

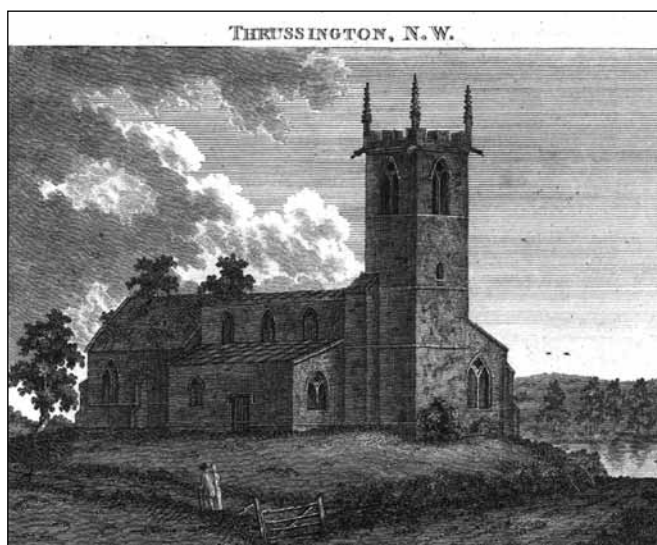
Enclosure of Thrussington

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In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, enclosure resulted in dramatic changes to the landscape as the medieval open fields were replaced by the patchwork of hedged fields which we are familiar with today.

Enclosure allocated landowners one or more larger plots, replacing their previous numerous, disparate strips of land, giving them the opportunity to make more efficient use of their land. They were also often allocated common and waste grounds for their exclusive use. This was however at the expense of any poorer inhabitants who relied on the free resources from the common lands, whilst prior to enclosure, any villagers with the 'right of common' could graze a stinted number of cattle and sheep, collect wood and gorse for fuel (1), and gather other free resources from these common lands, all of which supplemented the household 'pot'.

This article explores these themes for Thrussington, a Leicestershire village in the East Goscote Hundred, which had around 80 homes when its relatively late enclosure took place in 1790. (2) Key historical sources used for this study are the original documents prepared during the enclosure process, including minutes of the enclosure commissioners' meetings, a detailed field survey, the enclosure award, land tax assessments, charity records and local history publications.



Drawing of Thrussington church made in 1792, just two years after enclosure, and showing the River Wreake in the background, from John Nichols The History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester, vol. III, part I, plate LXVI, page 454.

Thrussington Enclosure Plans

By 1760, at least 197 out of 396 places in Leicestershire were entirely enclosed (3), and in the Thrussington area by 1789 the surrounding parishes of Rearsby, Ratcliffe on the Wreake, Seagrave and Hoby had already been enclosed for 15 or more years following Acts of Parliament. (4) The relative tardiness of enclosure plans for Thrussington may be due to one of its three lords of the manor not supporting enclosure, whilst a major fire in Thrussington in 1785 may also have resulted in a temporary delay.

However on 19th March 1789 the Bill entitled 'An Act for dividing, allotting, and enclosing the Open Common Fields, and several other Lands and Grounds in the Parish of Thrussington, otherwise Thurstanton, otherwise Trussington, in the County of Leicester' was considered by the House of Commons. This Bill was supported by all three lords of the manor - the Right Honorable George Capel Coningesby (Lord Viscount Malden), the Reverend John Orton and Joseph Noble Esquire - none of whom lived in Thrussington. Malden was the MP for Okehampton, Devon from 1785 to 1790, also Patron of the Vicarage and Parish Church of Thrussington and impropiator of the great tithes of corn and hay; John Orton was the Rector of Rearsby, a parish adjacent to Thrussington; whilst Joseph Noble was a banker who lived in Melton Mowbray.

