

## **Your Somerset House – A Guide to Tracing Your House History at the Somerset Heritage Centre**

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### **1. Introduction**

Interest in tracing the history of houses has never been greater. It has been helped by the publication of general guide books, and television programmes such as *The House Detectives in Britain*. Much of the evidence for finding out about house history can be found in local record offices, and this guide aims to help anyone interested in researching their Somerset property.

#### **1.1 Before You Visit**

It is important to do some preliminary work before visiting the Somerset Heritage Centre.

- Have a good look at the property in which you are interested, and try and come up with its approximate age.
- Go through any deeds that you may possess relating to the property, making a note of names of owners or any names given to the property itself.
- If possible, find the property (or where the property stood) on a modern map and made a note of the grid reference.

- If you know former owners or other people who have lived in the area for a number of years it is worth talking to them, to see whether they know anything about the history of the house.

## **1.2 Making Your First Visit**

Investigating the history of your house often involves looking at a number of different records, and it is important to give yourself enough time. Maps are an essential source, and you will need to book a space on the map table in our public searchroom. To book an appointment to use our searchroom, please phone 01823 337600. Booking in advance also means we may be able to have some records ready for you to have a look at as soon as you arrive. Once you arrive there are always members of staff willing to help, and give guidance on what records will be the best for you to consult. Further information about visiting our searchroom can be found elsewhere on our website, [swheritage.org.uk/somerset-archives](http://swheritage.org.uk/somerset-archives).

## **1.3 What You Can Expect to Find Out**

You are likely to be able to discover the property or at least plot of land on historical maps. This not only proves that the property was built by the date of the map, but allows you to see the growth of the village or town in which it is situated. Some maps, such as tithe maps and apportionments, enable you to discover the owners and occupiers of the property at certain dates. Further information about who lived in the property and when it was built can be discovered through detective work from rating records, manorial and estate papers, and a range of printed sources. If you are fortunate you may also find architectural reports, sales particulars or even photographs.

A trip to the Somerset Heritage Centre can help you to piece together a lot of information about the history of a property, but may not be able to provide an exact date of when it was built. The survival of record sources is uneven and cannot be guaranteed. Even where documentary evidence survives in profusion it may not be possible easily or conclusively to link it with a particular property. Only rarely will information of an architectural nature be available or will it be possible to find out the precise date that the property was built.

## **2. The Records You Will be Using**

### **2.1 Printed and Manuscript Maps**

Maps constitute a major source material, not only to pinpoint the site of a house in relation to its surroundings, but also to act as definite point in time between or before which a house was built.

#### **Ordnance Survey Maps**

The larger scale (1:10,560 or 6", and 1:2,500 or 25") Ordnance Survey maps came late to Somerset; the 1<sup>st</sup> edition was surveyed in 1882-1888 and published 1884-1890. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition was revised in 1900-1903 and published 1901-1906. The Somerset Heritage Centre has complete sets of both editions of the 6" survey, near complete coverage of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 25" survey, but only limited numbers of sheets from the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25" survey. (A full set of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition is held on microfiche and can be consulted in the searchroom at the Somerset Heritage Centre).

Fill coverage is also held, either as original maps or microfiche, of the very large scale town plans (1:500) maps of the urban areas of Bath, Bridgwater, Clevedon, Crewkerne, Frome, Shepton Mallet, Taunton, Wellington, Weston super Mare and Yeovil, 1884-1890. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1" survey was published in 1809-1817 and is held as a modern reprint. The Somerset Heritage Centre also possesses a revised edition of 1853, which is identical except for the addition of railway lines then existing. Photocopies and fiche of the original surveyors' drawings for the 1<sup>st</sup> edition, at scales of 2, 3 or 6 inches to the mile, are also held.

### Other Printed Maps

For maps covering the whole county, only the Greenwoods' map of 1822 and Day and Masters' map of 1782 are on a scale comparable to the 1" Ordnance Survey map, and therefore may show individual properties. Both have been published as Somerset Record Society volume 76 (1981). Comparable detail is provided by Thomas Thorpe's map of 1742 showing a five-mile radius around Bath and by B. Donn's map of 1769 showing an eleven-mile radius around Bristol. Donn's map distinguishes parsonage houses, but is less reliable than Thorpe for village properties, which are presented in a stylized manner.

### Tithe Maps and Apportionments

For properties thought to date from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, tithe maps and their accompanying apportionments form an essential source of information. They record owner, occupier and type of property. Often in Somerset, they are the only old map source available for a parish. They were prepared parish by parish in consequence of the Tithe Commutation Act, 1836. 70% of the 482 Somerset parishes were mapped 1838-1842, and only 40 (8%) after 1844. The maps were produced in triplicate, one set being held nationally, one being distributed individually to parishes and one set being held by the appropriate diocesan authority.

The Somerset Heritage Centre, as Diocesan Record Office for the Diocese of Bath and Wells, holds the diocesan set together with a substantial number of parish copies. It also holds the national set on microfiche. All of the Somerset tithe maps have been digitised to a high resolution and are available on the public computers in the searchroom at the Somerset Heritage Centre.

There are a few exceptions to the coverage of tithe maps in Somerset, and there are listed in detail in **Appendix A**.

### Enclosure Maps and Awards

The enclosure of common land by Act of Parliament (in Somerset sometimes of open arable fields, more often of moorland and upland waste, smaller areas of heathland or scattered pieces of roadside waste) called for the deposit in the county records of copies of the Commissioners' maps and awards (ref. Q/RDe). The 170 maps created extend in date from 1720-1913, but most fall 1780-1830. A handlist, W E Tate's *Somerset Enclosure Acts and Awards*, was published in 1948.

All enclosure maps will possess the merit for property or land previously unenclosed, that they will give a date after which building must have taken place. Many will show

additional areas of the parish as a result of the Commissioners' powers to authorise exchanges, not only of the newly enclosed allotments but also of old enclosures, and may mark, if not describe, houses in the vicinity. A limited number of maps cover the whole parish, on which all houses are probably mapped, but not always numbered or included in the books of reference. These exist for Alford, Backwell, Queen Camel, Charlton Horethorne, Cheddar, Compton Dundon, Creech St Michael, High Ham, Locking, Milborne Port, Portishead, Somerton, Long Sutton, Tickenham, Weston in Gordano and Weston super Mare. Much land was also enclosed by local private agreement, but this has rarely left surviving map evidence behind.

### **Deposited plans of Public Undertakings**

Plans and books of reference for projected public works such as railways, canals and turnpike roads had to be deposited with the county records (ref. Q/RUP), and these date from 1791. Houses close to the line of any developments are likely to be shown and their owners and occupiers named in books of reference. Many of the railway plans in particular fall between the dates of the tithe and 1<sup>st</sup> edition large scale Ordnance Survey maps. A catalogue is available, but this will only give the project title and not necessarily all the parishes through which it ran. It will also include schemes which were never brought to fruition.

### **Maps of Highway Diversions or Closures**

Highway diversions or closures were settled locally by two Justices of the Peace and subject to confirmation at Quarter Sessions. Maps and certificates relating to old and new roads are filed with the Sessions papers (ref. Q/SR). They exist from c.1790 and within the limited areas covered will mark houses, but not always name owners.

### **Estate and Parish Maps**

Apart from enclosure maps, estate and parish maps provide the only map source before 1790. Unfortunately, Somerset lacked the early tradition of private map-making so widespread in other counties, particularly those nearer London, and comparatively few exist. There is a map catalogue in the public searchroom, including sale catalogue maps of pre-tithe map date, giving the extent and location of the area mapped, together with the 6" Ordnance Survey sheet numbers involved.

## **2.2 Taxation and Rating Records**

Records relating to taxation and rating are the only written sources guaranteed to provide comprehensive cover for a particular parish.

### **Land Tax Assessments**

These are held for the whole county (excluding the city of Bath and the borough of Bridgwater) and were compiled 1781-1832 to serve as evidence of property qualification for voting purposes at county parliamentary elections. Assessments for 1766 and 1767 have also been incorporated in the same series. The assessments give names of owners and occupiers, brief description of the property held, and a generally constant assessment figure. They do not always make it clear if a house is involved. They are arranged alphabetically by hundreds and similarly within each hundred by parish and this is reflected in the office catalogue (ref. Q/REL). Parishes are sometimes sub-divided further into tithings, but where these all lie in the same

hundred they are grouped together under the appropriate parish. Sometimes, the tithings of a parish will be found to be in different hundreds. Any editions of Kelly's Directory of Somerset will indicate the hundred to which each parish was assigned in the land tax period. Land Tax records are available on microfiche in the searchroom at the Somerset Heritage Centre.

