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## The Enclosure Maps of England and Wales, 1595–1918

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This book offers the first comprehensive study of the enclosure mapping of England and Wales. Enclosure maps are fundamental sources of evidence in many types of historical enquiries. Although modern historians tend to view these large-scale maps essentially as sources of data on past economies and societies, this book argues that enclosure maps had a much more active role at the time they were compiled. Seen from this perspective of their contemporary society, enclosure maps are not simply antiquarian curiosities, cultural artefacts or useful sources for historians but instruments of land reorganisation and control which both reflected and consolidated the power of those who commissioned them. The book is accompanied by a fully searchable, descriptive and analytical catalogue of all the parliamentary and non-parliamentary enclosure maps extant in public archives and libraries, and offers an essential research tool for economic, social and local historians and for geographers, lawyers and planners.

Roger J. P. Kain is Montefiore Professor of Geography and Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Exeter. He is the co-author of *The Tithe Maps of England and Wales: A Cartographic Analysis and County-by-County Catalogue* (1995).

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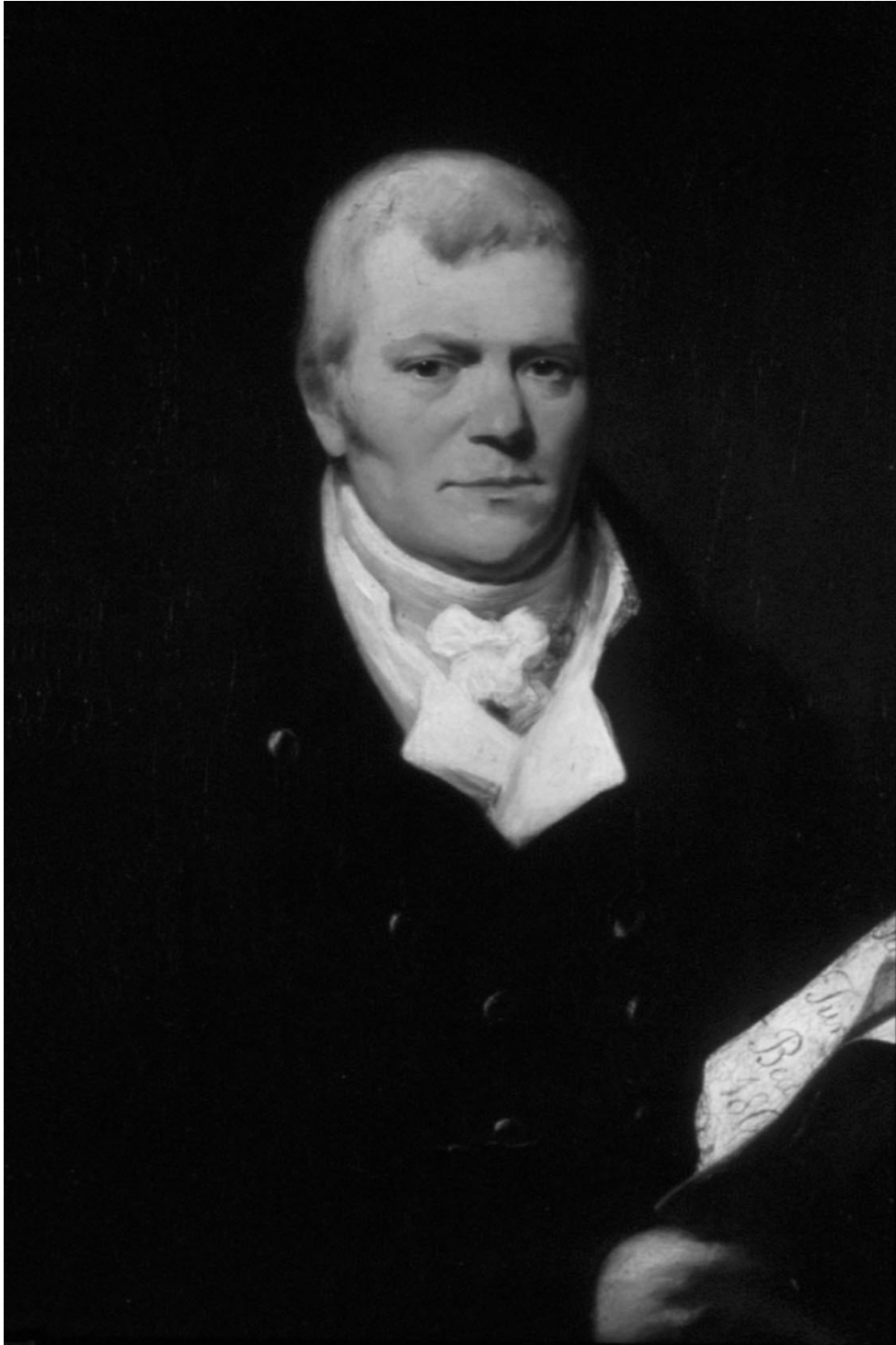
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Frontmatter