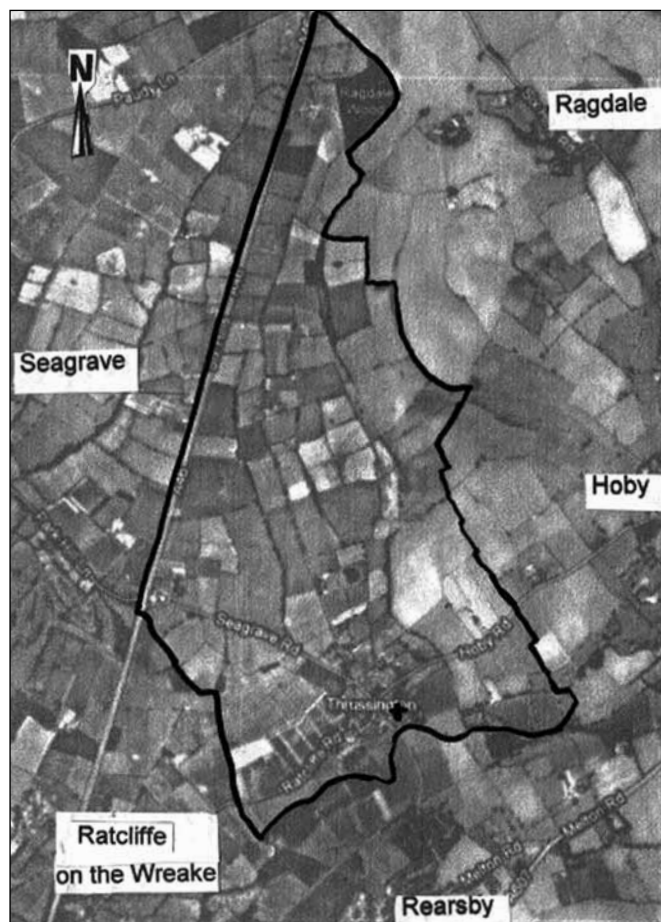
There was however, local opposition to the Bill: the *Journal of the House of Commons* notes 'the Parties concerned had given their Consent to the Bill to the Satisfaction of the Committee except the Owners of One Yard Land and Two Acres who refused to consent to the Bill'. (5) A yardland was around 30 acres.

The objectors may have numbered as many as 8 to 10 individuals who each owned just a few acres (see Table 2) but they were heavily outweighed by those in favour, who although similar in number, owned much of the land, and the Act was passed on 30th March 1789.

The Act appointed John Claridge of Upton upon Severn, Worcestershire, William Fillingham of Flawborough, Nottinghamshire, and William Dickenson of Copshall (Gopshall?), Leicestershire as commissioners, and that the land 'shall be surveyed and measured by John Smith, of Packington,... and John Seagrave, of Kirby Bellows... this ..Survey, Admeasurement, and Plan, shall be delivered to the

said Commissioners ... on or before the twenty-ninth day of September 1789'. (6)

The three commissioners were responsible for preparing the Enclosure Award. This document set out the allocations of land and improvements to roads and drainage, and also the process to turn the open field system into enclosed fields, including fencing, hedging and the management of grazing stock.



Modern map showing Thruslington parish outlined, the location of Holy Trinity Church and adjoining parishes. (Reproduced with acknowledgement to Map data: Google-Digital Globe, Getmapping plc, Infoterra Ltd., Bluesky.)

The Survey, Admeasurement and Plan

Before enclosure, Thruslington had three large open fields (Ratcliffe, Middle and Hoby) which provided over 950 acres of arable farming, one field being left fallow each year. These fields lay to the west, north and east of the village, and cultivation would have been a communal affair with men (and for certain jobs also women and children) ploughing, sowing, weeding and harvesting. The arable land was supplemented by over 44 acres of pasture land, Great Meadow and Little Meadow, to the south side of the village running down to the river Wreake. (7)

The land to be enclosed also included a large area of common or waste ground to the north of the parish, known as the Lower and Upper Wolds, which ran up to Six Hills, with the Fosse Way forming its western boundary. The Wolds was an uncultivated area and included Thruslington Wolds Gorse which as well as being used as a fox covert by the Quorn Hunt, was used as a source of fuel by the inhabitants of Thruslington. The Wolds area was used for sheep and cattle grazing and must have looked much wilder in aspect than the cultivated open fields and meadows to the south of the parish.

The 1789 field survey survives as a paper booklet and shows details of ownership of each of the three fields, two meadows and land in the 'ring of the town'. (8) Unfortunately any accompanying plan does not survive.

The survey shows that each of the three open fields was subdivided into several furlongs of typically 20-30 acres, each named to reflect its position or features, for example Coalpit Leys, Dob Headland, Crabtree, Hen and Chickins, Foulstick Leys, Gravel Pit, Marlpit and Otterdale. The surveyors valued the land in shillings per acre, often noting more than one quality of land within a furlong, and their valuations ranged from 6 shillings per acre for the poorest quality to 30 shillings for the best.

