

LANCASHIRE

Prefix numbers refer to the Public Record Office reference for each document, in the case of this county they can be found entirely in the Diocese of Chester, PRO. HO/67/6/- .

Names of places	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Potatoes	Peas	Beans	Turnips or Rape	Rye	Others
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Expressed in acres

11	Aughton	400	180	200	185	6	60	12	
33	Becconsall	See Hesketh							
33	Bispham	See Croston							
16	Blackburn	No figures - see Notes							
18	Bolton	23	2	807	85½		½	4	
33	Bretherton	See Croston							
21	Bury	50½	31½	1350½	146½				
22	Cartmel	332	659	1586	167	23	7		(58)
23	Childwall	1023	186	885	120				
33	Croston - Townships in the parish of Croston								
	Bispham	28		120	20		1		
	Bretherton	50	10	200	40		8		
	Croston	22	5	290	40		4		
	Hesketh-with- Becconsall	60	60	80	24		22	2	
	Holmes Wood	26	77	75	40		4	6	
	Mawdesley	36	30	300	44		2	1	
	Sollom	26	74	76	32		6	4	
	Tarleton	30	50	80	30		4	4	
	Ulnes Walton	19		206	40		8	2	
	Total for Croston	297	306	1427	310		59	19	

Names of places	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Potatoes	Peas	Beans	Turnips or Rape	Rye	Others
Expressed in acres									

35	Dalton	591½	834	2092½	84	7½	120½		(57½)
37	Deane	79	147	600	91	8			(53)
41	Eccles	380	34	552	248		5		(12)
40	Eccleston	77	2½	350	28½	(13½)			
45	Flixton	75	6	80	86				
50	Hale	30	60	280	30			4	
52	Halsall	478	176	675	363	9	27	15	
54	Hawkshead	7	74	452	24			16	
33	Hesketh-with- Becconsall	See Croston							
33	Holmes Wood	See Croston							
58	Huyton	333	30	244	86		11		(18)
61	Kirkby Ireleth	20	80	245	13				
62	Kirkham	1921	53	4639	120		676		(14)
64	Lancaster	201	313	1617	142	2	56	36	
68	Leyland	118	5	1465	171		13		
33	Mawdesley	See Croston							
69	Melling	20	60	900	30		6		(10)
70	Middleton	91		850	40				(20)
79	North Meols	124	344	101			7		138
87	Oldham	See Prestwich							
86	Pennington	1	46	206	12				
84	Poulton-le-Fylde	588½	60½	813½	42½	(281½)		(25)	Vetches 18½
87	Prestwich cum Oldham	144	5	572	66				

	Names of places	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Potatoes	Peas	Beans	Turnips or Rape	Rye	Others
Expressed in acres										
94	Radcliffe	36		192	32					(10)
93	Rochdale	(10)		1490	40					(10)
97	St Michaels on Wyre	672	20	2694	180		200			
33	Sollom	See Croston								
102	Standish	98½	½	747½	20					
33	Tarleton	See Croston								
103	Tatham	1	7	297	5					(3)
33	Ulnes Walton	See Croston								
108	Urswick	41½	208	512	27½			7½		
111	Walton (upon the Hill)	461	239½	363½	352½	4½	32½			(38½)
112	Warrington	390½	16	329	209		13½			
118	Whalley	50	4	360	15		31			(1)
119	Wigan	215		656	159					
121	Winwick	1584	39½	2123½	410½	½	70½	8		

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### 11 Aughton

The number of acres of wheat and potatoes have been increased this year. I understand from my enquiries among the most experienced of my parishioners, the present wheat harvest is the finest within the last 40 years in this part of the Kingdom, both for quantity and quality of grain; and that the general produce of all the other crops must prove very abundant. Rye not any in my parish but a large quantity is grown in some of the neighbouring parishes.

