

MAPS OF THE EGGINTON ENCLOSURE AWARD: RECONSTRUCTION AND INTERPRETATION

by ROGER DALTON

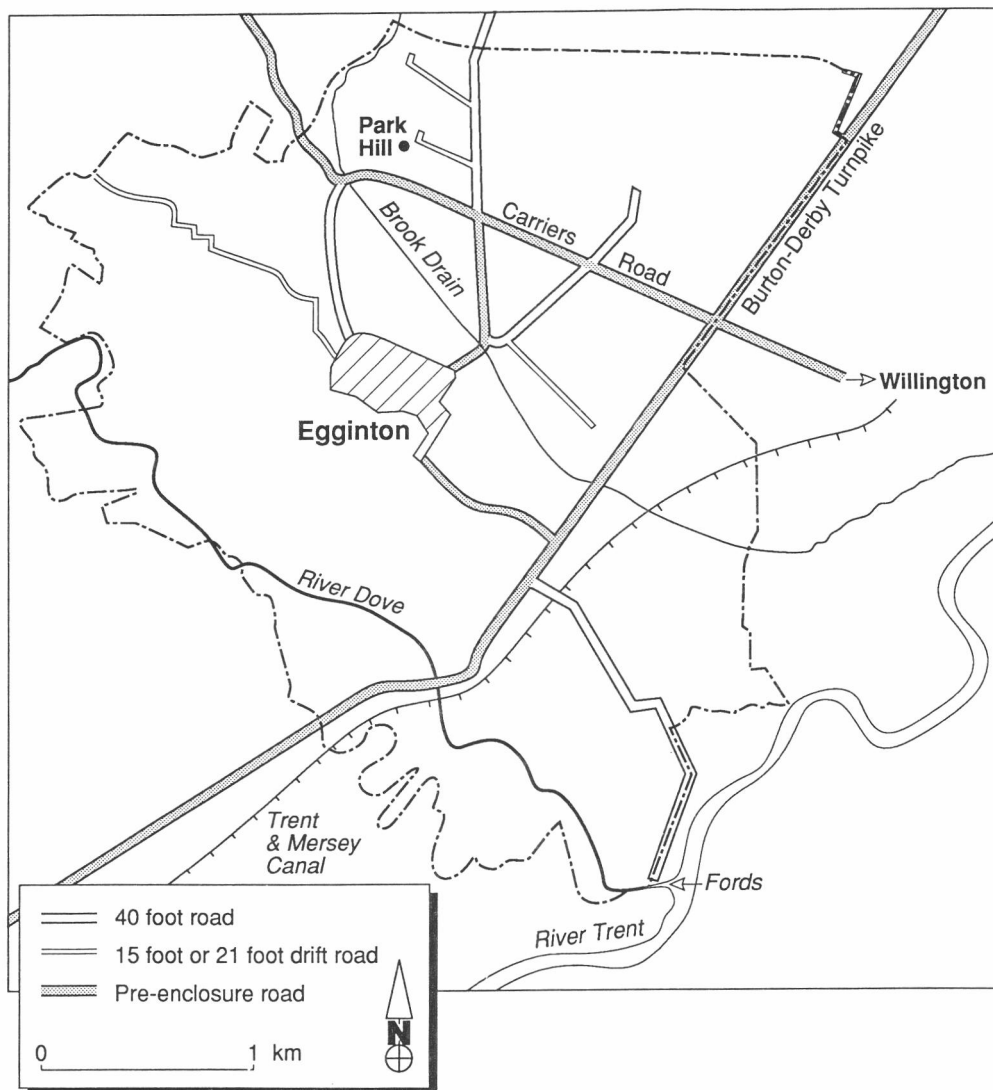
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While the process of Parliamentary enclosure had legal, social and economic dimensions it was equally about the physical division of land. It follows that for the student of landscape history the map surveyed to accompany the enclosure award document is fundamental to a full understanding of the impact of the event on the lands of any particular parish. The absence of such a map can make the interpretation of the award document both difficult and limited. However, if supplementary information is available in the form of estate or tithe surveys it may be possible to construct a parish enclosure map in conjunction with analysis of the award document. The success of this exercise depends very much on the consistent use of field names over the critical period of time which of course is a matter of local practice and therefore subject to wide variation.