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*Frontispiece* Richard Gee, surveyor and enclosure commissioner of Turvey, Bedfordshire, c. 1756–1811. Portrait by John Cawse, January 1804.

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# THE ENCLOSURE MAPS OF ENGLAND AND WALES 1595–1918

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ROGER J. P. KAIN  
JOHN CHAPMAN AND  
RICHARD R. OLIVER

An electronic catalogue and database which extend the information provided in this book are available on a website hosted by the History Data Service of the UK Data Archive.

The web address is

<http://hds.essex.ac.uk/em/index.html>



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## Contents

- List of figures [*page* viii]  
List of tables [xi]  
Preface [xvii]  
Abbreviations of county names [xix]
- 1 The enclosure movement in England and Wales [1]**  
Motives for enclosure [1]  
Methods of enclosure [9]  
The early background [18]  
Enclosure in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries [20]  
The amount of land enclosed in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries [21]  
Dividing and allocating the land [29]  
The consequences of enclosure [33]  
Maps and enclosure [39]
- 2 County-by-county analyses of enclosure map characteristics [47]**  
Bedfordshire [47]  
Berkshire [49]  
Buckinghamshire [51]  
Cambridgeshire [53]  
Cheshire [56]  
Cornwall [58]  
Cumberland [59]  
Derbyshire [61]  
Devon [63]  
Dorset [65]  
Durham [67]  
Essex [69]  
Gloucestershire [70]  
Hampshire and the Isle of Wight [74]  
Herefordshire [76]  
Hertfordshire [78]

---

Huntingdonshire	[79]
Kent	[81]
Lancashire	[82]
Leicestershire	[84]
Lincolnshire	[86]
Middlesex	[94]
Norfolk	[96]
Northamptonshire	[101]
Northumberland	[103]
Nottinghamshire	[106]
Oxfordshire	[109]
Rutland	[111]
Shropshire	[112]
Somerset	[114]
Staffordshire	[117]
Suffolk	[119]
Surrey	[122]
Sussex	[123]
Warwickshire	[125]
Westmorland	[127]
Wiltshire	[129]
Worcestershire	[131]
Yorkshire, East Riding	[132]
Yorkshire, North Riding	[135]
Yorkshire, West Riding	[137]
Anglesey	[141]
Breconshire	[142]
Caernarvonshire	[143]
Cardiganshire	[145]
Carmarthenshire	[146]
Denbighshire	[147]
Flintshire	[149]
Glamorganshire	[151]
Merionethshire	[152]
Monmouthshire	[153]
Montgomeryshire	[154]
Pembrokeshire	[155]
Radnorshire	[156]
<b>3 Enclosure maps of England and Wales</b>	<b>[159]</b>
Chronology of enclosure mapping	[159]

---

Proportions of counties covered by enclosure maps	[159]
Enclosure by agreement	[161]
Extent of enclosure mapping within parishes	[162]
'First-class' enclosure mapping	[167]
Map scales	[170]
Colour	[174]
Road, drain and path widths, and similar measurements	[182]
Transport and communications	[184]
Non-agricultural land use	[185]
Buildings	[185]
Natural features	[187]
Agricultural land use	[187]
Field boundaries and gates	[189]
Land ownership and acreages	[190]
Names	[194]
Decoration	[195]
Enclosure surveyors	[198]
A quintessential enclosure map?	[202]
<b>Appendix</b> Surveyors of enclosure maps	[205]
<b>Contents of the WWW Catalogue: Index of places in England and Wales with extant enclosure maps</b>	[291]
Index	[411]

