Acknowledgements

This book was first conceived on my arrival at the University of Sussex in the summer of 2013, though several of the ideas herein had a longer gestation. Beginning work at an institution with a peerless reputation for research on rural resistance past and present provided the spur to make sense of what had been a constant presence in my previous writings and as yet remained obscure, both in my thinking and in the wider historiography. How might one begin to research a book on the politics of hunger in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century? Having written the book I am convinced that no funding council or charity would be convinced of the case. Indeed, much of the material used here was gathered piecemeal whilst working on other projects, going back to the research undertaken for my doctoral thesis at the University of Bristol. This project, then, was only possible because of the slow accretion of materials across a wide range of topics, time periods, locales and archives. The list of the latter is far too long to detail here – indeed not all libraries and archives consulted remain open – but I note with thanks the permission to reproduce figure 4.1 granted by the East Riding Archives and Local Studies. The individuals who have helped to shape my thinking – and hence this book – are legion, but my particular thanks go to Iain Robertson, Briony McDonagh, Roy Jones, Katrina Navickas, Peter Jones, Steve Poole, Rose Wallis, Richard Hoyle, Malcolm Chase, Keith Lilley, Dave Featherstone, Paul Griffin, Keith Snell, Brian Short, Simon Sandall, and the much-missed Alun Howkins. An earlier version of chapter six appeared in volume 42 of *Historical Geography* and I would like to thank Gerry Kearns – the editor of that fine volume on ‘Irish Historical Geographies’ – for his thoughtful comments and careful editorial work. Chapter two was first aired at ‘People, Protest & the Land: A Workshop in Honour of Professor Alun Howkins’, held at the University of Sussex in July 2014. I would like to thank the organiser, Nicola Verdon, and the participants of the wonderful workshop for their feedback and encouragement. Sections of chapter five were first given as a paper at the British Agricultural History Society’s Winter Conference in December 2017.

Sussex has proved a wonderfully convivial place to think and work. For granting me a term of research leave – the first and only period of my career so far – so soon after my arrival I am hugely grateful to Richard Black and Alan Lester who appointed me. A year after arriving I became, suddenly and unexpectedly, Deputy Head of Department, and then two years later Head of Department. This book was written during these periods and has provided

happy respite from administration variably heavy and light. My thanks in particular for the company and comradeship of Simon Rycroft, Divya Tolia-Kelly, Alan Lester, my former Head of School Andrea Cornwall and current Head of School Buzz Harrison. To Suzanne, who has lived with this book, at home and away, for always supporting me and my work. And to Silas. This is for you both, that you might never know of the horrors of hunger but through the pages that follow.

Bangor, August 2019