

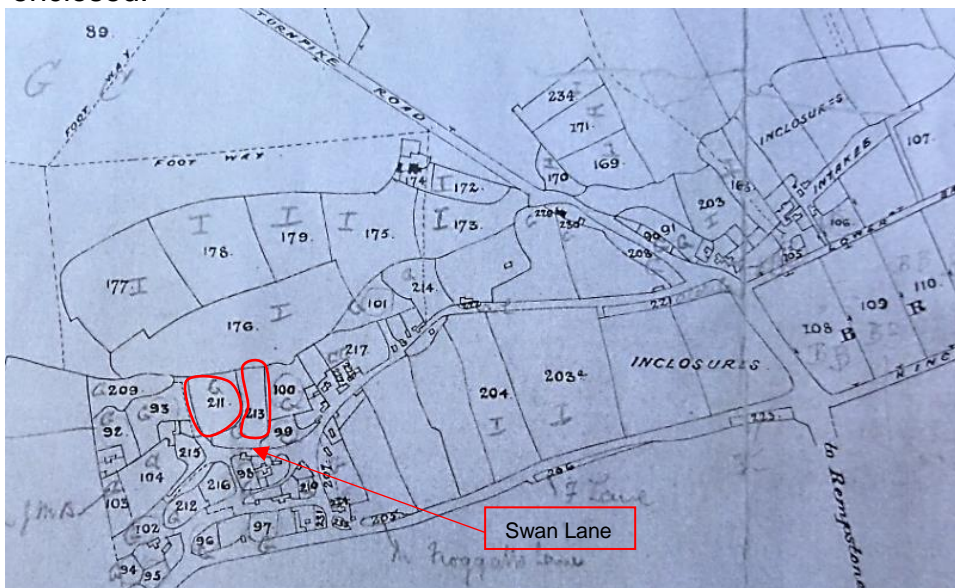
HERITAGE TRAIL



SWAN LANE

The section of Elder Lane that runs from The Tentas and down the hill to the south was formerly known as Swan Lane. A meadow marked 213 on the map below was also once known as Swan's meadow. We believe that this refers to Francis Swan (pot-carrier) of Griffydam, with James Radford they were the only Freeholders in Worthington on the 1775 Poll Roll as land owners which allowed them to vote.

Griffydam is part of the parish of Worthington and is sited in the south corner of the Brand common. The 1806 act of parliament authorised the enclosure of the land held in common by the villagers. The 1806 Enclosure Award map below identifies the land to be enclosed and allocated to Freeholders and Lords. It also shows how certain land had already been enclosed.



Swan's Meadow plot 213 containing "1 acre 36 perch" and Crabtree close plot 211 were allocated to John Haywood a Yeoman. It is likely that Swan's meadow prior to the Enclosure Act was used by villagers to provide food for their families. Commoners lost all their rights to graze common land and various other entitlements such as collecting fire wood. The poverty arising from the Enclosure Act drove many from the rural areas into the slums of Cities such as Nottingham, providing a cheap workforce for the Industrial Revolution.

Immediately after the enclosure awards, plots were sold and small plots such as Swan's Meadow and Crabtree Close were incorporated. We know from John Haywood's Will that he had sold both plots which were combined (plot 496) seen on the 1881/82 Ordnance Survey map (right).

*"Inclosure came and trampled on the grave
Of labour's rights and left the poor a
slave"*

John Clare and *'The Tragedy of the Enclosures'* (John Clare 1793 – 1864)

