

## Ancient Local Footpath

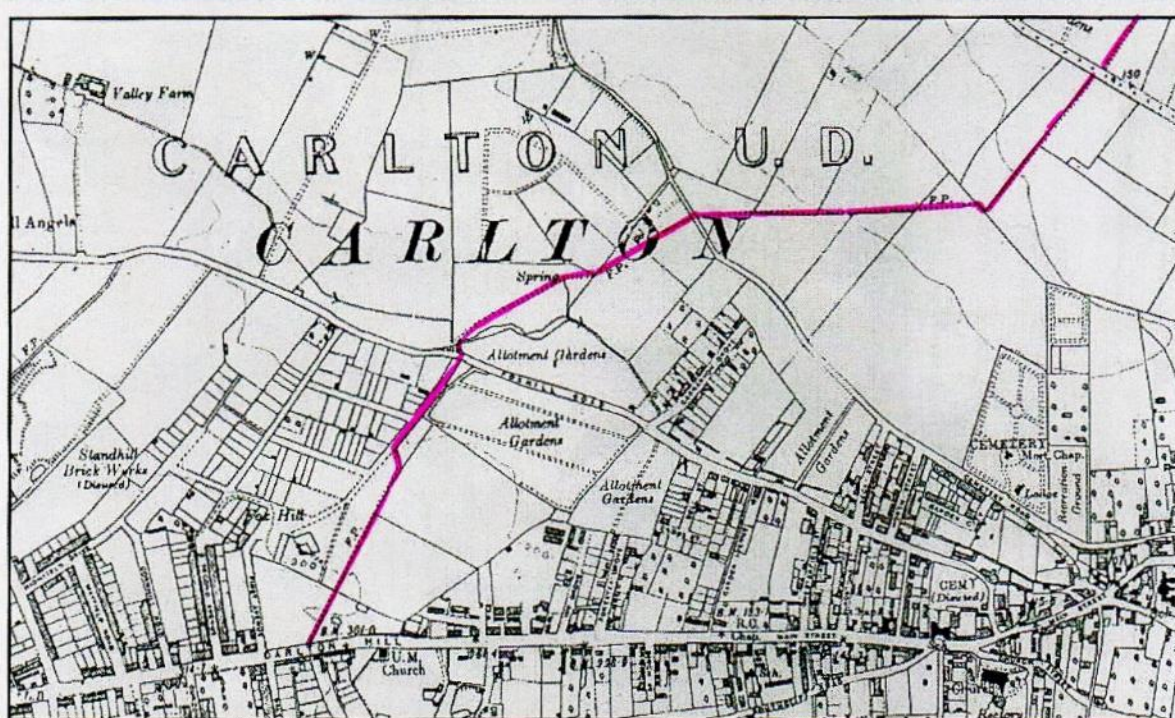
In March 2016 the local History group was approached by Mr Richard Clements who was seeking information about an ancient footpath that passes close to his property in Castleton Avenue, Carlton. There follows an extract from Mr Clement's enquiry:

*The map of Russia Fields 1920 below (Fig. 1) is copied from the publication "Turning back the pages of Old Carlton". This refers to the footpath being reputedly the oldest in Nottingham. If you look at the enlarged map (Fig. 2) you will see the kink in the footpath, this is also clearly visible on the "Carlton Vale Estate" map copied from my house deeds (Fig. 3), it shows how the land was divided up into plots, my house is on plot 100.*

*When I was young the footpath did indeed run along the frontage of plot 99 to 100 on Castleton Avenue then diagonally across the recreation ground. The enlarged schedule from my deeds clearly shows this. I have also included a brief section of my deeds showing the conveyance of the land in 1906 from the Earl of Carnarvon.*

*I recall years ago before any building took place the hedgerow ran the whole length of Castleton Avenue. This is probably one of the very few remaining ancient boundary hedgerows in the area. One of the hawthorn trees at the top of my drive where the footpath turned is nearly 6 foot in circumference, this gives some indication of the age.*

Fig. 1



### Russia Fields, 1920

This was the local play area, between Foxhill Road and Cemetery Road, shown on the map above. The name's origin is disputed: were they called "Rusher" Fields, because the water "rushed" down them when it rained? Or "Russia" because they were the highest land between Nottingham and Russia? This is how it is remembered: *"In years gone by we used to play on the Russia Fields. There were always children playing there. We would go with others and take sandwiches and a bottle of water and collect wild flowers, and take a jam jar and net to get sticklebacks from the dyke. A footpath led from Woodborough via Cavendish Road into town – it was reputedly the oldest footpath in Nottingham. It was good for you, too: Rose Leaper walked across Russia to work at the Lace Market to improve her health, as she suffered from tuberculosis."*



