

ArcGIS shapefile of Parliamentary Enclosures in England, 1606-1902

EnglandParliamentaryEnclosure1606_1902.shp

This shapefile consists of point data of 4883 English parishes which underwent parliamentary enclosure in England from 1606 to 1902.¹ The creation of this dataset was generously funded by grants from the NSF grant (SES-1260699), Modelling the Transport Revolution and the Industrial Revolution in England, and the Leverhulme Trust grant (RPG-2013-093) Transport and Urbanization c.1670-1911. The work was executed by Max Satchell and Lyn Boothman with assistance from Dan Bogart.

The parliamentary enclosure was an important intervention into property rights in England. Enclosures eliminated common lands and replaced open fields with enclosed plots of land with private ownership.

Our goal is to identify when and where parliamentary enclosure occurred. The original data for this exercise comes from Tate (1978). The data set names the year of an enclosure award and the acreage of land enclosed. In situations where a parish underwent enclosure successively under more than one act this is also recorded. Tate's data was digitized in a spreadsheet format by Gregory Clark (2001). We thank Clark for sharing his digitised data.

Method

Max Satchell standardized the county names in the Clark table and deleted all data not directly related to parliamentary enclosure from it. He then loaded the Clark table into a ESRI ArcMap 10 workspace set to the British National Grid and projected the enclosure coordinate data as an events layer using the "Display XY data" command. The next stage was to converted the events layer into a proper shapefile by exporting the events layer as a feature class. The enclosure points file was then laid over the standard CAMPOP England and Wales census parishes, townships and places shapefile. This enabled anomalies caused by co-ordinate errors, such as parish point data located in the sea, to be corrected by Boothman.

Attribute data

<i>Field</i>	<i>Data type</i>	<i>Description</i>
FID	Object ID	Unique ID for each row in the table
Shape	Point	Point for location of the enclosure
ID	Object ID	ID for each parish
County	String	Name of ancient county where the enclosure was awarded.
Parish	String	Name of parish where the enclosure was awarded.
X_COORD	Numeric	X coordinate
Y_COORD	Numeric	Y coordinate
ALTCnty	String	Alternative Name of county where the enclosure was awarded.

ALTPar	String	Alternative Name of parish where the enclosure was awarded.
Enc#	Numeric	Year of # enclosure award
Area#	Numeric	Area of # enclosure award in acres
T#	Numeric	Type of # enclosure award
Enclnote	String	Note or remark on enclosure.
Area_water		Water area of parish in acres
Area_land		Land area of parish in acres ⁱⁱ

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

Citation

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Digital Sources

[A.E.M Satchell, P.M.Kitson, G.H Newton,L. Shaw-Taylor, E.A Wrigley,](#)

[1851 England and Wales census parishes, townships and places GIS \(2016\)](#)

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Written Sources

Tate, W. E. 1978. *A Domesday of English Enclosure Acts and Awards*. Ed. Michael Turner. Reading: The Library, University of Reading

Clark, G. and Clark A. "The Enclosure of English Common Lands, 1475-1839." *Journal of Economic History*, 61(4) (December 2001): 1009-1036.

ⁱ This field comprises the standard 39 ancient counties of England with Yorkshire further sub-divided into its 3 Ridings, and the ancient county of Monmouthshire, which is sometimes regarded as part of Wales.

ⁱⁱ "-1" means land area uncertain