

Data from the 1910 Land Valuation Survey for the parish of Aston Somerville



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Introduction

The Valuation Office Survey of 1910 resulted in the creation of a snapshot of land across the county of Worcestershire, in common with other counties in England. The associated Valuation Summary books are to be found at the Hive in Worcester: these books are of a large format, measuring 43cm by 34cm, cloth-bound with leather corners and the name of the Income Tax Parish (ITP) written on the spine. An ITP may cover just a single civil parish in the county, whilst some ITPs covered two or more parishes: for example, the ITP of Church Lench only contains records for the civil parish of Church Lench, whilst that of Abbots Lench covers the civil parishes of Fladbury, Hill & Moor, Throckmorton and Wyre Piddle, as well as Abbots Lench itself. In some cases, two or more ITPs can be found in the same Valuation Summary book: for example, Conderton and Overbury. The basic unit of valuation was a piece of land in separate occupation, although the application of this principle was not always straightforward.¹ The number of valuation assessments in each ITP ranges across the county from 7 (Kenswick) to 7,171 (Kidderminster Borough).

This series of booklets provides a transcription of the Valuation Summary books for each civil parish in the county of Worcestershire, along with a brief analysis of the transcribed data.

1. The Valuation Office Survey of 1910

The valuation of land in 1910 was initiated by the Finance (1909-1910) Act (10 Edw. VII, c.8 section 26(1)) which provided for the levy and collection of a duty on the increment value of all land in the United Kingdom. The main object of the Act was to tax that part of the capital appreciation of real property which was attributable to the site itself, excluding any benefit arising from crops, buildings or improvements paid for by the owners. In this way, private owners were required to pay part of the increase in the site value of their land which had resulted from the expenditure of public money on communal developments such as roads or public services.

Increment value duty was based on the difference between the amount of two valuations. The first was the site value as at 30 April 1909, as determined by the Valuation Survey, which constituted the 'datum line' for these purposes: a second site valuation was to be taken on the occasion of any subsequent sale or grant of a lease, transfer of interest in a piece of land, or the subsequent death of a land owner, in order to determine any potential payment of increment value duty. This second assessment formed part of the on-going role of the Valuation Office, until this duty was repealed by the 1920 Finance Act (10 and 11 Geo. V, c.18). Although this legislation was only in place for around ten years, it has left behind a comprehensive record of land in every county enabling an understanding of the ownership, occupation, extent and value of land. The data collected during the survey for the county of Worcestershire, which has been retained, is contained in four different sets:

- The Valuation Summary books (sometimes referred to as the Lloyd George Domesday books): these are held at the Hive in Worcester (WAAS: BA8585/1 series);
- Forms 37 – Land: these contain the provisional valuations, and are also held at the Hive in Worcester (WAAS: 8585/2-64 series);

¹ See Brian Short, *Land and Society in Edwardian Britain* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997), pp 131-132.

- Two series of annotated Ordnance Survey maps: the Field Maps (used in the field during survey), some of which are now held at the Hive in Worcester; the Record Maps (originally kept in the Valuation Record office) now held at the National Archives at Kew (TNA: IR129 series);
- The Field Books which contain a complete record of each valuation: again, these are held at the National Archives at Kew (TNA: IR58 series).

With regard to the Valuation Summary books, the first nine columns were compiled from the Rate Book for the parish and all of the books contain this information. Subsequent columns (10–40) were supposed to be completed by the staff of the District Valuation Offices after the initial valuation was complete: however, this was not carried out in a consistent fashion, and indeed, anyone interested in the mechanics and outcome of an individual valuation would be better served by the details contained in the Field Books.

This series of booklets provides a transcription of the first nine columns in that these record the ownership, occupation, extent, and basic valuation of each assessment. After a brief introduction to the parish, an analysis of the data will be presented examining the names of the major landowners and the extent of their property in the parish, along with an analysis of the main farms in the parish. Indexes of owners, occupiers and places appear in subsequent appendices and a final appendix will direct the reader to the appropriate references for the associated Forms 37, Record Maps and Field Books for the parish covered by the booklet.

