

Wheatley Enclosure Award

This followed on from the Enclosure Act of 1809.¹ The purpose of this, as set out in the Act was

And whereas the said lands and grounds of the several proprietors of the said open fields and common pastures lie intermixed and dispersed in small pieces or parcels, and are inconveniently situated, and as well as the said commons and waste grounds and commonable lands, in their present situation are incapable of considerable improvement, and it would be advantageous to the several persons interested therein if the same were divided, allotted, and inclosed: but as such division, allotment, and inclosure cannot be effectuated (sic) without the aid and authority of Parliament.

The Enclosure Award was published on 3 April 1813.² The plots and acreages are shown in acres-roods-perches.³ The grey central area was not part of the 'commonable lands' by this time, so was already owned and did not need to be allotted. But there is no information as to its ownership at the date of the Award.

Sir James Whalley Smythe Gardiner was the largest beneficiary with 24 allocations totalling 422-2-38 acres. Although the village was not a manorial one, his family had assumed these rights and his first allocation, only 6-2-23 acres, was in lieu of such manorial rights as he enjoyed. His next two allocations, totalling 8-0-11 acres, were in lieu of glebe lands. The Bishop of Oxford received his allocations in lieu of vicarial tythes.

William Juggins, who was a tenant of Gardiner, received allocations totalling 94-1-27 acres.⁴ Thomas Armborough received 86-2-2 acres; Samuel Palmer 69-1-2 acres; William Davis 57-0-24 acres; others lesser amounts. A number of allocations were in adjacent parishes, including the Poor of Wheatley who received their main allocation in Shotover. All these allocations are shown illustratively on a coloured map.

Michael Heaton
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https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=zj0JAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA2&lpg=PA2&dq=%22james+whalley+smythe+gardiner%22+wheatley&source=bl&ots=zAqcLCX_kk&sig=bxQS9vvJqZcplCYw6YR_82AAELA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjC073E1ZPaAhUmBcAKHbd8BQ4Q6AEIMDAC#v=onepage&q=%22james%20whalley%20smythe%20gardiner%22%20wheatley&f=false [accessed 28 March 2018]

² OHC, PAR286/M/1. The map, held under the same reference, is believed to date from 1816. There is a transcript of the Award held at OHC under reference QS/D/A/volG

³ 40 perches = 1 rood. 4 roods = 1 acre.

⁴ In 1806 he was a yearly tenant paying £232 rent for 268-3-37 acres, the balance probably being in Shotover.