This short paper is concerned with the south Derbyshire parish of Egginton which is located to the north of the Dove-Trent confluence. An Act of Parliament to enable the enclosure of the remaining open and common lands of Egginton was obtained in 1791¹ but the award was not made until 1798.² Although according to the Act of Enclosure Commissioners were required to produce a map to show the allotments to be made, and the numbering of the allotments in the award document indicates that this was done, no such map has survived. The substance of this paper is a discussion of an attempted reconstruction of an enclosure map for Egginton parish.

The total area of the parish is approximately 2400 acres. It was estimated at the time of the Act that the total area to be enclosed was 1060 acres but the total common and open field land of various types redistributed in the award was only 667 acres. In addition at least a further 200 acres of land was exchanged between various parties. In order to locate and map the land identified in the award two surveys proved to be of particular value. These were John Beighton's survey of Sir John Every's Estate in 1764³ and the Tithe Award and Map of 1849⁴. The results were plotted on the Ordnance Survey First Edition Six Inch Map which was originally surveyed in the 1880s and therefore avoids confusion of the field pattern as a result of recent landscape change. This analysis has enabled three maps to be produced showing respectively: the changes in road and drainage pattern, the condition of land at the time of enclosure and the recipients of the major allotments. In so doing all allotments were mapped with certainty except the complex of exchanges which frequently involved parts of fields enclosed by agreement prior to 1798. Additionally a further map indicating evidence for pre-Parliamentary enclosure has been included.