The successful use of this type of record depends upon bridging the gap between 1832 (latest assessment) and circa 1840 (tithe map), and the satisfactory identification of the property concerned with its land tax description. If this hurdle is overcome, the land tax assessments will provide a succession of owners and occupiers over a 50-year unbroken period. Post 1832 land tax assessments also exist for the Wells and Ilminster Divisions, comprising all or most of the hundreds of Abdick and Bulstone, Crewkerne, Glaston 12 Hides, Kingsbury East, South Petherton and Wells Forum.

### **Registers of Electors**

The gap between 1832 and tithe map may be filled by rate books or by the series of registers of electors (ref. Q/RER), which take over from land tax duplicates in 1832. However, the restriction of the franchise means that the value of this source is limited.

### **Inland Revenue Valuation Books**

For 1910, the Somerset Heritage Centre possesses Inland Revenue valuation books for the whole county (ref. DD\IR). These maps are annotated with numbers linking them to the hereditament numbers in the valuation books. The draft maps and books are held at the Somerset Heritage Centre, whilst the final copies are held at The National Archives.

### **Parish Rating Records**

Parish records have now been received for over 98% of the parishes in the county/diocese, and some rating records will be found in most collections deposited (ref. D\P\...). These may date from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century but are fuller from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century onwards. The majority of these are available on microfiche in the searchroom.

Sometimes rating and associated valuation records have passed into the hands of successor local authorities, for example, parish councils (ref. D\PC...), boards of guardians (ref. D\G...) or pre-1974 borough, urban and rural district councils (ref. D\B..., D\U..., or D\R... respectively).

The Somerset Heritage Centre's holdings of rating records are incomplete geographically and uneven in extent. Where they exist, they are liable to survive for longer periods, are likely to extend both forwards and backwards from the tithe map date, and more regularly indicate the existence of a house on a given property.

Where rating and taxation records overlap or exist side-by-side in the pre-1840 period it can often prove beneficial to consult both sources. Revisions of rating assessments were rarely made before the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This means that the amount paid will remain unchanged and can offer a virtually sure means of identifying a holding at changes of ownership. Furthermore, the sudden

appearance of a property at the foot of a rate or at the end of a section of a rate can often be taken as a clue to the date of building, particularly if this can be reinforced by architectural evidence.

Unfortunately the rates do not always name occupiers in addition to owners prior to c.1837 when printed rate books were introduced according to the form laid down by the Poor Law Commissioners. Also there can be no guarantee that the same property will always be described in the same terms, either in the same category of record or in contemporary records in different classes.

### **2.3 Privately Deposited Records**

Deeds, manorial and estate management records often supply the only source of primary material after map and taxation sources have been exhausted. Appendix B lists the major estate and family collections held at the Somerset Record Office. The range and quality of records from landed estates will vary widely.

#### **Deeds**

Deeds recording property transactions will often be found to have been kept either in chronological bundles, or in small groups each relating to individual properties over a longer time spread. In addition to deeds of individual freeholds acquired by the family by purchase or inheritance, there will also be records of the holdings of their manorial tenants. These may take the form of court rolls or books recording the surrenders and admissions by copyholders (i.e. those whose title was based on their copy of the court roll), but increasingly in Somerset from the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century an alternative form of tenancy was created. This was by lease for (generally) 99 years determinable upon (generally) 3 lives, and the bulk of copyholds were converted to this type of leasehold. Please be aware that most manorial records are written in medieval Latin.

Deeds can present problems. Older title deeds lack precise details, only rarely are maps added to the deeds, and the near universal practice of numbering and/or naming houses is a comparatively recent phenomenon. Therefore, even the fullest source will not allow immediate association of deeds with property. Holdings range from a single document or bundle to vast accumulations over several centuries by a major landed proprietor. Some deeds include map references (generally tithe map numbers) for deeds after 1840, but sometimes earlier sketch maps will help identify otherwise anonymous lands. Many will relate to the acquisition of pieces of land without buildings and others to houses no longer standing. The most useful deeds will be those which give a distinctive house or farm name which survives to modern times.

