Are You Lost? Using Maps, Gazetteers and Directories For British Isles Research

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MAPS

Purpose - We need maps to be able to locate the homes and places of work and worship of our ancestors physically on the ground. Modern maps will show us how to get to those locations now. Comparing modern maps to older ones will show how the area has changed over time.

Types of maps

Modern - easiest to locate, with many scales and formats.
Early - difficult to locate, often highly stylized and not usually accurate
County - early style, often highly decorative, accuracy depending upon original purpose.
Estate - begin in 1570s, very common 1700-1850 with improved standards.
Enclosure - common from 1760 with Acts of Enclosure. Used as late as 1900.
Tithe - 1836 Tithe Commutation Act generated detailed maps, often naming landowners.
Town - few before 1612, early maps provide perspective view, later become true plans.
Transport - guides needed for travelers, first written, then visual. Later used by planners.
Industrial - designed to show specific industries in a particular locality or area.
Genealogical - generally outline maps showing county or parish boundaries

Ordnance Survey Maps
1" to the mile
6" to the mile
25" to the mile
You can now purchase modern and old maps direct from the Ordnance Survey at: www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk or Customer Service Centre, Ordnance Survey, Romsey Road, Southampton, SO16 4GU England

Map Scales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Representative Fraction</th>
<th>Inches to the Mile</th>
<th>Centimeters to Meters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:2,500</td>
<td>25in. to 1 mi.</td>
<td>1cm: 25 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:10,000</td>
<td>6¼in. to 1 mi.</td>
<td>1cm: 100 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:10,560</td>
<td>6in. to 1 mi.</td>
<td>1cm: 105.6 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:25,000</td>
<td>2½in. to 1 mi.</td>
<td>1cm: 250 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:50,000</td>
<td>1½in. to 1 mi.</td>
<td>1cm: 500 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:63,360</td>
<td>1in. to 1 mi.</td>
<td>1cm: 633.6 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:100,000</td>
<td>½mi. to 1 in.</td>
<td>1cm: 1 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:126,720</td>
<td>2mi. to 1 in.</td>
<td>1cm: 1.26 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:150,000</td>
<td>2½mi. to 1 in.</td>
<td>1cm: 1.5 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:175,000</td>
<td>3mi. to 1 in.</td>
<td>1cm: 1.75 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:200,000</td>
<td>3½mi. to 1 in.</td>
<td>1cm: 2 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:250,000</td>
<td>4mi. to 1 in.</td>
<td>1cm: 2.5 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:253,440</td>
<td>4mi. to 1 in.</td>
<td>1cm: 2.53 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:500,000</td>
<td>8mi. to 1 in.</td>
<td>1cm: 5 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:633,600</td>
<td>10mi. to 1 in.</td>
<td>1cm: 6.33 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:750,000</td>
<td>11¾mi. to 1 in.</td>
<td>1cm: 7.5 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:1,000,000</td>
<td>15¼mi. to 1 in.</td>
<td>1cm: 10 km</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ordnance Survey Map Editions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One-inch Series/Edition</th>
<th>Survey</th>
<th>Published Sheets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Old</td>
<td>1784-1869</td>
<td>1805-74 110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New/1st</td>
<td>1841-93</td>
<td>1874-96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New/2nd</td>
<td>1893-9</td>
<td>1895-9 346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New/3rd (sm. sheets)</td>
<td>1901-12</td>
<td>1903-13 347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New/3rd (lge. sheets)</td>
<td>1901-12</td>
<td>1906-13 152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New/4th</td>
<td>1909-10</td>
<td>1911-12 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New/&quot;popular edition&quot;</td>
<td>1912-23</td>
<td>1918-26 146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New/5th</td>
<td>1928-38</td>
<td>1931-9 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New/&quot;War Revision 1940&quot;</td>
<td>1913-40</td>
<td>1940-1 146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New/Second</td>
<td>1913-42</td>
<td>1940-3 128</td>
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<tr>
<td>War Revision</td>
<td>1940</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New/6th</td>
<td>1913-46</td>
<td>1940-7 114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New/Seventh Series</td>
<td>1947-58</td>
<td>1952-61 115</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seventh Series' (rev.)</td>
<td>1958-71</td>
<td>1960-73 115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landranger</td>
<td>1976-84</td>
<td>1979-84 120</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Godfrey Maps