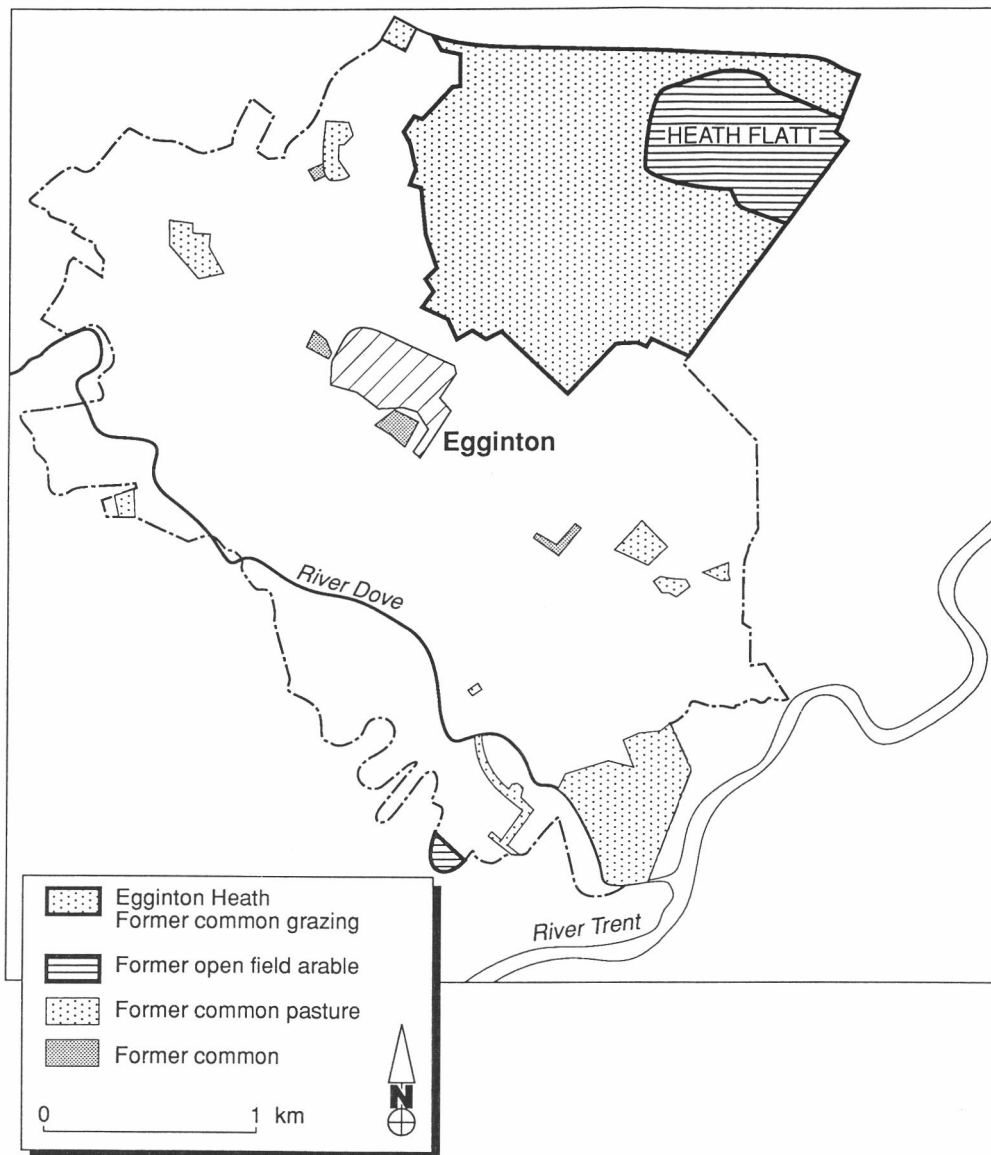
Before considering any allotments of land the enclosure commissioners were charged with making recommendations with respect to the road and footway networks and the drainage system of the parish. These have been plotted as Map 1 together with the pre enclosure pattern indicated on P.P. Burdett's county map of 1767⁵. With respect to roads and paths the outcome of the award was to formalise the existing system of field tracks, to effect certain improvements to the network and to lay the basis of the modern arrangement. One important consequence was that the pre-enclosure isolation of Egginton village from major routeways was maintained. A major work with respect to drainage related to the Egginton Brook. The previously meandering course of this stream was straightened to form a cut known as the Brook Drain in an attempt to



Map 1 Egginton Parish — Road network and drainage improvement envisaged by the Enclosure Commissioners.

alleviate problems of flooding.

Map 2 shows the location of the 667 acres 2 roods and 31 perches of open field and common lands redistributed by the enclosure award. In the Act these were described as 'intermixed and dispersed' and 'in their present situation incapable of any considerable improvement'. The largest block of previously unenclosed land comprised 532 acres 2 roods 27 perches and was located in the north east of the parish. Its greater part comprised a common known as Egginton Heath and which extended northwards and eastwards into the neighbouring parishes of Etwall, Burnaston and Willington. However it also included an arable open field known as Heath Flatt which was not clearly differentiated from allotments of former heath under the award. Beighton's 1764 survey of the Every estate measured Heath Flatt at 75 acres and the



Map 2 Egginton Parish — Open and common field redistributed under the Enclosure Award.

