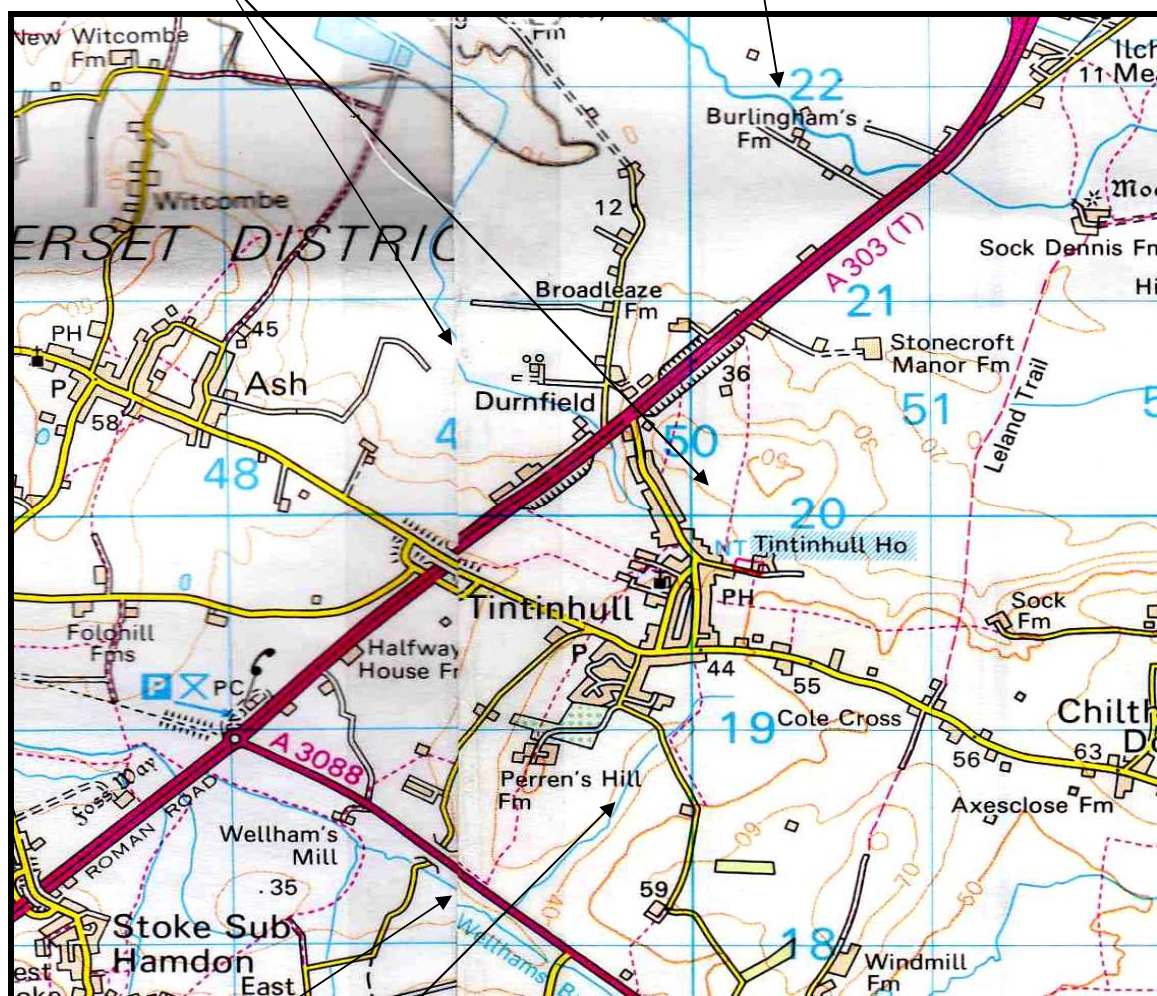


WATER SOURCES OF TINTINHULL

FLOWING WATER

Over the ages, water supplies in Tintinhull, have come from streams, ponds, wells and most recently by pipes [piped water was available from 1880s]. There are very few flowing water sources in Tintinhull. What there are, are very sensitive to weather conditions. The most prominent of these is Wellham's Brook [flowing NW] which eventually feeds into the River Parrett. Wellham's Brook forms the SW border of the parish and was used to power a water mill at Wellham's Mill. The millpond still exists at this site. A small brook forms much of the Eastern and Southern boundaries of the Parish, eventually flowing into Wellham's Brook. Another waterway of note is Bearley Brook that crosses the NE of the parish in the vicinity of Burlingham Farm flowing NW to join the River Yeo. A minor waterway rises in the area North of Tintinhull House, passes beneath Queen Street, in the vicinity of The Old Bakery and flows down to the A303, passing under the road and continuing on via Durnfield, eventually merging with the River Yeo. This waterway is the only flowing water source within the village proper but, unlike many villages, it is virtually unseen as it runs through a deep gully for much of its route. With the exception of Wellham's Brook, it is probable that none of the other flowing water sources was ever used for domestic purposes. These waterways are illustrated in the map below.

