

Data from the 1910 Land Valuation Survey for the parish of Croome d'Abitot



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Front cover image: View towards Croome Court in September 2021

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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 civil parish ranges across the county from 1 (Crutch) 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.

This booklet presents the data for the civil parish of Croome d'Abitot: it has been taken from the summary book for the Income Tax Parish of Croome d'Abitot which covers the civil parishes of Croome d'Abitot, Earl's Croome, Hill Croome, Ripple and Severn Stoke.²

2. The parish of Croome d'Abitot in 1910

The parish is located 8 miles from Worcester and 4½ miles from Pershore, on a very mixed geology of mudstone formations, including Branscombe Mudstone, Blue Anchor, Westbury, and Saltford Shale, as well as Cotham and Wilmcote Limestone Formations, extending to 1,164 acres. The resulting soils are lime-rich loamy and clayey soils, along with slightly acid loamy and clayey soils, all with impeded drainage.³

When the census was carried out in 1911, the population of Croome d'Abitot was 188 (106 males and 82 females): of the 39 properties recorded in the census, 37 were inhabited, one was classed as a 'building', and one was classed as a 'building not used as dwelling'.⁴ There were no agricultural statistics recorded in 1911 for the parish of Croome d'Abitot: rather, it would appear that the parish was included in the parish of 'Ripple &c'.⁵ The main arable crops grown were wheat, beans, oats and peas.

² WAAS: BA 8585/1/26, *Inland Revenue. Valuation Summary book for the parish of Croome d'Abitot, Earl's Croome, Hill Croome, Ripple, Severn Stoke, 1909-10.*

³ Kelly's Directory 1912, p. 69. British Geological Survey, *Geology Viewer app – Croome d'Abitot, Worcestershire* [accessed 25 June 2023]; British Geological Survey, *UK Soil Observatory (UKSO) app, Soilscales for England and Wales – Croome d'Abitot, Worcestershire* [accessed 25 June 2023].

⁴ TNA: RG78/1081. *1911 Census Enumerator's Summary Books. Worcestershire. Upton-on-Severn. Registration Sub-District: Kempsey, including Civil Parish, Township or Place: Croome d'Abitot.*

⁵ TNA: MAF68/2489, *Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and predecessors: Statistics Divisions: Parish Summaries of Agricultural Returns. Worcestershire, 1911.* The acreage of the parish of Croome d'Abitot was 1,164 acres (Kelly's Directory 1912, p.69) and the acreage of Ripple was 2,412 acres (Kelly's Directory 1912, p.233), making a total of 3,576 acres. The total cultivated acreage was the parish of 'Ripple &c' was 3,371 acres: given the acreage of any parish under cultivation is usually slightly less than the total acreage, this suggests that the two parishes of Croome d'Abitot and Ripple had been combined under 'Ripple &c'.

3. Land and property in 1910 in the parish of Croome d’Abitot

In preparing the data for analysis, the following standardisation has been made:

- Two variations of occupier names, *Croome Hunt Committee*, and *Croome Hunt Commee* are shown in Appendix 1. The listing in Appendix 3 shows *Croome Hunt Committee* for both variations.

With the exception of three assessments where the owner is not stated, all assessments were owned by the Earl of Coventry with the land extending to 1112½ acres. Those assessments with more than 50 acres of land are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Assessments in excess of 50 acres

Situation	Acreage		
	a	r	p
Croome Park	243	2	0
High Green Farm	192	3	0
Croome	119	3	0
Croome Farm	100	3	0
Leasow	86	0	0
Croome Plantations	54	3	0
Northfield	54	1	0
Sandy Orchard	53	1	0
Kinnersley Farm, Pt.	52	1	0

Appendix 1. Transcribed data from the Valuation Summary for the parish of Croome d’Abitot.

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	Faun W. H.	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Land	Pt	Kinnersley Farm	52	1	0	66	0	0	59	8	0
<u>2</u> ⁶															
3	2	Coventry Earl of	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Buildings		Cubsmoor				6	0	0	4	16	0
4			Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Land		Cubsmoor	37	1	0	60	15	0	54	13	0
5	3	Norman Fredk	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Land	Pt. of	Holding Kinnersley		3	0	1	10	0	1	7	0
6	4	Coventry Earl of	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Croome Court		Croome				300	0	0	255	0	0
7		Coventry Earl of	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Land		Sandy Orchard	53	1	0	75	0	0	67	10	0
8		Coventry Earl of	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Land		Croome	119	3	0	229	0	0	206	2	0
9		Coventry Earl of	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Land		Croome Park	243	2	0	243	0	0	225	0	0
10	5	Denley William	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	House		Croome				10	0	0	8	10	0
11		Denley William	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Land		Slaughter Orchard	5	0	0	15	0	0	13	10	0
12	6	Coventry Earl of	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Land		Croome Farm	100	3	0	100	0	0	90	0	0

⁶ The underlined word ‘Error’ has been added to the left of this crossed-out Assessment Number, and there is no entry in this line. It does not appear in the indexes in Appendices 2, 3 and 4.