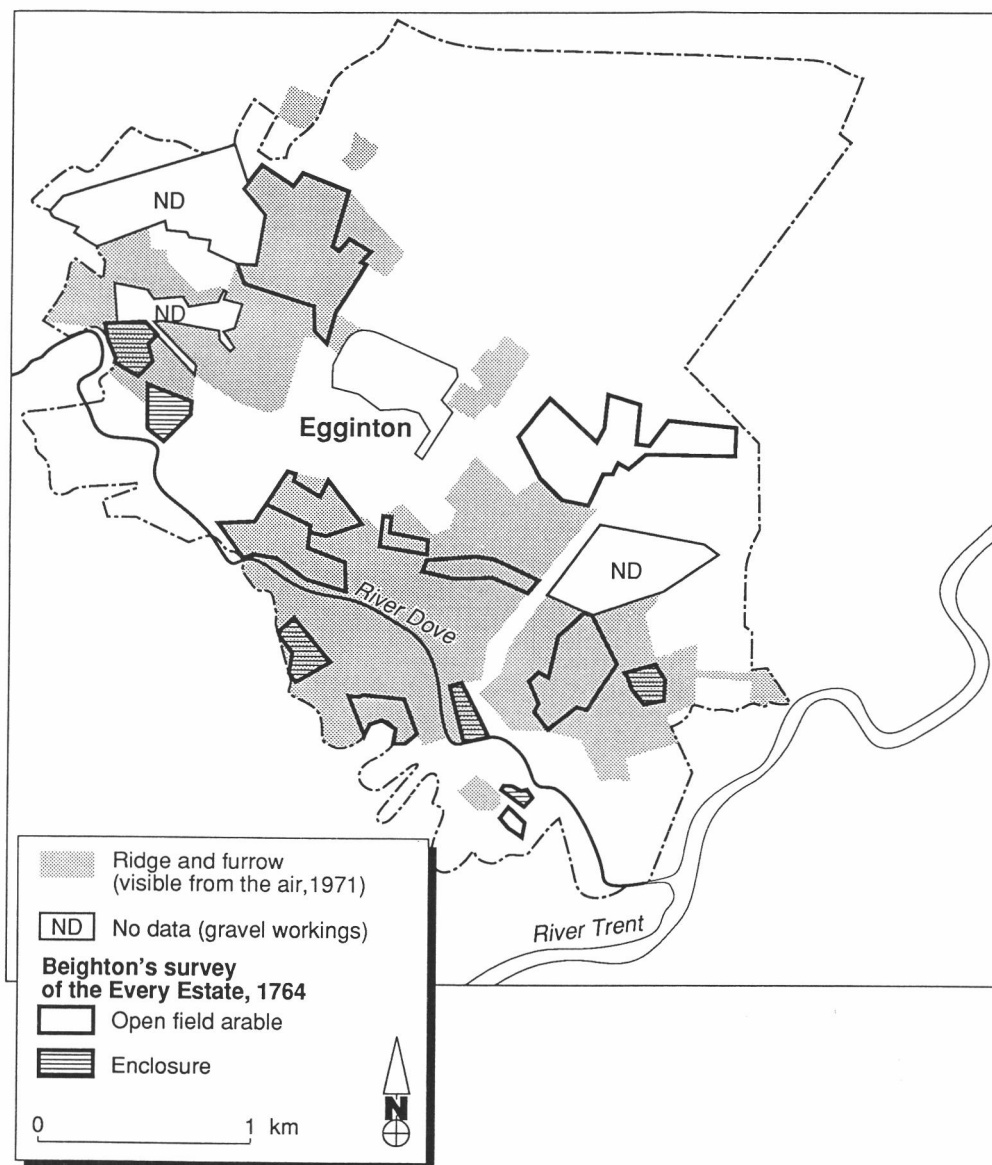
accompanying map enables location to be determined. Egginton Heath forms the most elevated part of the parish standing as a terrace like feature at 53-58m O.D., a significant 10m higher than the riverside land to the south. Its geological basis comprises gravels of varying calibre and thickness. In general these give thin, stony and freely drained soils which would not have been easily worked and would have readily supported a heathy vegetation cover. It is perhaps significant that in the vicinity of Heath Flatt minor valley features were cut down through the gravels into the underlying Mercian Mudstone (Keuper Marl) indicating greater land potential for agriculture.