Name	Acreage (a)	No. strips (b)	No. plots (c)	Total value (d)	Average value/acre in shillings (e)	Min, max value/ac in shillings
Ratcliffe Field	395	1176	535	£310 18s 7d	15.74	6, 30
Middle Field	202	538	216	£157 15s 0d	15.61	10, 30
Hoby Field	353	912	425	£296 19s 5d	16.81	6, 30
Little Meadow	11	61	34	£13 16s 5d	25.00	25
Great Meadow	33	74	36	£43 0s 3d	26.16	25, 30
Coalpit Leys	10	0	0	£3 11s 11d	7.24	6.5, 8
Foss	2	0	0	19s 0d	10.00	10
Ring of the Town (f)	62	0	72	£86 8s 8d	30.03	28, 36
Totals	1068	2761	1318	£913 9s 3d		

Table 1: Summary from field survey of 1789 of the fields, meadows due to be enclosed and the old enclosures in the 'Ring of the Town'.

Notes: a) to nearest acre b) surveyors used a range of descriptions reflecting variations in use, shape or position of strips (ie land, ley, rood, close, headland, headley, balk, hade, pingle, wong; and when none of these was right 'piece at top') c) most plots comprised 2 or more adjacent strips d) value originally recorded in shillings and decimals e) total value divided by total acreage f) 'Old Inclosures in the Ring of the Town': around 50 properties.

Areas of ground with no owner were also recorded in the survey, and naming suggests communal use, eg Meer Common. The survey also listed 54 closes within the three open fields, these were hedged or fenced enclosures (much like modern fields), each having one owner. A total of 31 landowners were recorded who either held some strips in the open fields, or a plot in the 'town' with one or more properties, or both: Table 2 shows aggregate acreages by landowner. The 31 landowners included the Feoffees of Loughborough, a trust which owned Bridge Farm and land in Thrussington, using rents to fund the maintenance of bridges in the area, with any residual monies being disbursed to the poor of Loughborough. (9)

The Commissioners' Meetings

Listed amongst the landowners was Jonathan Marston 'victualler' who owned a few strips in the open fields, and it was at his public house in Thrussington, that the Thrussington enclosure process commenced when two of the commissioners, John Claridge and William Dickenson, met on 18th May 1789 (10). Claridge appears to have taken a lead role throughout the process: he attended all meetings with his fellow commissioners and was the first signatory of the minutes.

The minutes of their first meeting show plans being made for allotting plots to landowners and managing stock during the enclosure process: landowners were to be instructed to complete their second tilth of the fallows by August 1st next. Also 'The said Commissioners ordered that every five yardlands and a half in the fallow field be folded with 121 sheep, and that each fold contain forty folding Fleaks (11) ... and that the said folding be made on the most convenient part of the said field nearest their own Walks.' (12) The first minutes also show that large quantities of gravel were required to surface the widened roads, recording arrangements for Thomas Cook of Hoby, labourer, to search for suitable sources of gravel in Thrussington under the direction of the two surveyors.

The commissioners met on seven more occasions. On 6th July 1789 they agreed the new enclosure road widths (45 feet wide to Ratcliffe, 50 feet to Hoby, 50 feet to Loughborough). Prior to enclosure these roads had grass verges where villagers could graze their animals.

At their meeting on 21st July, the commissioners considered the allotments of land, meeting this time at the Three Cranes Inn, Leicester where they were to work for five days. A further three days were spent at the Three Cranes from the 16th to 18th November, at which it was minuted that the Commons were to be cleared of 'Neat Cattle' on 11th December. They also 'Ordered that the timber and wood upon the Woulds and Loundsdale to be valued by Mr John

Segrave and Thomas Draycott of Cossington on or before the first day of January next and that the Proprietors of the Lands on which the said wood and timber stands on shall take ... at such sum or sums as the same shall be valued'. (13)

The allotments were reconsidered and plans discussed for road access to Rearsby mill 'which said road is also to be used by the Owners and occupiers of lands in Thrussington ... to and from the river Wreak in order to wash their sheep.'

