

LAND VALUES MAPS AND DOMESDAY BOOKS IN DERBYSHIRE RECORD OFFICE (D595)

Land Values maps and their associated 'Domesday Books' are examples of records created for a specific reason, but now used by researchers for completely different purposes. Created for taxation requirements, they are now consulted for their local history information.

- The Finance Act 1910 required a comprehensive survey of landownership in the United Kingdom as at April 1909. It was known as Lloyd George's Domesday Survey and formed one part of his famous 'People's Budget' of 1909.
- Landowners strongly opposed the survey and by 1920 the provisions of the Act had been repealed
- Before this, by Autumn 1915, a valuation had been completed by District Valuation Offices and re-assessments continued until 1920.
- Because there was no requirement in England to register ownership of land, Land Values maps and Domesday Books may be the first available documentary evidence linking property ownership to a map.
- These series provide a snapshot of information c.1915. There are no equivalent predecessor or successor series before Land Registry evidence is available – in the case of Derbyshire properties, this may not be until the late 20th century.

What form do these records take?

There are two basic and complementary series, the Land Values (LV) Map and the associated reference book

- Valuation was based on large-scale (usually 1:2500) printed Ordnance Survey maps. The working copies have been transferred to Derbyshire Record Office; the final copies are to be found in the National Archives
- There were two series of reference books to the maps: the Field Books, which remain in the National Archives, and the Valuation or Domesday Books which are held in the Record Office. The Domesday Books, were the first step towards systematic valuation and copied the information found in the Income Tax Rate Books. Any unrated properties were added and each property within the division was given an identification number.
- Researchers need to consult both the appropriate Land Values Map sheet and the relevant Domesday Book

How is information presented?

Land Values Maps

The maps show the boundaries of each property by a coloured border or sometimes by an overall colour wash. Each unit of property was assigned an assessment number, usually written in black or coloured ink. This number corresponds to the Assessment Number listed in the Domesday Book.

Domesday Books

Information in Domesday Books is tabulated in columns:

Assessment Number

Poor Rate Assessment Number [taken from Rating Books and Rating Valuation Books which may not have survived]

Names of Occupiers

Names of Owners with their addresses

Description of the Property

House Name, Number and Street

The next rows of columns contain the figures required to calculate Incremental Duty under the 1910 Finance Act and are of more specialised interest.

There were four District Valuation Offices in Derbyshire, each covering several local council areas.

- ***Chesterfield***
Covered Chesterfield Borough, Bolsover, Clay Cross and Dronfield Urban District Councils and Chesterfield and Clowne Rural District Councils
- ***Derby***
Covered Derby Borough, Long Eaton and Swadlincote Urban District Councils, Repton and South East Derbyshire Rural District Councils
- ***High Peak***
Covered Buxton and Glossop Boroughs, New Mills and Whaley Bridge Urban District Councils and Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District Council
- ***Matlock***
Covered Ilkeston Borough, Alfreton, Ashbourne, Bakewell, Belper, Heanor, Matlock, Ripley and Wirksworth Urban District Councils, Ashbourne, Bakewell and Belper Rural District Councils

Within each District Valuation Office series, Domesday Books are usually arranged alphabetically by place. Where volumes have been indexed by street name, this is noted in the archival list D595 by an asterisk (*). In some District Valuation Offices, notably Chesterfield and High Peak, villages are grouped and then listed alphabetically under the largest centre of population.

How to order your Land Values Map and associated Domesday Book

- ***Order the map sheet first.***

Identify the relevant sheet number from the OS index map in the Search Room. Check with catalogue reference D595 and/or Search Room staff that a Land Values map sheet with this number exists in DR0 collections. Fill out a request slip quoting L V map + the map sheet number, usually Roman numerals followed by Arabic numerals

- ***Order the Domesday Book next***

Check catalogue D595. Identify which volume covers the place/s in which you are interested. Fill out a DRO request slip quoting D595 + piece number/s