

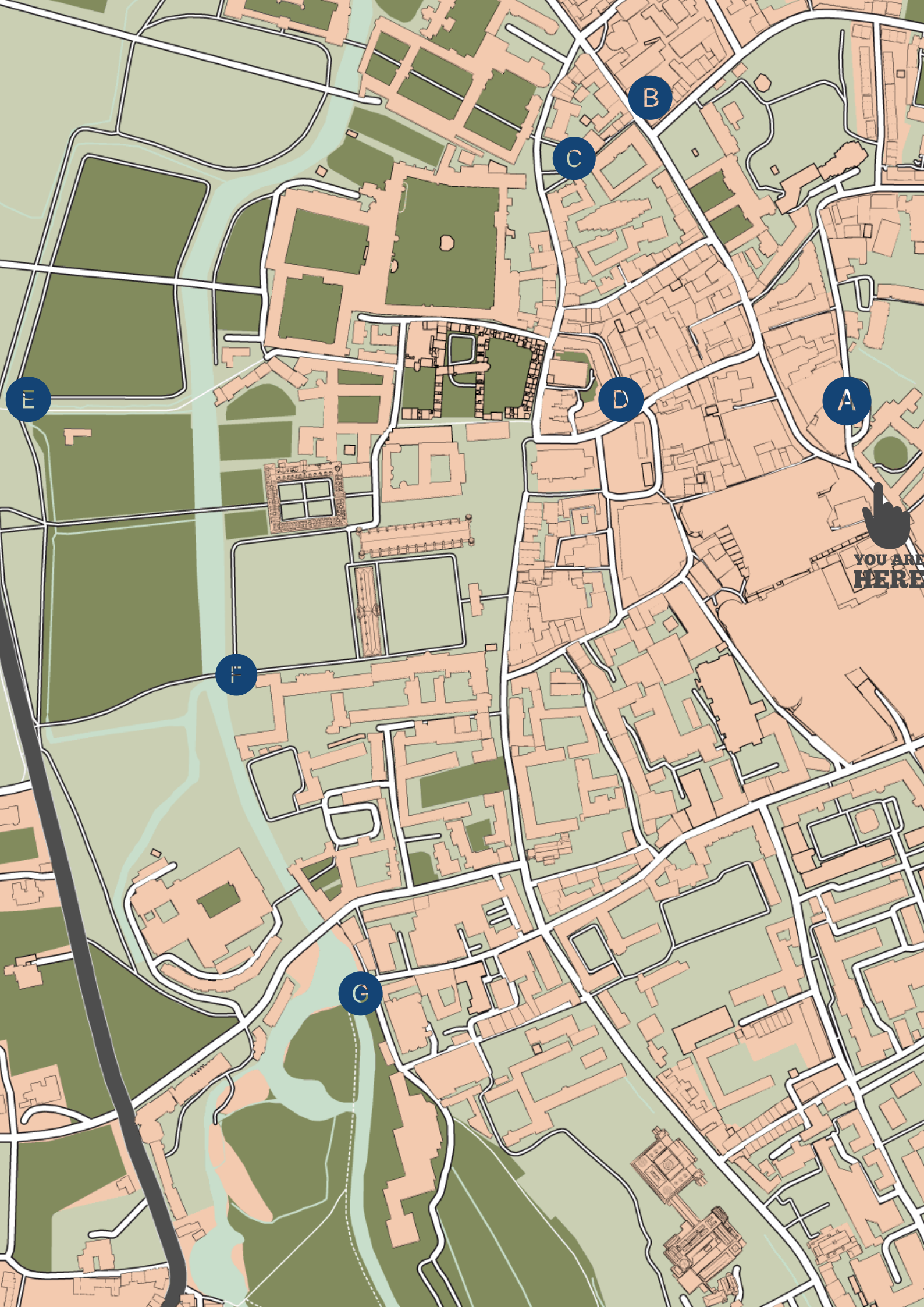


# Poetry and Place

IN CAMBRIDGE

## Walking Tour

A stroll taking in seven literary locations



YOU ARE  
HERE

# Hobson Street

As you exit Christ's College through the Great Gate, look down at the pavement in front of you to see one of the historic Hobson's Conduit drain covers. If you take a right, you will find yourself on Hobson Street, the namesake of Thomas Hobson, Cambridge citizen, University carrier, and subject of Milton's poem below.