The final note however, indicates a glitch in proceedings: 'Memorandum. That at this meeting Mr Wm Dickenson one of the said Commissioners declined and refused to act further ...whereupon ... at a meeting held at the house of Mrs Kirby ... The Wheel in Rearsby ... 4th day December 1789 ... Mr Thomas Eagle of Allesley ... Warwick gentleman was duly appointed'.

The three commissioners next met on 14th December 1789 at the Three Cranes and 'Mr Eagle ... took and subscribed the Oath'. 'The said Commissioners decided upon and settled the allotments as schemed out at the last meeting ... and ordered the same to be staked out accordingly. Also directed and ordered the fencing of the Tithe Allotments and the other Allotments and directed the Surveyors to deliver to the several proprietors an account in writing of their respective proportions of fencing. ... The said Commissioners ordered that from the first Day of January next all Right of Common belonging to or claimed by any person or persons in over and upon any of the Land by the said Act directed to be Inclosed shall cease determine and be for ever extinguished.'

Another glitch was resolved: 'The Owner of Rearsby Mill having attended at this meeting and having declined to purchase a right of road ... the said Commissioners ... directed that such road should nevertheless continue as a private road for the owners and occupiers of Lands in Thrussington ... to and from the River Wreak for washing their sheep and other purposes.' They also 'Ordered that Mr Carter do prepare a Draft of our Award' for discussion at their next meeting.

On March 16th 1790, again at the Three Cranes, the commissioners made some final adjustments to the allotments and prepared rates to cover the costs of the enclosure process and for the maintenance of public roads. Mr Carter, who appears to have taken the minutes and communicated with inhabitants of Thrussington through pinning notices to the church door, was asked to look into the position regarding Lord Malden's contribution towards fencing of land he received in lieu of tithes.

A final three day meeting at the Three Cranes took place between the 18th and 20th May 1790 and a minute 'Ordered

as to the Cottages and Buildings that are to be taken down that the same be cleared away within 6 calendar months from this time' may indicate clearance of squatters' cottages.

The final minute was a triumphal 'we have made and executed our award'.

The Enclosure Award

The enclosure award consists of 87 close-written pages and recites from the Enclosure Act: 'And it was by the said Act further Enacted that for the more convenient and better allotting and dividing the said Lands and Grounds all and every the Crofts Closes Homesteads and old Inclosures in the said Parish of Thrussington ... belonging to any Proprietors of the said Open Fields Meadows Pastures and other open Lands should be thrown into Hotchpot and should be divided allotted and inclosed with the rest of the Lands and Grounds ...' (14)

The current arrangement for tithes was outlined: 'Reverend William Casson Clerk and the present Vicar thereof and as such was intitled to certain Glebe Lands and Common Right in respect thereof in the said Lands by the said Act intended to be divided and inclosed and was also intitled as Vicar to the small Tythes of Wool Lamb and Pigs and all other small Tythes arising within the said Parish.'

The great and small tithes were commuted at enclosure, the Award states Malden and Casson were to receive compensatory allotments 'to be equal in value to one seventh Part of the said Old Inclosures and all other Lands so intended to be divided and inclosed.' These plots were to be 'fenced round and mounded by Quickset Hedges Ditches and Gates or Fences which Quickset Hedges should be guarded or Fenced by and with Posts and Rails or otherwise at the

expende of the other proprietors of the Lands and Grounds' within six calendar months.

