called also Broad Green Close and containing two acres two roods and twenty four perches given up to be allotted by William Linton of Oakington.

And also all that other piece or parcel of old inclosed land or ground (No 44) called also Broad Green Close and containing one acre and thirty two perches given up to be allotted by Henry John Adeane Esquire.

And also all that other piece or parcel of old inclosed land or ground (No 45) called Broad Green Close and containing one acre one rood and twenty eight perches given up to be allotted by William Linton of Oakington.

... (next section not yet transcribed, for parcels up to No 144)

Dated the twenty fourth day of September in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and thirty four.

{List of Trustees of the Free School; Guardians of Henry Good Elbourne, a minor; Churchwardens; Overseers; Agents and Witnesses; and Husband of a Wife} and witness statement.

... (next section not transcribed, seemed to relate to tenancies and rents paid etc).



Public Roads

And the said Commissioners have set out and appointed the following public carriage roads and highways public bridle Road and footway and also the following private carriage or drift roads and public footpath in the said Parish of Oakington, that is to say

(Girton Road) One public carriage road or highway of the breadth of forty feet (except where the same passes through old inclosures) called the Girton Road commencing at the Cross on Alehouse Green and proceeding in a southeasterly direction over the said Green and the open field called Oxmoor field until it enters the parish of Histon between allotments in Histon belonging to the Reverend Thomas Webster and Thomas Wakon respectively.

(Longstanton Road) One other public carriage road or highway of the breadth of forty feet (except where the same passes through old inclosures) called the Longstanton Road commencing at the Cross on Alehouse Green and proceeding in Northwestwardly and Northwardly directions over the said Green to another Green called Sheeps Green thence in a Northwardly direction over the said last mentioned Green to the southwest corner of an old inclosure called Bush Close belonging to Henry John Adeane Esquire and thence in a Northwestwardly direction over the open fields called Mill Fields until it enters the parish of Longstanton Saint Michael between allotments in that parish belonging to Salmon Linton.

(Water Lane Road) One other public carriage road or highway of the breadth of thirty feet called the Water Lane Road commencing at the Cross on Alehouse Green and proceeding in an Eastwardly direction over the said Green to a bridge called Collins Bridge.

(Westwick Road) One other public carriage road or highway of the breadth of thirty feet called the Westwick Road commencing at Northwest corner of an old inclosure called Great Close belonging to Henry John Adeane Esquire and proceeding in an eastwardly direction over certain hayes called Meadow Haye and Great Meadows in Mill Field to the centre of the bridge lately standing but now removed called Westwick Bridge at the boundary of the Parish of Westwick.

(Drydrayton Road) One other public carriage road or highway of the breadth of thirty feet called the Drydrayton Road commencing at the Cross on Alehouse Green and proceeding in Southwest direction to Gimblets Bridge thence in the same direction by the side of an old inclosure called Broad Green Close belonging to William Linton to the south corner of the said Close and thence in the same direction along Gimblets Way and Thurley Hill [Balk]

until it enters the Huntingdon Turnpike Road opposite another public road in the parish of Drydrayton.

(Coles Lane Road) One other public carriage road or highway of the breadth of thirty feet called the Coles Lane Road branching out of the Longstanton Road near the homestead of William Linton and proceeding in a Northwestwardly direction over the Green called Sheeps Green to the south corner of an old inclosure called Pamplins Close belonging to James Radford.

(Cross Path Road) One other public carriage road or highway of the breadth of thirty feet called the Cross Path Road branching out of the Longstanton Road nearly opposite the north corner of a cottage and garden belonging to William Worboys and proceeding in Northeasterly and Eastwardly directions over the Green called Sheeps Green until it enters the last described road.

(Public Bridle Road and footway) One Public Bridle Road and footway of the breadth of twelve feet leading out of a Public Bridle Road and footway in the parish of Longstanton Saint Michael at the

east corner of an old inclosure called Collins Close belonging to Salmon Linton and proceeding in a south east direction across the open field called Mill Field and the Mill joint to the North West corner of an old inclosure called Highbury Close and belonging to the President and Fellows of Queen's College in the University of Cambridge but herein awarded for a Public Gravel Pit and thence in the same direction by the side of the said old inclosure and passing over the second private road until it enters an ancient lane called Gravel Pit Lane in the parish of Oakington.