The only pitfalls are the possible transfer of the same name to another property, or a total rebuilding on a nearby plot of land. The word 'manor' can also be misleading. If it is not followed by words such as 'capital messuage' or 'chief mansion house' it will be referring only to the lordship of the manor. A lordship can exist without having a manor house attached to it, and can also exist independently of its manor house and follow a separate ownership. In the more recent past some houses have taken the name 'manor' simply because of their age or size, or due to the social standing of the owner.

Dates of initial building are very rare in deeds. Only when deeds begin with a title to land on which a house was later built will information be given. In such cases, dates between which development occurred can be established either from the two deeds concerned or sometimes within a single deed between a dated preliminary clause recited in the main text. Other sources (rates, maps, etc.) may help reduce the period, and an awareness of family circumstances may also support a particular date. As deeds and leases are exclusively concerned with ownership and title, architectural evidence is rarer than a building date. Only very occasionally will plans survive as a feature in a bundle of deeds. Narrative details describing the building within the body of text of a deed will normally only occur when a property has to be divided, possibly between two heirs, or extended to provide accommodation by one generation for another (upon marriage or in old age).

### **Records of Solicitors and Smaller Landowners**

At a level below the major estates there are at least as many substantial landholders whose property was restricted to a single parish or a limited area. Their records may have come either directly from the family or its heirs or indirectly from one of the many long-established firms of solicitors. These have been similarly catalogued and indexed, but will generally consist of an accumulation of deeds of freehold properties and will rarely include series of leases or manorial records. The range of other archives produced is also restricted because of the absence of any need for a permanent agent or full-scale administration.

### **Estate Management Papers**

Manorial surveys of lease and copyholds are valuable because they bring together entries relating to all the properties within the manor without the omissions or losses as may be the case where the individual leases are concerned. Only occasionally will they also carry architectural details alongside the property description. Estate management papers and surveys of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries are more likely to carry observations and reports on the state of buildings as a tool for a valuation of the estate, and estate accounts will reflect a different stage of the same proceedings. Even so these relate to a very small proportion of properties outside its ownership, for example, particulars of an acquisition which was never completed or was subsequently disposed of or copies of rates and assessments, perhaps no longer surviving in official sources, taken in connection with some local dispute.

### **The Manor of Taunton Deane**

This manor was unique in having its own form of comprehensive land registration. Records have survived in abundance between 1550 and 1845 and, in more limited form, for a century or so before the earlier date (most is catalogued within the refs. DD\SP and DD\DP). The great manor of Taunton Deane belonged to the Bishop of Winchester for many centuries, and the same systems continued to operate after his disposal of the manor in 1822.

The area covered comprised most or all of the parishes of Kingston St Mary, Staplegrove, Bishops Hull, Trull, Pitminster, Corfe, Stoke St Mary, Ruishton, the parts of Taunton St Mary outside the borough, those parts of Taunton St James which had not formed part of the estate of Taunton Priory, and Otterford and Rimpton (but see below).

A like system of registration was applied to the Priory Manor and to Wilton (Fons George), but the surviving record sources are less comprehensive. All owners of property held of the manor were required to register any transaction or change of tenancy involving them with the manor's officers at Taunton Castle.

## 2.4 Other Record Sources

### Probate Records

Wills can often provide an essential link with deeds in the chain of title, and inventories listing household goods and possessions of the deceased form probably the largest individual documentary source for reconstructing the architectural use of properties. Sadly, virtually all Somerset's probate records, dating from the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, were lost in the 1942 air raid on Exeter. The only near complete substitute series is that of 13,000 copy Estate Duty wills, which exist between 1812-1857 (ref. DD\ED), and small numbers of 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century wills left behind at Wells and Taunton before the transfer to Exeter. These and any other probate or other copies of wills have been indexed under the testators' names. Only about 300 probate inventories survive relating to all parts of the diocese, c.1580-c.1630; approximately 2,500, 1630-1755, survive for Taunton Archdeaconry (roughly the county west of a line drawn from Crewkerne to Bridgwater) and isolated copies found in privately deposited collections. The inventories offer the best chance of being linked with an identifiable house.