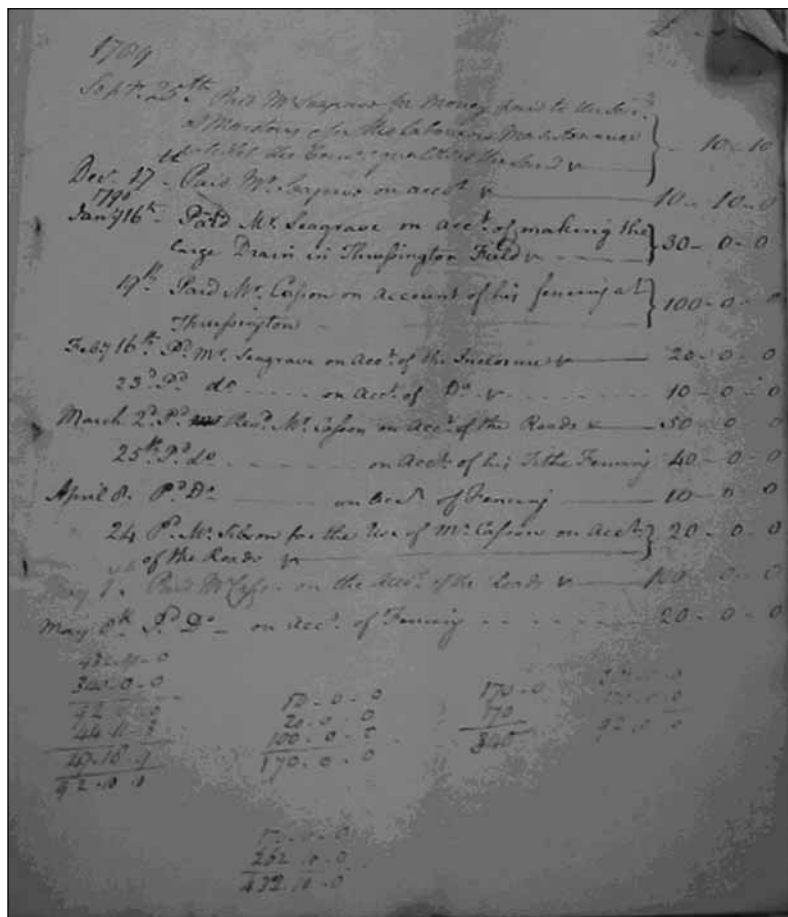
The area to be enclosed was 1,903 acres 1 rood and 21 perches 'excluding of all Public Carriage and Drift Roads and Ways in through and over the same and of the several Streets and Lanes within the Town of Thrussington aforesaid and the Church Yard.'

The allocations of plots start with that to the three Lords of the Manor. This is followed by details of the four sites identified for the Surveyors of the Highways to quarry 'Gravel Stone and Sand for the repairing of the Public Roads and Ways.' The allocation to the vicar, the individual allocations to the three lords of the manor and Earl Ferrers follow, and then allocations to other landowners in surname sequence.

The final pages list three rates apportioned across the landowners: to cover the £1,500 costs of enclosure (a one-off payment); and two annual rates: £1,032 10s.0d. for maintenance of the roads and £1,230 10s.0d. for drainage. These were huge sums, and it has been mooted that enclosure

forced some smaller landowners to sell their land as they could not afford the costs. In comparison, the total annual Land Tax Assessment for Thrussington from 1787 to 1797 had been £45 17s.10d., which had been apportioned across around 30 individuals who paid amounts from 11d upwards. (15)

Table 2 shows landholdings before and after enclosure. Although the plan that accompanied the enclosure award does not survive, the position of each plot is described in sufficient detail to pin-point it on an OS map from the nineteenth century. (16)



A page from the commissioner's minute book showing accounts, including the costs of fencing and drainage. (Reproduced by permission of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.)

Name1789 Survey (acres).....			1790 Encl. (acres)
	Land	Town	Total	
Barsby, William (yeoman)	93.89	3.23	97.13	130.69
Bennett, Stephen (blacksmith)	3.22	0.46	3.68	9.10
Bird, William		0.14	0.14	0.14
Black, William (farmer)	9.61		9.61	13.06
Boulter, George		0.07	0.07	0.07
Brown, Henry (Rector of Hoby)	2.49		2.49	3.59
Casson, William (Vicar of Thr.)	26.23	0.34	26.57	115.56
Chamberlain	2.58	0.17	2.75	1.86
Clark (of the parish)		0.25	0.25	0.25
Dent, Robert		0.05	0.05	0.05
Draycott, Thomas	0.60	1.95	2.55	1.95
Feoffees of Loughborough	38.49	1.45	39.95	48.88
Ferneley, William (wheelwright)	6.87		6.87	4.23
Ferrers, Robert Earl	7.54	0.57	8.12	33.46
Glover, Dorothy (widow)	1.75	0.05	1.80	2.33
Haynes, Thomas (baker)	2.79	0.27	3.06	2.86
Hickling, Bartholomew (carpenter)		0.11	0.11	0.11
Lewin, Alice (spinster)		0.06	0.06	0.06
Lovett, Eliza		0.79	0.79	0.79
Malden, Lord Viscount	155.57	5.63	161.21	638.24
Marston, Jonathan (victualler)	0.67		0.67	0.45
Marston, William (stocking weaver)	3.72		3.72	4.14
Martin, Jonathan		0.01	0.01	0.01
Neal, Richard		0.02	0.02	0.02
Noble, Joseph (banker)	166.08	4.21	170.28	185.14
Orton (as next) & Brown, John	219.91	27.81	247.72	354.69
Orton, John (Rector of Rearsby)	178.01	7.43	185.44	279.97
Shelton, John (innkeeper & grocer)		0.46	0.46	0.46
Sibson, Dorothy	41.54	1.09	42.63	42.71
Storer, John (cordwainer)	10.86		10.86	15.22
Wilson, Thomas		0.08	0.08	0.08
Total	972.40	56.72	1029.13	1890.14