The remaining areas of unenclosed land were scattered through the rest of the parish. Apart from six acres of open field arable and some 13 acres of common grazing made up of several small patches this was entirely common pasture. Hargate Pasture with an area of 41 acres 1 rood 17 perches was the largest single such area. It was just one part of a sequence of riverside grazing lands held by the various Trentside parishes. It is interesting to note that in 1827 a survey of the Every Estate⁶ indicated that common grazing rights still prevailed in this pasture and that between them the lesser Every tenants had rights to 27 cowgates in Hargate. All of Egginton parish to the west and south of the gravels of the Heath is mapped by the British Geological Survey as alluvium. While this may be regarded as part of the flood plain of the Dove and Trent rivers in effect much of it is made up of further gravel deposits various of which have been worked commercially in recent years. Overbank flooding has been a regular feature of this area and waterlogging of the lower horizons of the soil occurs with rises in the water table. However it is clear that the problems posed by such events did not deter the cultivators of the eighteenth century and earlier times. Beighton in 1764 mapped some 270 acres of open field arable located in nine separate and widely dispersed blocks as shown on Map 3. All of these had been apparently enclosed by agreement by 1798. In addition examination of air photographs shows the ridge and furrow patterns to have been widely distributed throughout the alluvium based part of the parish. These are also plotted on Map 3 and may be taken as a further indication of the former extent of open field arable. However in a locality adjacent to a major river course interpretation of ridge and furrow like features merits qualification as they could represent relicts of attempts to drain pastures. It seems most likely that the eighteenth century saw the enclosing and laying down of all these lands to pasture as the Doveside parishes developed a specialist dairying dimension to its farm economy as has been described by Henstock⁷.

Map 4 shows the pattern of allotment of the various parcels of land under the award the principal of which as Lords of the Manor were to Sir Henry Every of Egginton Hall and to Sacheverel Pole of Radbourne. A complete list of the beneficiaries and the categories of land involved is set out in Table 1. According to the Act these were to be in proportion to the shares, rights, properties and interests in the various common lands traditionally held by the beneficiaries. In addition Sir Henry Every and the then Rector of Egginton, the Rev Hepworth, were to be duly compensated for tithes. However the small Egginton tithes were not commuted at the time of enclosure and the new incumbent the Rev Edward Pole, who was related to Sacheverel Pole, was allotted 10 acres and 15 perches seemingly in his own right. The pattern of land distribution is more scattered than might be expected though not surprisingly, as the largest beneficiary, Sir Henry Every received a substantial and contiguous allotment from Egginton Heath and Heath Flatt.

