



Fen Drayton Lakes

- gravel extraction site which started in 1953 and continued until 1992
- The RSPB has been looking after Fen Drayton Lakes since 2007. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/fen-drayton-lakes/>
- Fen Drayton Lakes stands at one end of a string of wetlands and fens that runs for 25 miles (40km) along the Great Ouse floodplain.



<https://swavesey.ccan.co.uk/>

Swavesey

Cambridgeshire Community Archive Network

home about categories featured contribute

A member of the Cambridgeshire Community Archives Network

log in

contact us privacy and cookies accessibility

Crouchs Shop, Boxworth End, Swavesey, circa 1930..
Description

Welcome

This is the website of one of the groups in the Cambridge Community Archive Network. This site has been dormant for some time. We are beginning to get it up and working again. Here you can browse through our collection of local historical material, which includes photos, old documents and the memories of local people.

THIS WEBSITE IS SPONSORED BY ASHCROFT VETERINARY PRACTICE

Find out [more about us](#) or [get in touch](#)

Recent items

Featured pages

[More featured pages](#)

Main categories

Buildings (462)	Documents (15)
Events (24)	Gender (428)
Landscapes (43)	Objects (55)
People (431)	Sport (15)
Transport (180)	

Popular keywords

These are the most popular keywords used on the site.

- Shepperson, John (8)
- Mitham, Ernest (carpenter) (8)
- Scard, Anthony (baker) (6)
- Shepperson, James (5)
- Mitham, Robinson Snr (5)
- Mitham, Samuel (5)
- Shepperson, Phoebe Elizabeth (nee Mitham) (4)
- Crisp, Carrie (4)
- Hodson, Bert (4)
- Crouch, George (4)