Source of small waterway that passes beneath Queens Street, travels via Durnfield to join the river Yeo.



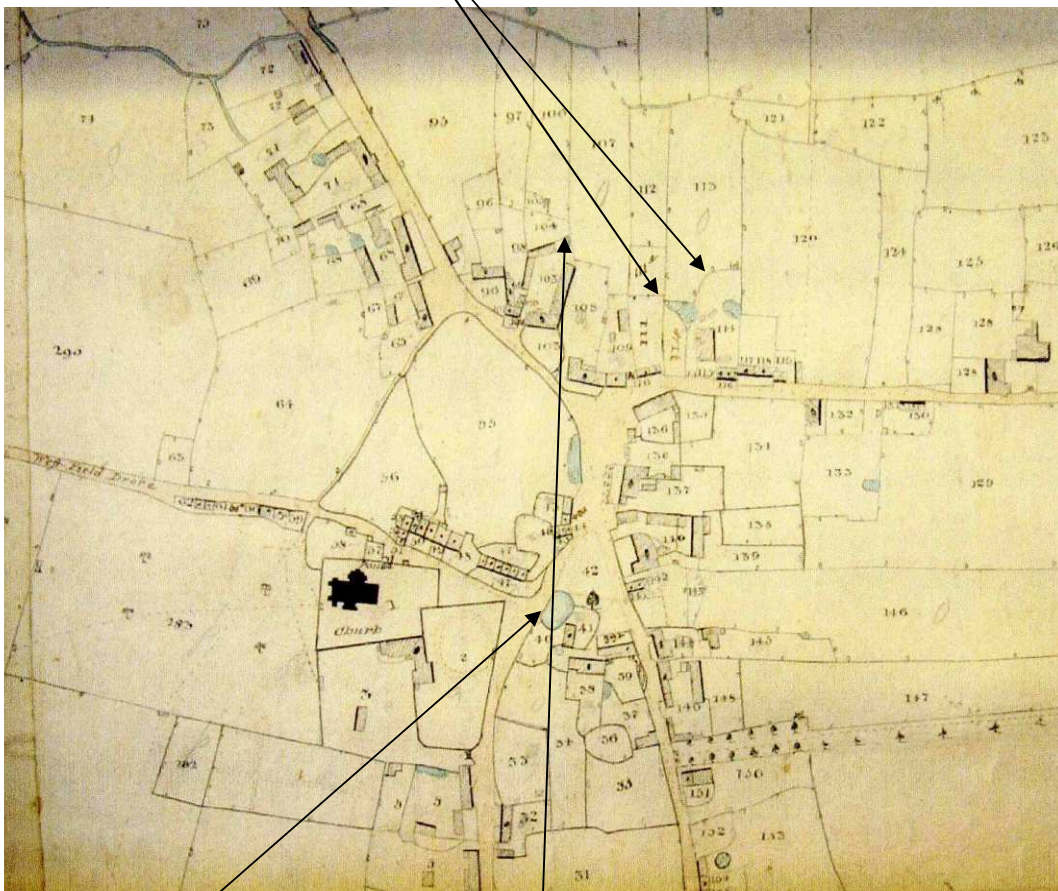
Wellham's Brook

Small brook flowing into Wellham's Brook

THE PONDS

Like many farming communities, Tintinhull had a large number of ponds. Those in outlying fields are not commented upon here, but any village that did not have a convenient stream needed ponds. However, the large number that existed within the village proper is of interest [see title maps below – ponds shown in pale blue]. The map indicates just how many were still in existence in 1840. It is generally accepted that only one in a hundred ponds is truly natural; all others having been created to meet a need. Those that are man-made [and that would have been the majority of those in the village] have shallow water at the edges with a deeper section in the centre. They would have been cleaned out every ten years or so. The usual inhabitants of these ponds would have included dozens of animal and insect life forms [birds, dragonflies, newts, frogs, water beetles etc.]; few people nowadays would have been prepared to drink the water. But the ponds did serve a multitude of purposes; watering for animals, blacksmith's water needs, a source of water for fighting fires, growing withies, steeping of flax, growing watercress, millponds, washing horses etc. It is interesting to note that the Horse Pond was finally taken out of use in 1932, but had probably not been used for horses [and their carts] for a decade or so. Just about all of these ponds, within the village proper, have gone. A very few do remain, for example, there is one at College Farm.