The Valuation Summary for the Income Tax Parish of Aston Somerville is contained in the summary book covering the civil parishes of Aston Somerville, Buckland, Childswickham, Snowhill, and Stanton. This booklet covers the civil parish of Aston Somerville only.² In 1910, Aston Somerville was part of Gloucestershire, and was transferred to Worcestershire in 1931, under the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire to Worcestershire Order of the same year.³

2. The parish of Aston Somerville in 1910

The parish is located 5 miles south of Evesham on a geology described as ‘Charmouth Mudstone Formation’, extending to 1,004 acres. The resulting soils are primarily clay to clayey loam, with small areas of sandy loam to loam, along with clay to sandy loam alongside the tributary of the River Isbourne.⁴

When the census was carried out in 1911, the population of Aston Somerville was 126 (59 males and 67 females): of the 32 properties recorded in the census, 28 were inhabited, two were uninhabited, and two were classed as a ‘building not used as dwelling’.⁵ From an agricultural viewpoint, the main arable crops were wheat, beans, and asparagus.⁶

² WAAS: BA 8585/1/8, *Inland Revenue. Valuation Summary book for the parish of Aston Somerville, Buckland, Childswickham, Snowhill, Stanton, 1909-10.*

³ Ministry of Health, *Provisional Orders Confirmation (Gloucestershire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire) Act, 1931* 21 Geo. 5. Ch. ix. (London, UK Government, 1931), p. 97.

⁴ Kelly’s Directory Gloucestershire 1914, p. 32. British Geological Survey, *Geology Viewer – Aston Somerville, Worcestershire* geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk [accessed 8 December 2022]; British Geological Survey, *UK Soil Observatory (UKSO) Map Viewer – Aston Somerville, Worcestershire.* <https://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/ukso/home.html> [accessed 8 December 2022].

⁵ TNA: RG78/1082. *1911 Census Enumerator’s Summary Books. Worcestershire. Evesham. Registration Sub-District: Evesham, including Civil Parish, Township or Place: Aston Somerville.*

⁶ Kelly’s Directory Gloucestershire 1914, p. 32.

3. Land and property in 1910 in the parish of Aston Somerville

In preparing the data for analysis, the following standardisations have been made:

- Two variations of owner and occupier names, *Fitz-Herbert, Wm.* and *Fitz-Herbert, William* are shown in Appendix 1: both are taken to be William FitzHerbert, J. P. of Manor Farm, who is listed in Kellys 1914 directory as the landowner of Aston Somerville. The listings in Appendices 2 and 3 show *Fitz-Herbert, William* for both variations;⁷
- Two variations of occupier name, *Went, Wm.* and *Went, William* are shown in Appendix 1: the listing in Appendix 3 shows *Went, William* for both variations.

As shown in Table 1, of the 41 assessments with owners recorded in the Valuation Summary, Mrs. A. H. Sharp owned 17, whilst William FitzHerbert held 15: the remaining nine were in the hands of the Rev. S. F. Whitehead.

Table 1: Number of assessments by landowner

Name	No. of assessments
Mrs. A. H. Sharp	17
William FitzHerbert	15
Rev. S. F. Whitehead	9
Not stated	2
TOTAL	43

Table 2 shows the acreage of land in the parish by landowner, determined by summing the entries in the Valuation Summary.

Table 2: Acreage of land by major landowner

Name	Acreage		
	a	r	p
William FitzHerbert	766	1	0
Mrs. A. H. Sharp	181	1	0
Rev. S. F. Whitehead	37	2	0
TOTAL	984	0	0

Those assessments with more than 50 acres of land are listed in Table 3: William FitzHerbert owned and occupied both parts of Lower Farm, as well as the buildings, land and watermill at Top Farm. The unnamed farm of 113 acres was owned by Mrs. A. H. Sharp of The Hall and occupied by William Daffurn. These three farms extended across 866 acres, that being 88% of the total acreage of 984 acres, as recorded in the Valuation Summary.

Table 3: Assessments in excess of 50 acres

Situation	Acreage		
	a	r	p
Top Farm	358	2	0
Lower Farm	324	0	0
Aston Somerville	113	0	0
Lower Farm	71	0	0

⁷ Kelly's Directory for Gloucestershire 1914, p. 32.

Appendix 1. Transcribed data from the Valuation Summary for the parish of Aston Somerville.

NOTE: This data has been transcribed as presented in the Valuation Summary without any standardisation of punctuation, abbreviation &c. However, all data presented as superscripts has been included as normal text in this transcription.