Table 2: Land ownership in Thrussington before and after Enclosure in 1790.

The 3.59 acres allocated to Reverend Henry Browne of Hoby has unusual origins: in the seventeenth century Susanna and Dorothy Danvers of The Grange, Thrussington, were walking home in the evening after visiting and became lost in the Wolds. The 8pm striking of Hoby's church clock enabled them to find their way home, and in gratitude they granted to the Rector of Hoby a piece of land in Thrussington, asking that 'the said bell to be rung at the same time to the end of time'. (17)

After Enclosure

Those shown in Table 2 owned land or property or both and with a few exceptions, received additional land at enclosure and appear to have met the enclosure rates levied. Occupational data, taken from probate records, parish registers and R.E. Banks' booklets (18), show many of this group had income from other employments. However, the majority of the inhabitants of Thrussington do not appear in Table 2 as they were tenants not owners of property and/or land, and a provisional list of names has been prepared from the enclosure award and land tax assessments, baptisms and burials (19), charity payments and land tax assessments. The list includes labourers, the elderly and widows.

The following tenants did not receive charity payments and there is no evidence that they were disastrously impacted by enclosure: Barsby (Thomas, labourer), Benskin, Bradford, Brocas or Brookhouse, Dalby, Draper, Hubbard, Hudson, Hulse, Leadbetter, Morley, Phipps, Smart, Warren, Wilbourne, Woollerton.

The following either received small charity payments, typically 1s. to 5s., once or twice a year between 1787 and 1800, or were described 'pauper' in the parish registers: Adcock (widow), Armstrong, Bamkin (widow), Besson, Bennett, Brown (William), Chamberlain (Thomas, William), Crofts (widow), Cross, Earl/Eyrl, Fukes, Garner, Gilbert, Hall, Hallam (or Allam/Allen), Hampson, Hornbuckle, Hubbard, Kirk (Joseph), Lac(e)y, Matthews, Preston, Sharp, Spencer, Squire, Stephenson, Toone, Underwood, Walton (widow), Watts, Wells. Some of this group started to receive payments around 1790 and this may be linked to enclosure. Unfortunately the churchwardens' accounts which may have provided more detail about individual cases no longer survive.

In terms of recompense to the poor, 1 acre and 23 perches was allocated to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of Thrussington in lieu of lands belonging to the church and town of Thrussington. The annual rental value was

around 20 to 35 shillings, depending upon land quality; however the expenditure on the poor already exceeded £147/annum in the period 1783-5 (20), so the contribution of 35 shillings was insignificant.

Some accounts follow which show how individuals fared following enclosure:

Reverend John Orton, Rector of Rearsby and a lord of the manor

Prior to enclosure Orton owned about 178 acres of land split across over 240 sets of strips and had a half share with John Brown in around 220 acres. He and Brown between them owned over 40% of the cultivated land in Thrussington. Orton also owned 3 houses and 9 tenements in Thrussington and other small plots of land in or adjacent to the village including a garden and orchard. He jointly owned a further 8 houses and homesteads with Brown. (21) At enclosure his landholdings increased to over 280 acres, plus a half share in over 350 acres with Brown. As one of the three Lords of the Manor he was also allocated a third share of a plot of around 7 acres in the Upper Wolds as 'compensation ... for ...Right of Soil in the said Commons and Waste Lands'. He paid over £430 towards the rate to defray enclosure costs and a total of £300 in annual rates for road and drain maintenance. Orton had not however long to enjoy his new, enlarged landholdings. As Throsby notes 'On Monday last died at Rearsby, in this county, the Reverend Mr Orton, rector of that place. His universal benevolence and extensive charity are well known, and his loss will be severely felt by the many poor families who experienced his bounty.' (22)