Fig. 2

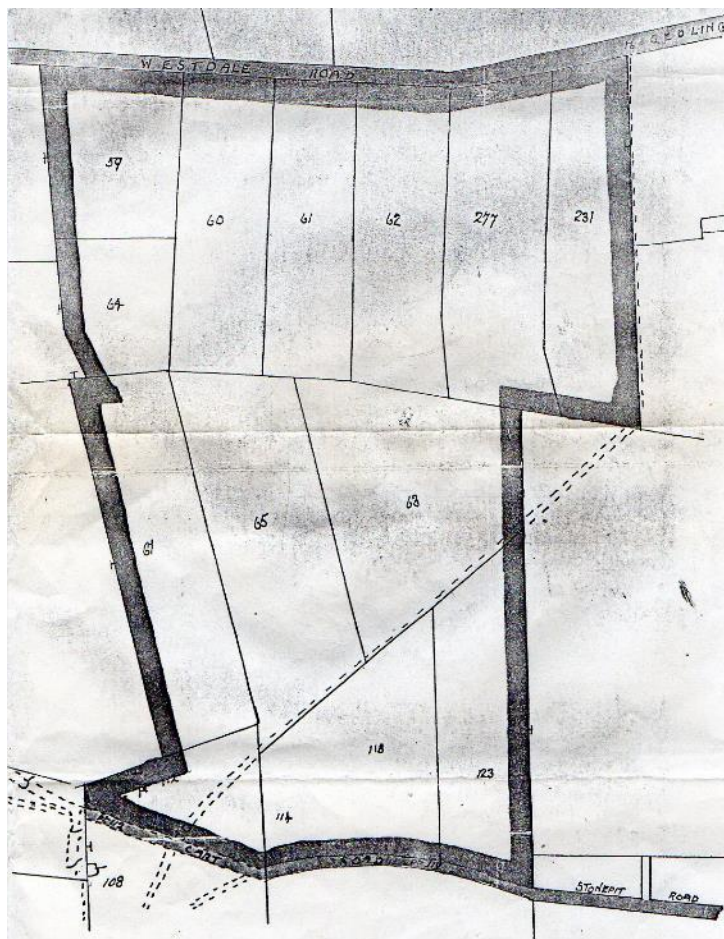
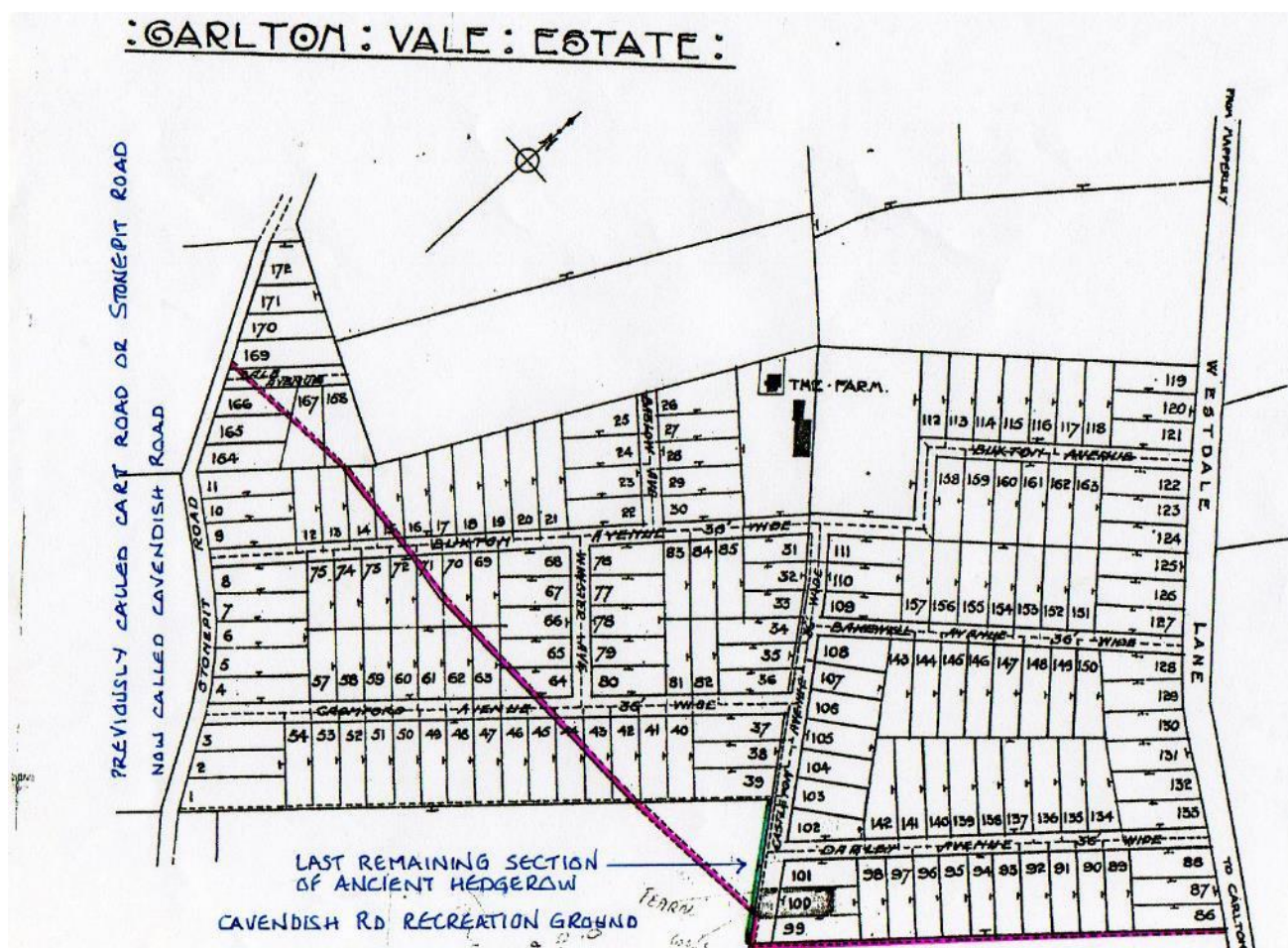