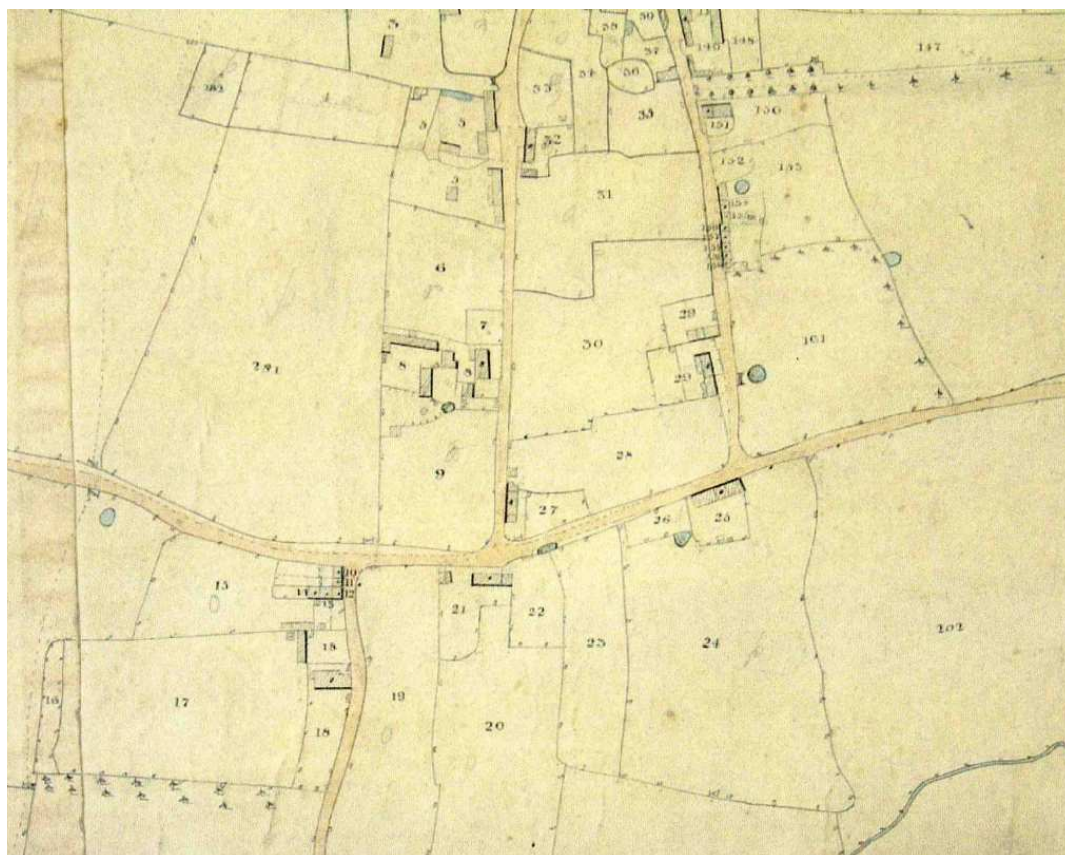
Typical examples of pond sites



Horse Pond

One of the few remaining ponds

Other pond sites in 1840



THE WELLS OF TINTINHULL

A survey of the wells and well sites in Tintinhull indicates there were in excess of 30. Almost without exception the vernacular buildings in Tintinhull all had wells associated with them. Many wells [or their disused sites] indicate the presence of older buildings within the village; some of these buildings have long gone. The wells that are intact vary in depth from 3 to 20 metres, depending upon their position in the village. This variation indicates that there are probably two or more aquifers beneath the village. The map below indicates the location of wells and divides them into four categories. The wells that are accessible reveal a Ham stone lining, some being bottle shaped in section. They range between 0.75 to 1.2 metres in diameter. Further information is provided about these in the table below. Several of the wells have been found inside buildings – some even exist beneath house walls of the C16th – and so generally they are many hundreds of years old.

So, how were these wells constructed? All the evidence suggests that they were dug manually. If there was no evidence of a ground water source [all wells gather water from sources held in the underlying structure of the earth], then the services of a water diviner would have been sought. Once having selected a likely site, work would commence with spades. For a finished well of about 1 meter in diameter, a hole had to be dug of around 1.5 meters in diameter. That allowed the diggers working space. As work progressed, the side walls would have been supported by timber shuttering. After reaching the required depth, the shuttering would have been replaced by bricks or stone. Here in Tintinhull, all the accessible wells are hamstone lined. The stones would be shaped so that they interlocked rather in the fashion of an

arch over a doorway. Each well would have been provided with a wellhead. This feature prevented the ingress of surface water, afforded some safety to prevent people falling in and it usually supported any device that was used to draw water from the well.

Each of the wells in Tintinhull has been categorised as :-

- An active well
- A well that has been filled in
- A well that has water, but is not now accessible
- Status unknown

The map below shows the sites of all the known wells in Tintinhull.



DETAILS OF WELLS – [Colour coding matches categories identified above]

LOCATION	DETAILS
QUEEN STREET	
GENTLES FARM	REAR GARDEN, ADJACENT TO REAR OF HOUSE 5.2M DEEP, 5.0 M OF WATER. STONE LINED WITH WELLHEAD
30 QUEEN STREET	REAR GARDEN, UNDER HOUSE WALL 0.7M DIAMETER
VICTORIAN COTTAGES	ALONGSIDE COTTAGES, NO DETAILS
PLOWMANS COTTAGE	AT FRONT OF COTTAGE, RHS NO DETAILS
13 QUEEN STREET	REAR GARDEN, 40M FROM HOUSE. 3.0M DEEP, 2.3M OF WATER, 0.9M DIAMETER, STONE LINED, NO WELLHEAD
WINTERS FARM	TWO FILLED IN WELLS. ONE CLOSE TO REAR OF HOUSE, THE OTHER 40M TO THE REAR.
TILLY'S BARN	INSIDE HOUSE IN LOUNGE, NW CORNER, FILLED IN
VICTORIAN COTTAGES	INSIDE LH HOUSE, FILLED IN
WALTERS FARM	UNDER WALL AT FRONT OF HOUSE. 8.6M DEEP, 8.3M OF WATER, 0.8M DIAMETER, STONE LINED, NO WELLHEAD
WELBY COTTAGE	IN REAR GARDEN, CLOSE TO HOUSE, NOW COVERED
FARM STREET	
9 FARM STREET	SIDE GARDEN 4 M FROM HOUSE, 10.5M DEEP, 8.6M OF WATER, 0.6M DIAMETER, STONE LINED WITH STONE WELLHEAD
13/15 FARM STREET	IN REAR GARDENS BETWEEN HOUSES, FILLED IN
TINTINHULL HOUSE	IN COURTYARD TO RH OF HOUSE. YET TO BE SURVEYED, BUT IS KNOWN TO BE LINED AND CONTAINS WATER
LAMB FARM SLAUGHTER HOUSE	INSIDE SLAUGHTER HOUSE, SW CORNER. 5.6M DEEP, 4.1M OF WATER, 0.6M DIAMETER, STONE LINED, NO WELLHEAD
LAMB FARM	IN REAR GARDEN, 2M FROM HOUSE, 10.75M DEEP, 7.7M OF WATER, 1.1M DIAMETER, STONE LINED WITH WELLHEAD
LAMB FARM	IN FRONT OF HOUSE, WAS VILLAGE PUMP. NOW COVERED STATUS UNKNOWN
VICARAGE STREET	
5/7 VICARAGE STREET	TO REAR OF HOUSES, NOW FILLED IN
FRANCIS HOUSE	IN DRIVE TO LH OF HOUSE, NOW FILLED IN
11 VICARAGE STREET	TWO WELLS ON SITE, NOT NOW ACCESSIBLE
LEACHES FARM	REAR GARDEN, 10M FROM HOUSE, 3.7M DEEP, 3.7M OF WATER, 0.7M DIAMETER, BRICK LINED, NO WELLHEAD
HEAD STREET YEOVIL ROAD	
HUIISH FARM	100M TO THE REAR OF THE FARM, NOW FILLED IN BUT IT WAS APPARANTLY 20M DEEP. THERE IS AN AQUIFIER IN THIS AREA WHICH FLOWS THROUGH VERY HIGH GROUND
3 HEAD STREET	IN DRIVEWAY TO LH SIDE OF HOUSE. USED TO BE THE WELL TO THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH. IT IS A LINED WELL WITH WATER, BUT HAS NOT YET BEEN SURVEYED.
BATCOMBE HOUSE	UNDER THE FRONT WALL OF THE HOUSE, STATUS NOT KNOWN
THE OLD POST OFFICE	FILLED IN WELL TO RH SIDE OF HOUSE
ST MARGARETS ROAD	
THE OLD DAIRY HOUSE	IN REAR GARDEN, CLOSE TO HOUSE. 8.9M DEEP, 8.4M OF WATER, 0.77M DIAMETER, STONE LINED BUT NO WELLHEAD

13 ST MARGARETS ROAD	FILLED IN WELL TOWARDS THE FRONT OF THE PROPERTY. NO DETAILS ARE KNOWN ALTHOUGH THERE WAS AN OLD BUILDING AT THIS SITE [TITHE MAP EVIDENCE]
1 ST MARGARETS ROAD	ANOTHER FILLED IN WELL SITE WITH FURTHER EVIDENCE OF AN OLDER BUILDING
TINTINHULL COURT HOUSE	REAR GARDEN 20 M FROM THE HOUSE. 6.0M DEEP, 4.6M OF WATER, 1.2M IN DIAMETER, STONE LINED WITH MODERN WELLHEAD
OFF MAP SITE	
QUEEN STREET TRAPNOLES	TOWARDS THE NORTH OF THE SITE THERE IS A FILLED IN WELL

August 2008