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
				Hse & Bds 32/33						35	0	0	29	0	0
13		Coventry Earl of	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Land		Croome Farm	3	0	0	3	0	0	2	14	0
14	7	Thomas A H	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	House		Coventry Arms Off Licence				15	0	0	12	15	0
15		Thomas A H	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Land		High Green	5	2	0	8	10	0	7	3	0
16		Thomas A H	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Land		High Green	20	2	0	32	5	0	29	0	0
17	8	Coventry Earl of	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Land	Ct	Leasow	86	0	0	150	10	0	135	9	0
18	9	Clements Mrs and Harding Arthur H	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	House		High Green Farm				20	0	0	17	0	0
18			Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Buildings		High Green Farm				12	0	0	9	12	0
18			Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Land		High Green Farm	192	3	0	200	0	0	180	0	0
19	10	Coventry Earl of	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Land		Cubsmoor	38	1	0	77	0	0	69	6	0
20	11	Nixon Edward	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Land		Croome D'Abitot	15	1	0	19	0	0	17	2	0
21	12	Coventry Earl of	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Land		Manders Leys	25	1	0	30	0	0	27	0	0
22		Coventry Earl of	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Land		Northfield	54	1	0	76	10	0	68	7	0
23		Coventry Earl of	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Plantations		Croome	54	3	0	47	0	0	46	0	0
24	13	Hull Cuthbert	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	House		Croome Farm				20	0	0	17	0	0
24			Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Buildings		Croome Farm				15	0	0	12	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
25	14	Croome Hunt Committee	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Near Kennels &c		Croome	4	2	0	30	0	0	25	10	0
⁷	15	Bennett Rev H F	Rev H. F. Bennett <u>Pirton Rectory</u>	Tithe Rent Charge Surplice Fees		Croome D'Abitot ⁸				198	0	0	162	0	0
26	16	Price Wilson	Earl of Coventry	Cott. & Smiths Shop		High Green				7	0	0	5	5	0
27	17	Faun W H	Earl of Coventry	Sportg Rights		Croome				2	10	0	2	10	0
28	18	Clements & Harding	Earl of Coventry	Sportg Rights		Croome				11	10	0	11	10	0
29	19	Clifford Wm	Earl of Coventry	Cotts & Gdn		High Green				4	0	0	3	0	0
30	19	Clifford Elizabeth	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Cottage & Garden		High Green				4	0	0	3	0	0
31		Clifford Fanny	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Cottage & Garden		High Green				4	0	0	3	0	0
32		Clifford Thos	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Cottage & Garden		High Green				5	0	0	3	15	0
33		Gerrard James	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Cottage & Garden		High Green				4	0	0	3	0	0
34		Gallie Jno A	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Cottage & Garden		High Green				5	0	0	3	15	0
35		Owen Jno	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Cottage & Garden		High Green				4	0	0	3	0	0
36		Sherwood Frank	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Cottage & Garden		High Green				4	0	0	3	0	0

⁷ This entry has no assigned assessment number, and therefore does not appear in the indexes in Appendices 2, 3 and 4.

⁸ The Gross Annual Value and Rateable Value were originally given as £148 and £113 respectively, and then crossed out and replaced with £198 and £162. This entry has no assigned assessment number, and therefore does not appear in the indexes in Appendices 2, 3 and 4.

