

TITHE MAP AND APPORTIONMENT DIGITIZATION PROJECT

The tithe was an annual payment of an agreed proportion (originally one-tenth) of the yearly produce of the land, which was payable by parishioners to the parish church, to support it and its clergyman. Originally tithes were paid 'in kind' (wool, milk, honey, fish, barley etc). By 1836 tithes were still payable in most of the parishes in England and Wales, but the Government had decided on the commutation of tithes—in other words, the substitution of money payments for payment 'in kind' all over the country—and the Tithe Commutation Act was passed in 1836.

A survey of the whole of England and Wales was undertaken in the decade or so after 1836, to establish boundaries of land, acreage of fields, and states of cultivation, and parish or district tithe maps showing all plots subject to tithe were produced. When an overall value for the tithe in a parish or district had been determined, the tithe rent-charge had to be apportioned fairly among the lands of differing quality and various uses in the parish, and for this purpose a tithe apportionment linked to the map was drawn up.

The process of creating high-resolution digital copies of Devon's tithe maps began with the East Devon Parishscapes project in 2008, and by the end of 2009 all 510 maps held at the Devon Record Office (plus a few duplicates and extras) had been scanned. The DRO also purchased from the National Archives grayscale digital copies of the 472 tithe apportionments. It is planned to publish the digitized maps and apportionments on the Internet in 2011, so that they can be viewed without visiting a record office. A second stage in the process will involve 'stretching' the maps over a modern map, so that they can form a layer in a Geographical Information System and be used to demonstrate changes in the landscape over time. The third and final stage will link the apportionment details to each field on the map, thus making information about ownership, occupancy, acreage, and state of cultivation instantly accessible.

For this final stage the apportionment information needs to be transferred to a spreadsheet in a standard format, and this can only be done by reading the original document, or an image of it, and keying in the separate pieces of data to a computer. This was accomplished very successfully by volunteers for a large part of East Devon during the Parishscapes project, and groups elsewhere in the county have produced transcriptions or are in the process of doing so.

The challenge now is to extend transcription to cover the whole of Devon, and for this **more volunteers are needed**. The DRO can supply copies of apportionments on CDs (and they will soon be available online), along with detailed instructions for transcription. The documents themselves are generally written in a clear hand and are not difficult to read. Local knowledge of place and personal names is useful, though not essential. **For further information contact Philippe Planel (philippeplanel@gmail.com).**

DEVON RECORD OFFICE – TITHE APPORTIONMENT TRANSCRIPTION

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The tithe was an annual payment of an agreed proportion (originally one-tenth) of the yearly produce of the land, which was payable by parishioners to the parish church, to support it and its clergyman. Originally tithes were paid 'in kind' (wool, milk, honey, fish, barley etc). By 1836 tithes were still payable in most of the parishes in England and Wales, but the Government had decided on the commutation of tithes – in other words, the substitution of money payments for payment 'in kind' all over the country - and the **Tithe Commutation Act** was passed in **1836**.

A survey of the whole of England and Wales was undertaken to establish boundaries of land, acreage of fields and states of cultivation, and parish or district **tithe maps** showing all plots subject to tithe were produced.

When an overall value for the tithe in a parish or district had been determined, the tithe rent-charge had to be apportioned fairly among the lands of differing quality and various uses in the parish and for this purpose a **tithe apportionment** linked to the map was drawn up.

CONTENT

Each tithe apportionment begins with a preamble explaining who owned the tithes and the circumstances and statistics (total acreage, land exempt from tithe, etc.).

For each 'tithe area', it contains columns listing:

- Landowners in alphabetical order
- Occupiers
- Numbers referring to the map
- Name and description of lands and premises
- State of cultivation
- Quantities in Statute Measure (acres, roods, perches)
- Amount of rent-charge apportioned and to whom payable
- Remarks

QUANTITIES

473 tithe apportionments (using Tithe Commissioners copies at The National Archives – in IR 29/6, 9, 10 and 30)

Approximately 22,074 pages, of which approximately **18,500** pages are to be transcribed.

At an average of **50** lines per transcribed page and **11** columns of data, the total number of individual discrete pieces of data is approximately **10,150,000**.

The apportionments will be supplied as scanned .jpg files.

OUTPUT

Source data to be transcribed into a Microsoft Excel (XP 2002 – 10.4302.4219 SP2) spreadsheet. One spreadsheet per Tithe Apportionment (TA).

Spreadsheet columns as follows:

1	Parish	(format = General)
2	Township/Tithing/Hamlet	(format = General)
3	Landowner	(format = General)
4	Occupier	(format = General)
5	Plot No	(format = General)
6	Estate	(format = General)
7	Plot Name	(format = General)
8	Cultivation	(format = General)
9	Acres	(format = Number – no decimal places)
10	Roods	(format = Number – no decimal places)
11	Perches	(format = Number – no decimal places)
12	Notes	(format = General)

Tithe rent charge details and notes in the Remarks column in the original are not to be transcribed.