## Figures

- Frontispiece* Richard Gee, surveyor and enclosure commissioner, c. 1756–1811. Reproduced by permission of Nottinghamshire Archives (EA 112/1). [page ii]
- 1 Extract from Nottingham Common Fields enclosure map, 1846. Reproduced by permission of Nottinghamshire Archives (EA 112/1). [8]
  - 2 Title page of the enclosure act for Barford, Norfolk, 1812. [10]
  - 3 Preamble to the enclosure award for Ashby and Hellington, Norfolk. Reproduced by permission of Norfolk County Record Office (C/Sca 2/5). [14]
  - 4 Title page of H. S. Homer, *An Essay on . . . the Inclosure of Common Fields*, 1766. [41]
  - 5 The Bere Regis enclosure, Dorset, 1846. Reproduced by permission of Dorset Record Office (IA 59). [42]
  - 6 Parliamentary enclosure acts in England and Wales, 1700–1900 and enclosure mapping in England and Wales, 1700–1900. [45]
  - 7 England and Wales: percentage of county area mapped for enclosures. [160]
  - 8 England and Wales: agreement maps as a percentage of all enclosure maps. [161]
  - 9 England and Wales: percentage of enclosure maps covering whole parishes/townships. [163]
  - 10 Extract from Studley, Warwickshire, enclosure map, 1824. Reproduced by permission of Warwickshire County Record Office (QS 75/110). [164]
  - 11 Diss, Norfolk, enclosure map, 1816. Reproduced by permission of Norfolk Record Office (C/Sca 2/94). [165]
  - 12 Colby Moor, Westmorland, enclosure map, 1852. Reproduced by permission of the Keeper of the Public Record Office (MAF 1/441). [166]
  - 13 England and Wales: first-class maps as a percentage of all enclosure maps. [168]



- 
- 14 Extract from Thorpe Low Common, Norfolk, enclosure map, 1863. Reproduced by permission of Norfolk Record Office (C/Sca 2/292–3). [169]
  - 15 Scale bar on the enclosure map of Pilton and North Wootton, Somerset, 1796. Reproduced by permission of Somerset Record Office and Archive Service (Q/Rde 41). [171]
  - 16 England and Wales: enclosure maps at scales of one inch to 3 chains (1:2376), one inch to 4 chains (1:3168), one inch to 6 chains (1:4752) and one inch to 8 chains (1:6336). [172]
  - 17 England and Wales: maps with the ‘standard’ colour scheme as a percentage of all enclosure maps. [175]
  - 18 England and Wales: percentage of enclosure maps which use colour to distinguish buildings. [176]
  - 19 Extract from the Swallow, Lincolnshire, enclosure map, 1806. Reproduced by permission of the Keeper of the Public Record Office (MPL 1/83). [179]
  - 20 Extract from the Sporle with Palgrave, Norfolk, enclosure map, 1806. Reproduced by permission of Norfolk County Record Office (C/Sca 2/71). [180]
  - 21 England and Wales: enclosure maps which record road, drain, path, fence and similar measurements as a percentage of all enclosure maps. [183]
  - 22 England and Wales: percentage of all enclosure maps which distinguish inhabited from uninhabited buildings. [186]
  - 23 Extract from the enclosure map of the Great Forest of Brecknock, 1819. Reproduced by permission of the Keeper of the Public Record Office (E 159/711). [188]
  - 24 England and Wales: percentage of enclosure maps which indicate field boundary ownership. [190]
  - 25 Part of the legend on the Meare, Somerset, enclosure maps, 1782. Reproduced by permission of Somerset Archive and Record Service (Q/RDe 1125). [191]
  - 26 Extract from the Langford, Berkshire, enclosure map, 1810. Reproduced by permission of Oxfordshire Archives (F.15). [192]
  - 27 England and Wales: percentage of enclosure maps which record the names of allottees of new enclosures. [193]
  - 28 England and Wales: percentage of enclosure maps which record building names. [195]

