

'Settlement Points of England and Wales, c.1563-1911, GIS shapefile documentation' by Max Satchell and Dan Bogart

Filename: SettlementPoints.shp

This shapefile consists of point data of 4010 settlements in England and Wales. Many of these settlements occur at least once either in lists of towns compiled by Peter Clark, Alan Everitt, John Langton, Chris Law and Brian Robson for the period 1563 to 1911 or extracted from 22 historic texts which list towns published between 1612 and 1888. These data are in a separate access data base.¹ Other settlements have various designations like markets or prominent points along highways. We use the description 'settlement' to describe these locations broadly. This shapefile gives the locations of these settlements and their coordinates in the British National Grid.

The creation of this dataset was generously funded by grants from the NSF Modelling the Transport Revolution and the Industrial Revolution in England (SES-1260699) and the Leverhulme Trust Transport and Urbanization c.1670-1911 (RPG2013-093). A number of individuals contributed to the work. Leigh Shaw-Taylor conceived the idea for and the initial database structure. Lists of towns were chosen by Leigh Shaw-Taylor, Tony Wrigley, Dan Bogart and Max Satchell. The database was first created by Mischa Davenport under the supervision of Leigh Shaw-Taylor who also supervised revisions by Aurianne Turki-Mignot. Gill Newton comprehensively overhauled the database and systematised its GIS linkages. Town lists were digitized by Dan Bogart, Mischa Davenport, Aurianne Turki-Mignot, and Annette McKenzie. The first tranche of GIS work was executed by Max Satchell and Ellen Potter. Further town points digitised by Eduard Alvarez, Bonney O'Hanlon and Spike Gibbs. Sebastiaan Keibek and Alan Rosevear identified errors and Alan Rosevear corrected those which date to towns in 17th century sources. Stephen Gadd and Max Satchell checked the entire GIS dataset against the database in 2021 and 2022 respectively.

Digitising town locations

The method of digitising a point for the towns was devised by Max Satchell and Ellen Potter. The idea was to establish an accurate and consistent set of town central points suitable for network analysis based on enduring features. Since some towns might not have a particular feature and some features are more desirable because they are more likely to be central and enduring Satchell came up with a hierarchy of features that could be regarded as the "centre" of the settlement for the period c. 1680-1911. In descending order of desirability the hierarchy was:

- 1) Market place or a market feature such as a market house, corn exchange etc.
- 2) Parish church
- 3) Inn
- 4) Post Office
- 5) Public House
- 6) centre of the High Street
- 7) Approximate centre of 19th century settlement

According to the method the would-be digitiser would use the co-ordinates of the market place if the town had a market. In the absence of a market the digitiser would look for the parish church and if the church was not peripherally located would use its co-ordinates. If there was no market place or parish church, they would look to see if there was a centrally located inn and so on working their way successively through the list. This system obviously is relatively

¹ Newton, L. Shaw-Taylor, M. Satchell, A.D., Turki-Mignot, D. Bogart, A. McKenzie, M. Davenport, 'Database of Candidate Towns and Markets of England and Wales 1563-1911'. A description of this dataset can be found in G. Newton 'Database of Candidate Towns and Markets of England and Wales 1563-1911', <http://www.geog.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/occupations/datasets/documentation.html>

crude and does not capture particular nuances of some towns, such as changes in the town plan over time but it has the advantage of being clearly documentable and relatively easy to implement. Ellen Potter successively searched through the digital resources listed in Appendix 1 to create robust locations for the town points. In some instances, she also obtained co-ordinate data from scans of georeferenced Ordnance Survey maps of the first edition 6 and 25" mapping (surveyed 1840-1890) available from the Edina Digimap website.² These same method and sources was used by the later digitisers, especially Alan Rosevear.

Attribute Data

Field	Data Type	Description
FID	Object ID	Unique id for each line in the table
Shape	Point	Point to represent the "centre" of the town
TOWN_NAME	Text	Name of town
COUNTY	Text	Name of ancient county
NEWSTANDAR	Text	Name of town and ancient county concatenated
X_COORD	Text	Easting coordinate, in British National Grid
Y_COORD	Text	Northing coordinate, in British National Grid

Data from the 'Database of Candidate Towns and Markets of England and Wales 1563-1911 can be joined to the shapefile using **NEWSTANDARD** field from the database to the **NEWSTANDAR** field of the shapefile.

Co-ordinate system

British_National_Grid

Projection: Transverse_Mercator

False_Easting: 400000.000000

False_Northing: -100000.000000

Central_Meridian: -2.000000

Scale_Factor: 0.999601

Latitude_Of_Origin: 49.000000

Linear Unit: Meter

GCS_OSGB_1936

Datum: D_OSGB_1936

² <https://digimap.edina.ac.uk/historic>

Citation Guidelines

The citations in this document should be used to reference any maps and/ or data when they have been included in any essays, dissertations or other academic works. You should cite the data even if it does not appear as an image or map in your work if it has been used to generate findings or a new dataset that is used.

Citation to data

Satchell, M., Rosevear, A., Potter, E., Bogart, D., Alvarez-Palau, E., Shaw-Taylor, L. (2024). *Settlement Points of England and Wales, c.1563-1911 [dataset]*, unpublished.

A description of the dataset can be found in Bogart, D. and Satchell, M. (2024). 'Settlement Points of England and Wales, c.1563-1911, GIS shapefile documentation'. Unpublished document

Appendix 1: Digital Sources for the location of markets and churches

Extensive Urban Survey Reports Series available from the Archaeology Data Service

<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/EUS/> consulted March April 2014-2015

Cornmarkets location co-ordinate data. Our thanks to D'Maris Coffman and Louise Pryor for sharing their data with us: <https://www.cornreturnsonline.org/downloads/>

ListedBuildingsPoints.shp available from Historic England <https://services.historicengland.org.uk/NMRDDownload/SecurePages/Download.aspx> downloaded 23 March 2014

M. Satchell, [AnglicanchurchesandchapelswithRegisterdata.shp](#)