Fig. 3





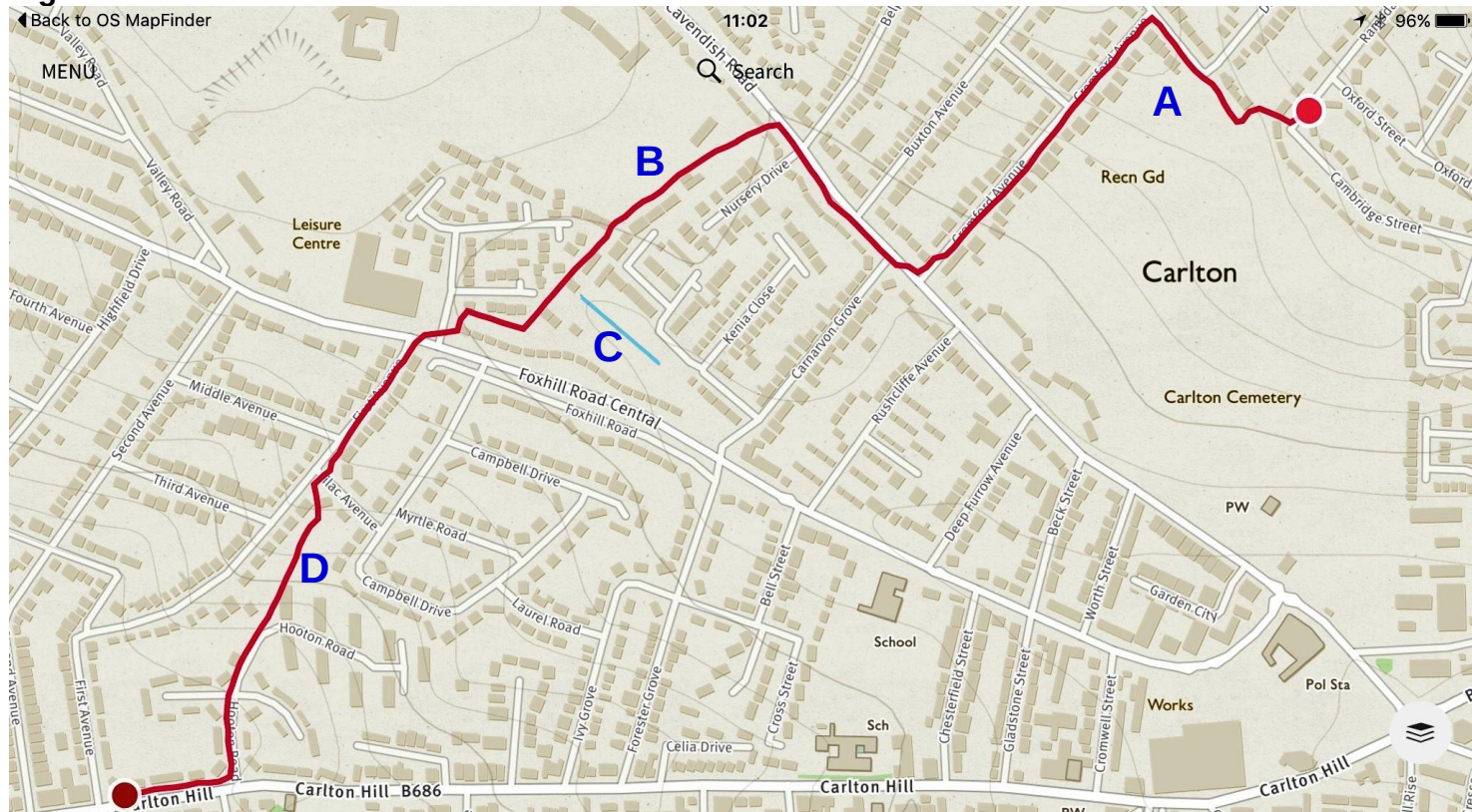
## Research by the Local History group

The following text and photos were supplied by Graeme Bunting:-

I must have walked along that bit of footpath hundreds of times and never realised its significance. I don't really have any information about the bit of hedgerow at the top of the Recreation Ground, although I think I must have retrieved many a football or cricket ball from it during my youth!

I've been out and walked the part of the route from the top of Ramsdale Road to where the footpath originally met Carlton Hill (Fig. 4).

**Fig. 4**



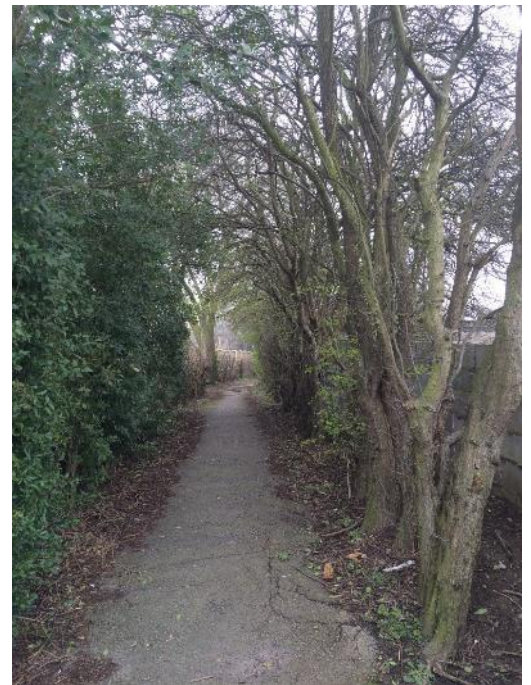
There is not a great deal of the path remaining. The following 3 photos show the ancient hedge between Castleton Avenue and the Recreation Ground (at "A" on Fig. 4)







The next 2 photos are of the footpath between Cavendish Road and Foxhill Road ("B" on Fig. 4), although it looks as though the route in that area has moved from where it was originally was – possibly when they built the Carlton Forum golf driving range in the 1970's.



On Fig. 4 there is a short length of culverted water shown at the back of the prefabs on Foxhill Road ("C"). I presume this is all that remains of the stream that used to rush through Russia Fields.

There is also a short (very steep) stretch of path remaining between First Avenue and Hooton Road ("D").

It is not clear where the rest of the footpath from 'Woodborough into Town' ran. Having looked at some of the old OS maps, there was a footpath from Westdale Lane from somewhere below the Tavern running diagonally across what is now Priory Junior school grounds and playing fields into Friday Lane (or Priory Lane as it was then). It peters out in Gedling Village and my best guess is that it probably continued along the route of the current footpath from the bottom of Yew tree Lane that runs up to Spring Lane near the junction with Lambley Lane.

It's not so obvious where the path may have run into Town – the old maps show a short road at the side of what looks like an orchard (about where Tesco Express now is) and a footpath continuing diagonally down to Sneinton Dale. Presumably this disappeared when the Wimpey estate was built.