

The Enclosure History Data Set¹

This is a comma delimited text file with 18,962 observations on the common rights status of farm land owned by charities in England between 1500 and 1839. The size of the file is 2.36 mb. The data was extracted from over 40,000 pages of descriptions of charity land generated by various enquiries into charitable asset holdings from 1786 to 1912. The earliest observation is 1394, the latest 1839. The following table defines and briefly describes the variables in the data set in order.

THE ENCLOSURE HISTORY DATA SET

Variable	Description
1	First ID code – denotes the source (1-999)
2	Second ID code (1-999).
3	Third ID code (1-99). Each plot of land is uniquely referenced by these three first ID codes.
4	Observation number on the plot (-6 to 13). Each observation is uniquely referenced by these four first codes. These four codes are the same as those in the Rents Data Set where a plot has an associated rental value in this year.
5	Number of times the plot appears in the data set.
6	Calendar year of observation.
7	This is a two character code for the county or city (43 counties in England , 12 in Wales, plus London) the land was determined to be located in. These codes are listed below.
8	Name of the parish the land was located in (1851 census name used as reference spelling).
9	Name of the township the land was located in (1851 census name used as reference spelling).

¹ This data was coded with financial support from the National Science Foundation, grant SES-91-22191 "I", 1992-5

10	Fraction of the land with common rights.
11	Fraction of the land with limited access common rights – common arable, meadow, or pasture.
12	Fraction of common waste.
13	Area of the land in statute acres (including areas attributed to unmeasured common rights).
14	Area of land with any kind of common rights in statute acres.
15	Area of land with lammas rights in statute acres.
16	Area of common waste in statute acres
17	Number of beast gates associated with holding (cattle gates, cow gates, horse gates etc). These have been converted into an equivalent acreage in variables 10, 12, 51, and 54. Where none specified assumed to be zero.
18	Number of sheep gates associated with holding. These have been converted into an equivalent acreage in variables 10, 12, 51, and 54. Where none specified assumed to be zero.
19	Indicator variable which is 1 for unspecified common rights associated with a holding (not converted into any equivalent acreage), 0 otherwise.
20	Date of last known enclosure if any.
21	Type of enclosure. O = common arable, meadow or pasture enclosure in part at least W = waste land enclosure only.
22	Area of land formerly with some kind of unspecified common nature.
23	Area of enclosed common arable, meadow or pasture land.
24	Area of enclosed former waste common land.
25	Indicator variable which is 1 if the parish or township of the plot never had a Parliamentary Enclosure as recorded by Tate (1978).
26	Fraction of the land in the parish or township which was later enclosed by a Parliamentary Enclosure as recorded by Tate (1978).

27	Date of the last Parliamentary Enclosure in this parish or township as recorded by Tate (1978).
28	<p>The source of the observation. These are:</p> <p>CCI - Charity Commission Reports CLL - City of London Livery Companies Commission CCII - Later Charity Commission Enquiries CEE – Charitable Endowment for Education Enquiry VCH - Victoria County History of England</p>
29	Volume number for the First Charity Commission Reports (1-32.6)
30	Page number for the First Charity Commission Reports

County Codes

Bedford	BD
Berkshire	BE
Buckingham	BU
Cambridge	CA
Cheshire	CH
Cornwall	CO
Cumberland	CU
Derby	DY
Devon	DV
Dorset	DO
Durham	DU
Essex	EX
Gloucester	GL
Hampshire	HA
Hereford	HE
Hertford	HT
Huntingdon	HU
Kent	KT
Lancashire	LA
Leicester	LE
Lincoln	LI
Middlesex	MX
Monmouth	MO
Norfolk	NF
Northampton	NH
Northumberland	NU
Nottingham	NT
Oxford	OX
Rutland	RU
Shropshire	SH
Somerset	SO
Stafford	ST
Suffolk	SF
Surrey	SY
Sussex	SX
Warwick	WA
Westmoreland	WE
Wiltshire	WI
Worcester	WO
Yorkshire – East Riding	YE
Yorkshire – North Riding	YN
Yorkshire – West Riding	YW

Angelsey	ZA
Brecon	ZB
Cardigan	ZN
Carmarthon	ZT
Carnarvon	ZC
Denbigh	ZD
Flint	ZF
Glamorgan	ZG
Merioneth	ZM
Montgomery	ZO
Pembroke	ZP
Radnor	ZR

Notes

Variable Number	Note
10, 12, 14, 16	The areas of common waste attached to holdings have been inflated by 7.9% to allow for common waste allotted to the lord of the manor on enclosure in respect of their rights over the waste.

DATA SOURCES

OFFICIAL SOURCES

Charity Commission (Broughton Commission):

Thirty two reports, found in order as the following volumes of the British Parliamentary Papers.

1819, X-A, X-B. 1820, IV, V. 1821, XII. 1822, IX, X. 1823, VIII, IX. 1824, XIII, XIV. 1825, X, XI. 1826, XII, XIII. 1826-7, IX, X. 1828, X, XI. 1829, VII, VIII. 1830, XII, XIII. 1831, XI. 1833, XVIII, XIX. 1834, XXI, XXII. 1835, XXI. 1837, XXIII. 1837-8, XXIV, XXV, XXVI, XXVII. 1839, XIV, XV. 1840, XIX.

Charity Commission (later inquiries)

Parliamentary Papers. 1884. City of London Livery Companies Commission. XXXIX, Parts 4. 5.

Series of reports on counties in the following volumes: 1890-1, LX; 1893-4, LXVII; 1894, LXIII, LXIV; 1895, LXXIV, LXXV; 1896, LXIII; 1897, LXVI, LXVII; 1898, LXV, LXVI, LXVII, LXVIII; 1899, LXVII, LXVIII, LXIX, LXX, LXXI, LXXII, LXXIII; 1900, LIX, LX, LXI, LXII, LXIII; 1901, LI, LII, LIII, LIV; 1902, LXXV, LXXVI, LXXVII; 1903, XLVIII, XLIX, L; 1904, LXVIII, LXIX, LXX, LXXI, LXXII, LXXIII, LXXIV; 1905, C, CI; 1906, LXXXII, LXXXIII, LXXXIV; 1907, LX, LXI; 1908, LXXVII, LXXVIII, LXXIX, LXXX, LXXXI; 1909, LXV, LXVI; 1910, LXIX, LXX; 1911, LVII; 1912-3, LXIII; 1913, XLIX.

SECONDARY SOURCES

Tate, W. E. 1978. A Domesday of English Enclosure Acts and Awards. Ed. Michael Turner.

Reading: The Library, University of Reading.