If a will was proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury it will be housed at The National Archives. This practice was followed by most people of note and was necessary if property in any shape or form was held in more than one diocese. Somerset wills to 1558 have been published in Somerset Record Society volumes 16, 19 and 21, and select abstracts from the same source (plus limited other public records), but carried forward to c.1750, were made by the Revd Frederick Brown. Many of Brown's abstracts were subsequently printed by F A Crisp in six volumes as *Abstracts of Somersetshire Wills (1887-1890)*. Both manuscript and printed versions are available, with their own indexes, but property information is often omitted or condensed, making consultation of the originals unavoidable.

### Quarter Sessions Papers

A series of conveyances and settlements etc., of properties, restricted originally to the single category of deeds of bargain and sale but later extended to include other more miscellaneous documents, was required to be registered at Quarter Sessions (ref. Q/RDd). The deeds date from 1537 and the 471 documents down to 1828 have been published or abstracted in Somerset Record Society volume 51 and Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries volumes XI and XXI. Papists were required to register their estates with the same court under an Act of 1715. Rolls giving deed or survey-type information for 70 holdings exist between 1717 and 1788, mostly for the first ten years (ref. Q/RRp). These are all separately listed in the office catalogue, giving name of owner and brief property descriptions.

### Protestant Dissenters and 1851 Ecclesiastical Census

Following the passing of the Toleration Act in 1689 Protestant Dissenters were allowed to worship openly, but had to register their places of worship either with



Quarter Sessions or with the bishop. Thus two parallel series exist and not until the 19<sup>th</sup> century was any exchange of information required. Such meetings were often held in private houses. Records of registration at Quarter Sessions date from 1689 and entries will be found in the court books and also in an abstract which lists all 1200 entries to 1845 in chronological order by date of court at which it was registered.

Registrations with the bishop survive from 1736-1852 consisting of c.600 original certificates arranged in chronological order. These have all been indexed on the office topographical index in the searchroom. Reproductions of the Ecclesiastical Census, 1851 (originals are held at The National Archives) are held for most registration districts and these give dates of erection of chapels where known.

### **Hearth Tax Records**

No original Hearth Tax records survive locally, but those held in The National Archives have been published by E Dwelly in his *National Records* Volume 1 (1916). This is incomplete and only covers approximately 30% of Somerset parishes (by hundreds). As it consists only of a name and a number (of hearths) under parish or tithing headings its value is restricted to some indication of the size of a property when the trail of ownership has been followed back to the 1660 period.

### **Plans and Building Reports**

Present-day descriptions, sometimes with plans, will be found for a growing number of properties in a variety of published and unpublished sources. In addition, there are two groups in Somerset interested in 'vernacular architecture' (smaller domestic houses built before 1750). The Vernacular Architecture Group and the Somerset Vernacular Building Research Group have surveyed and described, often with plans and photographs, over 1,650 houses in the pre-1974 county of Somerset and are continually adding to their number.

## **3. Particular Types of Houses**

### **3.1 Former Parsonage Houses**

Normal title sources were unnecessary for property that remained in the church's hands. Many rectories or vicarages have changed site, and references to a rectory does not necessarily refer to the house in which the incumbent was living.

However, there is rather more architectural evidence surviving than for private dwellings, although such evidence tends to be quite recent in date. Church records provide almost the only sources, and the oldest general source is the series of glebe terriers in the diocesan records (ref. D\D\Rg). These exist for 400 parishes that possessed glebe lands, and most but not all also possessed a glebe house. Terriers were called for on limited occasions between 1606 and 1638, with a few dating back to 1571. No post-Restoration terriers have survived and it seems probable that none were taken. The terrier or survey usually begins with a description of the parsonage house and in about 40% of cases itemises the rooms. A card index is available, which indicates the degree of architectural detail contained.

Most other sources date from the active building period from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The most comprehensive cover is the series of annual benefice returns made by incumbents for every year between 1814 and 1837 (ref. D\D\Rb). These were particularly concerned with the existence of glebe houses, questions of residence or non-residence, and reasons for the latter. They can be helpful in dating new buildings in this period, especially where the dilapidated condition of the existing house called for its replacement.

