

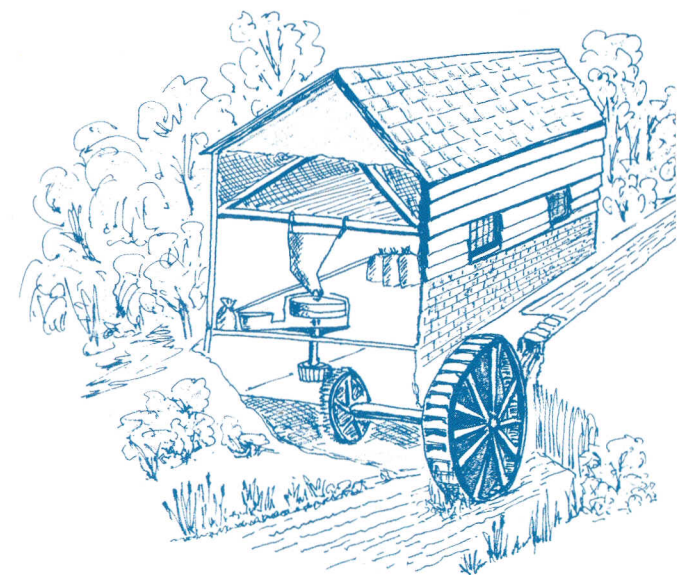
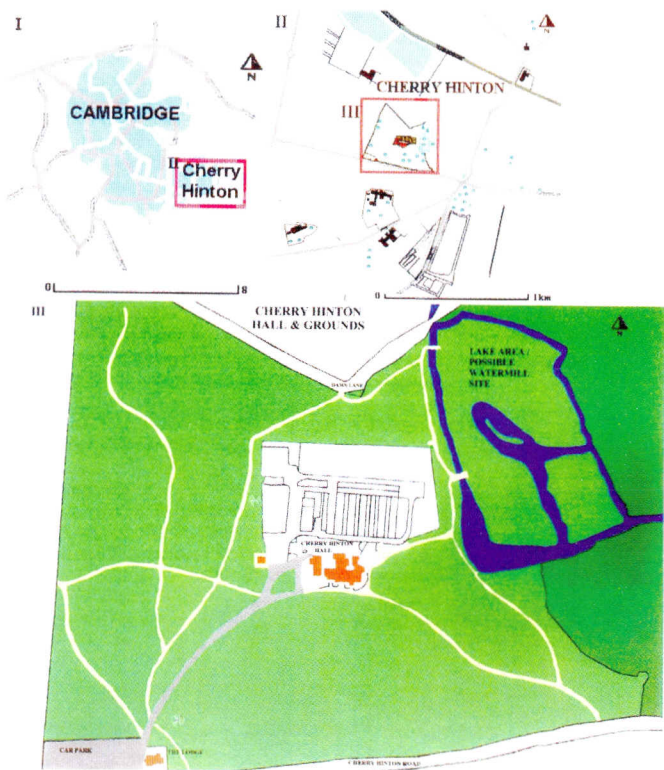


Location

This project to find the lost mills at Cherry Hinton Hall was carried out by students from St. Bede's Inter-Church Comprehensive School under the supervision of qualified archaeologists from Active8 Archaeology. The resource material and findings were summarised into the display board design and the leaflet by the 2XL team of gifted and talented students at the school, who used the project for an extracurricular, extension and enrichment activity. The project was funded by the Local Heritage Initiative, which is a partnership between the Heritage Lottery Fund, Nationwide Building Society, and the Countryside Agency. With thanks to Cambridge City council for permission to carry out the project.



# The Lost Mills



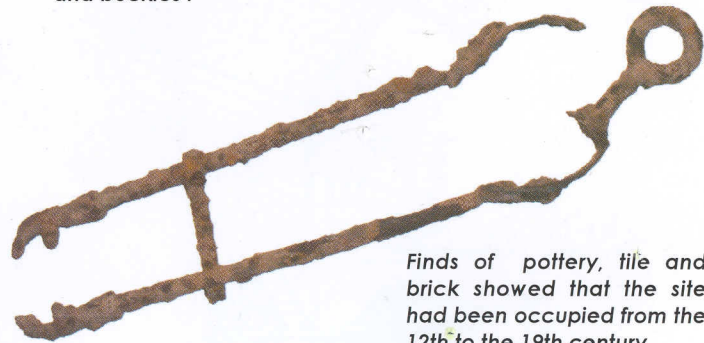
Further details about this project may be found in a report compiled by Active8 Archaeology which is held in the Cambridgeshire Collection at the Central Library, Cambridge or from the LHI website at [www.lhi.org.uk](http://www.lhi.org.uk)



at  
Cherry Hinton Hall

There are several indications that suggest a water mill site in the grounds of Cherry Hinton Hall. The Domesday book mentioned 4 mills in Cherry Hinton which would have been water-powered. The southern end of Cherry Hinton village was known as Mill End. The watercourses in the park are manmade and take water from Cherry Hinton brook to form possible 'leats' or head water for powering a water mill. The enclosure map of 1806 shows these watercourses and 3 buildings positioned next to them, which may have been the mills. Mill stones have also been found here.

*Finds from the excavation included metal items such as these coal tongs and buckles.*



*Finds of pottery, tile and brick showed that the site had been occupied from the 12th to the 19th century.*



*This apple tree tag for 'Cox's Orange Pippin' was found by metal detection, from the orchard area.*



*The conduit was an oblong construction, made of clunch blocks on the walls and roof, and was partially filled with grey silt. Orange staining of the stone surfaces inside suggested a waterflow in the past.*

The archaeological investigation of the possible watermill site at Cherry Hinton Hall consisted of four one metre square trenches or test pits. These trenches were excavated according to archaeological methods, recording the position and depth of any finds and excavated materials. The position of the test pits were calculated to uncover evidence for the buildings shown on the enclosure map of 1806. These buildings were demolished when the estate was purchased and developed after 1830. The parallel watercourses were remodelled into ornamental fish ponds, surrounded by orchards, shown on the sale map of the estate from 1870.

The excavations provided evidence for one or more watermills on this site. In fact, a number of different mills may have stood here over the centuries in different positions and of differing construction. They may have been made of clunch (a type of chalk) and brick with a compacted chalk floor, and a tiled roof. The earliest millstones may have used a horizontal waterwheel positioned in the waterflow. The sketch shows a typical later mill with a vertical waterwheel. One of the test pits uncovered a stone conduit or water channel, which may have been part of a mill.