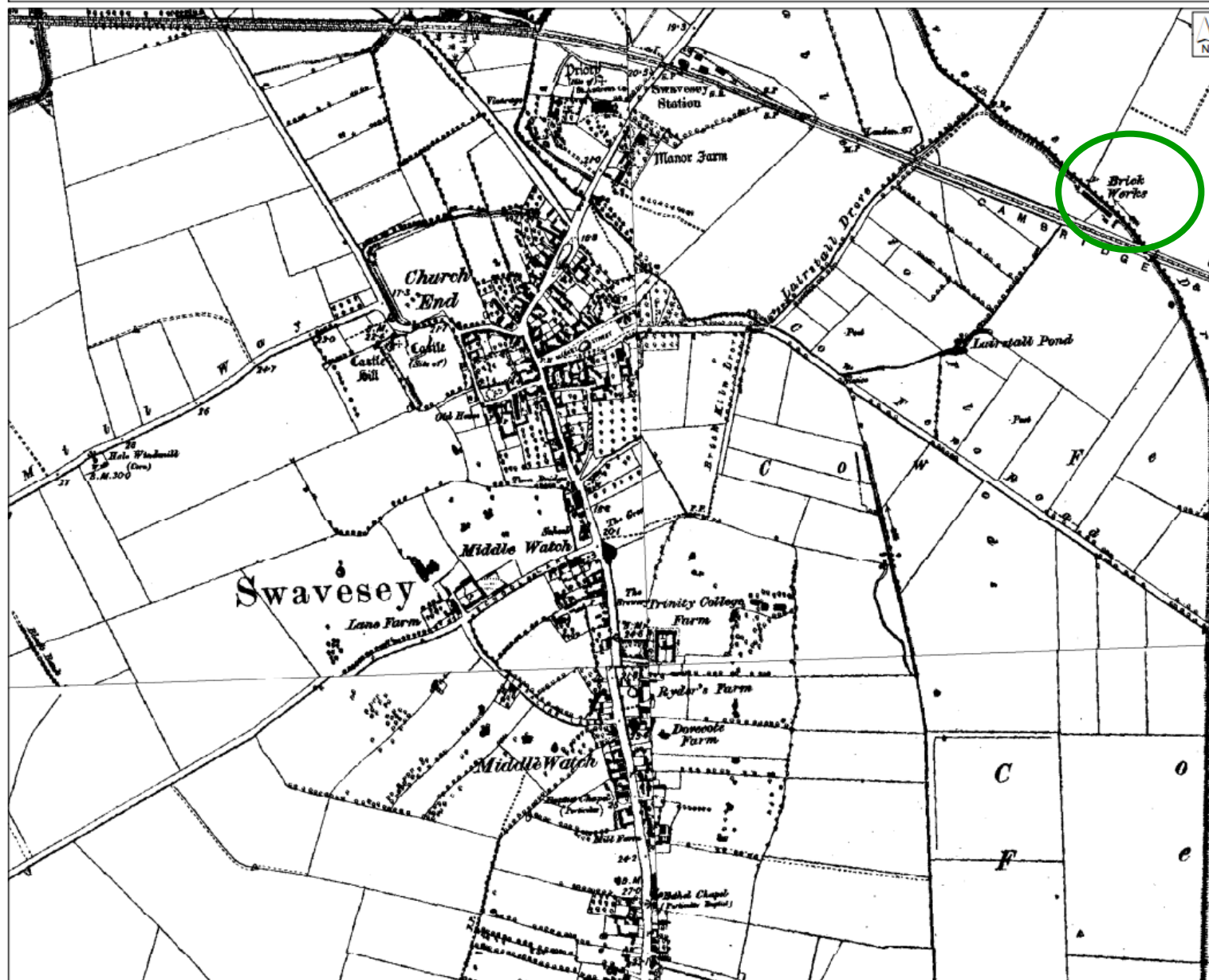


How to Discover and Explore Your Local History

1. Using aerial photographs and old maps to unravel the history of an area and identify change over time around your school



Swavesey Primary School, Middle Watch, Swavesey, Cambridge - 1891



© Crown Copyright and database right 2018.
All rights reserved.
Ordnance Survey Licence number 100024900.

© British Crown and SeaZone Solutions Limited 2018.
All rights reserved. Licence number 102006.006

Historic OS Mapping: Copyright and database right
Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd
(All rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024

Map Centre: 123456, 123456

Map Scale: 1:6,500

Print Date: 01.04.2020



the Prime Meridian

- Swavesey Primary School, which claims to be the only school in the United Kingdom to lie on the [meridian](#)
- <https://www.rmg.co.uk/see-do/we-recommend/attractions/sand-worlds-historic-prime-meridian>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zbkw2hv>

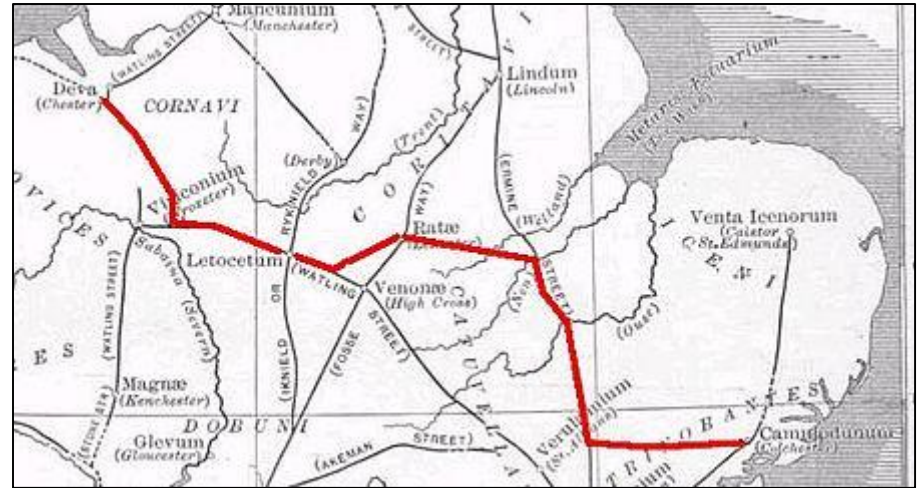


The Railway



Roman Road

The parish's south west border runs along the **Via Devana**, the old Roman road, that now forms the **A14**.