(Herbage of public roads) And they the said Commissioners do order and appoint that the grass and herbage growing and renewing in and upon the said Public Carriage Roads and Highways and also in and upon the side of the Turnpike Road in the said parish of Oakington shall for ever hereafter remain to and for the use and benefit of and taken and enjoyed by the respective owners for the time being of the Allotments and old Inclosures within the said Parish of Oakington adjoining the same that is to say such owners shall take and enjoy so much of the said grass and herbage as arises opposite their allotments or old inclosures to the centre or middle of the said roads.

Private Roads

(1st Private Road) One private carriage road and driftway and public footway of the breadth of thirty feet leading out of an ancient lane called Gravel Pit Lane and proceeding in a North East direction to the North corner of an old inclosure called [Pit] Close thence in north west and north east directions over Mill Field until an Allotment to the President and Fellows of Queen's College in the University of Cambridge.

(2nd Private Road) One other private carriage road and driftway of the breadth of thirty feet leading out of Gravel Pit Lane aforesaid and proceeding in a northwest direction between Allotments on the north east side of an old inclosure called Highbury Close until it enters the Allotment set out for a Public Gravel Pit.

(3rd Private Road) One other private carriage road and driftway of the breadth of fifteen feet branching out of the Longstanton Road at the west corner of an allotment to Henry John Adeane Esquire in the occupation of William Barton and proceeding in a north east direction until it enters an old inclosure called Bush Close belonging to John Cabread.

(4th Private Road) One other private carriage road and driftway of the breadth of thirty feet branching out of the Longstanton Road at the north east corner of an allotment to Henry John Adeane Esquire and proceeding in a south west direction over Sheeps Green Mill Field and New Close field and by the side of an old inclosure allotted to William Linton and an old inclosure belonging to George Gifford until it enters an allotment to Edward Linton.

(5th Private Road) One other private carriage road and driftway of the breadth of twenty feet leading out of Longstanton Road at the Public Watering Place and proceeding in south west and west directions over Alehouse Green to certain cottages and gardens belonging to the Reverend Thomas Webster thence to the breadth of fifteen feet only in a west direction in the front of the said cottage and gardens to the Farm Homestead of Edward Linton.

(6th Private Road) One other private carriage road and driftway of the breadth of thirty feet branching out of the Girton Road at the north corner of an allotment to Thomas Wakon and proceeding in a south west direction over Oxmoor Field and Oxmoor haye until it enters an allotment to Henry John Adeane Esquire.

(Footpath) One public footway or path to the breadth of four feet commencing at the north end of the first private road and proceeding in a north east direction across Mill Field and the meadow to the footstile in the fence in the parish of Longstanton Saint Michael.

(Use of private roads) which said several private carriage roads and driftways and footpath are by them set out and awarded for the use of all the owners and occupiers of lands and tenements in Oakington aforesaid having occasion to use the same.

Public Drains

And they the said Commissioners do hereby set out and appoint the following public drains and watering place in the said Parish of Oakington that is to say

(First Public Drain) One public drain of sufficient width and depth to carry off the water being the moiety of a drain the other moiety being in the parish of Westwick leading out of a public drain in the parish of Longstanton St Michael and Westwick at the north east corner of Great Meadow and proceeding in the South East direction between the parishes of Westwick and Oakington to within the distance of forty four yards from the Westwick Road.

(Second Public Drain) One other public drain of sufficient width and depth to carry off the water leading out of the last described drain at the distance of forty four yards from the north east end of the New Bridge and proceeding in a south east direction to the east corner of an old Enclosure called Great Close belonging to Harry John Adeane Esquire and from there proceeding in a south west direction between Allotments and old Enclosures to a bridge across the Girton Road thence in a north west direction between allotments and old enclosures to a bridge called Gimblet bridge across the Dry Drayton Road then in a north west and south west direction between allotments and enclosures and over New Close field to the North East end of a Tunnel placed across the Huntingdon Turnpike Road.