- 
- 29 England and Wales: percentage of enclosure maps which record field names. [196]
  - 30 Extract from the Snaith, Cowick and Rawcliffe enclosure map, East Riding of Yorkshire, *c.* 1754. Reproduced by permission of East Riding of Yorkshire Council Archives and Record Service (DDCL 3394). [197]
  - 31 Cartouche on the Compton Bishop, Somerset, enclosure map, 1779. Reproduced by permission of Somerset Archive and Record Service (Q/RDe 22). [198]
  - 32 Cartouche on the Moorlinch, Somerset, enclosure map, 1800. Reproduced by permission of Somerset Archive and Record Service (Q/RDe 169). [199]
  - 33 Cartouche on the enclosure map of Henlow, Bedfordshire, *c.* 1795. Reproduced by permission of Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Record Service (MA 5/1). [200]
  - 34 Extract from the Elmstone Hardwicke, Gloucestershire, enclosure map, 1918. Reproduced by permission of the Keeper of the Public Record Office (MAF 1/245). [203]

## *Tables*

- 1 Bedfordshire map dates [*page* 48]
- 2 Bedfordshire map scales [48]
- 3 Bedfordshire surveyors [49]
- 4 Berkshire map dates [50]
- 5 Berkshire map scales [50]
- 6 Berkshire surveyors [51]
- 7 Buckinghamshire map dates [52]
- 8 Buckinghamshire map scales [52]
- 9 Buckinghamshire surveyors [53]
- 10 Cambridgeshire map dates [54]
- 11 Cambridgeshire map scales [54]
- 12 Cambridgeshire surveyors [55]
- 13 Cheshire map dates [56]
- 14 Cheshire map scales [56]
- 15 Cheshire surveyors [57]
- 16 Cornwall map dates [58]
- 17 Cornwall map scales [58]
- 18 Cornwall surveyors [59]
- 19 Cumberland map dates [59]
- 20 Cumberland map scales [60]
- 21 Cumberland surveyors [61]
- 22 Derbyshire map dates [62]
- 23 Derbyshire map scales [62]
- 24 Derbyshire surveyors [63]
- 25 Devon map dates [63]
- 26 Devon map scales [64]

- 
- 27 Devon surveyors [64]
  - 28 Dorset map dates [65]
  - 29 Dorset map scales [65]
  - 30 Dorset surveyors [66]
  - 31 Durham map dates [68]
  - 32 Durham map scales [68]
  - 33 Durham surveyors [68]
  - 34 Essex map dates [69]
  - 35 Essex map scales [69]
  - 36 Essex surveyors [70]
  - 37 Gloucestershire map dates [71]
  - 38 Gloucestershire map scales [72]
  - 39 Gloucestershire surveyors [73]
  - 40 Hampshire and Isle of Wight map dates [74]
  - 41 Hampshire and Isle of Wight map scales [75]
  - 42 Hampshire and Isle of Wight surveyors [76]
  - 43 Herefordshire map dates [76]
  - 44 Herefordshire map scales [76]
  - 45 Herefordshire surveyors [77]
  - 46 Hertfordshire map dates [78]
  - 47 Hertfordshire map scales [78]
  - 48 Hertfordshire surveyors [79]
  - 49 Huntingdonshire map dates [80]
  - 50 Huntingdonshire map scales [80]
  - 51 Huntingdonshire surveyors [81]
  - 52 Kent map dates [82]
  - 53 Kent map scales [82]
  - 54 Kent surveyors [82]
  - 55 Lancashire map dates [83]
  - 56 Lancashire map scales [83]
  - 57 Lancashire surveyors [84]
  - 58 Leicestershire map dates [85]
  - 59 Leicestershire map scales [85]
  - 60 Leicestershire surveyors [86]

