Defining long-run agricultural trends:
A compilation of and concordance for the statistics gathered by the June Farm Census

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Summary

The Agricultural Census, also known as the June Farm Census was first taken on 25th June 1866 following earlier attempts made to gather systematic data on agricultural production in 1795, 1798, 1801 and 1803. It took some years to achieve comprehensive coverage, but from 1866 onwards the June Farm Census has annually gathered statistics farm by farm on the area of each crop and the number of farm animals as well as the amounts of land used under different forms of tenure and numbers of workers of different kinds in some years.

The objective of this project was to make the June Agricultural Census data a more useable resource for researchers to use and interpret by collating the information that has already been computerised, and by producing a 'concordance', which would provide information to researchers on what information is available at different times. The project focuses on data before 1969. Computerised farm level data after this date are held by Defra.

The scope of the project was clearly limited by the information that survives. The project has identified and documented a number of transcriptions of parish-level summaries held by the National Archives made by academic researchers, although these mostly cover small areas and we have not been able to obtain computerised versions. The exception is a parish-level dataset covering much of south-east England in 1877 and 1931, which we have enhanced and linked to our existing parish-level GIS, enabling both illustrative thematic mapping and further investigation of the detailed geography of the survey. The project also examines issues associated with the definitions of parishes and counties over time.

However, the primary result of this project is not the report but the information added to the website A Vision of Britain through Time[^1]. In that, the statistical data can be linked closely to the concordance of variables, and the relationships between the categories used at different dates explored in a more intuitive way. Under our primary funding from the Joint Information Systems Committee, the site is required to be kept running by the University of Portsmouth at least until 2014. A further output is a single Excel workbook assembling all the original county-level statistical data which has been deposited with both Defra and the UK Data Archive.

[^1]: [http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk](http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk)