

History Trail

Point 4 - Cell Barnes Orchard



The Park has two remnants of the old hospital orchards. Cell Barnes orchard once belonged to the nearby Cell Barnes House. Fine examples of 'Arcure' fruit tree training are still visible. New fruit trees have been planted on what was once the large hospital vegetable garden but older trees from the original orchard are still visible on both sides of the new road.



Aerial photo of Cell Barnes hospital grounds (Source and date unknown)

Highfield Park Drive now dissects the above photo from top to bottom through the small, circular trees right of centre. The lighter area (mid photo) was the vegetable garden. The buildings to the left were Doctors' quarters.

"Quite a few residents worked on the farm and in the vegetable garden. The location at the far end of site by orchard is still visible. Greenhouse grew tomatoes and cucumbers. John Tidy in charge". (CB Nurse)

"There was a very good garden at one end of which half an acre was used for food in the canteen. Patients were encouraged to do some gardening including growing the vegetables. One end deep into the site, almost backing onto present Nuffield area, was an orchard". (CB Hydro-therapist)