Via Devana in Leicestershire, July 2007



View of the Infants' School taken from the Green shortly after it was built in 1936. The horse chestnut trees on the green were planted in 1912 to mark the reign of King Edward VII. J.S.

https://swavesey.ccan.co.uk/content/catalogue_item/the-village-green-infants-school-swavesey



The Infants School built in 1936 to cater for 4 to 11 year old children. The two classrooms had glass windows and doors on one side and sliding glass doors on the other. The design resulted in the head master, Charles Wood calling it the Butterfly Farm. This photograph was taken about 1965. J.S.

1959-1961





A view of the High Street taken about 1922. On the left is the National School built after the Inclosure in 1838.

<https://swavesey.ccan.co.uk/content/catalogue/item/swavesey-national-school>



This is the best photograph that exists of the National School and was taken about 1927. It was 12 o'clock, the morning lessons were over. The children were coming out of the school and were going home for their dinners. The two little girls holding hands were Vera Smith (Moyse) and Mary Shepperson (Hodson). Mary had been told by her mother to wait for Hilda, their maid, to bring her home. Verna could not wait so was dragging Mary along! J.S.

[Home](#) | [About](#)

Key to English Place-Names

+

-

Swavesey

Refs

**Swaef's landing place'.*

Elements and their meanings

- **pers.n.** (Old English) **pers.n.** Personal name
- **hyð** (Old English) A landing place on a river; an inland port.

