

‘Poor Law Union Coal Prices, 1842-3 GIS shapefile documentation’ by Max Satchell

**File name: PoorLawUnionCoalPrices1842-3.shp**

This GIS dataset consists of point data for average coal prices for 474 poor law unions for the years 1842-3 as published in the British Parliamentary Papers.<sup>1</sup> The price data was digitised by Dan Bogart. The point data locations were created by Max Satchell following advice from Leigh Shaw-Taylor and help from Peter Higginbotham. The point data derives from two different sources. For urban poor law unions the town after which the poor law union was named was used with the GIS point data deriving from the Candidate Town Points GIS Database 1563-1911. Creating point data for rural poor law unions was less straightforward. Many rural poor law unions were extremely large (>100,000 acres) and it was not immediately obvious what type location would best represent PLU coal prices within each one. Following discussion with, and advice from Leigh Shaw-Taylor, the workhouse of each poor law union was used as the location point on the assumption that this would be the location of greatest amount of coal provided by the union for the consumption by the poor. The locations of rural workhouses were derived from the work of Peter Higginbotham. For England the co-ordinate data was kindly supplied as a single file by Historic England for England. For Wales the co-ordinate data was digitised from the *Workhouse Encyclopedia*.<sup>2</sup> We wish to thank Peter Higginbotham for giving us permission to use his data.

**Attribute data**

*PoorLawUnionCoalPrices1842-3.shp*

The dbf table contains the following fields.

<i>Field</i>	<i>Data type</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>FID</b>	Object ID	Unique ID for each row in the table
<b>Shape</b>	Polygon	Polygon/s for each ancient county as per the 1831 census
<b>NAME</b>	Text	Poor law union name
<b>COUNTRY</b>	Text	Name of country
<b>PRICE</b>	Long	Shillings per ton
<b>STATUS</b>	Text	Urban or rural

**Co-ordinate system**

British\_National\_Grid

Projection: Transverse\_Mercator

False\_Easting: 400000.000000

False\_Northing: -100000.000000

Central\_Meridian: -2.000000

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<sup>1</sup> ‘Account of Prices of Articles of Consumption at Poor Law Unions in England and Wales, June 1842 and 1843’, House of Commons Paper, No. 554, BPP, XLV (1843)

<sup>2</sup> P. Higginbotham, *The Workhouse Encyclopedia* (2012), Appendices D-E

Scale\_Factor: 0.999601

Latitude\_Of\_Origin: 49.000000

Linear Unit: Meter

GCS\_OSGB\_1936

Datum: D\_OSGB\_1936

### **Citation Guidelines**

The citations in this document should be used to reference any maps and/ or data when they have been included in any essays, dissertations or other academic works. You should cite the data even if it does not appear as an image or map in your work if it has been used to generate findings or a new dataset that is used

### **Citation**

Satchell, M., Bogart, D., and Shaw-Taylor, L., 'Poor Law Union Coal Prices, 1842-3' (2016)

A description of the dataset can be found in Satchell, M., 'Poor Law Union Coal Prices, 1841-2 GIS shapefile documentation' available at:

<http://www.campop.geog.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/occupations/datasets/documentation.html>.