

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY RECORD OFFICE

USER'S GUIDE NO. 6

MANUSCRIPT MAPS



Introduction

The Record Office has a large number of maps that are hand-drawn, and in some cases finely coloured and decorated. They were mainly produced in the period 1700 to 1850, although some go back to about 1600, and therefore predate most of the large-scale printed maps (see *User's Guide No. 5*). Most were compiled by professional surveyors and map-makers, and are one of the most important sources for our knowledge of buildings and the landscape in the past.

Manuscript maps fall into three main groups: Tithe maps, Inclosure maps and Estate maps.

TITHE MAPS

Most of the 168 Warwickshire Tithe maps were compiled in the 1840s, and cover about 50 per cent of the county by area. They are usually on a scale of 25" to the mile and accurate, marking field boundaries and buildings, and are accompanied by a schedule which gives the names of owners and occupiers, the field names, acreages, whether they were arable, pasture or woodland, and the value of tithe paid. To find whether a place has a tithe map, look in the General Index, and then on the 'Key to Enclosure and Tithe Maps' to see what area each map covers (see separate Search Room plan). **For further information see *The Tithe Maps of England and Wales* by R.J.P. Kain and R.R. Oliver (ref. D 912 KAI) and *The Tithe Surveys of England and Wales* by R.J.P. Kain and H.C. Price (ref. D 336 KAI) in the Record Office library.**

INCLOSURE MAPS

Most of the eighty or so Warwickshire Inclosure maps date from the 1790s to the 1850s. Where they exist, these maps are a great help in understanding the text of the Inclosure Award, a long and complex document, produced under Act of Parliament, which described the creation of smaller fields from the large open field system of agriculture which had previously existed. The

maps not only show fields and buildings but also are often referred to in disputes involving rights of way.

To find whether a place has an Inclosure Award and map, look in the General Index and then on the 'Key to Enclosure and Tithe Maps' to see what area each map covers.

For further information see 'Enclosure Acts and Awards relating to Warwickshire', by W.E. Tate, in *Birmingham Archaeological Society Transactions*, vol. LXV (1949) pp. 45-104, in the Record Office Library (ref. F.BIR)

ESTATE MAPS

These were commissioned by a landowner to show details of the farms and estates he owned, and although a few were made before 1600, most date from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Their accuracy varies, but increases with the development of surveying methods during the eighteenth century.

Many estate maps are extremely attractive with much use of colour and decoration, as well as bird's-eye views of important buildings. The information about the names of tenants, and the names and acreages of individual fields, as well as the rent paid, are sometimes contained in a key on the map itself, or more often, in a separate survey book.

As well as several hundred estate maps, the Record Office has a large number of photographic copies of Warwickshire Estate maps held elsewhere. All these are recorded in the General Index and the Card Index of Manuscript Maps (see Search Room plan) as well as being plotted on the two 'Key to Estate Maps' guides (see Search Room plan).

For more information see 'The Manuscript Maps of Warwickshire 1597 - 1880', by David Pannett in *Warwickshire History*, vol VI, no 3, pp. 69-85 (see Search Room plan).

The Record Office also has a series 'Deposited Plans' (ref. QS 111) which show the proposed lines of canals, railways and turnpike roads from 1783 onwards, as well as some other public undertakings.

Occasionally a map of a property is drawn in the margin of a title deed, although these are rarely met with before 1800.