Filter names by source language

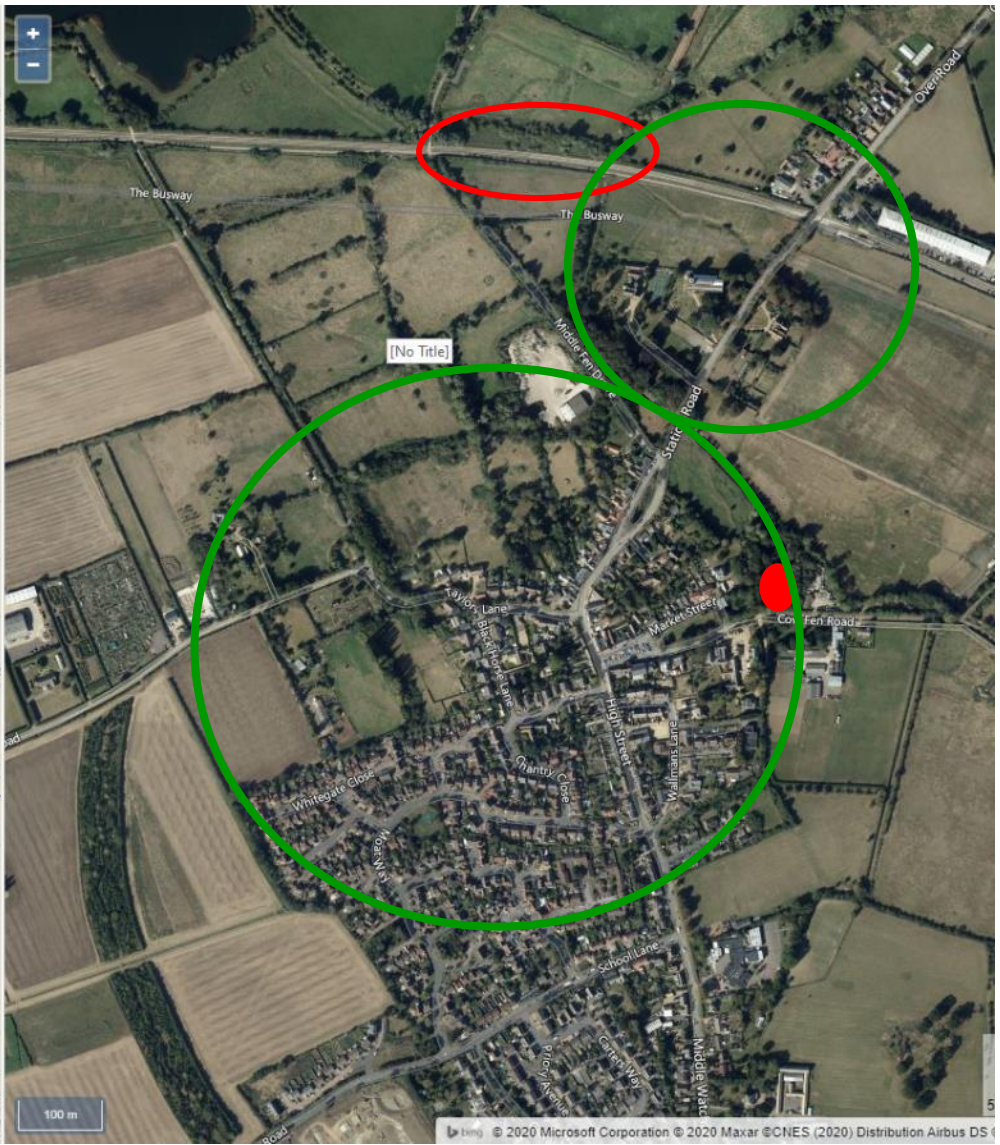
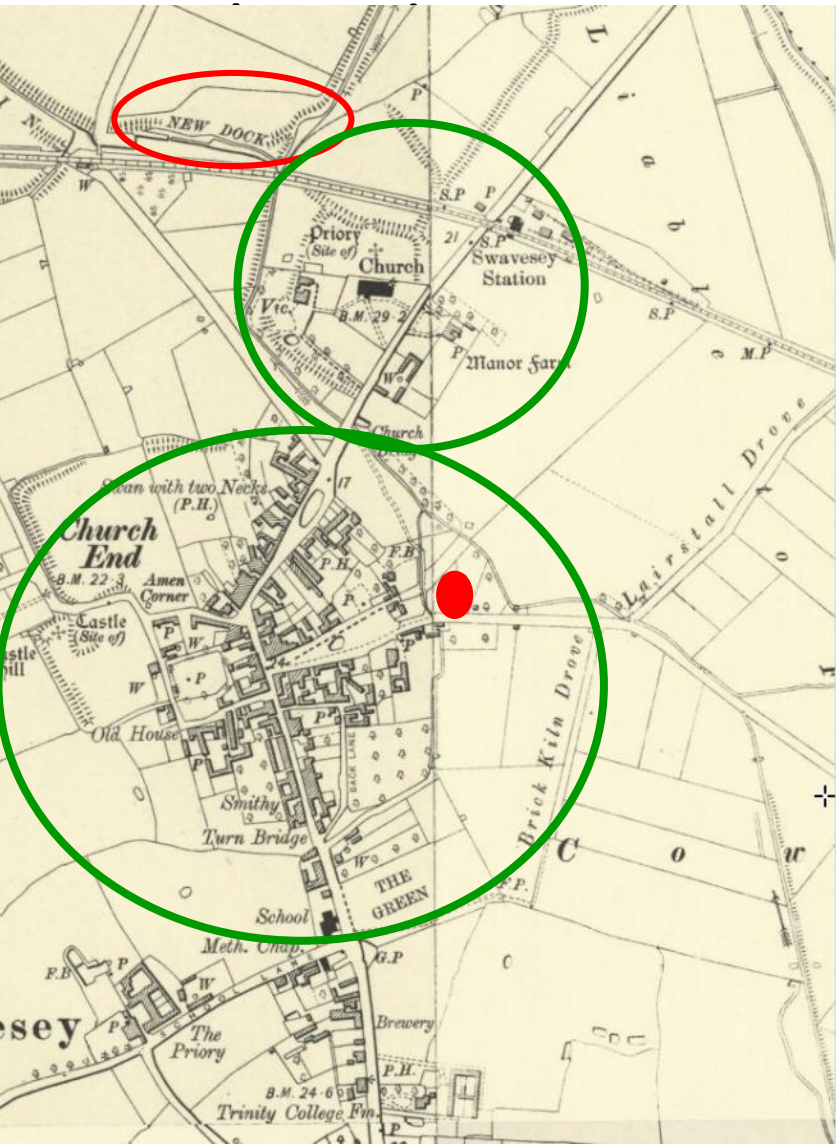
Places with the same name

