

TITHES AND TITHE MAPS (Extended article)

Tithes have a long history until 1830's when they were seen as being out-of-date for a world of increasing industrialisation. The Tithe Commutation Act of 1836 led to the Tithe survey and the production of Tithe Maps, and an associated Apportionment Agreement, recording who was to receive what of the tithe rent charge which replaced the tithe. Many of these documents are to be found in the TNA and also in Cumbria Archives (Diocesan Records) and often from parish records. In addition, collected sets of papers from the major estates and from individual solicitors' records may well have more information about tithes. One must however be aware that some parishes had disposed of their tithing arrangements with Enclosure Acts. [Note: during the current pandemic disruption in 2021, any researcher needs to check with Cumbria Archive as to possible access.]

Tithe maps and their documentation are significant sources for local history research. The maps show the boundaries of every field surveyed and the associated apportionment agreement usually identifies each holding by a number on the map; the area (acres) *[often showing a larger figure which refers to the total area of the township taken from the 1851 census, the difference being tithe-free land, or land the tithes of which had already been commuted, usually at enclosure.]*, its use as arable, pasture, meadow etc (usually) and the owner and occupier of the land.

A fuller account of this topic can be found at The National Archives (TNA) at this link – [What was the Tithe Survey](#) and the next section below gives information about what records still exist and where they may be found.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- 1) A Catalogue of all the tithe maps in England and Wales still known has been produced .

R.J.P.Kain and R.R Oliver, *The Tithe Maps of England and Wales: A Cartographic Analysis and County-by-County Catalogue*. Cambridge U.P 2011

Prices vary - hardcover over £200, paperback about £75 (although Amazon offer at about £45)

- 2) The main depository of the actual documents is the National Archives (TNA) at Kew although a fair number indicate that the records are actually in Cumbria Archives. Where Cumbria Reference exists [CASCAT] these have been given in preference to the TNA ones, assuming a search in a Cumbria Archive would be preferable (unless the researcher has access to The Genealogist).

- 3) The major record series at Kew are with an overall reference IR 90/xx/xx and include

- Tithe apportionments ([IR 29](#)) which provide the names of landowners and occupiers, land use and tithe rentcharge
- Tithe maps ([IR 30](#)) which show numbered plots described in the apportionments

- Tithe files ([IR 18](#)) which contain the administrative records created while the Tithe Survey was being carried out.
- 3) Cumbria County Archives also hold a substantial number of tithe maps and associated documents. References and some detail are given in the township entries where they exist, mainly as DRC/x/xx, WDRC/x/xx or PD xx/xx.
 Researchers should note -
 Prior notice (1 week) required to view these records as stored in outstore. Please note these records will be produced for use at Carlisle Archives only.
[Link to this archive catalogue CASCAT](#)
 - 4) Lancashire County Archives still carry an extensive set of tithe maps for the townships which transferred to Cumbria in 1974, (but not all). Most of these are also available in Cumbria Archives (Barrow).
[Link to this archive catalogue LANCAT](#)
 - 5) What can be viewed online? You can view the apportionments and tithe maps online at [The Genealogist](#) (substantial charges apply*). Consult the sections on [apportionments](#) and [tithe maps](#) in the [guide at TNA](#) for more advice on how to search the records online.

[*In October 2020, £45 for 4 months, or £120 for 12 months]

PROCESSING THIS DATA FOR THIS DATABASE


- a) Where there is a clear entry at TNA for a township, a panel has been included in the township page (Right hand side - RHS) with a transcription of the data there as recorded in Kain & Oliver, (together with explanatory paragraphs as above). [216]
- b) For those townships not included, one of the following statements has been entered
 - (i) CASCAT refers to collected sets of papers e.g from Benn & Co, Solicitors of Cockermouth or The Lonsdale Estate papers (massive). Each of these lists references to many parishes and separately to tithe documentation. Some missing documentation may therefore be there. [43]
 - (ii) Note also that the townships used for this VCH project only came into existence as civil parishes in 1894 and these quite often involved total rearrangement of boundaries of ancient parishes which vanished. (e.g. Cartmel parish). It may therefore be the case that tithe documentation exists with any old records of these ancient parishes if such can be found. Such cases are labelled 'possibly incorporated'. [49]
 - (iii) A small number of cases show tithe documentation at CASCAT only (not showing at TNA); this has been shown. [14]

iv) Finally there are a few cases where no trace of tithe documentation appears to exist at either TNA, CASCAT or LANCAT [27]

In addition to the above Kain & Oliver record many entries which are for a district, hamlet or part of our township (maybe given as 'township' -this term has not been used to avoid confusion); the detail has been added as a sub-set to the main entry. [58]

c) Finally a set of index maps has been generated showing which townships fall into which main category -

Tithe data recorded 

Possible tithe data may be found 

No tithe data found 

SUMMARY OF VCH TITHE PROJECT	11/12/2020										
	CUMBERLAND					WESTMORLAND				LANCS	TOTALS
	Allerdale Above	Allerdale Below	Cumberland	Eskdale	Leath	Westmorland West	Westmorland East	Kendal	Lonsdale & W.Riding	Ex Lancs	
No of VCH Townships	59	49	24	32	39	21	32	45	16	31	348
No of tithes maps done	43	28	16	16	32	16	26	14	14	11	216
No of townships											
where tithe data might be found in other papers	11	11	2	0	1	5	0	13	0	0	43
where tithe data might be incorporated elsewhere	1	5	0	6	1	0	0	17	2	18	49
where tithe data is only found in CASCAT	0	2	2	2	1	0	2	1	0	2	14
where No tithe data found	4	3	4	8	4		4		0	0	27
<i>No of subsets (parts of townships added)</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>58</i>

Totals check 59 49 24 32 39 21 32 45 16 31 348

[Link to INDEX MAPS](#)

