

THE 18TH CENTURY ENCLOSURE OF TYSOE'S OPEN FIELDS

Glossary of Terms

Acre	Originally understood as a strip of land sized at 40 perches (660 ft or 1 furlong) long and four perches (66ft) wide. The size of an acre was not finally standardised until a Weights and Measures Act of 1824.
Allotments	A consolidated area of land allocated to a named person as compensation for the withdrawal or termination of 'ownership' of strips in the open fields or common rights of various types or receipt of tithes.
Ancient inclosures	The enclosure of land in the 15th or 16th centuries without an Act of Parliament, sometimes by piecemeal agreements between tenants.
Apportionments	See Allotments above
Appurtenant	Land attached to a particular holding.
Balk (Baulk)	An unploughed piece of land in an open arable field with various uses; as an access path to other land, a boundary between strips (qv), or pieces which are unsuitable for cultivation sometimes grazed by tethered animals. Hence a grass way over an open field.
Bridle way	A bridle way is for riders on horseback.
Butt	A section in a common arable field abutting more or less at right angles upon another selion (qv) or land (qv) which, because of the irregular shape of the field is shorter than its neighbours.
Candlemas Day	Celebrated on February 2nd
Champion land	Open-field land as opposed to land held in severalty (qv).
Closes	See Home closes (qv)
Common appurtenant	Common right attached to a house or the site of a house formerly existing.

Common, right of	A right of common is the right which one or more persons have to make use of, or take produce from, the land of another. In most instances the owner of the soil was the lord of the manor, who also enjoyed rights of common thereon. The waste of the manor was owned by the lord of the manor, but was normally subject to customary common rights. In the arable and meadow, the strips of the customary tenants were owned by the lord of the manor, but these tenants had exclusive possession, subject to common rights. When the common arable and meadow were thrown open for pasturing of commonable animals, the ownership of the soil did not change, but the rights of pasture were common rights, because each tenant exercised rights over land other than his own.
Compositions	A cash payment in lieu of tithes were common but before 1836 such compositions could be altered by a new incumbent.
Copyhold	A form of tenure based on manorial records and conferring almost all the freedoms of freehold ownership.
Cottager	A peasant having a very small area or close (qv) attached to his dwelling for rearing a pig or similar.
Court Leet	Sometimes known as a Manorial Court (qv), a meeting where joint decisions were made by owners and/or tenants how each open field should be cultivated in any given year, usually on a two-field or three-field rotation
Customary acre	The acre was originally derived from ploughing practice and not a fixed or measured area. Great variations arose from soil type and the number of oxen in a team, but a certain size of area may have become 'customary' or normal in a local area.
Demesne	An area reserved by the Lord of the Manor for his own farming activity using labour provided by tied or day labourers, the produce being for his own consumption or sale.
Depastured	When livestock, often sheep, are allowed into the common pasture or meadow to graze.
Determinate stint	See 'Stint' below.
Doles	Shares especially of common meadow, distributed annually or periodically by lot or rotation. See 'Semidoles' below.
Dower	A widow's share for life of her husband's estate.
Driftway	In Old English, "drift way" would essentially mean a "driving path" or a road used to drive livestock, eg cattle or sheep, across open land. "Drift" originates from the Old English word "drifan" which means "to drive"; essentially, a "driftway" is a path used for herding animals
Enclosure (Old spelling Inclosure)	The conversion into severalty (qv) of open-field or champion (qv) common meadow, or common pasture or waste.
Enclosure roads	Sometimes new routes defined by the Inclosure Commissioners or sometimes early tracks straightened and formalised by the Inclosure Award.

Fee simple	Fee simple is the highest and most complete form of ownership, granting the owner the right to possess, use, and dispose of the land indefinitely and without time limits.
Field	A large area of open land, divided into furlongs (<i>qv</i>), which again were subdivided into selions (<i>qv</i>) all of which were normally subject to the same crop rotation. Not a field in the modern sense.
Fother or fither	An odd scrap of land in the open fields.
Freeboards	?
Furlong	This may have originated as an approximation of the amount of land a yoke of oxen could plough in a day, a furlong being 'a furrow long'.
Furze	A local word for gorse.
Glebe	Land owned by the church from which the produce or income supported the clergy and church.
Gore	A scrap of land in the open field, generally more or less triangular in shape.
Goss	Gorse
Great tythes	These were larger and more valuable crops like grain, hay and wood usually paid to the vicar or rector. They were generally easier to collect than Small Tythes.
Headland	A piece of land in a ploughed field left for turning the plough at the end of furrows. Often the headland was commonable or belonged to a different proprietor from the long lands (<i>qv</i>).
Home closes	A common term in England denoting an enclosure of some sort (hedged or fenced) nearest the settlement centre, farmhouse or farmstead.
Husbandman	A small farmer below the status of a yeoman (<i>qv</i>).
Impropriator	Impropriate is an ecclesiastical benefice whose tithe is held in whole or in part by a layman (the impropriator)
Inrolled	?
Jointure	The holding of property to the joint use of a husband and wife, as a provision for the wife if she is widowed.
Lady Day	25 th March, also known as one of the quarter days in England.
Lammas lands	Meadows commonable after hay making. Lammas Day is August 1 st .
Lands	The basic unit of ploughing in the common arable fields, the fields being marked off into parallel widths of 22 yards or less. An alternative term is 'selion' (<i>qv</i>) and a local term may include 'stitch' (<i>qv</i>), which occurs in some Tysoe field names.
Leaze	(common) meadow
Ley	Land ploughed for several years, and then put under grass for a period, then ploughed again, and so on.
Manorial Court	See Court Leet (<i>qv</i>)

