

Data from the 1910 Land Valuation Survey for the parish of Little Witley



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Contents

Introduction.....	2
1. The Valuation Office Survey of 1910.....	2
2. The parish of Little Witley in 1910.....	3
3. Land and property in 1910 in the parish of Little Witley	4
Appendix 1. Transcribed data from the Valuation Summary for the parish of Little Witley.	5
Appendix 2. Index of Owners	10
Appendix 3. Index of Occupiers	10
Appendix 4. Index of Places	11
Appendix 5. References to other Land Valuation resources for Little Witley.....	12

Front cover image: Well Farm, Little Witley in June 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 ITP 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);
- 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.

This booklet presents the data for the civil parish of Little Witley: it has been taken from the summary book for the Income Tax Parish of Grimley which covers the civil parishes of Grimley, Holt and Little Witley.²

2. The parish of Little Witley in 1910

The parish is located 8½ miles west of Droitwich, and 8 miles north-west from Worcester, on a geology mainly described as Helsby Sandstone Formation, with some Sidmouth Mudstone Formation, extending to 1,007 acres. The resulting soils are primarily freely-draining, slightly-acid loamy soils, with some slightly-acid loamy & clayey soils with impeded drainage.³

When the census was carried out in 1911, the population of Little Witley was 153 (73 males and 80 females): of the 44 properties recorded in the census, 38 were inhabited, two were uninhabited, and four were 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 973½ acres, of which 251¼ were arable, and 722¼ acres (74% of the total) were grassland, including 72½ acres of orchards. Of the 10 agricultural holdings in the parish, all were tenanted properties. The main arable crops were oats, wheat, barley, beans, and turnips & swedes, whilst the orchards were growing a range of top fruit. With more pasture land than arable, 147 cattle and 631 sheep were kept.⁵

² WAAS: BA 8585/1/40, *Inland Revenue. Valuation Summary book for the parish of Grimley, Holt, Little Witley 1909-10*.

³ Kelly's Directory 1912, p. 284. British Geological Survey, *Geology Viewer app – Little Witley, Worcestershire* [accessed 9 July 2024]; British Geological Survey, *UK Soil Observatory (UKSO) app, Soilscales for England and Wales – Little Witley, Worcestershire* [accessed 9 July 2024].

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

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: Oats, 71; Wheat, 57; Barley, 43; Beans, 26½; Turnips and Swedes, 15½. Orchard acreages: Apples, 51½; Plums, 10; Cherries, 5½; Pears, 3; Other kinds, 2½.

3. Land and property in 1910 in the parish of Little Witley

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

- Two variations of owner names, *Earl of Dudley* and *Earl Dudley* are shown in Appendix 1: the listing in Appendix 2 shows *Dudley, Earl of* for both variations;
- Two variations of situation, *Square* and *The Square* are shown in Appendix 1: the listing in Appendix 4 shows *Square, The* for both variations.

Of the 44 assessments with owners recorded in the Valuation Summary, 40 were owned by the Earl of Dudley who was Lord of the Manor. Table 1 shows the acreage of land in the parish by major landowner, determined by summing the entries in the Valuation Summary: this shows that the Earl of Dudley owned over 99% of the parish in acreage terms.

Table 1: Acreage of land by major landowner

Name	Acreage		
	a	r	p
Earl of Dudley	994	2	0
Rector of Witley	5	0	0
Hon. Mrs. Britlaw	0	3	0
TOTAL	1000	1	0

Those assessments with more than 25 acres of land are listed in Table 2.

Table 2: Assessments in excess of 25 acres

Occupier	Situation	Acreage		
		a	r	p
Alfd. John White	Little Witley	257	0	0
Fred Bishop	Well Farm	185	3	0
Ricd. Colebatch	Thomas Farm	170	1	0
Albt. Ed. Weaver	Not stated	136	0	0
Thos. Colebatch	Bank Farm	102	1	0
Earl of Dudley	Park Woods & Rt of Sporting	60	0	0
Earl of Dudley	Woods & Rt of Sporting	41	2	0

Appendix 1. Transcribed data from the Valuation Summary for the parish of Little Witley.