(Third Public Drain) One other public drain of sufficient width and depth to carry off the water branching out of the last described drain and proceeding in a south west direction to the north east end of a Tunnel placed across the Huntingdon Turnpike Road.

(Fourth Public Drain) One other public drain of sufficient width and depth to carry off the water branching out of the second public drain at the north end of the first allotment herein awarded to Mr Richard Harwood and proceeding in south east and south west directions to the south west end of a Tunnel placed under the Girton Road thence in a North West direction across the end of the sixth private road to the north east corner of an Allotment to Stephen Radford the younger thence in a south-west direction by the north west side of the sixth private road to an allotment to Henry John (Rocane) thence in north west and south west directions over the said allotment until it (cuts) an allotment to the (Giraz) and thence in south west and north west directions to the north east end of a tunnel placed across the Huntingdon Road.

(Fifth Public Drain) One other public drain of sufficient width and depth to carry off the water branching out of the last public drain at the south corner of the first allotment herein awarded to Richard Harwood and proceeding in a south east direction along the north east side of the Girton Road until it enters the parish of Girton.

(Sixth public drain) One other public drain of sufficient width and depth to carry off the water branching out of the fourth public drain at the south west end of the tunnel placed under the Girton

Road and proceeding in a south west direction along the south west side of the Girton Road until it enters the parish of Girton.

(Seventh public drain) One other public drain of sufficient width and depth to carry off the water branching out of the last public drain at the north corner of an allotment to Christ's College and proceeding in south west and south east directions between divers allotments to the north west corner of the parish of Girton.

(Eighth public drain) One other public drain of sufficient width and depth to carry off the water branching out of the second public drain at the east corner of an allotment to John Stittle and proceeding in a north west direction under Collins Bridge thence in the same direction to and across a tunnel under the Longstanton Road thence in the same directions to and across another tunnel under the fourth private road thence in a north east direction between allotments and enclosures to the south west side of the Longstanton Road thence in a north west direction along the south west side of the Longstanton Road until it enters the parish of Longstanton St Michael.

(Ninth public drain) One other public drain of sufficient width and depth to carry off the water branching out of the first public drain at the commencement thereof and proceeding in north west and south west directions by the side of the parish of Longstanton St Michael and across allotments in Mill Field to the public bridle way leading to Longstanton.

(Tenth public drain) One other public drain of sufficient width and depth to carry off the water branching out of the last public drain at the bounds of Longstanton and proceeding in south east and south west directions over Mill Field and Great Meadow to the Westwick Road.

(Eleventh public drain) One other public drain of sufficient width and depth to carry off the water being the moiety of a drain the other moiety being in the parish of Westwick commencing at the east corner of an enclosure called Great Close belonging to Henry John Adeane Esquire and proceeding in a south east direction until it enters a drain in the parishes of Westwick and Histon.

(Twelfth public drain) One other public drain of sufficient width and depth to carry off the water branching out of the second public drain and proceeding in a south east direction between old inclosures belonging to Henry John Adeane Esquire to the south east of Low Meadow and from thence being a moiety only the other moiety being in the parish of Histon and proceeding in the same direction along the northern side of an allotment to Henry John Adeane Esquire until it enters a drain in the parish of Histon.

(Public Watering Place) One public watering place containing twelve perches situate on Alehouse Green bounded on the north east by the Longstanton Road on the north west by the fifth private road and all other parts by an allotment to Edward Linton.

(Repair of Public Drains) And they the said Commissioners do also hereby Order and Award that the said public drains and public watering places so by them set out shall for ever be cleansed scoured repaired and maintained of such depths and dimensions as shall hereafter appear necessary making compensation to the owners whose land may be cut for that purpose by the Surveyor or Surveyors for the time being of the Highways within the said Parish of Oakington at the expense of the respective persons who for the time being are bound by Law to repair the highways within the said Parish.

Notes: a "moiety" is a shared resource, and here seems to describe a watercourse running along a parish boundary with the course awarded in consequence in the Acts for both parishes.