Places with the same elements

Nearby Places

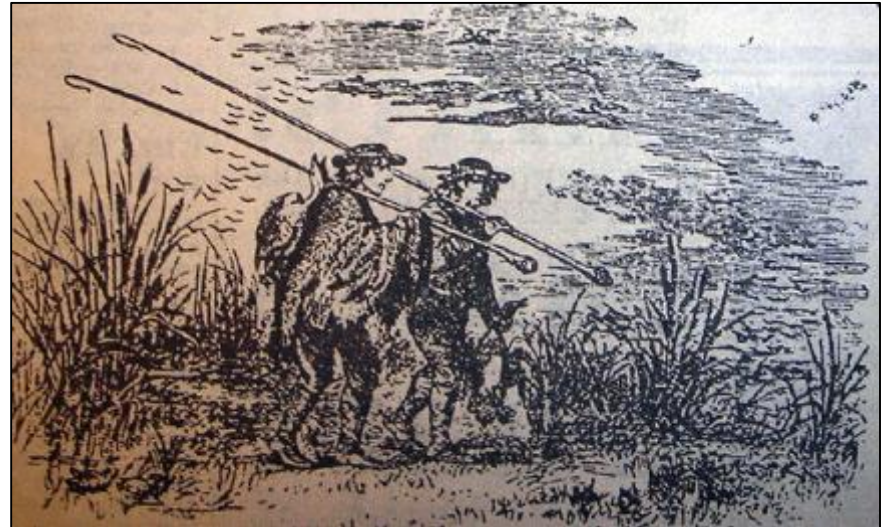
- Cottenham, Cambridgeshire
- Westwick, Cambridgeshire
- Cornewton, Cambridgeshire
- Fen Drayton, Cambridgeshire
- Over, Cambridgeshire
- Swavesey, Cambridgeshire
- Willingham, Cambridgeshire
- Landbeach, Cambridgeshire
- Lohworth, Cambridgeshire
- Long Stanton, Cambridgeshire
- Oakington, Cambridgeshire
- Rampton, Cambridgeshire
- Haddenham, Cambridgeshire
- Willburton, Cambridgeshire
- Bluntham cum Eanth, Huntingdonshire
- Holwell cum Needingworth, Huntingdonshire
- Houghton, Huntingdonshire
- St Ives, Huntingdonshire
- Wilton, Huntingdonshire
- Hilton, Huntingdonshire
- Fen Stanton, Huntingdonshire
- Hemingford Abbots and Grey, Huntingdonshire

A note on languages



Fen Tigers

- During the seventeenth century the Earl of Bedford employed the Dutch engineer Cornelius Vermuyden to drain the Fens. He set to work (with the help of thousands of labourers) and created the Bedford River and the New Bedford River which helped to move the water from the fens more quickly northwards and out into The Wash. Even today the area is known as the Bedford Levels.
- After the land was drained however, the peat started to dry and contract so that the land sank further - leaving the rivers and dykes inside their levees at a higher level. In 1851 at Holme, a cast iron column was hammered into the ground so its top was level with the surface of the fen - however the post now stands 13 feet above the surrounding land.
- Originally there was great resistance to the draining from the 'fen-tigers' - or people whose livelihood depended on the wetlands - and some of the reclamation work was sabotaged.