- 
- 61 Lincolnshire map dates [87]  
62 Lincolnshire map scales [89]  
63 Lincolnshire surveyors [93]  
64 Middlesex map dates [95]  
65 Middlesex map scales [95]  
66 Middlesex surveyors [96]  
67 Norfolk map dates [97]  
68 Norfolk map scales [97]  
69 Norfolk surveyors [100]  
70 Northamptonshire map dates [102]  
71 Northamptonshire map scales [102]  
72 Northamptonshire surveyors [103]  
73 Northumberland map dates [104]  
74 Northumberland map scales [105]  
75 Northumberland surveyors [106]  
76 Nottinghamshire map dates [107]  
77 Nottinghamshire map scales [107]  
78 Nottinghamshire surveyors [109]  
79 Oxfordshire map dates [110]  
80 Oxfordshire map scales [110]  
81 Oxfordshire surveyors [110]  
82 Rutland map dates [111]  
83 Rutland map scales [111]  
84 Rutland surveyors [112]  
85 Shropshire map dates [113]  
86 Shropshire map scales [113]  
87 Shropshire surveyors [114]  
88 Somerset map dates [115]  
89 Somerset map scales [115]  
90 Somerset surveyors [116]  
91 Staffordshire map dates [118]  
92 Staffordshire map scales [118]  
93 Staffordshire surveyors [119]  
94 Suffolk map dates [120]

- 
- 95 Suffolk map scales [120]  
96 Suffolk surveyors [121]  
97 Surrey map dates [122]  
98 Surrey map scales [122]  
99 Surrey surveyors [123]  
100 Sussex map dates [124]  
101 Sussex map scales [124]  
102 Sussex surveyors [125]  
103 Warwickshire map dates [126]  
104 Warwickshire map scales [126]  
105 Warwickshire surveyors [126]  
106 Westmorland map dates [127]  
107 Westmorland map scales [128]  
108 Westmorland surveyors [128]  
109 Wiltshire map dates [129]  
110 Wiltshire map scales [130]  
111 Wiltshire surveyors [131]  
112 Worcestershire map dates [132]  
113 Worcestershire map scales [132]  
114 Worcestershire surveyors [132]  
115 Yorkshire, East Riding map dates [133]  
116 Yorkshire, East Riding map scales [133]  
117 Yorkshire, East Riding surveyors [135]  
118 Yorkshire, North Riding map dates [136]  
119 Yorkshire, North Riding map scales [136]  
120 Yorkshire, North Riding surveyors [137]  
121 Yorkshire, West Riding map dates [138]  
122 Yorkshire, West Riding map scales [139]  
123 Yorkshire, West Riding surveyors [140]  
124 Anglesey map dates [141]  
125 Anglesey map scales [142]  
126 Anglesey surveyors [142]  
127 Breconshire map dates [143]  
128 Breconshire map scales [143]

- 
- 129 Breconshire surveyors [143]  
130 Caernarvonshire map dates [144]  
131 Caernarvonshire map scales [144]  
132 Caernarvonshire surveyors [145]  
133 Cardiganshire map dates [145]  
134 Cardiganshire map scales [145]  
135 Cardiganshire surveyors [146]  
136 Carmarthenshire map dates [147]  
137 Carmarthenshire map scales [147]  
138 Carmarthenshire surveyors [147]  
139 Denbighshire map dates [148]  
140 Denbighshire map scales [148]  
141 Denbighshire surveyors [148]  
142 Flintshire map dates [150]  
143 Flintshire map scales [150]  
144 Flintshire surveyors [150]  
145 Glamorganshire map dates [151]  
146 Glamorganshire map scales [151]  
147 Glamorganshire surveyors [151]  
148 Merionethshire map dates [152]  
149 Merionethshire map scales [152]  
150 Merionethshire surveyors [153]  
151 Monmouthshire map dates [153]  
152 Monmouthshire map scales [153]  
153 Monmouthshire map surveyors [153]  
154 Montgomeryshire map dates [155]  
155 Montgomeryshire map scales [155]  
156 Montgomeryshire surveyors [155]  
157 Pembrokeshire map dates [156]  
158 Pembrokeshire map scales [156]  
159 Pembrokeshire surveyors [156]  
160 Radnorshire map dates [157]  
161 Radnorshire map scales [157]  
162 Radnorshire surveyors [157]