## On the University Carrier

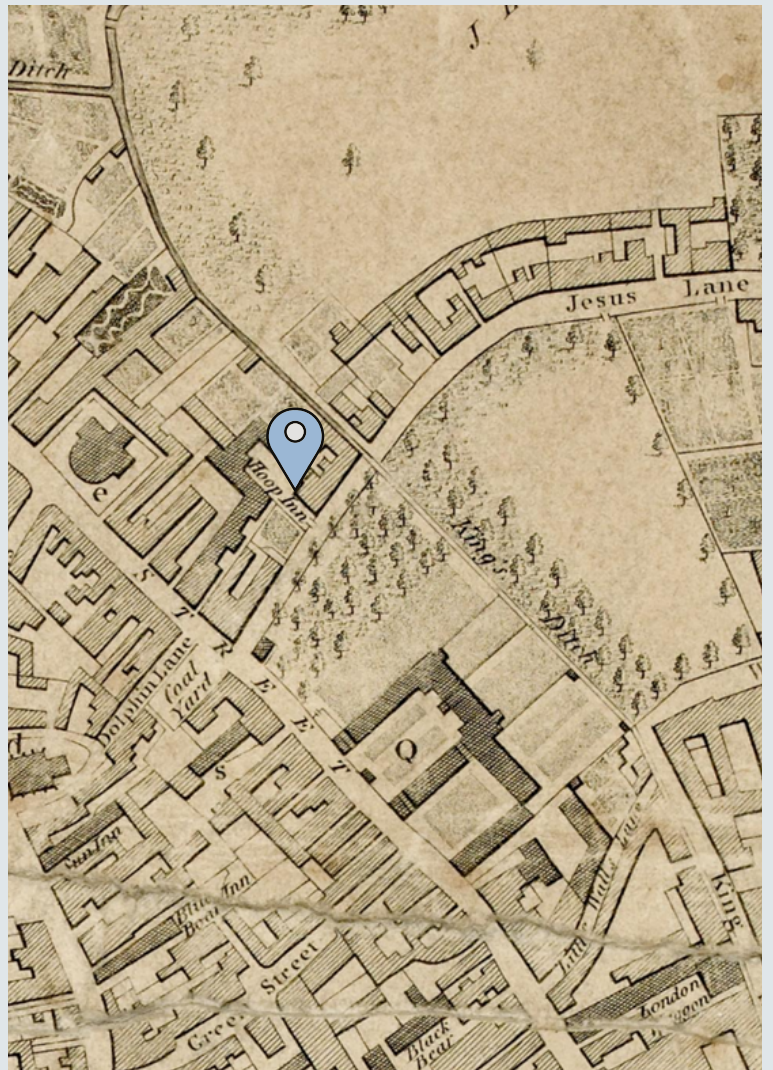
*Here lies old Hobson, Death hath broke his girt,  
And here alas, hath laid him in the dirt,  
Or els the ways being foul, twenty to one,  
He's here stuck in a slough, and overthrown.  
'Twas such a shifter, that if truth were known,  
Death was half glad when he had got him down;  
For he had any time this ten yeers full,  
Dodg'd with him, betwixt Cambridge and the Bull.  
And surely, Death could never have prevail'd,  
Had not his weekly cours of carriage fail'd;  
But lately finding him so long at home,  
And thinking now his journeys end was come,  
And that he had tane up his latest Inne,  
In the kind office of a Chamberlin  
Shew'd him his room where he must lodge that night,  
Pull'd off his Boots, and took away the light:  
If any ask for him, it shall be sed,  
Hobson has supt, and 's newly gon to bed.*

John Milton

B

## Jesus Lane

Walking up Bridge Street, you will come to the site of the old Hoop Inn, now occupied by the shop Sevenwolves and the ADC Theatre. Wordsworth alighted at this famous inn in the opening of Book 3 of *The Prelude*.



C

## All Saints' Garden

Turn left into St John's Street. Continue past the college on your right, until you reach All Saints' Garden on your left, possibly the site of the coffeehouse owned by Mary Davys, poet and dramatist, in the 1710s.



Artefacts from a 1770s Cambridge coffeehouse, excavated by the University's archaeological unit in 2017

## Rose Crescent



Continue down St John's Street until you can turn left into Rose Crescent. At the end of this street, on the right, you will see a plaque commemorating the tobacco shop which once stood here. Charles Stuart Calverley's *Ode to Tobacco* memorialises the establishment.