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
248	1	Colebatch Thos	Earl of Dudley	Farm House & Buildings		Bank Farm	102	1	0	20	0	0	16	0	0
248	2	Colebatch Thos	Earl of Dudley	Land		Bank Farm				37	0	0	33	6	0
248	3	Colebatch Thos	Earl of Dudley	Rt of Sporting		Bank Farm				12	15	0	12	8	6
249	4	Colebatch Thos (James Tom) Lloyd Jas	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn		Bank Farm		1	0	5	0	0	3	15	0
250	5	Ellery Henry	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn		Green Hill		1	0	4	0	0	3	0	0
251	6	Bishop Fred	Earl of Dudley	Farm House & Buildings		Well Farm	185	3	0	35	0	0	28	0	0
251	7	Bishop Fred	Earl of Dudley	Land		Well Farm				70	0	0	63	0	0
251	8	Bishop Fred	Earl of Dudley	Rt of Sporting		Well Farm				23	5	0	22	13	6
252	9	Bishop Fred (Fletcher Mary)	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn		Well Farm		1	0	4	0	0	3	0	0
253	10	Bishop Fred (Hill Thos)	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn		Well Farm		1	0	4	0	0	3	0	0
254	11	Bishop Fred	Rector of Witley	Land		Well Farm Glebe	5	0	0	8	0	0	7	4	0
254	12	Bishop Fred	Rector of Witley	Rt of Sporting		Well Farm Glebe					10	0		9	0
255	13	Bowlett Wm	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn		Little Witley		1	0	4	10	0	3	7	6
											10	0		9	0
256	14	Bowlett Edwin	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn		Little Witley		1	0	4	0	0	3	0	0
											10	0		9	0
257	15	Eaton John	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn		Little Witley		2	0	4	10	0	3	7	6
											14	0		12	3