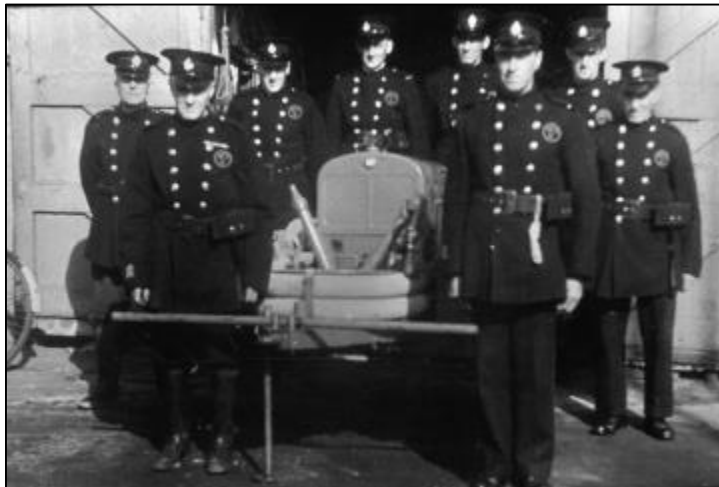


- <http://myths.e2bn.org/mythsandlegends/origins9-the-legend-of-the-fens.html>
- <https://theascoughsofeastfen.weebly.com/life-on-the-east-fen.html>

https://swavesey.ccan.co.uk/content/catalogue_item/swavesey-fire-station-2

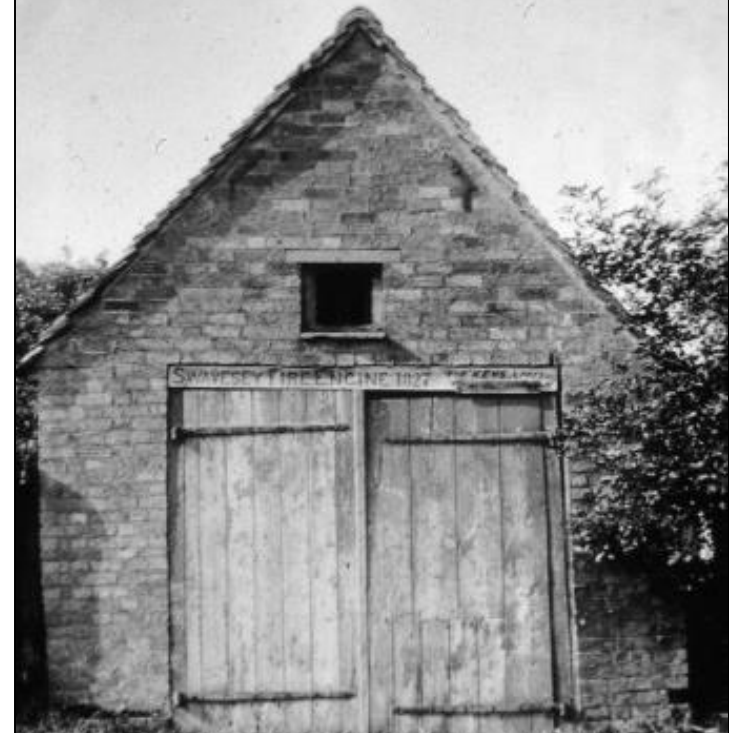
Fire

- fires which swept the village from the 18th century and presumably earlier. A fire in 1719 allegedly destroyed property worth £1,755.
- Between 1848 and 1889 at least 37 houses and cottages were destroyed in at least 12 fires.
- A fire which began in Taylor's Lane in 1913 destroyed at least 28 houses, most of them in Station Road.
- Another destroyed four in Market Street in 1924.



Swavesey Fire Brigade in 1943.

"Swavesey Fire Engine, 1827.
For Keys apply"



probably built shortly after the fire engine was purchased in 1827. Adjoining the building is the gate to the Village Pound used to house stray animals. The building was demolished in the 1960s and 6/8 Middle Watch are built on the frontage.