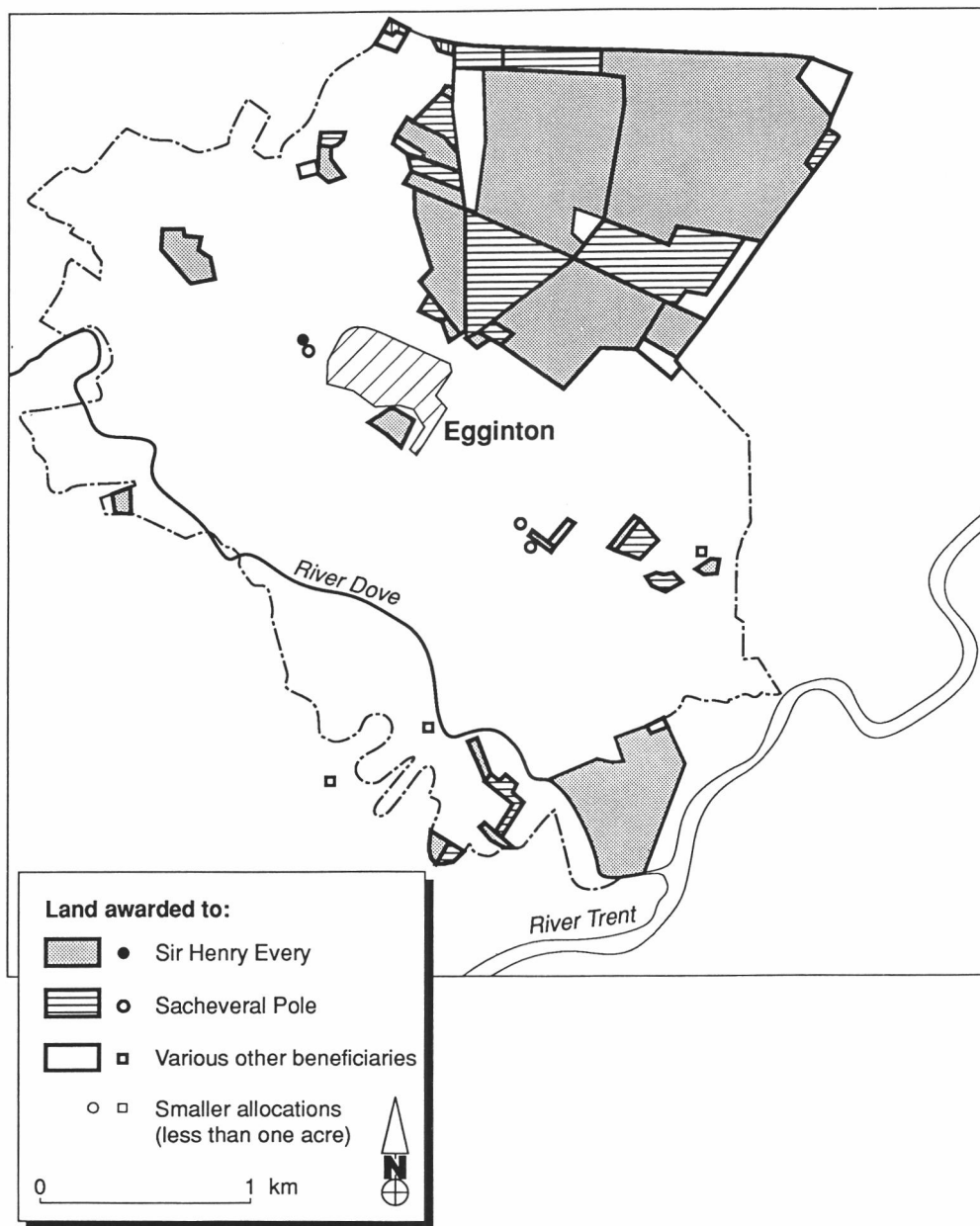
Additional to the distribution of 667 acres of former common land at least a further 200 acres were exchanged under the award as set out in Table 2. The purposes of the commissioners in effecting these exchanges are not clear. There is insufficient information concerning land not involved in the award to determine whether or not they mark an attempt to bring about less fragmented land ownership. Two important lesser beneficiaries of the exchanges were the John Port Foundation and the Egginton Churchwardens. The John Port Foundation which established the almshouses in Etwall and Repton School received 53 acres from Sacheverel Pole to add to its land holdings in nearby parishes. The Churchwardens received land apparently to compensate for that made over to Sir Henry Every to add to existing holdings in the north east corner of the parish and to consolidate the parish interests. A further beneficiary was Ashton Nicholas Every Mosley stepfather to Sir Henry Every. The lands made over to him provided a setting for his new house at Park Hill which had been built north of the Carriers Road in the 1790s.

In conclusion it can be argued that the series of maps presented demonstrate the outcome of analysis of the Egginton Enclosure Award document. From the reconstructions an assessment of the significance of enclosure in the landscape history of the parish can be attempted. Contrasts



Map 3 Egginton Parish — Evidence of open field arable and common pasture enclosed by agreement prior to the Enclosure Award.

in land capability between the gravel part of the north east of the parish and the alluvial lands of the south and west emerge as particularly significant in such an assessment. Indeed the tithe award reveals that the enclosure of Egginton Heath led directly to the conversion of this area to arable while the remainder of the parish was in pasture. This produced a reversal of the basic pattern of land utilisation in the parish which probably existed before piecemeal enclosure by agreement came strongly into vogue in the eighteenth century where the heath was predomi-



Map 4 Egginton Parish — Land allowed to the beneficiaries under the Enclosure Award.

nantly common grazing land and much of the rest of the parish, with the exception of riverside meadows such as Hargate Pasture, was in open field arable.