May Day old style	Refers to May 1st in the Julian Calendar which was used in Britain until 1752 and then superseded by the Gregorian Calendar, which caused an 11 day difference, so it actually falls on May 12 th in the modern calendar.
Meadow	Land cropped for hay.
Messuages	A piece of land occupied, or intended to be occupied, as a site for a dwelling-house.
Modus(es)	A customary fixed payment in lieu of tithing in kind.
Old Inclosures/lands	The enclosure of land in the 15th or 16th centuries without an Act of Parliament, sometimes by piecemeal agreements between owners or tenants.
Plots	An alternative word used by the Commissioners for allotments or apportionments, meaning land awarded to an individual.
Purprestures	Unlawful encroachment on common land or highway originally policed by manorial courts (qv)
Quality Man	A man who at the start of the enclosure process assesses the value and quality of all land to be enclosed, sometimes a task undertaken by the Commissioners themselves, having sworn an oath to use their best judgement and not show favour to any party.
Quickset hedges	Slips or cuttings of plants, especially hawthorn or blackthorn, set in the ground to form a hedge.
Rack rent	In modern usage, a rack rent is usually a rent that represents the full open market annual value of a holding, often simply called the market rent. Less frequently, and in past usage, a rack rent may also be "the maximum rent permitted by law", or an extortionate rent.
Seized	Used by the Commissioners to describe the vicar's 'ownership' eg "the vicar is seized of a yardland."
Selion	Strips (qv) of arable land in an open field, not necessarily uniform in size, and often quite different in size from a customary (qv) or statute acre (qv).
Semidoles	A field name occurring in Tysoe. Some meadow 'doles' (qv) were shared between two holdings where in any one year each tenant sowed half of the strips (qv) and the following year sowed the other half, alternating annually with his partner.
Severalty	Individual or unshared tenure of land, as opposed to tenure of land in common so land held in severalty can be farmed without reference to anyone else.
Small tythes (or Vicarial tythes)	Payments to the vicar of the parish and included produce such as garden vegetables, fruits and animal products such as wool, milk and eggs, often harder to collect than Great Tythes(qv)

Stint	The number of animals which a holder of common rights is entitled to put on to common land (usually common pasture). The stint is always for a specific number of beasts with an equivalent according to the type of stock and is normally proportionate to the size of the holding.
Stitch	Another word for selion (qv).
Strapper	Possibly a 'stroppler' or dry cow.
Strip	The unit of tenure in one place in the open fields held by one person.
Tenements	The land held by a tenant in a community, i.e. his land in the open fields and the common rights attached to it. It includes his house and garden.
Tithes (or Tythes)	One tenth of annual produce, taken as a tax generally for the support of the Church and clergy but sometimes payable to the lord of the manor or other large landowner.
Turnpike	A route where the government authorised an independent trust to levy tolls for the purpose of maintaining the road. Most were created in the 18th and 19th centuries.
Villein	An unfree peasant tied to the land of his master, usually the Lord of the Manor.
Warren rents	A warren was a fenced area reserved exclusively for the Lord of the Manor to hunt small game such as rabbits. Presumably in Tysoe this usage was rented out to other users, hence warren rents.
Waste	A wide variety of types of land all of which were either uncultivated or uncultivable. They were used for grazing livestock, as sources of fuel, and of material for repairing buildings or tools.
Yardland	Is not an exact unit of land measurement but represents a tenement (qv) of varying size measured in 'customary acres' and includes arable with appurtenant (qv) meadow and pasture. A yardland may vary in size from locality to locality from 20-50 acres. A yardland in Warmington in the 16th century was about 23 acres.
Yeoman	A freeholder cultivating his own land, but often used loosely to signify a small or medium farmer generally.