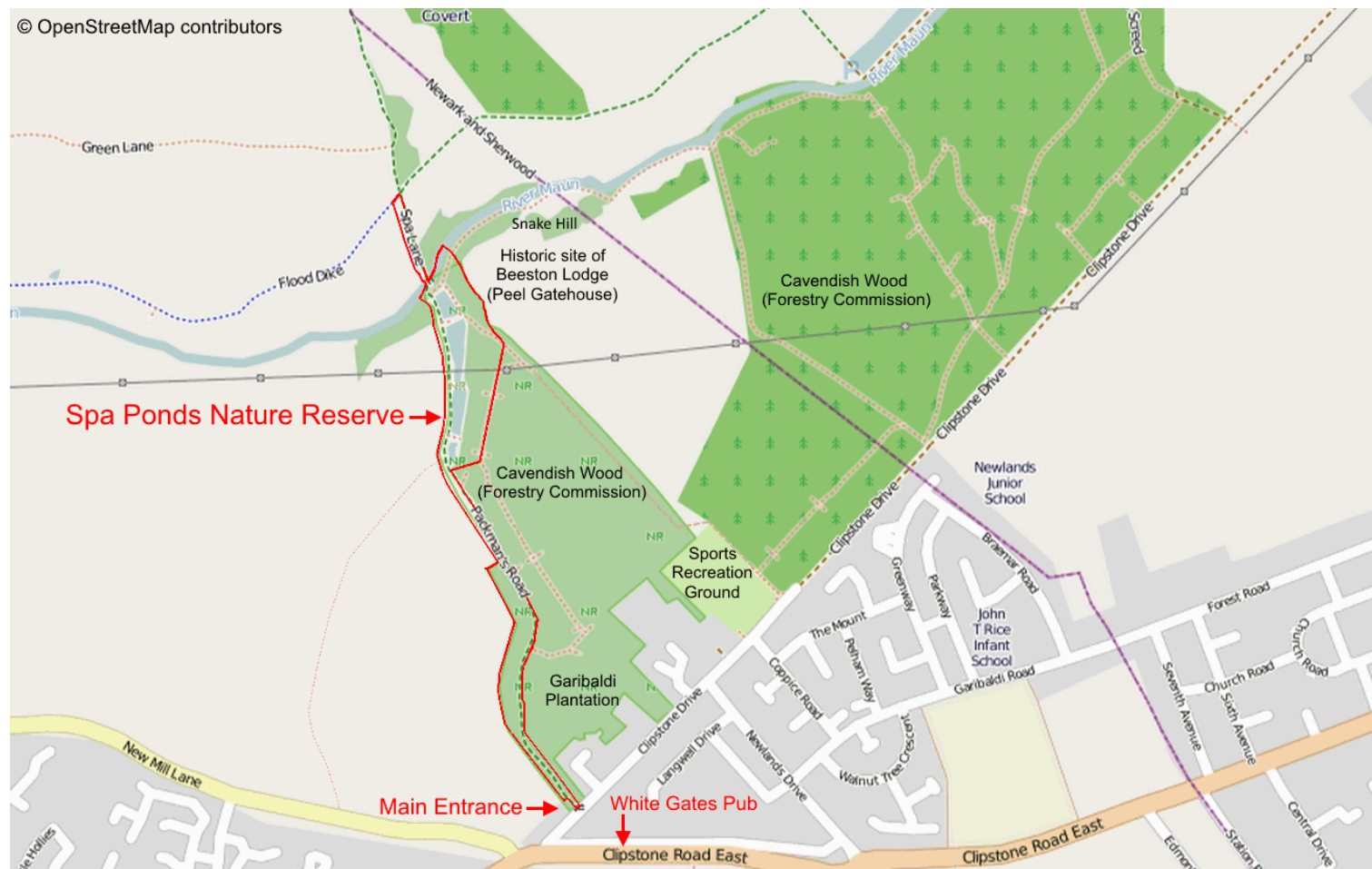


FTNCG Update for FTCC

20th October 2021

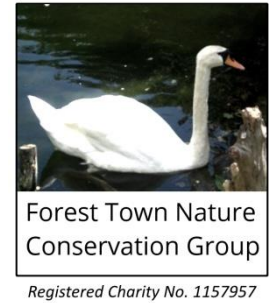
Spa Ponds, also known as Gara Ponds



May 2021 – Dennis Platts



Brief history of FTNCG



- Inaugural meeting at Whitegates on 1st February 2011
- Became charity (1157957) in July 2014 to: *“promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in and around Forest Town”*
- In 2014, with support from Forest Town Community Council and the community of Forest Town, FTNCG purchased Spa Ponds for the benefit of all, transferring deeds to Official Custodian for Charities
- 2017 – Spa Ponds Heritage Project: Celebrating 700 years of history
- Regular work sessions enacting our Site Management Plan
- Plans, etc. on our website at: <http://www.foresttown.net/nature/>