### 16/17 Blackburn

In obedience to the commands of the Lord Bishop of Chester I have endeavoured to obtain the information required by Government concerning the state of the crops this year within my parish. From the great extent of this parish, which consists of no less than 20 townships, and from the general unwillingness of farmers and overseers to make any communications on the subject, I have not been able to procure returns from more than 5 townships out of the number above mentioned. To procure the desired information in this part of the Kingdom, where the parishes are so extensive that the clergy cannot from their own personal inspection and knowledge return satisfactory statements to Government. I am persuaded that an act of Parliament is necessary: and if such a measure be resorted to I take the liberty humbly to suggest that in the first instance every farmer should be obliged to make a return to the overseer of the town within which the farm lies of the number of acres of different sorts of grain which he grows that the overseer from the returns of all the farmers within his township or district should make one return to the minister of the parish in which the township is situated; and that the minister from the returns of all the overseers within this parish should form one statement to be transmitted by him to Government. Without an act of this nature it will be difficult if not impracticable to procure such annual returns of the crops as Government may depend on.

### 18 Bolton

The produce has been abundant, without exception. These are acres of the Cheshire measure. There has been some difficulty in obtaining the information necessary. The parish is extensive consisting of 19 townships and as I have not the least concern with the tithe or other ( ? ) connections, I could only depend upon the civility of some principal residents in them. Perhaps it may be thought advisable to adapt some more certain method in future to ascertain the produce.

- 21 Bury  
Average produce wheat 4 quarters per acre, barley 6, oats 5, potatoes 120 loads (12 score to the load). About one half of the people hereabout consume little or no wheat.
- 22 Cartmal  
This is a true and accurate statement of this year's crop in my parish.
- 23 Childwall  
Potatoes, the greatest part applied for food for cattle. Peas very few grown, the few that are, are classed with the oats, beans very few grown, the few that are, are classed with the barley, turnips or rape very few grown in the parish, those that are, are chiefly applied for food for horned beasts.
- 33 Croston and its townships  
All the crops very abundant and well housed.
- 35 Dalton  
Grain of all kinds was remarkably well fed this present year and all well got in except barley, the measure is computed according to statute measure.
- 41 Eccles  
This is a correct statement to the enquiries desired. N.B. the remarks will be found in the sheet enclosing this.  
(Editor's note: seemingly this sheet has not survived.)
- 40 Eccleston  
Of the large measure here used of 8 yards to the rod or pole. Turnips are not usually sown except in private gardens a small quantity for the use of a family.
- 45 Flixton  
Flixton is not a corn parish, hay being the principal commodity. The crops in general are abundant.
- 50 Hale  
The several articles of produce here enumerated may be all looked up as better than an average crop.
- 52 Halsall  
N.B. the acre is measured by eight yards to the pole or perch: and the crop has been estimated to be about one-fifth more than an average quantity per acre.
- 62 Kirkham  
The crops of these several sorts of grain are exceeding abundant and well housed. The potatoes are not yet got all out of the ground, but promise extraordinary well.

64 Lancaster

The parish of Lancaster is very extensive containing several chapelries and townships. The annexed account is the amount of the number of statute acres of grain in the townships within the district of the mother church. That of the chapelries and some townships has not been delivered in, and which may be supposed to exceed the annexed amount.

69 Malling

Note the bread made of oaten meal is the common bread used here. Malling parish being situated upon the banks of the River Lune near Lancaster (a very fertile vale) the ground is more calculated for pasturage, and fattening cattle, than for ploughing. The principal food of the poor classes of the people, is oaten bread, and potatoes.

70 Middleton

It may not be improper to remark that the acres throughout this parish consist of 7 yards to the rod. The crops in general are not only abundant but also of superior quality.

79/80 North Meols

In compliance with the Bishop of Chester's desire I have the honour of transmitting to your Lordship an account of the quantity of the different kinds of grain grown in the parish of North Meols which I believe to be tolerably correct. I have no observation to make excepting that the crops have been very abundant, and I believe the number of acres sown in the present, to be rather greater than in common years in consequence of the season being particularly favourable to the mode of cultivation which is adapted in this part of Lancashire.

86 Pennington

N.B. these are customary acres of 6½ yards to the pole or perch, and not statute acres of 5½ yards to the pole or perch.

84 Poulton-le-Fylde

All customary acres of 7½ yards to the pole. The produce of the year is in all these surprisingly abundant, and there is already an almost incredible reduction in the prices. The corn tithes are almost all in lay hands, it is not therefore an easy business for the ministers to make out the desired account, more especially in very extensive parishes. Peas and beans sown together, commonly called blendings, there are few if any clear peas sown in this part of Lancashire. The excess in oats above wheat is principally owing to two inclosures made within 30 years last past in this parish.

