

TITHES and TITHEMAPS - Introduction:

Tithes have a long history until 1830's when they were seen as being out-of-date for a world of increasing industrialisation.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.

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.