No. of assessment	No. of Poor Rate	Occupier	Owner and residence	Description	No	Situation	Estimated extent			Gross annual value			Rateable value		
							A	R	P	£	s	d	£	s	d
1	1	Whitehead Rev S. F.	Whitehead Rev S. F. Aston Somerville Broadway	House		Aston Somerville				30	0	0	25	10	0
1	2	Whitehead Rev S. F.	Whitehead Rev S. F. Aston Somerville Broadway	Tithes		Aston Somerville				153	0	0	114	15	0
2	3	Dale John	Whitehead Rev S. F. Aston Somerville Broadway	Cottage		Aston Somerville				4	10	0	3	12	6
3	4	Whitehead Rev S. F.	Whitehead Rev S. F. Aston Somerville Broadway	Ag. Land		Aston Somerville	5	0	0	7	10	0	7	2	6
4	5	Barnett Charles	Whitehead Rev S. F. Aston Somerville Broadway	Ag. Land		Aston Somerville	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	0
5	6	Barnett John	Whitehead Rev S. F. Aston Somerville Broadway	Ag. Land		Aston Somerville	1	2	0	1	10	9	1	9	0
6	7	Dale John	Whitehead Rev S. F. Aston Somerville Broadway	Ag. Land		Aston Somerville	1	0	0	1	0	7		19	0
7	8	Went William	Whitehead Rev S. F. Aston Somerville Broadway	Ag. Land		Aston Somerville	1	0	0	1	0	0		19	0
8	9	Void	Whitehead Rev S. F. Aston Somerville Broadway	Ag. Land		Aston Somerville	26	2	0	20	0	0	19	0	0

No. of assessment	No. of Poor Rate	Occupier	Owner and residence	Description	No	Situation	Estimated extent			Gross annual value			Rateable value		
							A	R	P	£	s	d	£	s	d
9	10	Roadways	Whitehead Rev S. F. Aston Somerville Broadway	Roadways		Aston Somerville		2	0						
10	11	Daffurn Wm.	Sharp Mrs A. H. Aston Somerville Broadway	House		Aston Somerville				8	0	0	6	15	0
10	12	Daffurn Wm.	Sharp Mrs A. H. Aston Somerville Broadway	Buildings		Aston Somerville				4	0	0	3	8	0
10	13	Daffurn Wm.	Sharp Mrs A. H. Aston Somerville Broadway	Ag. Land		Aston Somerville	113	0	0	63	0	0	59	17	0
10	14	Daffurn Wm.	Sharp Mrs A. H. Aston Somerville Broadway	Ag. Land		Aston Somerville	8	2	0	8	10	0	8	2	0
11	15	Green Albert	Sharp Mrs A. H. Aston Somerville Broadway	Cottage		Aston Somerville				3	0	0	2	7	6
12	16	Sharp Mrs A. H.	Sharp Mrs A. H. Aston Somerville Broadway	House		The Hall				80	0	0	68	0	0
12	17	Sharp Mrs A. H.	Sharp Mrs A. H. Aston Somerville Broadway	Garden		The Hall				10	0	0	9	10	0
12	18	Sharp Mrs A. H.	Sharp Mrs A. H. Aston Somerville Broadway	Buildings		The Hall				20	0	0	17	0	0
12	19	Sharp Mrs A. H.	Sharp Mrs A. H. Aston Somerville Broadway	Plantations		Aston Somerville	2	1	0	2	0	0	1	18	0
12	20	Sharp Mrs A. H.	Sharp Mrs A. H. Aston Somerville Broadway	Ag. Land		Aston Somerville	32	3	0	40	0	0	38	0	0
13	21	Milton. G. H.	Sharp Mrs A. H.	Cottage		Aston Somerville				4	10	0	3	12	6
14	22	Rose Samuel	Sharp Mrs A. H.	Cottage		Aston Somerville				4	10	0	3	12	6
15	23	Pitman Wm	Sharp Mrs A. H.	Cottage		Aston Somerville				5	5	0	4	5	0
16	24	Clark Ann	Sharp Mrs A. H.	Cottage		Aston Somerville				5	5	0	4	5	0
17	25	Went Wm	Sharp Mrs A. H.	Cottage		Aston Somerville				5	5	0	4	5	0
18	26	Barnett George	Sharp Mrs A. H.	Cottage		Aston Somerville				2	12	6	2	2	6
19	27	Haines Herbert	Sharp Mrs A. H.	Cottage		Aston Somerville				2	12	6	2	2	6