The exchange of glebe was often the precursor to the building of a new parsonage and there are two complementary series within the diocesan records: 70 deeds or packets specifically of exchanges, 1694 - 1873, but mostly 1800-1840 (ref. D\D\BG); and a series of petitions for faculties either for exchange or to remove and rebuild parsonage houses (ref. D\D\Cf). Both series have been indexed on to the office general topographical index, and for D\D\cf on the online catalogue. Under two Acts of George III, glebe and tithe could be mortgaged to raise money for the purchase, building or repair of parsonage houses and a series of some 350 mortgages exist from 1780 - 1918. Plans exist intermittently from the outset and become general from 1815. There is a list of the parishes involved, which indicates where plans exist (ref. D\D\Bbm). Plans and files of more recent date relating to most, parsonage houses sold have been deposited by the Church Commissioners. These comprise 70 files of architectural papers, most of which include plans, relating to building works carried out, 1823 - 1946. These are listed (by parish and date only) in the catalogue of the Commissioners' records (ref. DD\CC) and are noted on the office index.

Four further groups of records have come from the Diocesan Board of Finance: 140 files and plans of fairly recent date relating to parsonage houses sold from c.1950; 200 plans, generally post World War II, but including a few from c.1900; c.1500 photographic negatives of parsonage houses, c.1920-1935; and a great number of quinquennial reports of parsonage houses and benefice property, generally dated 1871-1955. All these groups are listed separately in alphabetical order of parishes (ref. DD\WBF).

### 3.2 Inns

References to inns may be found in deed sources either because it is directly involved in a transaction or because it is an adjoining property. Signs tended to change over the years and the same sign could be adopted by different premises at different dates. In addition, licensing of alehouses was a function of Quarter Sessions to 1829 and the resulting recognizances (bonds), arranged by divisions, exist from c.1730 and intermittently before that date, together with a useful general register which covers the period 1822-1829 (ref. Q/RLa). Unfortunately inn signs are rarely given in this series before 1800. Licensing later passed to the Justices in Petty Sessions Divisions, but few 19<sup>th</sup> century records have survived. As hotbeds of local gossip, inns are likely to be referred to incidentally in the course of examinations of witnesses or persons charged before local magistrates. Such references may occur anywhere in the court papers ('rolls') of Quarter Sessions (ref. Q/SR). They may also feature as meeting places for official or unofficial bodies, such as Justices or Friendly Societies.

### 3.3 Schools

The Somerset Heritage Centre holds log books and minutes etc., for many Somerset schools, especially those closed since the 1902 Education Act (ref. C/E). There are also plans for the building or alteration of 150 19<sup>th</sup> century schools, submitted for central grant aid purposes, dating from c.1840 (ref. DD\EDS). Returns to questionnaires sent to all schools in the county area after the 1902 Act give information including dates of erection of school buildings and the existence of a school house.

### 3.4 Parish Poor Houses

Most poor houses were sold shortly after the creation of Poor Law Unions in 1836 and the ensuing building of Union workhouses. Identification is not helped by the fact that the majority of sales pre-dated the tithe map. Information on sales, with names of purchasers, will be found in the minute books of the Boards of Guardians and this may lead to tithe map identification. In addition, descriptions of a large number of poor houses in the south and west of the county will be found in the series of Poor Law Commissioners' sealed orders for sale among the Ilminster Petty Sessions records (ref. D\PS\ilm). These are indexed on the office place names index. Pre-1836 references are likely to occur in individual parish collections in the form of deeds or leases or by entries in minutes or accounts of the Vestry or of parish officers. These latter sources are also useful for tracing church houses, many of which were converted into poor houses. Where deeds or leases are found in private archives these will have been noted in catalogues and in the place names index.

### 3.5 Charity Properties

Houses which formed part of the endowment of a charity may be referred to in parish records deposited, and will certainly be described in the Reports of the Charity Commissioners 1819-1837.

### 3.6 Toll Houses

Most toll houses have been demolished or fallen victim to road improvement, but any which remain can generally be recognised. The lines of all former turnpike roads have been plotted on a set of modern 1" Ordnance Survey maps and all records have been catalogued (ref. D\T). Specific records relating to toll houses will have been noted, but in most cases information will have to be sought in the trust minute books on their location and to whom sold when trusts were wound up in the 1870s. Those which still exist are recorded in J B Bently and B J Murless *Somerset Roads: The Legacy of the Turnpikes* (2 vols, 1985, 1987).

### 3.7 Mills

These feature in deeds in their own right, and the use to which they were then put is normally indicated. They may also be referred to in manorial records. There will, however, always be a need to distinguish between a site used as a mill, which may go back for centuries, and the mill building which exists today. For windmills see

also the papers of the late Dr Shove relating to his researches in the county in the early 1970s (ref. DD\SHO).