Brief history of Spa Ponds

- Associated with peel (fence) around Clipstone Park, and may have been known as 'Peel Water'

The name 'Peel Water' appears on the Sherwood Forest Map, also known as the 'Belvoir Map', of circa 1334, as depicted below:

↑ EAST

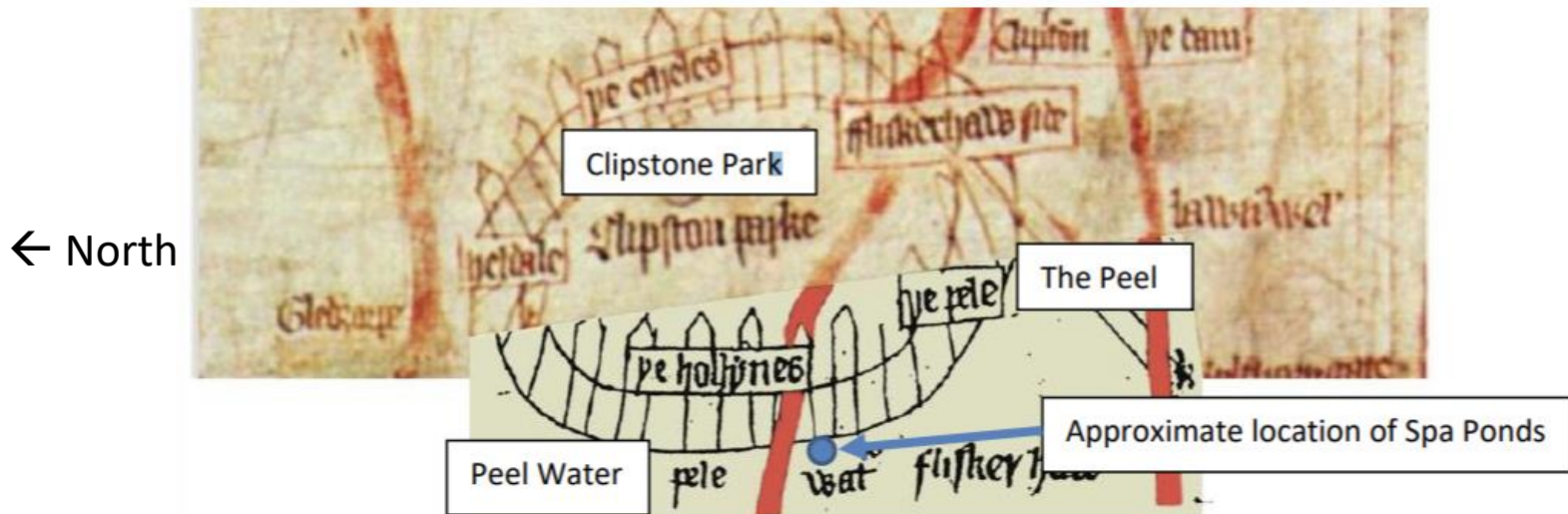


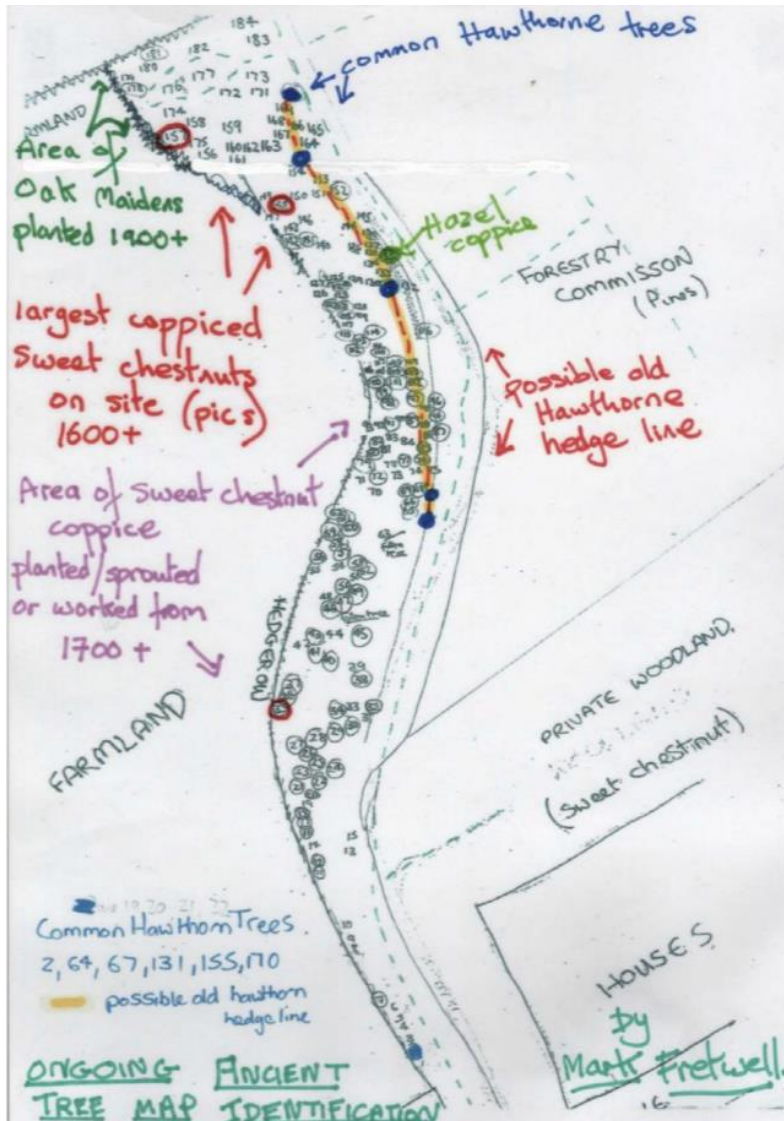
Figure 2. Detail from the 'Belvoir Map' showing 'Peel Water'
(Archives of the Duke of Rutland, held at Belvoir Castle, Leicestershire)

Brief history of Spa Ponds

- Evidence suggesting order to create fish ponds made during Great Famine, which began in 1315, due to embarrassing