Details

TL 3668-3768 SWAVESEY STATION
ROAD (North West Side)

14/121 Parish Church of 31.8.62 St.
Andrew

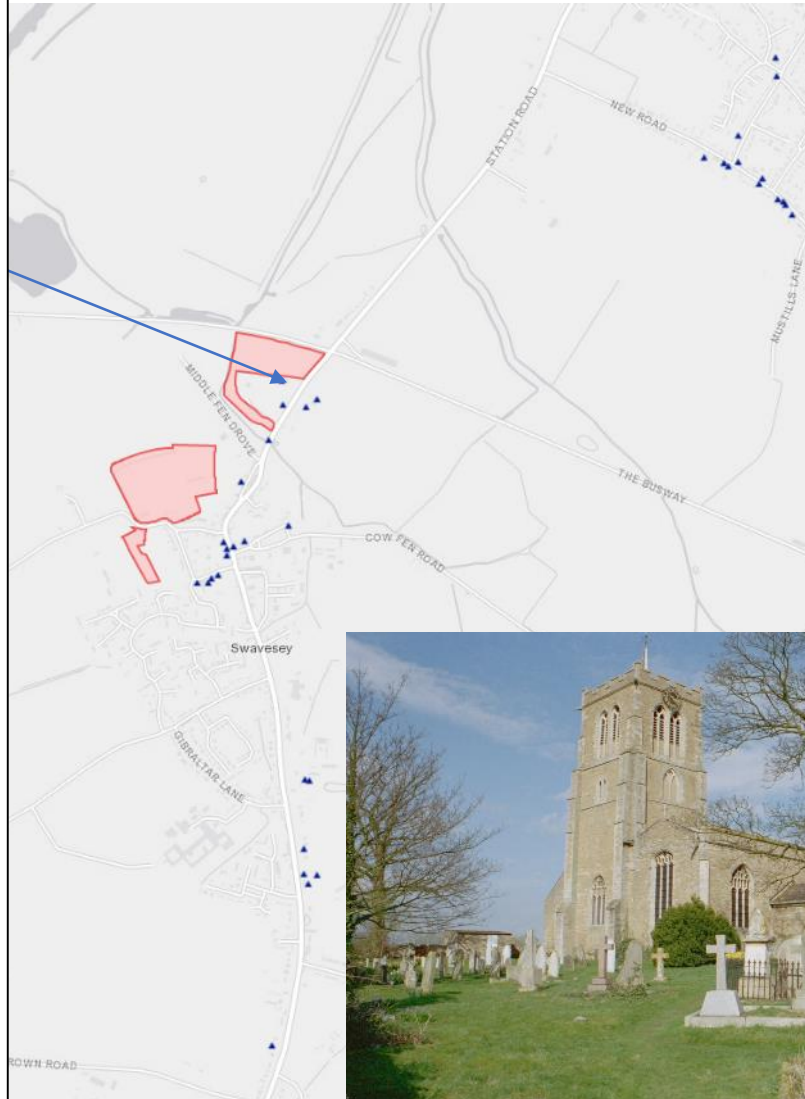
GV I

Parish church; C11 and C12 wall fragments and quoins of nave and chancel of original Benedictine priory church; tower and North aisle C13, South aisle rebuilt and chantry chapel and South porch c.1300; chancel extended to full length of chapel and alterations to aisle windows early C14. Nave arcade, clerestory and roofs mid to late C15 with window tracery inserted into some original openings.

Restorations C17, early C19, and 1865 by W.M. Fawcett, masonry said to have been used from priory ruins. Walls of Barnack limestone and limestone rubble with brick repairs, clunch interior details. Roofs of lead. South elevation. Aisles extend to west face of

gs

uk/listing/the-list/map-search?clearresults=true



Other Medieval Buildings

- Manor house. Late medieval, early C17 with C19 alterations
- <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1226398>
- The manor was purchased in 1549 by the 4th Sir John Cutts (1525-1554), of Horham Hall, Essex; his son, 5th Sir John Cutts of Childerly Hall Cambridge 'built a very pretty retyring house there', (Swavesey) (Cole). The manor was called Bennets, and was sold by the Cutts family in 1718 to Mr Bacon. Layer and Cole.