## Preface

Large-scale, government-sponsored maps dating from before the mid-nineteenth century – in essence tithe maps and enclosure maps – are fundamental sources of evidence in many types of historical enquiries. At scales of 1:10,000 and larger, they provide a record of parish and township boundaries before major changes took place, of enclosed and open fields, of farms and settlement forms, and of rural land ownership and use. For local historians concerned with the history of particular places, such maps can provide a first point of reference in retrogressive enquiries. Although modern historians tend to view large-scale maps essentially as sources of data on past economies and societies, enclosure maps, the subject of this book, had a much more active role at the time they were compiled. Seen from this perspective of their contemporary society, enclosure maps are not simply antiquarian curiosities, cultural artefacts or useful sources for generations of future historians. Enclosure maps, like many other genres of cadastral maps, were instruments of land reorganisation and control which both reflected and consolidated the power of those who commissioned them.

This book derives from a five-year research project funded at the University of Exeter by the Economic and Social Research Council and work at the University of Portsmouth financed by The Leverhulme Trust. It is conceived as a sequel to Roger Kain's and Richard Oliver's *The Tithe Maps of England and Wales: A Cartographic Analysis and County-by-County Catalogue*, published by Cambridge University Press in 1995. A website which extends the information on enclosure maps provided in this book is hosted by the History Data Service of the UK Data Archive and contains a fully searchable, descriptive and analytical catalogue of all the parliamentary and non-parliamentary enclosure maps extant in public archives and libraries. The address of the website is <http://hds.essex.ac.uk/em/index.html>. Taken together, the printed book and the website provide a research tool for economic, social and local historians, historical geographers, lawyers, planners and others who require information about particular places in the past. In this printed book we discuss the processes of enclosure, assess the role of maps in that process, discuss the mapping of each county, and analyse the cartographic characteristics of the maps across both space and time. There is also an index which lists every map, provides some key descriptive information about each, and contains links to the fuller information about each map in the internet database.



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A very considerable number of people have helped us in our work. County archivists and librarians across the length and breadth of England and Wales have provided much assistance, as have Geraldine Beech, Margaret Condon and Rose Mitchell at the Public Record Office, Francis Herbert at the Royal Geographical Society, and Roger Hellyer. Our work has benefited from the technical help and expertise of a number of colleagues at Exeter University, and especially Helen Jones who produced the line drawings and Andrew Teed for photographic services. John Chapman would like to acknowledge the invaluable help of Dr Trevor Harris and Dr Sylvia Seeliger, successively Research Assistant and Research Associate to the University of Portsmouth National Enclosure Project. He would also like to pay tribute to Polly Chapman for her many hours of (unpaid) help in record offices around the country. Roger Kain and Richard Oliver are likewise grateful for the support of Annmaree and Bridget, respectively.

Roger Kain, John Chapman and Richard Oliver  
*Easter 2003*

## *Abbreviations of county names*

AGL	Anglesey
BDF	Bedfordshire
BRE	Breconshire
BRK	Berkshire
BUC	Buckinghamshire
CAM	Cambridgeshire
CHE	Cheshire
CMB	Cumberland
CNW	Cornwall
CRD	Cardiganshire
CRM	Carmarthenshire
CRN	Caernarvonshire
DEN	Denbighshire
DEV	Devon
DOR	Dorset
DRB	Derbyshire
DRH	Durham
ESX	Essex
FLI	Flintshire
GLA	Glamorganshire
GLO	Gloucestershire
HMP	Hampshire
HNT	Huntingdonshire
HRE	Herefordshire
HRT	Hertfordshire
IOW	Isle of Wight
KNT	Kent
LEI	Leicestershire
LIN	Lancashire
LNC	Lincolnshire
MDX	Middlesex
MER	Merionethshire
MON	Monmouthshire

MTG	Montgomeryshire
NFK	Norfolk
NTB	Northumberland
NTP	Northamptonshire
NTT	Nottinghamshire
OXF	Oxfordshire
PEM	Pembrokeshire
RAD	Radnorshire
RUT	Rutland
SFK	Suffolk
SHR	Shropshire
SOM	Somerset
SSX	Sussex
STF	Staffordshire
SUR	Surrey
WAR	Warwickshire
WLT	Wiltshire
WML	Westmorland
WOR	Worcestershire
YOE	Yorkshire, East Riding
YON	Yorkshire, North Riding
YOW	Yorkshire, West Riding