These are reductions of the original 1:2500 Ordnance Survey maps to a scale of approximately 1:4340 or about 15 inches to the mile. The maps are generally late 19th century and early 20th century. The reverse of the maps often lists the local city directories for the same time period. These are especially valuable for urban areas. Contact the publisher at: Alan Godfrey
General about maps

Maps for England, Scotland, and Wales

Maps for England and Wales

Maps for Scotland

GAZETTEERS
A gazetteer is a tool to locate a specific place on a map and to provide particular information about that same place. Remember to search national and county gazetteers as they provide different types of information.

Simplest gazetteers provide specific longitude and latitude coordinates to locate a specific place on world’s surface. The best modern gazetteer is *Ordnance Survey Gazetteer of Great Britain*.

Online at www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk search for a specific place using custom made map

The printed version will give you all specific options named on the map, while the database will only get you into the correct area.

Gazetteers for British Isles, Great Britain, England
17. *The Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales*, 6 vols. Edinburgh: A. Fullerton, 1870. It is this set that forms the basis for spelling
and location of all places of England in the Family History Library Catalog. This set lists place names as they were in the 1860's and briefly discusses distances from other nearby places, names of the church denominations in the area, historical background, and the civil district. 5 of the 6 volumes are available at www.archive.org plus is the gazetteer used at www.visionofbritain.org.uk

18. Bartholomew Gazetteer of Places in Britain. Edinburgh: John Bartholomew & Son, 1986. This is a good atlas and gazetteer to find MODERN locations and county names.


Gazetteers for Wales


Gazetteers for Scotland

27. Lewis, Samuel. Topographical Dictionary of Wales, 2 vols. London: S.Lewis, 1831. Reprinted 1995. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co. Includes many residences of the landed families and geographic features but they are listed under the parish or town. This is not the best book to use if you do not know the parish or town. Available at www.archive.org

28. The County Directory of Scotland - various years - www.archive.org


**Gazetteers for Ireland**

36. Ireland, Registrar General, *Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns of Ireland*. Dublin: Alexander Thom, 1877. Arranged alphabetically by the name of the townland, town, village or place. Each entry provides the locality's county, barony, parish, poor law union, area in statute miles, and reference for locating on Ordnance Survey maps. Used to identify all places in the FHL Catalog. On microfilm 476,999, Item 2.


When gazetteers fail contact: Place-Names Commission, Phoenix Park, Dublin 8, IRELAND (EIRE)

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**INTERNET ACCESS**

**Check for maps at:**
- Cyndis List - www.cyndislist.com
- GENUKI - www.genuki.org.uk
- County Sections of GENUKI

**Gazetteers**
- Vision of Britain at www.visionofbritain.org.uk contains copies of Bartholomew, Groome and Wilson Gazetteers.

**Fire Insurance Maps**
- www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/index.html
  - Charles E. Goad Ltd digitized maps provided by British Library, for many major cities.

  - National Library of Scotland www.nls.uk - over 107,000 online high quality map reproductions from all periods and locations in Scotland, plus the Ordnance Survey maps for England.

  - Check for county specific sites that may provide online map repositories, e.g. for Northumberland http://communities.northumberland.gov.uk

  - Look also for the community you are looking at to see if maps have been provided, e.g. Bath-in Time at www.bathintime.co.uk

  - Genmaps - scanned images of old maps for each county for different time periods http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~genmaps

  - Association of British Counties - Sites provides lots of details about the structure of the old counties in their attempt to encourage the restoration of the old county names. www.abcounties.co.uk

**Modern Maps** - Interactive websites also providing aerial views of area.
- Multimap - www.multimap.com
- Streetmap - www.streetmap.co.uk

**Directory of UK Map Collections** produced by the British Cartographic Society www.cartography.org.uk

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