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
37		Sherwood Jno	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Cottage & Garden		High Green				4	0	0	3	0	0
38		Edwards	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Cottage & Garden		High Green				4	0	0	3	0	0
39		Preston	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Cottage & Garden		High Green				4	0	0	3	0	0
40		Jones Fredk	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Cottage & Garden		High Green				4	0	0	3	0	0
41		Drew James	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Cottage & Garden		High Green				6	0	0	4	10	0
42		Page Reuben	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Cottage & Garden		High Green				6	0	0	4	10	0
43		Rimmel John	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Cottage & Garden		High Green				5	0	0	3	15	0
44		Simmonds W	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Cottage & Garden		High Green				5	0	0	3	15	0
45		Pitt Wm	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Cottage & Garden		High Green				5	0	0	3	15	0
46		Croome Hunt Commee	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Hunt Stables &c		Croome				5	0	0	3	15	0
47		Hemming Geo	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Cottage & Garden		Croome				6	0	0	4	10	0
48	20	Coventry Earl of	Earl of Coventry Croome Court	Offices &c		High Green				10	0	0	8	10	0
49 ⁹		Earl of Coventry for tenants		Allotments		Pirton Lane High Green									
50		Willis A		Pasture Land		Nr Defford Common.									
811				Church		Croome d'Abitot.									

⁹ The underlined word 'Error' has been added to the left of Assessment Numbers 49 and 50.

Appendix 2. Index of Owners

Coventry, Earl of 1, 3-48
Not stated 49-50, 811

Appendix 3. Index of Occupiers

Clements & Harding 28	Drew, James 41	Norman, Fredk. 5
Clements, Mrs. and Harding, Arthur H. 18	Edwards 38	Not stated 4, 18, 24, 811
Clifford, Elizabeth 30	Faun, W. H. 1, 27	Owen, Jno. 35
Clifford, Fanny 31	Gallie, Jno. A. 34	Page, Reuben 42
Clifford, Thos. 32	Gerrard, James 33	Pitt, Wm. 45
Clifford, Wm. 29	Harding, <i>see</i> Clements & Harding	Preston 39
Coventry, Earl of 3, 6-9, 12- 13, 17, 19, 21-23, 48	Harding, Arthur H. <i>see</i> Clements, Mrs. and Harding, Arthur H.	Price, Wilson 26
Coventry, Earl of, for tenants 49	Hemming, Geo. 47	Rimmel, John 43
Croome Hunt Committee 25, 46	Hull, Cuthbert 24	Sherwood, Frank 36
Denley, William 10-11	Jones, Fredk. 40	Sherwood, Jno. 37
	Nixon, Edward 20	Simmonds, W. 44
		Thomas, A. H. 14-16
		Willis, A. 50

Appendix 4. Index of Places

Coventry Arms, Off Licence 14	Kinnersley Farm, Pt. 1
Croome 6, 8, 10, 23, 25, 27-28, 46-47	Kinnersley Holding, Pt. of 5
Croome d'Abitot 20, 811	Leasow 17
Croome Farm 12-13, 24	Manders Leys 21
Croome Park 9	Northfield 22
Cubsmoor 3-4, 19	Pirton Lane, High Green 49
Defford Common, Nr. 50	Sandy Orchard 7
High Green 15-16, 26, 29-45, 48	Slaughter Orchard 11
High Green Farm 18	

Appendix 5. References to other Land Valuation resources for Croome d’Abitot

TNA – The National Archives, Kew

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

Forms 37

WAAS: 009:5 BA 8585/11 *Forms 37 – Land, Croome d’Abitot, Crutch, Dodderhill, 1910-15.*

Field Books

TNA: IR58/93389, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Field Books. Worcester. Croome d’Abitot. Assessment No. 1-100, 1910.*

TNA: IR58/93397, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Field Books. Worcester. Croome d’Abitot. Assessment No. 801-829, 1910.*

Record Maps

TNA: IR129/3/877, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Record Sheet Plans. West Midland Region: Hereford and Worcester District. OS Sheet Reference: Worcestershire XL 12, 1910.*

TNA: IR129/3/881, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Record Sheet Plans. West Midland Region: Hereford and Worcester District. OS Sheet Reference: Worcestershire XL 16, 1910.*

TNA: IR129/3/890, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Record Sheet Plans. West Midland Region: Hereford and Worcester District. OS Sheet Reference: Worcestershire XLI 9, 1910.*

TNA: IR129/3/894, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Record Sheet Plans. West Midland Region: Hereford and Worcester District. OS Sheet Reference: Worcestershire XLI 13, 1910.*

TNA: IR129/3/895, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Record Sheet Plans. West Midland Region: Hereford and Worcester District. OS Sheet Reference: Worcestershire XLI 14, 1910.*

TNA: IR129/3/953, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Record Sheet Plans. West Midland Region: Hereford and Worcester District. OS Sheet Reference: Worcestershire XLVIII 1, 1910.*