#### 4. Printed Sources

##### Printed Books

The volumes of the Victoria County History, countywide publications of the Somerset Record Society, Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society, or Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries all contain valuable information. The Somerset Record Society has published texts of calendars of wills, feet of fines, cartularies (deed registers) of religious houses and chantry properties to the 16<sup>th</sup> century and of Sales of Wards and Liveries (major estates inherited by minors), 1603-1641. The Archaeological Society's Proceedings have extensive articles on the histories of religious houses and both it and Notes and Queries have occasional articles on individual houses with particular historical or architectural features.

##### Calendars

If an owner or occupier supported the Crown during the Civil War, the property may be listed in the printed Calendars of the Committee for Compounding (1643-1660), or the Calendars of the Committee for the Advance of Money (1642-1656). Earlier references, again largely to more significant properties, may be found in the Calendars of Patent, Close, Fine and Charter Rolls, the Inquisitions Post Mortem and the Letters and Papers of the Reign of Henry VII. These are held as part of the Somerset Studies Library and can be consulted in the searchroom at the Somerset Heritage Centre.

##### Newspapers

Local newspapers carry many advertisements for the sale or letting of houses, farms, inns, mills etc., and these usually carry more useful information than found in legal documents. Almost all of Somerset's weekly newspapers are held on microfilm at the Somerset Heritage Centre dating from the earliest, the Western Gazette, beginning in 1737. Most of those published before 1974 are available on self-service in the searchroom and can be viewed and printed out using a reader-printer. Newspapers published after that date are held in the strongrooms and can be requested. Newspaper reader-printers are very popular, so booking a visit in advance is strongly advised. Please ask a member of staff about making an appointment.

#### 5. Further Reading

All these books are available on request for consultation at the Somerset Heritage Centre:

A J Coulthard and M Watts, *Windmills of Somerset* (1978)

J Harvey, *Sources for the History of Houses* (1974)

David T Hawkings (ed), *Index of Somerset Estate Duty Office Wills 1812-1857*

David T Hawkings (ed), *Index of Somerset Estate Duty Office Wills and Letters of Administration 1805-1811*

D Iredale, *Discovering Your Old House* (1977)

Sir Mervyn Medlycott, *Somerset Wills Index*

N Pevsner, *The Buildings of England* (Two Somerset volumes published 1958)  
Derek Shorrocks, *Your Somerset House* (revised ed.1998)  
B Short and M Reed, *An Edwardian Land Survey: The Finance (1909-1910) Act 1910* (Record's Journal of the Society of Archivists, Volume 8, No. 2, October 1986)  
Adrian J Webb (ed), *Index of Somerset Probate Inventories*

Somerset Vernacular Buildings Research Group have published in depth guides to the following villages: Long Load, Knole, Long Sutton (1982); West and Middle Chinnock (1984); Alford and Lovington (1986); Batcombe (1988); Chiselborough (1993); Haselbury Plucknett (1994); and Shapwick (1996).

Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society have published some architectural descriptions in its series of Parish Surveys, of which five have been published (Wambrook, Luxborough, Carhampton, Whitestaunton and Minehead Without).

## **Appendix A: Tithe Map Exceptions**

The following six groups contain all those parishes that do not conform to the normal pattern.

### **1. Parishes for which no tithe maps were produced and for which there are no available alternative sources**

The three city parishes of Bath (St James, St Michael, SS Peter and Paul), Exmoor, Rodden, Witham Friary and its detached member, Charterhouse on Mendip.

The Somerset Heritage Centre however possess an 1812 map of Witham Friary with reference book of 1845-1946 (ref. DD\X\MGR) and an 1842 map of Charterhouse on Mendip (ref. DD\STL) without reference book.

### **2. Parishes where only limited areas are mapped**

Bruton (635 acres), Hinton Charterhouse (68 acres), Lilstock (54 acres) and Pitcombe (8 acres)

### **3. Parishes where urban areas are excluded or, if mapped, are unnumbered and, therefore, omitted from the apportionment**

Bathwick, Beckington, Bridgwater, Chard, Easton in Gordano (part of Pill), Frome, Ilchester, Lyncombe and Widcombe, Shepton Mallet, Taunton (St Mary and St James), Walcot, Wells and Yeovil.