incident – King Edward II ran out of food at King's Houses in Clipstone during Christmas of 1315.
- 1317 likely year for creation of Medieval fish ponds, although the ponds have been substantially altered since 14th century.

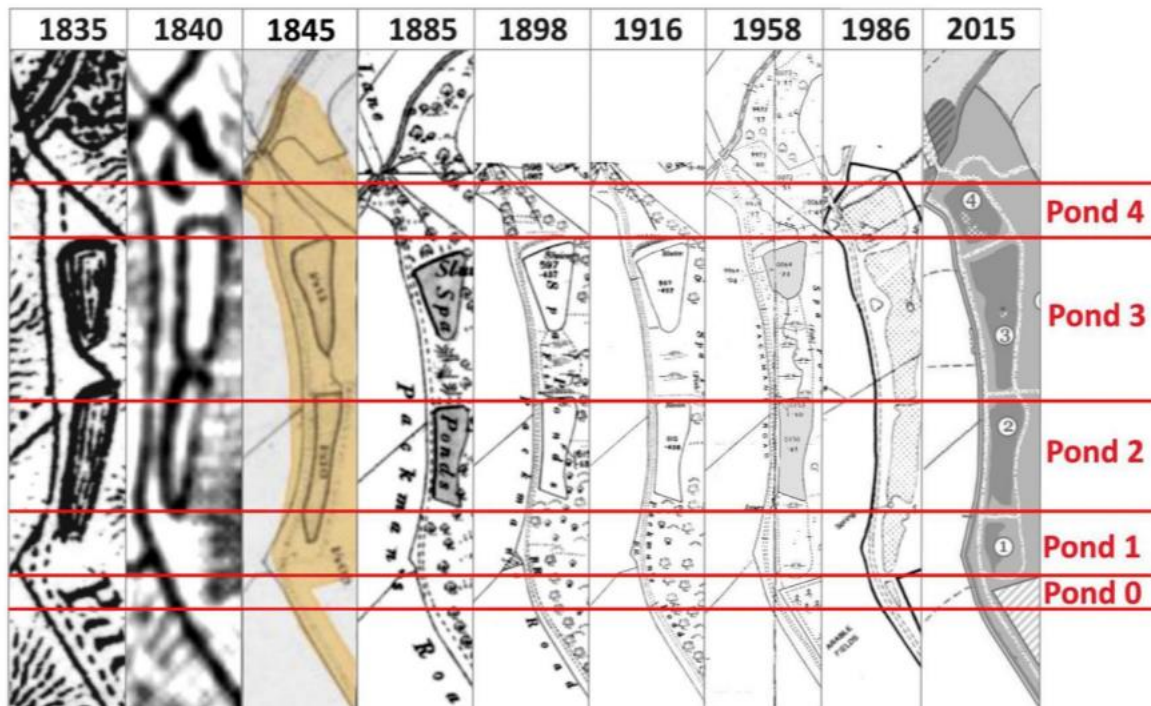
Brief history of Spa Ponds

Some trees
(sweet chestnut)
more than 400
years old



Brief history of Spa Ponds

- Royal ownership from 1100's to 1603, then sold to Earl of Shrewsbury & Mary Cavendish
- Decimated during English Civil War (mid-1600's)
- Reclaimed by Cavendish family in 1660 and restocked
- 4th Duke of Portland's flood dykes (from 1800's)