No. of assessment	No. of Poor Rate	Occupier	Owner and residence	Description	No	Situation	Estimated extent			Gross annual value			Rateable value		
							A	R	P	£	s	d	£	s	d
20	28	Gregg Thomas	Sharp Mrs A. H.	Cottage		Aston Somerville				2	12	6	2	2	6
21	29	Hemming Mrs J	Sharp Mrs A. H.	Cottage		Aston Somerville				2	12	6	2	2	6
22	30	Larner Frederick	Sharp Mrs A. H.	Cottage		Aston Somerville				2	12	6	2	2	6
23	31	Need Harry	Sharp Mrs A. H.	Cottage		Aston Somerville				2	12	6	2	2	6
24	32	Warran George	Sharp Mrs A. H.	Cottage		Aston Somerville				2	12	6	2	2	6
25	33	Sharp Mrs A. H.	Sharp Mrs A. H.	Ag. Land		Aston Somerville	18	1	0	27	10	0	26	2	6
25A	34	Roadways	Sharp Mrs A. H.	Roadways		Aston Somerville	6	2	0						
26	35	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Fitz-Herbert William Aston Somerville Broadway	House		Lower Farm				60	0	0	51	0	0
26	36	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Fitz-Herbert William Aston Somerville Broadway	Buildings		Lower Farm				20	0	0	17	0	0
26	37	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Fitz-Herbert William Aston Somerville Broadway	Ag. Land		Lower Farm	324	0	0	167	0	0	158	12	6
26	38	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Fitz-Herbert William Aston Somerville Broadway	Ag. Land		Lower Farm	71	0	0	30	0	0	28	10	0
27	39	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Fitz-Herbert William Aston Somerville Broadway	Ag. Land		Top Farm	358	2	0	177	0	0	168	0	0
27	40	Hogg Henry	Fitz-Herbert William Aston Somerville Broadway	House		Top Farm				20	0	0	17	0	0
27	41	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Buildings		Top Farm				20	0	0	17	0	0
27	42	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Water Mill		Top Farm				10	0	0	7	10	0
27A	43	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Sporting Rights		Top Farm				15	0	0	14	5	0

No. of assessment	No. of Poor Rate	Occupier	Owner and residence	Description	No	Situation	Estimated extent			Gross annual value			Rateable value		
							A	R	P	£	s	d	£	s	d
28	44	Higgins Mrs C	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Blacksmiths Shop		Top Farm				4	0	0	3	5	0
29	45	Hemming John	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Cottage		Aston Somerville				3	0	0	2	7	6
30	46	Woodward Harry	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Cottage		Aston Somerville				3	0	0	2	7	6
31	47	Hopkins Wm	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Cottage		Aston Somerville				3	0	0	2	7	6
32	48	Ward Albert	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Cottage		Aston Somerville				3	0	0	2	7	6
33	49	Pitts Thomas	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Cottage		Aston Somerville				3	0	0	2	7	6
34	50	Sollis George	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Cottage		Aston Somerville				3	0	0	2	7	6
35	51	Bradley Kate	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Cottage		Aston Somerville				4	0	0	3	5	0
36	52	Dale Edward	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Cottage		Aston Somerville				4	0	0	3	5	0
37	53	Hemming T	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Cottage		Aston Somerville				8	0	0	6	15	0
38	54	Cook Frank	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Cottage		Aston Somerville				8	0	0	6	15	0
39	55	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Ag. Land		Aston Somerville		1	0		10	0		10	0
39	56	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Fitz-Herbert Wm	Plantations		Aston Somerville	12	2	0	10	0	0	9	10	0
581				Church		Aston Somerville									
582				School		Aston Somerville									

Appendix 2. Index of Owners

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Appendix 5. References to other Land Valuation resources for Aston Somerville

TNA – The National Archives, Kew

WAAS – Worcestershire Archaeology and Archive Service, The Hive, Worcester

Forms 37

WAAS: 009:5 BA 8585/5 *Forms 37 – Land, Acton Beauchamp, Astley, Aston Somerville, Ashton under Hill, 1910-15.*

Field Books

TNA: IR58/20901, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Field Books. Cheltenham. Aston Somerville. Assessment No. 1-100, 1910.*

TNA: IR58/20903, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Field Books. Cheltenham. Aston Somerville. Assessment No. 501-600, 1910.*

Record Maps

TNA: IR129/3/979, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Record Sheet Plans. West Midland Region: Hereford and Worcester District. OS Sheet Reference: Worcestershire XLIX 11, 1910.*

TNA: IR129/3/983, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Record Sheet Plans. West Midland Region: Hereford and Worcester District. OS Sheet Reference: Worcestershire XLIX 15, 1910.*

TNA: IR129/3/984, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Record Sheet Plans. West Midland Region: Hereford and Worcester District. OS Sheet Reference: Worcestershire XLIX 16, 1910.*

TNA: IR129/3/1028, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Record Sheet Plans. West Midland Region: Hereford and Worcester District. OS Sheet Reference: Worcestershire LVI 3, 1910.*

TNA: IR129/3/1029, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Record Sheet Plans. West Midland Region: Hereford and Worcester District. OS Sheet Reference: Worcestershire LVI 4, 1910.*