TRANSCRIPTION INSTRUCTIONS

Some TAs have been scanned back to front (lowest scan number is last page and highest scan number is first page). All TA pages are numbered (usually top right). Use these numbers to identify the correct order of the TA for transcription.

The only part of the TA to be transcribed is the schedule part in which Plot numbers are recorded. Ignore Preamble, Summary and Altered Tithe Apportionments.

The columns headed 'Amount of Rent-Charge apportioned upon the several lands and to whom payable' and 'Remarks' are not to be transcribed.

1. Parish

Identified from TA title but recorded in form in standard list supplied.

Repeat for every Plot entry.

2. Township/Tithing/Hamlet

Identified from arrangement of TA or heading within TA.

Repeat for every Plot entry if present . If not identified, record name of Parish again.

3. Landowner

From 'Landowners' column of TA.

In original TA, surname is most frequently written first then Christian names and, sometimes, title ('Esq' = 'Esquire', 'Bt' = 'Baronet', etc).

Transcribe as written OR (if possible) transcribe **all** as 'Christian name Surname Title' e.g. 'Adams Nicholas' = 'Nicholas Adams', 'Bastard Edmund Pollexfen Esqu' = 'Edmund Pollexfen Bastard Esquire', 'Courtenay Lord' = 'Lord Courtenay', 'Devon The Earl of' = 'The Earl of Devon'.

Landowner may be recorded as a 'Lessee', 'Personal Representatives', 'Trustees' etc. Transcribe this data in the order recorded with any personal names transcribed as above.

Where there is more than one landowner record them all together in the name order noted above.

Where, following the name of a Landowner, subsequent lines/rows in this column are blank or contain ditto marks, transcribe the same data for each numbered Plot.

A Landowner may be associated with more than one Plot by the use of ties/brackets (i.e. '{') (NB sometimes difficult to see). Transcribe the same Landowner data for each numbered Plot.

4. Occupier

From 'Occupiers' column of TA.

In original TA, surname is most frequently written first then Christian names and, sometimes, title ('Esq' = 'Esquire', 'Bt' = 'Baronet', etc)

Transcribe as written OR (if possible) transcribe **all** as 'Christian name Surname Title' e.g. 'Adams Nicholas' = 'Nicholas Adams', 'Bastard Edmund Pollexfen Esqu' = 'Edmund Pollexfen Bastard Esquire'.

Where, following the name of an Occupier, subsequent lines/rows in this column are blank or contain ditto marks, transcribe the same data for each numbered Plot.

An Occupier may be associated with more than one Plot by the use of ties/brackets (i.e. '{') (NB sometimes difficult to see). Transcribe the same Occupier data for each numbered Plot.

If original TA states 'Himself', then Occupier is the same as the Landowner and the Landowner's name(s) should be entered.

5. Plot No

From 'Numbers referring to the Plan' column of TA.

Transcribe numbers as they are written. Where sub-letter or numbers are used, e.g. '247a' or '247i', transcribe these exactly as they are written.

Where two or more numbers are tied (with a '}') together (NB sometimes difficult to see), with no Name, State of Cultivation, Quantity, nor Tithe Rent-Charge information except for the first number, transcribe only the Plot No for each subsequent associated number and enter 'With # [first number]' in the associated Notes column.

6. Estate

Where a heading is given to a group of numbers, e.g. 'Maryknowle', (it will not have a number against it), transcribe this data for every related numbered plot in the 'Estate' column.

7. Plot Name

Transcribe as written.

For blank entries in this column, enter no data.

8. Cultivation

From 'State of Cultivation' column of TA.

Where, following a state of cultivation, subsequent lines/rows in this column contain ditto marks, transcribe the same data for each numbered plot.

For blank entries in this column, enter no data unless a plot name indicates, on its own, a state of cultivation e.g. 'Orchard', 'Little Orchard', 'Coppice', 'Wood', 'Garden', 'Waste' etc. In this case, insert this in the state of cultivation column in square brackets '[]'.

9-11. Acres Roods Perches (separate columns for each)

From 'Quantities in Statute Measure: A. R. P.' columns of TA.

Enter '0' for any unit which is blank.

Only record information for numbered plots. Ignore sub-totals and totals.

12. Notes

For transcription/editorial notes.

General transcription instructions

'Sen' 'Senr' = 'Senior' after names.

'Jun' , 'Junr' = 'Junior' after names.

'Pt' = 'Part'

'&' = 'etc'

'ditto', 'do', or the mark " = enter the same data as in line/row of that column above.

Ignore 'Continued', 'Carried forward', 'Brought forward'.

Devon Record Office
February 2010

This document is compiled with the assistance of information from instructions compiled by Martin Smith for the East Devon Parishscapes tithe apportionment transcription project.