Brief history of Spa Ponds

- 6th Duke of Portland died in 1943, and in 1945 tenant farmer Edmund Shaw Browne bought Spa Ponds as part of sale of Duke's estate.
- Remained in Shaw Browne family's possession until bought by FTNCG in 2014.
- Spa Ponds has gone full circle, from communal ownership to Royal and aristocratic ownership and eventually back to the community, who are committed to enhancing the site's biodiversity whilst honouring its heritage.

Organised by the Forest Town Community Council in aid of

Forest Town Nature Conservation Group



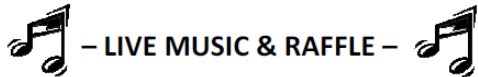
Who are raising funds to purchase and improve
the Spa Ponds Nature Reserve (Gara Ponds)
near Garibaldi and Cavendish Woods

PIE & PEA SUPPER

at the Forest Town Welfare

Friday 1st November 2013

from 7:30 pm until 11 pm



– LIVE MUSIC & RAFFLE –



Tickets £5 each from the Forest Town Welfare

Price includes steak pie / vegetarian option



Contact Shlomo Downen (01623) 640134

...or visit <http://ForestTown.net/Nature/>



Living Reflections of Spa / "Gara" Ponds

An Oral History
Heritage Project



Spa Ponds Heritage Project
'Celebrating 700 years of history'

www.ForestTown.net/HeritageProject
[www.Facebook.com/groups/SpaPondsHeritage](https://www.facebook.com/groups/SpaPondsHeritage)

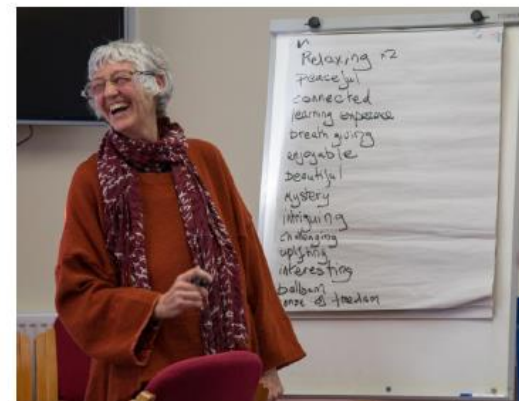


Those who took part as interviewees and shared their memories include:

Sheila Baker
Ken Belcher
Doug Broadfoot
Christine Cawthorne
Ann Childs
Tony Davison
Chris Dodd
John Gibson
Phil Goodall
David Haslam

Ken Horobin
Nigel John Judge
Peter & Peggy Long
Andy Lowe
Carol Middleton
Geof Piggitt
Mick Pratt
Terry & Carol Richards
Members of the Shaw-Browne Family

We wish to thank and honour all of those listed above. Without you, this report would not have been possible. Thanks also to our researchers, and to all of the Spa Ponds Heritage Project participants who contributed to the oral histories research.



Ann Childs, Principal Author and Instigator of the oral histories research.
Photo by Dennis Platts.

Recent projects

- Keep the Forest Buzzing (Wheatcroft Fund)



- Spawn on the Maun (Severn Trent)



Keep the Forest Buzzing (Part 1)



Keep the Forest Buzzing (Part 1)



Spawn on the Maun



Spawn on the Maun



Spawn on the Maun



Current projects

- Keep the Forest Buzzing (Natural England)



- Habitat Development (M2M)



Keep the Forest Buzzing (Part 2)



Keep the Forest Buzzing (Part 2)



Volunteering opportunities

- [Liking our Facebook pages](#) (FTNCG & spaponds) and posting photos of Forest Town wildlife to it
- [Becoming a member](#)
- Coming to a work session
- Making or growing products to share and sell
- Recording and monitoring species at Spa Ponds Nature Reserve using the [iRecord facility](#)
- Helping research & document Spa Ponds heritage
- Donate directly and by using AmazonSmile:
<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1157957-0>