87 Prestwich cum Oldham

There is little corn grown in proportion to the extent of the parish and the number of its inhabitants. The parish is 15 miles in length and contains about 25,000 souls. I have been thus

dilatory in sending the account, owing to the tithes being let in 12 different townships, and the difficulty I had in getting a statement from the lessees. The measures used are about half Lancashire and half Cheshire of 7 yards per rod and 8 yards per rod respectively.

94 Radcliffe

The parish of Radcliffe is very small, being limited to the township of that name. And being likewise very populous, which occasions a great demand of milk and butter, the land is principally applied to the purpose of producing meadow and pasture grass.

93 Rochdale

The quantity of wheat and barley grown in this parish is very inconsiderable, oatbread being the common food, and the bulk of inhabitants being employed in trade, land is used for other purposes.

97 St Michaels on Wyre

Very little barley sown in this parish at all times; turnips or peas but little. Oatbread and potatoes furnish the chief part of the subsistence of poor and middle class.

102 Standish

Potatoes, there is no tithe demanded of this root, and the ground cultivated with it is chiefly in patches for the consumption of the individual (or his family) who digs it. We have great reason to be thankful to Providence for the abundance of this harvest, the crops are unusually large and fine. Beans very few, very few turnips, no rape. N.B. the parish of Standish consists of 11 townships thus denominated

	Wheat	Barley	Oats
1 and 2 Standish-with-Loughtree	17 - 0 - 10	0 - 1 - 0	140 - 3 - 20
3 Coppull	34 - 2 - 0		167 - 1 - 20
4 Welch Whittle	6 - 0 - 0		33 - 0 - 0
5 Lower Charnock	3 - 2 - 25		109 - 2 - 19
6 Duxbury	1 - 3 - 0		40 - 3 - 30
7 Higher Charnock	1 - 1 - 0		50 - 0 - 15
8 Anderton	6 - 3 - 0		52 - 0 - 0
9 Adlington	9 - 0 - 0		49 - 3 - 0
10 Worthington	10 - 1 - 0	0 - 1 - 20	40 - 0 - 0
11 Shevington	8 - 0 - 0		63 - 2 - 0

In all these excepting Lower Charnock (which has seven yards and a half to the perch) the customary measure is 8 yards to the perch, so that the acre is larger than two statute. N.B. there is a modus in the township of Charnock Richard of  $13/4$ d which covers about 20 acres (of 8 yards) of corn, communibus annis.

103 Tatham

The crops in this parish, have this year, been remarkably good, and in general well got in.

108 Urewick

There are no peas or beans, except those cultivated in gardens, which together cannot exceed 2 acres.

111 Walton (upon the Hill)

The acres here mentioned are customary acres of the Cheshire measure viz. 64 yards to the square perch. I have returned the amount of the whole extensive parish though possibly the ministers of the four parochial chapels may have returned the acres within their respective townships. I should observe the uncommon high prices here occasioned more than the usual quantities of potatoes and all sorts of grain to have been sown and in general a very trifling modus which with the hay tithe acts like a premium for laying down grounds to grass and the increase of the commercial town of Liverpool by covering the neighbouring townships with villas, ( ? ) pleasure grounds and cow pastures has occasioned for many years a material decrease in corn land.

112 Warrington

8 yards to the pole or perch. The principal and best quarter of this parish belongs to the hospital of Warwick; and the produce of it is given and could be given only, as the lessee gave the account, of it. Peas, turnips or rape none but for kitchen use.

119 Wigan

Wheat a very good crop yielding this year about 70 bushels per acre, barley none grown, oats a particularly good crop yielding about 75 bushels per acre. Potatoes more grown in this parish this year than in former years yielding 280 bushels per acre.

121 Winwick

A few remarks as occurred to me as necessary, or proper to add to this paper, or return, are made in a letter which accompanies it addressed to the Right Honourable Lord Pelham. (Editor's note: this letter has not survived in this collection but it may turn up in the other Home Office Papers.)