

Data from the 1910 Land Valuation Survey for the parish of Shelsley Walsh



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Front cover image: The Teme Valley at Shelsley Walsh in December 2014
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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);
- 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

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

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 Shelsley Beauchamp covers the civil parishes of Shelsley Beauchamp, Shelsley Kings, Shelsley Walsh, Stanford-on-Teme and Stockton-on-Teme: this booklet covers the parish of Shelsley Walsh only.²

2. The parish of Shelsley Walsh in 1910

The parish is located 10 miles north-west of Worcester on a geology of siltstone and mudstone (Raglan Mudstone formation), extending to 488 acres. The resulting soils are a mixture of clayey loam to silty loam, and clay to sandy loam.³

When the census was carried out in 1911, the population of Shelsley Walsh was 66 (35 males and 31 females): of the 14 properties recorded in the census, 13 were inhabited and one was classed as a 'building not used as dwelling'.⁴ From an agricultural viewpoint in the same year, the total cultivated area of the parish was 418 acres in a single owner/occupier holding, of which 151 were arable, and 267 acres (64% of the total) were grassland: this included 60 acres of orchards. The main arable crops were hops, oats, and wheat, whilst the orchards were growing a range of top fruit. With more pasture land than arable, 163 cattle were kept, but there were no sheep.⁵

² WAAS: BA 8585/1/75, *Inland Revenue. Valuation Summary book for the parish of Shelsley Beauchamp, Shelsley Kings, Shelsley Walsh, Stanford-on-Teme and Stockton-on-Teme, 1909-10.*

³ Kelly's Directory 1912, p. 240. British Geological Survey, *Geology Viewer – Shelsley Walsh, Worcestershire* geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk [accessed 30 August 2022]; Natural Environmental Research Council, *mySoil app – Shelsley Walsh, Worcestershire* [accessed 30 August 2022].

⁴ TNA: RG78/1077. *1911 Census Enumerator's Summary Books. Worcestershire. Martley. Registration Sub-District: Martley, including Civil Parish, Township or Place: Shelsley Walsh.*

⁵ TNA: MAF68/2489, *Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and predecessors: Statistics Divisions: Parish Summaries of Agricultural Returns. Worcestershire, 1911.* Main acreages of arable as follows: Hops, 30; Oats, 28; Wheat, 20¼; Beans, 10; Mangolds, 7½. Orchard acreages: Apples, 33; Cherries, 17; Plums, 10.

3. Land and property in 1910 in the parish of Shelsley Walsh

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

- Two variations of owner names, *Taylor, Montagu Charles Harry* and *M. C. H. Taylor* are shown in Appendix 1: further *Taylor, Montagu Charles Harry* is named as an occupier. All are taken to be Montagu Charles Harry Taylor of Court House, Shelsley Walsh. The listings in Appendices 2 and 3 show *Taylor, Montagu Charles Harry* for both variations.
- Further, in assessment number 291, the exact spelling of the rector's surname is unclear and does not align with that given in Kelly's Directory: this has been replaced with *Rector of Shelsley Walsh*.⁶

Of the 18 assessments with owners recorded in the Valuation Summary, 12 were owned by Montagu Charles Harry Taylor: he also held the gift of the living of the parish, that being a rectory.⁷ As well as holding the largest number of assessments, he also held the majority of the acreage in the parish (see Table 1 and Table 2).

Table 1: Number of assessments by landowner

Name	No. of assessments
Montagu Charles Harry Taylor	12
Rector of Shelsley Walsh	5
Earl of Dudley	1
TOTAL	18

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

Table 2: Acreage of land by major landowner

Name	Acreage		
	a	r	p
Montagu Charles Harry Taylor	398	1	0
Rector of Shelsley Walsh	14	0	0
Earl of Dudley	5	2	0
TOTAL	417	3	0

Those assessments with more than 25 acres of land are listed in Table 3.

Table 3: Assessments in excess of 25 acres

Situation	Acreage		
	a	r	p
Court House	301	1	0
Wichery Wood	96	0	0

⁶ Rev. Joseph Hugh Beibitz had been rector since 1909 and lived in Shelsley Beauchamp, Kelly's Directory 1912, p. 240.