Lord Viscount Malden, Earl of Essex

Prior to enclosure, Lord Malden owned over 160 acres of land and 11 houses and homesteads in Thrussington. He was also the impropiator of great tithes, which were commuted at enclosure: this brought him an extra 169 acres in compensation, and he received further allocations taking his total holding to over 640 acres. His property portfolio was reduced as some properties were allocated to other landowners. He paid a one-off rate of nearly £328, and a total of £586 in annual rates. Malden making little of any adverse effects on the poorer inhabitants, commented in 1814 extolling the benefits of small farms: 'Advantage of small farms: In the village of Thrussington, inclosed about 24 years since, the Earl of Essex is a considerable proprietor. At the time of inclosure, the noble earl had four cottages and 26 acres of land laid out, which were let to four labouring men at the commissioners' value: these four men have amply compensated for the noble earl's liberality, in bringing up 32 children, without any assistance from the parish; most of whom are in service, and of excellent character in their situations. If the great land-owners would follow the noble earl's example, the poor-rates throughout the country would be considerably reduced, and industry and sobriety laudably encouraged.' (23)

Robert Earl Ferrers

Robert was a nephew of Lawrence Earl Ferrers, who was hanged at Tyburn in 1760 for shooting his steward. The title passed to Lawrence's brother Robert 6th Earl Ferrers. The latter built the new Ragdale Hall in 1785 and upon his death in 1787, the title passed to his eldest son, Robert 7th Earl Ferrers. He used Ragdale Hall as a base for hunting. Ferrers held a few acres of land in Thrussington prior to enclosure and was allocated around 33 acres, which he immediately planted up forming Ragdale Wood, which remains today.

William Barsby, yeoman

The Barsby family of farmers were resident in Thrussington by 1649. (24) An unusual sequence of events led to their land holdings increasing in 1782, when William Barsby recovered lands from the Storer estate. (25) At enclosure, Barsby was allocated five plots, including one of 45 acres in the former common or waste grounds in the Upper Wolds, taking his total landholdings to over 130 acres. In his will proved in 1813, he divided his land amongst his children, having sold his plot in the Upper Wolds to William Bryans, a grazier, by 1797. (26)

William Black, small farmer

William Black was a small landowner owning 12 sets of strips spread across the three open fields prior to enclosure amounting to 9.61 acres. It seems likely he grew cereal crops in the open fields, and made use of grazing rights on the common lands prior to enclosure. At enclosure he received one plot in Hoby field of 13.06 acres, under four additional acres, and paid enclosure costs of £13 14s.10d. as a one-off payment, coupled with £19 10s. annual rates for road maintenance and drains. In 1799, his estate (including cows, calves, heifers and sheep) was valued under £20 (27), the costs of enclosure, coupled with loss of grazing rights, being possible causes of his reduced circumstances.

William Ferneley, wheelwright and small farmer

The father of local painter John Ferneley (28), William received three allotments at enclosure totalling over 4 acres. This is less than the Ferneley landholdings recorded in 1789 (nearly 7 acres). The death of William's father Joseph during the enclosure process may explain this anomaly.

George Boulter

George Boulter owned a dwelling house, yard and garden occupying 11 perches in the village. At enclosure he retained this plot but lost any right of common arising from property ownership. At Christmas 1791 he started to receive regular charity payments from the Thomas Haynes fund, an indication of reduced circumstances. (30) This could have been due to loss of access to grazing or fuel at enclosure; or to ill health; or he may have been unable to support his growing family, his children being too young in 1791 to supplement the family earnings.