SWAVESEY MIDDLE WATCH Ryder's Farmhouse GV II*

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1164456>

Farmhouse. Late C13 aisled hall with crosswing possibly C15 or earlier, C18 and C19 additions and alterations ... early C18 local bricks...Dairy with cheese press. The farmhouse is situated on the pre enclosure building line of the village green. Lady Dudley Ryder, daughter of Thomas Cockayne lived at the farmhouse in 1852



Merchant's House II

formerly The Swan Inn

C16

with early C18 alterations

Tudor 1485 - 1603



<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1309424>

SWAVESEY MARKET STREET

Nos. 7 and 9 GV II

Cottage. Early C18

Stuart 1603 - 1714



<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1127247>

Other 17th Century Buildings

Stuart 1603 – 1714



White Horse Inn GV II

Inn. C18 origins

altered early and late C19

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1331350>

Georgian

1714 - 1837



Other Georgian Buildings



BLACKHORSE LANE No 3a and No 5 GV II

Cottage and workshop, formerly a chapel, 1719 altered in 1788 and with rear wing added in 1879.

Chapel was The Old Quaker Meeting house and the centre for the Temperance Reformers.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1127244>

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/cambs/vol9/pp396-397>

Georgian

1714 - 1837



Hale Windmill GII

Tower mill. 'J. Redford AD 1866' on plaque

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1226282>

<https://catalogue.millsarchive.org/hale-mill-swavesey>

Victorian
1837 – 1901

Sheet 19



1903



1934



1955



Church Bridge GII

Road bridge, and drainage sluice.

1839.

Victorian
1837 – 1901



<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1127208>

Swavesey War Memorial

1922

WWI 1914-18

20th Century



<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1433338>

<http://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/46599>

<http://www.warmemorials.org/search-grants/?glD=410>



Before the Memorial Hall was built the Roll Of Honour to those Swavesey men who died in the Great War, was fixed onto a plinth between two brick pillars on the frontage of the site.



<https://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/46600>

Opened

Date: 15th May 1924

Attended by: Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (and Isle of Ely);

Memorial Hall about 1930 when wooden fences blocked off part of the frontage. The site was bequeathed to Swavesey Parish Council by Mr George Long ...in 1902. The Memorial Hall was built to honour the men of Swavesey who lost their lives in the Great War and was opened in 1924. In 1936, when part of the National School was declared unsafe, the hall was used as classrooms, Owing to the outbreak of the Second World War the temporary arrangements continued for over 10 years. Caretaker Ern Prior cleared the desks and chairs each weekend, so that the hall could be used for village functions, such as dances and concerts. J.S.

Swavesey Primary School 1936

20th Century





A view of the entrance to Swavesey Village College taken about 1965. The College was opened in 1958 and was built on Workhouse Close. It is said the field was given that name because a cottage used as a workhouse was built on the site. That was before Swavesey became part of the St Ives Union, under the Poor Law Act of 1836. J.S.



Olaudah Equiano, the first political leader of Britain's black community was born in Essaka, an Igbo village in the kingdom of Benin, in 1745. When he was about eleven, Equiano was kidnapped along with his sister, Sold to slave-traders transported to Barbados. in 1766 purchased his freedom. In 1767 he went back to London, and worked closely with Granville Sharpe and Thomas Clarkson in the Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade. Equiano spoke at a large number of public meetings where he described the cruelty of the slave trade. On 7th April 1792 Equiano married Susannah Cullen from Fordham, Cambridgeshire at St Andrew's Church, Soham in Cambridgeshire. The couple had two children, Anna Maria and Johanna. However, Anna Maria died when she was only four years old – buried at Ely