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
258	16	Clark Emma	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn		The Square		1	0	5	0	0	3	15	0
259	17	Jones Thos Wm	Earl of Dudley	Land		Rowley	12	0	0	5	8	0	4	17	0
259	18	Jones Thos Wm	Earl of Dudley	Rt of Sporting		Rowley				1	10	0	1	9	0
260	19	Dudley Earl of	Earl of Dudley	Woods & Rt of Sporting		Little Witley	41	2	0	21	0	0	20	10	0
261	20	Dudley Earl of	Earl of Dudley	Park Woods & Rt of Sporting		Little Witley	60	0	0	50	0	0	47	10	0
262	21	Edwards Mary	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn		Square		1	0	5	0	0	3	15	0
263	22	Millward Hny	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn		Little Witley		1	0	6	0	0	4	10	0
264	23	Glover Percy	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn		Little Witley				7	0	0	5	5	0
264	24	Glover Percy	Earl of Dudley	Land		Little Witley	2	3	0	4	12	6	4	3	3
264	25	Glover Percy	Earl of Dudley	Rt of Sporting		Little Witley					7	6		7	0
265	26	Baldwin Annie	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn				1	0	2	0	0	1	10	0
266	27	Hammond Sarah	Earl of Dudley	House & Gdn						9	0	0	7	13	0
266	28	Hammond Sarah	Earl of Dudley	Blacksmiths Shop						3	0	0	2	10	0
266	29	Hammond Sarah	Earl of Dudley	Land			3	3	0	3	10	0	3	3	0
266	30	Hammond Sarah	Earl of Dudley	Rt of Sporting							10	0		9	0
267	31	Hawkins John	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn		Little Witley		1	0	5	0	0	3	15	0
268	32	Pressdee Walter	Earl of Dudley	House & Gdn		Little Witley		1	0	11	0	0	9	7	0
269	33	Tyler John	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn		Little Witley		1	0	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
270	34	Hawkins Wm	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn		Ockeridge		1	0	4	10	0	3	7	6
											10	0		9	0
271	35	Jones Arnold	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn		Ockeridge		2	0	4	10	0	3	7	6
											10	0		9	0
272	36	Stokes Alexander	Earl of Dudley	House Gdn Building		Ockeridge				8	0	0	6	16	0
272	37	Stokes Alexander	Earl of Dudley	Land		Ockeridge	5	3	0	6	5	0	5	12	6
272	38	Stokes Alexander	Earl of Dudley	Rt of Sporting		Ockeridge					15	0		13	6
273	39	Colebatch Ricd	Earl of Dudley	Farm House & Buildings		Thomas Farm				35	6	0	28	5	0
273	40	Colebatch Ricd	Earl of Dudley	Land		Thomas Farm	170	1	0	77	12	0	69	17	0
273	41	Colebatch Ricd	Earl of Dudley	Rt of Sporting		Thomas Farm				21	6	0	20	15	6
274	42	Weaver Albt Ed	Earl of Dudley	Farm House & Buildings		Chapel Farm				30	0	0	24	0	0
275	43	Weaver Albt Ed (Hatfield Robt) Baylis Thos	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn				1	0	5	0	0	3	15	0
275	44	Weaver Albt Ed	Earl of Dudley	Land			136	0	0	68	0	0	61	4	0
275	45	Weaver Albt Ed	Earl of Dudley	Rt of Sporting		Chapel Farm				17	0	0	16	11	6
276	46	Rowley Thos	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn		Ockeridge				5	0	0	3	15	0
276	47	Rowley Thos	Earl of Dudley	Land		Ockeridge	4	0	0	4	10	0	4	1	0
276	48	Rowley Thos	Earl of Dudley	Rt of Sporting		Ockeridge					10	0		9	0
	49	Wilson Rev R A	Earl of Dudley	Tithe Rent Charge		Little Witley				130	0	0	107	5	0
277	50	Taylor Alf	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn		Little Witley		1	0	5	0	0	3	15	0
278	51	White Alfd John	Earl of Dudley	Farm House & Buildings		Little Witley				54	0	0	43	4	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
278	52	White Alfd John	Earl of Dudley	Land		Little Witley	257	0	0	166	0	0	149	8	0
278	53	White Alfd John	Earl of Dudley	Rgt of Sporting		Little Witley				32	0	0	31	4	0
279	54/57	White Alfd John	Earl of Dudley	Site of 4 Cottages & Gardens		Little Witley	1	0	0	19	0	0	12	0	0
280 ⁶	58	Cherrington A W	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn		Little Witley		1	0	5	0	0			
281	59	Cocum Will	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn		Little Witley		1	0	5	0	0			
282	60	Hill John	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn		Little Witley		1	0	4	0	0			
283	61	Gibbs	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn			2	0	0	4	0	0	3	0	0
										1	0	0		18	0
284	62	Leigh Elizabeth	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn		Little Witley				6	0	0	4	10	0
284	63	Leigh Elizabeth	Earl of Dudley	Land		Little Witley	1	2	0	4	6	0	3	17	6
284	64	Leigh Elizabeth	Earl of Dudley	Rgt of Sporting		Little Witley					14	0		13	6
285	65	Winnall Edmund	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn		Little Witley	1	2	0	5	0	0	3	15	0
285	66	Winnall Edmund	Earl of Dudley	Land						1	16	0	1	12	6
285	67	Winnall Edmund	Earl of Dudley	Rght of Sporting		Little Witley					4	0		3	6
286	68	Yeomans Hy	Earl of Dudley	Cottage & Gdn		Ockeridge				5	0	0	3	15	0
286	69	Yeomans Hy	Earl of Dudley	Land		Ockeridge	1	0	0	1	17	6	1	13	9

⁶ For this entry and the following two entries, a combined Rateable Value of £12 15s was given.