William Fillingham, commissioner

William Fillingham was a land surveyor, he was steward to the Duke of Rutland at Belvoir, and an enclosure commissioner for around 30 parishes in Nottinghamshire, the Grantham area of Lincolnshire and others in north-east Leicestershire and Derbyshire between 1774 and 1795. His earnings as a commissioner coupled with successful investments in canal companies and urban property in Newark enabled him to purchase Syerston manor and estate in Nottinghamshire from the Ffytche family in 1792. (31) Whilst working on the Enclosure Act for Thrussington, he was paid a daily wage of £1 11s.6d. (32)

Conclusions

The enclosure of Thrussington was inevitable following the enclosure of the surrounding parishes. It is difficult to isolate the impact as local and national factors also affected the livelihood of residents, for example poor harvests and the canalisation of the Wreake in the 1790s. The upheaval must have been immense but was completed by November 1792 when William Black referred to his 'land ... lying ... in the lately new enclosed field of Thrussington' in his will.

The exercise was expensive: the value of the open fields and town was under £920 in 1789 (Table 1), and enclosure cost £1,500, plus annual rates exceeding £2,200. The roads and drainage were improved and this increased land values. Also the area of farmed land nearly doubled. Finally, Throsby who visited in 1790 shortly after enclosure, was able to report:

Thrussington lordship was enclosed in 1789, and contains 2000 acres of land. The principal proprietors are lord Malden, and the Reverend Mr. Orton of Rearsby. A Mr. Barsby, Mr. Lewin, and Mr. Sitson, inhabitants, own also a portion of the lordship. Commendable in the highest degree is the spirit of proprietors of this lordship for the improvement of the roads. The village is the cleanest I have ever seen: the roads through it are broad, round, and made of fine gravel, which sets well. I am told, that the roads have cost more money within these five years than the whole lordship would have sold for in the reign of queen Elizabeth. The village consists of 80 dwellings, one of which is the Reverend Mr. Casson's. Many of the houses are of brick, and look well. (33)

References and Notes:

1. J. Nichols, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester*, (London, 1800; 1971), vol. 3, pt. 1, p.459: a fire in Thrussington in 1725 'burnt down 12 or 13 dwellings' was started 'by a kid or two of gorze lying near the fire'.
2. John Throsby, *The Supplementary Volume to the Leicestershire Views Containing a Series of Excursions in the year 1790 to the Villages and Places of Note in the County*, (London, 1790), p.252.

3. David C. Levine, *The Agrarian Origins of Industry in Leicestershire, with particular emphasis on the 1660 – 80 period*, (unpub. M.A. Thesis, Univ. British Columbia, 1970), p.45.
4. W.E. Tate, *A Domesday of English Enclosure Acts and Awards*, (Reading, 1978), pp.153-155.
5. *Journals of the House of Commons*, vol. 44, p.220. A yardland was around 30 acres.
6. Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland (ROLLR): 3D42/5/8/7a. A copy of the Enclosure Act (7a) and Commissioner's Minutes (7b) are filed together.
7. ROLLR: DE1704/42, Division of fields at Thrussington.
8. ROLLR: DE1704/42, op.cit.
9. R.E. Banks, *Thrussington Local History Notes*, (1987), vol. 1 p.8.
10. ROLLR: 3D42/5/8/7b, op.cit.
11. A fleak is 'a sheep hurdle, traditionally made from split (riven) green wood rods. Origin unknown, as is extent of usage.' (*Whitefaced Woodland Sheep Society Newsletter*, (689), March 2010; www.whitefacedwoodland.co.uk/archives/.../Woody_News_69.pdf accessed 14/12/2012).
12. ROLLR: 3D42/5/8/7b, op.cit.
13. ROLLR: 3D42/5/8/7b, op.cit. 'Neat Cattle ' is the Old English term for domesticated cattle.
14. ROLLR: 3D42/5/7, Enclosure Award.
15. ROLLR: QS62/309/1-56: 1773-1832, examined for period 1787-1798.
16. ROLLR: P78/1-2, Copy of a nineteenth century map overlaid to show enclosure allotments. Acreages are to two decimal places to iron out minor anomalies arising from the use of differing units in the 1789 survey (acres to 3 decimal places) and the enclosure award (acres, roods, perches).
17. Nichols, *History*, op.cit. p.458
18. R.E. Banks, *Thrussington. Local History Notes*, (1987), vol. 1 and vol. 2.
19. ROLLR: DE1704/3, Baptism and Burial register.
20. Nichols, *History*, op.cit. p.460.
21. ROLLR: DE1704/42, op.cit.
22. Throsby, (1790), op.cit. pp.254-255.
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