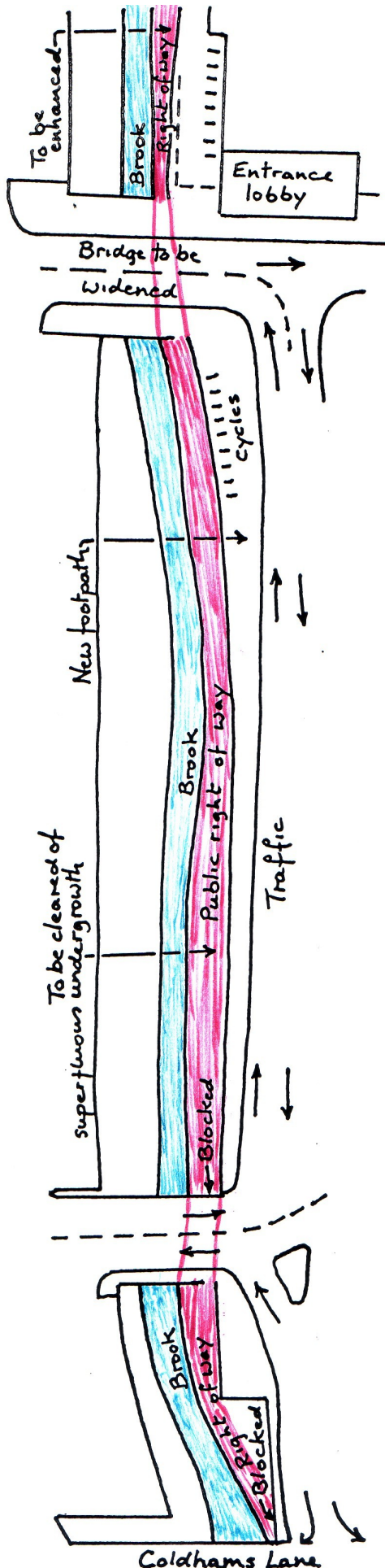


Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook: Occasional Titbits, No. 10, March 2010

Chairman: John Collins

Secretary: Holly Anderson

Please forward or print out and pass on to anyone else who may be interested. If you have items suitable for inclusion please let me have them as they arise. If you wish to be taken off this group email list please let me know.



1. The Planning Application by Sainsbury, September 2009, 09/0843/FUL, for major development was approved on Wednesday 10 March.

The sketch map on the left is an interpretation of Map CHQ.09.7132-PL05K which is ambiguous in part, which does not have a complete key, and in which **the existence of a public right of way is not acknowledged.**

Edited extracts from the Ecological Assessment Report:

None of the habitats recorded on site are of high ecological value and no protected or BAP species were recorded at the time of the survey. The presence of Cherry Hinton Brook CiWS running through the site is a potential constraint on development as it is a locally designated site, giving it medium ecological value in the area. If clearance of the banks* is undertaken as recommended in this report, along with subsequent sowing and management of the area, it is considered that the development could lead to an improvement of the ecological status of the CiWS. Short-term negative impacts on the Brook and downstream designated sites arising from construction can be avoided if care is taken to prevent pollutants and dust from entering the Brook**.

The removal of bank-top vegetation and trees would result in a loss of local nesting and foraging habitat for birds and potential foraging and commuting habitat for bats. This would be a minor negative impact which could be mitigated through the planting of fruit and seed-bearing trees within the landscaping of the proposed development. This would include appropriate planting of native species along the Brook to maintain a vegetated corridor which could be suitable for commuting bats, although the site has low bat roost potential.....although several ivy-clad trees have low potential to provide transient summer bat roosts.

* Clearance of ivy from banks is vital to allow more valuable native species to colonise. It is recommended that a wet meadow wildflower mix is sown along the cleared bank to encourage a native sward, and appropriate management is carried out ensure that ruderal and scrub species do not encroach. Marginal and aquatic vegetation will colonise naturally when conditions become more suitable.

** To protect the Brook the best practice methods recommended by the Environment Agency should be used.

2. SOS (Save Our open Spaces) www.sosc.cambridge.org.uk held a highly productive meeting for networking purposes at the Cambridge Union Society on 26 March. Allan Brigham charmingly made a case for the appreciation of all Cambridge's open spaces, large and small.

3. Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall held their latest meeting in the Baptist Church Centre, Fisher Lane on 24 March. See www.cherryhintonhall.com for reported tentative proposals for a nature trail in the duck pond area including a 'dipping platform' and a 'kingfisher reflection area'.