### Ode to Tobacco

*Thou who, when fears attack,  
Bid'st them avaunt, and Black  
Care, at the horseman's back  
Perching, unseatest;  
Sweet when the morn is gray;  
Sweet, when they 've cleared away  
Lunch; and at close of day  
Possibly sweetest:...*  
*Cats may have had their goose  
Cooked by tobacco-juice;  
Still why deny its use  
Thoughtfully taken?  
We're not as tabbies are:  
Smith, take a fresh cigar!  
Jones, the tobacco-jar!*

Charles Stuart Calverley



# E



## Taking Leave of Cambridge Again

*Softly I am leaving,  
Just as softly as I came;  
I softly wave goodbye  
To the clouds in the western sky.*

*The golden willows by the riverside  
Are young brides in the setting sun;  
Their glittering reflections on the shimmering river  
Keep undulating in my heart.*

*The green tape grass rooted in the soft mud  
Sways leisurely in the water;  
I am willing to be such a waterweed  
In the gentle flow of the River Cam.*

## King's College

After walking south along the Backs, turn left into the grounds of King's College. A short distance away you will find the Xu Zhimo memorial stone and garden. Xu's poem on leaving Cambridge is above.

## The Backs

Leaving the city centre, follow the map towards Trinity Hall bridge. From here you can see the River Cam, and colleges including Trinity, Clare, King's and Queens'. The fields and river along the college backs were the subject of poems by James Payn and Christ's 'scullion' John Wisken. As Payn observed, the bridges in this area are 'Crowned with sphere and pillar / Linking lawn with lawn'.

# F

*That pool in the shade of elm trees  
Holds not clear spring water, but a rainbow  
Crumpled in the midst of duckweeds,  
Where rainbow-like dreams settle.*

*To seek a dream? Go punting with a long pole,  
Upstream to where green grass is greener,  
With the punt laden with starlight,  
And sing out loud in its radiance.*

*Yet now I cannot sing out loud,  
Peace is my farewell music;  
Even crickets are now silent for me,  
For Cambridge this evening is silent.*

*Quietly I am leaving,  
Just as quietly as I came;  
Gently waving my sleeve,  
I am not taking away a single cloud.*

Xu Zhimo

# Granta Place



Continue through King's College until you reach King's Parade. Follow this road south until you can turn right towards the Mill Pond. This area of the river, alongside Granta Place, was the setting for Veronica Forrest-Thomson's poem *Ducks & Rabbits*. Congratulations on reaching the end of this walking tour — why not celebrate with a warming drink by the river!

## Ducks & Rabbits

*in the stream [1]  
look, the duck-rabbits swim between.  
The Mill Race  
at Granta Place  
tosses them from form to form,  
dissolving bodies in the spume.*

*Given A and see [2]  
find be [3]  
(look at you, don't look at me) [4]  
Given B, see A and C.  
that's what metaphor [5]  
is for.*



*Date and place  
in the expression of a face [6]  
provide the frame  
for an instinct to rename, [7]  
to try to hold apart  
Gestalt and Art.*

- [1] Of consciousness  
[2] The expression of a change of aspect is the expression of a new perception.  
[3] And at the same time of the perception's being unchanged.  
[4] Do not ask yourself "How does it work with me?" Ask "What do I know about someone else?"  
[5] Here it is useful to introduce the idea of a picture-object.  
[6] A child can talk to picture-men or picture-animals. It can treat them as it treats dolls.  
[7] Hence the flashing of an aspect on us seems half visual experience, half thought.

# Christ's College Old Library

The story of Christ's College began in the 1430s when William Byngham (1390–1451) established 'God's House'. Moved to its present site in 1448 to make room for King's College, it was re-founded as Christ's College in 1505 by Lady Margaret Beaufort (1443–1509), the mother of the Tudor dynasty. Lady Margaret arranged for 38 books to be given to the Library. Others have followed her example over five centuries and now the Old Library is home to some 50,000 rare printed books and manuscripts.

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IN CAMBRIDGE

Christ's College Old Library  
18th November 2021 – 17th February  
2022



Exhibition curation & design: Amy Bowles.

Cover image: Photograph of King's Mill, Granta Place (Museum of Cambridge)

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