Table 1 Common Lands and Open Field allotted under the Egginton Enclosure Award

(a) Summary	Acres	Roods	Perches
Egginton Heath	457	0	38
Heath Flatt (Open Field Arable)	75	1	29
Other Open Field Arable	6	2	20
Common Meadow	115	0	18
Common	13	0	3
	<u>667</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>28</u>

(b) Individual Allotments

	Egginton Heath	Egginton Heath plus Heath Flatt	Open Field Arable	Common	Common Meadow and Pasture	Total	Total %
	A R P	A R P	A R P	A R P	A R P	A R P	
Sir Henry Every	223 3 9	132 2 24	4 1 11	11 0 39	76 2 24	448 2 27	67
Sacheveral Pole Esq	83 1 23	45 2 12	2 1 9	1 3 0	26 3 28	159 3 32	24
Rev Edward Pole	10 0 15					10 0 15	
Abraham Hoskins Jr		5 0 23			6 0 9	11 1 12	
Sir Henry Harpur	3 12					3 12	
C. Simmonds & J. Smedley	1 0 38					1 0 38	
Ashton N.E Mosley Esq	1 20					1 20	
Thomas Mason	1 0 8					1 0 8	
John Marshall		5 2 17				5 2 17	
T. Spencer & W. Bache							
Robert Shorthouse	2 3					2 23	
John Port Foundation	4 0 8					4 0 8	
Churchwardens	9 2 33					9 2 33	
Gravel	4 0 0					4 0 0	
Rev L.D.H. Cockeburn					1 25	1 25	
F. Astill					1 1 31	1 1 31	
W. Batkin					2 4	2 4	
T. Thornwill				4	2 16	2 20	
R. Kirkham					1 3 2	1 3 2	
J. Newton					34	34	
H. Gresley					1 25	1 25	
J. Swift & A Swindell				10		10	
J. Haywood				23		23	
TOTAL	339 0 9	193 2 18	6 2 20	13 0 37	115 0 18	667 2 21	

Table 2 Lands Exchanged under the Egginton Enclosure Award

	A	R	P	
(a) To Every	89	3	32	— 25 pieces in total
From Every	46	2	20	— 24 pieces in total
Balance	45	1	12	
(b) To Pole	22	3	10	— 13 pieces in total
From Pole	Not specified			— 10 pieces in total
From Pole to the John Port Foundation	53	1	23	— 18 pieces in total
Balance	?	?	?	
(c) To Churchwardens	8	2	30	from Pole and Every
(d) To A.N.E. Mosley	13	1	24	from Every including his third allotment under the award

REFERENCES

- 1 Egginton Enclosure Act 1791, Derby Local Studies Library 4634
- 2 Egginton Enclosure Award 1798, Derbyshire Record Office Q/R140
- 3 J. Beighton Survey of Sir John Every's Estate Egginton, Derby Local Studies Library FJ929
- 4 Egginton Tithe Award and Map 1849, Derbyshire Local Studies Library Microfilm 31
- 5 P.P. Burdett's Map of Derbyshire, 1791 Edition. Reprinted Derbyshire Archeological Society 1975
- 6 Agreement between Sir Henry Every, Bart, and Dame Elizabeth Every, 1827, Derbyshire Record Office D2375
- 7 A. Henstock 'Cheese Manufacture and Marketing in Derbyshire and North Staffordshire' *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal* Vol 89, 1969, pp 32-46