For Bridgwater there exists a 20th century redrawing of a copy plan purporting to be a borough tithe map of c. 1806, corporation-owned properties are described in an existing survey of 1836.

### **4. Parishes where all tithes had been merged under an earlier enclosure award and for which no tithe maps were produced or, if produced, covered only small areas**

Charlton Adam, Charlton Mackrell, Churchstanton, Huish Episcopi, Keinton Mandeville, West Lydford, Middlezoy and Pitney. For all these the enclosure maps and awards, which date between 1799 and 1926, and which cover the whole parish in each case, should be consulted in preference to the tithe map. Pitney has the added bonus of having also a complete tithe map, but of exceptionally late date (1876).

**5. Parishes for which urban areas are missing from the diocesan copy, but which are shown on alternative maps using the same reference numbers**

Lyng (1833), Norton St Philip (parish copy of tithe map)

**6. Parishes for which only outline maps, lacking the normal detail, were prepared**

Closworth, Corton Denham, Orchard Portman, Puckington, Pylle, Staple Fitzpaine, Thurlbear (all Portman owned or dominated) and Ashington, East Cranmore and Goathill. In the case of Thurlbear and Staple Fitzpaine this short-coming is counteracted by the existence of parish maps of 1828 and 1928 respectively.

**Appendix B: Major Deposits of Family and Estate Papers**

Acland Hood of Fairfield and Butleigh Wootton (ref. DD\AH); Church Commissioners (estates of Bishop, Chapter, Dean, Vicars Choral, Archdeacon of Wells, Prebends etc., in many parishes) (ref. DD\CC); Combe of Earnshill (ref. DD\CM); Dickinson of Kingweston (ref. DD\DN); Grenville of Butleigh (ref. DD\BR\ho); Harbin of Newton Surmaville (ref. DD\HN); Helyar of East Coker (ref. DD\HML and DD\WHh); Henley of Winsham (ref. DD\TOR); Hippisley of Ston Easton (ref. DD\HI); Hylton of Ammerdown (ref. DD\HY); Kemeys-Tynte of Goathurst (ref. DD\RN and DD\S\WH); Luttrell of Dunster (ref. DD\L); Medlycott of Milborne Port (ref. DD\MDL); Merchant Venturers of Bristol (ref. DD\MVB); Mildmay of Queen Camel (ref. DD\MI); Phelips of Montacute (ref. DD\PH); Popham of Hunstrete (ref. DD\PO); Portman of Orchard Portman (ref. DD\PM); Poulett of Hinton St George (ref. DD\PT); Sanford of Nynehead (ref. DD\SF); Sexey's Hospital (ref. DD\SE); Strachey of Sutton Court (ref. DD\SH); Summerville of Dinder (ref. DD\SVL); Trollope-Bellow (Carew) of Crowcombe (ref. DD\TB); Tudway of Wells (ref. DD\TD); Vaughan-Lee of Dillington (ref. DD\CA); Waldegrave of Chewton Mendip (ref. DD\WG); Warre of Hestercombe (ref. DD\GC); Wolseley (Trevelyan) of Nettlecombe (ref. DD\WO); Wyndham of Orchard Wyndham (ref. DD\WY).

The following have **not** deposited their records at the Somerset Record Office

Horner of Mells – The Duchy of Cornwall also retains records of its Somerset properties with those of all its other estates in the Duchy Office in London.

The location of the family seat is the determining factor in deciding where the whole family archive should be held. For example, Somerset holds records of Devon, Dorset and Wiltshire properties. For properties in Bath and Bristol or their immediate environs searchers should also consult Bath and North East Somerset Record

Office, The Guildhall, Bath, BA1 5AQ; or Bristol City Record Office, B Bond Warehouse, Smeaton Road, Bristol, BS1 6XN; or the Bath Reference Library, 18 Queen Square, Bath, BA1 2HN.

Editions of Kelly's Directory of Somerset, published at intervals between 1861-1939 usually name lords of manors and principal landowners under each parish where these can be identified and this information can often provide a useful clue to a likely record office deposit. Editions from c.1900s are the most useful in that they will list the estates before many were broken up. If all local enquiries fail, the Historical Manuscripts Commission, Quality House, Quality Court, Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1HP, through its National Register of Archives may be able to supply a lead from its nationwide indexes of manorial and estate records.

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