⁷ Kelly's Directory 1912, p. 240.

Appendix 1. Transcribed data from the Valuation Summary for the parish of Shelsley Walsh.

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
172	1	Taylor, Montagu Charles Harry	Rector of Shelsley Walsh	Land		Pt. of Glebe	13	2	0	15	0	0	13	10	0
173	2	Parker George	Rector of Shelsley Walsh	Cott: & Gdn		Glebe Cott.		1	0	5	0	0	3	15	0
174	3	Butcher George	Rector of Shelsley Walsh	Cott: & Gdn		Old Rectory		1	0	5	0	0	3	15	0
175	4	Taylor, Montagu Charles Harry	Taylor, Montagu Charles Harry	Ho: & Blgs		Court House				70	0	0	56	0	0
175	5	Taylor, Montagu Charles Harry	Taylor, Montagu Charles Harry	Land		Court House	301	1	0	391	16	0	352	12	0
176	6	Taylor, Montagu Charles Harry	Taylor, Montagu Charles Harry	Woodland		Wichery Wood	96	0	0	42	1	0	39	15	0
177	7	Taylor, Montagu Charles Harry	Taylor, Montagu Charles Harry	Water Mill		Court Farm				24	0	0	18	0	0
178	8	Clements Alfred	Taylor, Montagu Charles Harry	Cott: & Gdn		The Lodge				5	0	0	3	15	0
179	9	Jones George	Taylor, Montagu Charles Harry	Cott: & Gdn		Post Office		1	0	5	0	0	3	15	0
180	10	Edwd. Wood	Taylor, Montagu Charles Harry	Cott: & Gdn		New Mill B'ge		1	0	5	0	0	3	15	0
181	11	Marsh Edwd.	Taylor, Montagu Charles Harry	Cott: & Gdn		New Mill B'ge		1	0	5	0	0	3	15	0
182	12	Beavan Henry	M. C. H. Taylor	Cott: & Gdn		Forge Cott:				5	0	0	3	15	0
183	13	Underwood Richd.	M. C. H. Taylor	Cott: & Gdn		Forge Cott:				5	0	0	3	15	0
184	14	Bannister Walter	M. C. H. Taylor	Cott: & Gdn		Furnace Cott:				5	0	0	3	15	0
185	15	Pritchard Geo:	M. C. H. Taylor	Cott: & Gdn		Furnace Cott:				5	0	0	3	15	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
186	16	Hadley James	M. C. H. Taylor	Cott: & Gdn		New Cott.		1	0	5	0	0	3	15	0
187	17	Rector of Shelsley Walsh	Rector of Shelsley Walsh	Tithes		Rectorial Tithes				52	0	0	42	18	0
188	18	Moore Wm.	Earl of Dudley	Land		Pt. of Weir Meadow	5	2	0	12	5	0	11	0	0
291			Rev. J. H. Bribitry	Shelsley Walsh Parish Church											

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Appendix 5. References to other Land Valuation resources for Shelsley Walsh

TNA – The National Archives, Kew

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

Forms 37

No Forms 37 retained for the parish of Shelsley Walsh.

Field Books

TNA: IR58/93714, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Field Books. Worcester. Shelsley Beauchamp (Kings). Assessment No. 101-200, 1910.*

TNA: IR58/93715, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Field Books. Worcester. Shelsley Beauchamp. Assessment No. 201-297, 1910.*

Record Maps

TNA: IR129/3/693 *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Record Sheet Plans. West Midland Region: Hereford and Worcester District. OS Sheet Reference: Worcestershire XX 14, 1910.*

TNA: IR129/3/694, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Record Sheet Plans. West Midland Region: Hereford and Worcester District. OS Sheet Reference: Worcestershire XX 15, 1910.*

TNA: IR129/3/735, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Record Sheet Plans. West Midland Region: Hereford and Worcester District. OS Sheet Reference: Worcestershire XXVII 2, 1910.*

TNA: IR129/3/736, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Record Sheet Plans. West Midland Region: Hereford and Worcester District. OS Sheet Reference: Worcestershire XXVII 3, 1910.*