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
286	70	Yeomans Hy	Earl of Dudley	Rgt of Sporting		Ockeridge					2	6		2	3
287	71	Wall Sarah	Earl of Dudley	Land		Little Witley		3	0	2	17	6	2	11	9
287	72	Wall Sarah	Earl of Dudley	Rt of Sporting		Little Witley					2	6		2	3
288	73	Wall Sarah	Wall Sarah	House Shop & Gdn		Little Witley				12	0	0	10	4	0
289	74	Rowley A	Britlaw Mrs Honble Agent Tayleur Hy Clifton on Teme	Cottage & Gdn		Ockeridge		3	0	5	0	0	3	15	0
										2	0	0	1	16	0
290	75	Yeaxlee Lucy Lewis Agnes	Trustees of School	House & Gdn		Little Witley				6	0	0	4	10	0
308 ⁷		A. Stokes	Earl Dudley	Land at Ockeridge											
309		Little Witley Chapel													

It has not been possible to identify the correct parish (Grimley, Holt, or Little Witley) for the following entry: it does not appear 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
303		Co. Council		Police Station											

⁷ Note added: (Included in Return No 272).

Appendix 2. Index of Owners

Britlaw, Hon. Mrs. 289	School, Trustees of 290
Dudley, Earl of 248-253, 255-287, 308	Wall, Sarah 288
Not stated 309	Witley, Rector of 254

Appendix 3. Index of Occupiers

Baldwin, Annie 265	Hill, Thos. 253
Baylis, Thos. 275	James, Tom 249
Bishop, Fred 251-254	Jones, Arnold 271
Bowlett, Edwin 256	Jones, Thos. Wm. 259
Bowlett, Wm. 255	Leigh, Elizabeth 284
Cherrington, A. W. 280	Lewis, Agnes 290
Clark, Emma 258	Little Witley Chapel 309
Cocum, Will. 281	Lloyd, Jas. 249
Colebatch, Ricd. 273	Millward, Hny. 263
Colebatch, Thos. 248-249	Pressdee, Walter 268
Dudley, Earl of 260-261	Rowley, A. 289
Eaton, John 257	Rowley, Thos. 276
Edwards, Mary 262	Stokes, A. 308
Ellery, Henry 250	Stokes, Alexander 272
Fletcher, Mary 252	Taylor, Alf 277
Gibbs 283	Tyler, John 269
Glover, Percy 264	Wall, Sarah 287-288
Hammond, Sarah 266	Weaver, Albt. Ed. 274-275
Hatfield, Robt. 275	White, Alfd. John 278-279
Hawkins, John 267	Winnall, Edmund 285
Hawkins, Wm. 270	Yeaxlee, Lucy 290
Hill, John 282	Yeomans, Hy. 286

Appendix 4. Index of Places

Bank Farm 248-249

Chapel Farm 274-275

Green Hill 250

Little Witley 255-257, 260-261, 263-264, 267-269, 277-282, 284-285, 287-288, 290

Not stated 265-266, 275, 283, 285, 308-309

Ockeridge 270-272, 276, 286, 289

Rowley 259

Square, The 258, 262

Thomas Farm 273

Well Farm 251-253

Well Farm Glebe 254

Appendix 5. References to other Land Valuation resources for Little Witley

TNA – The National Archives, Kew

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

Forms 37

No Forms 37 exist for the parish of Little Witley

Field Books

TNA: IR58/93491, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Field Books. Worcester. Grimley. Assessment No. 201-300, 1910.*

TNA: IR58/93492, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Field Books. Worcester. Grimley. Assessment No. 301-315, 1910.*

Record Maps

TNA: IR129/3/695, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Record Sheet Plans. West Midland Region: Hereford and Worcester District. OS Sheet Reference: Worcestershire, XX 16, 1910.*

TNA: IR129/3/703, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Record Sheet Plans. West Midland Region: Hereford and Worcester District. OS Sheet Reference: Worcestershire, XXI 9, 1910.*

TNA: IR129/3/707, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Record Sheet Plans. West Midland Region: Hereford and Worcester District. OS Sheet Reference: Worcestershire, XXI 13, 1910.*

TNA: IR129/3/737, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Record Sheet Plans. West Midland Region: Hereford and Worcester District. OS Sheet Reference: Worcestershire, XXVII 4, 1910.*

TNA: IR129/3/749, *Board of Inland Revenue Valuation Office: Record Sheet Plans. West Midland Region: Hereford and Worcester District. OS Sheet Reference: Worcestershire, XXVIII 1, 1910.*