



Little Bedwyn

Tithe Apportionments

The Tithe Commutation Act, 1836

The Tithe Commutation Act, 1836 in no way interfered with the rights of tithe-owners to receive and the obligations of landowners to pay tithes, nor with the differing burdens of tithes with which lands might be encumbered, but, by abolishing nearly all payment in kind and providing for an approved valuation of the tithes arising from all lands, annually and officially adjusted, was intended to put an end to the confusion and dissension attending the payment and receipt of the tithes. Under the Act a rent-charge in place of tithes was assessed for every parish in which tithes had not already been statutorily extinguished or commuted to a corn-rent. The respective numbers of bushels of wheat, barley, and oats which each third of that sum could have bought immediately after the Act was passed were calculated. Thereafter rent-charges equal to the value of those numbers of bushels, at the prices officially announced every January based on the average prices in the seven preceding years, were to be paid annually in place of tithes. The initial rent-charge for each parish was to be agreed between the owners of at least two-thirds by value of the land and of the great and small tithes at meetings which could be called by the owners of a quarter by value of the tithes or of the land subject to tithes.

LITTLE BEDWYN (4,234 acres)

Agreement 5 September 1840, confirmed 31 December 1841.

Tithe rent-charge £33 10s., including a charge on 33 acres in schedule 3, to trustees of Charles Brudenell-Bruce, Marquess of Ailesbury; £256 12s. To the vicar (William Skey), and £5 18s. 6d. rent from the Kennet & Avon Canal Company. Glebe, 2 acres, tithe-free.

Arable 738 acres. Meadow 190 acres. Wood 101 acres.

Owners Sir William Curtis 820 acres; devisees of Stephen Wentworth 70 acres.; trustees of the Marquess of Ailesbury 129 acres.; Marquess of Ailesbury 3,203 acres. Vicarial glebe 2 acres.

Occupiers Sir William Curtis and John Brown White 820 acres; devisees of Stephen Wentworth 112 acres; William Hale 201 acres; George Platt 291 acres; Anne Rickens 524 acres.; John Wickham 398 acres.; John Rushey 67 acres; Thomas Potter 364 acres.; Edward Potter 413 acres.; George Phillips 117 acres.; David Unthank 68 acres.; Marquess of Ailesbury 667 acres.