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978-0-521-17323-0 - The Enclosure Maps of England and Wales 1595-1918

Roger J. P. Kain, John Chapman and Richard R. Oliver

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The Enclosure Maps of England and Wales, 1595–1918

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).

John Chapman is Principal Lecturer in Geography at the University of Portsmouth.

Richard R. Oliver is AHRB Research Fellow in the History of Cartography 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).

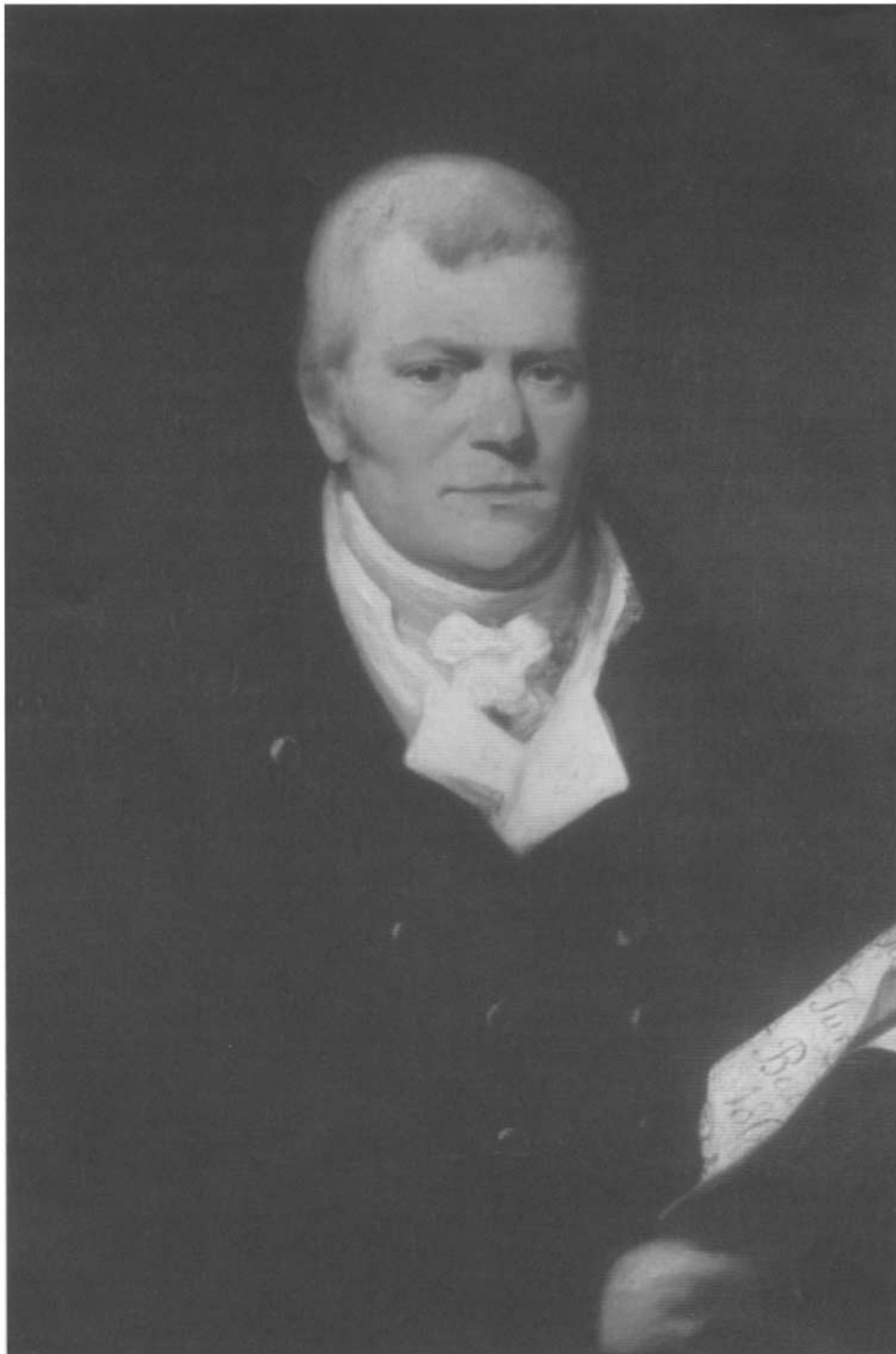
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Frontispiece Richard Gee, surveyor and enclosure commissioner of Turvey, Bedfordshire, c. 1756–1811. Portrait by John Cawse, January 1804.

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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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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.

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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

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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