



# CAIRT

Issue 29  
July 2016

*Newsletter of the Scottish Maps Forum*

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### SCOTTISH MAPS FORUM

The Forum was initiated by the National Library of Scotland in 2002:

- ◆ To encourage multi-disciplinary map use, study and research, particularly relating to Scottish maps and mapmakers
- ◆ To disseminate information on Scottish maps and map collections
- ◆ To record information on maps and mapmaking, particularly in a Scottish context
- ◆ To liaise with other groups and individuals with map related interests
- ◆ To build on, and to continue, the work of Project Pont

### CAIRT

The newsletter is issued twice a year. "Cairt" is Gaelic & 17<sup>th</sup> century Scots for map.

For further information, or to be added to the mailing list, please contact:

**Scottish Maps Forum**  
**National Library of Scotland**  
159 Causewayside  
Edinburgh  
EH9 1PH

Tel: 0131 623 4660  
Fax: 0131 623 3971  
E-mail: [maps@nls.uk](mailto:maps@nls.uk)



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## New map exhibition - 'You are here. A journey through maps'

We are delighted to be holding a major map exhibition at the main National Library of Scotland exhibition hall in George IV Bridge, Edinburgh from **22 July 2016 – 2 April 2017**.

Maps are everywhere, on our phones, in our cars and pockets, on walls, bus stops and advertisements. They proclaim YOU ARE HERE! Maps plant us firmly in a place, at an exact spot in the World. We rely on them to navigate safely from one place to another. But how much do we really know about them?

This exhibition challenges our acceptance of maps, by posing questions about how they are made and how we understand them. Each map on display shows the answer to some, or all of those questions. It aims to encourage examination and critical assessment of maps with a view to enhancing understanding of both the usefulness and limitations of maps as information resources.

Drawn from the Library's collection of more than 2 million maps and atlases, the maps zoom out from the Library itself to the whole world. They include one of the finest plans of Edinburgh, the first map of Scotland, the first population map of Great Britain, as well as more utilitarian rail network, fishing or schoolroom maps. Together they demonstrate the versatility of maps.

*Continued on page 2*



*Bartholomew's Plan of the City of Edinburgh with Leith & Suburbs (1891)*

## 'You are here' map exhibition (contd.)

Travel through the exhibition, from the Library to the edge of the world, look into the maps and seek the answers. Wonder at the cartographers' skill, drawing together art and science to produce useful, beautiful, indispensable maps.



We will also be showcasing further parts of our map collection with a "Map of the Month". Opening with *Edinburgum, Scotiae metropolis* by Braun & Hogenberg, later including Finlayson's *Plan of the battle of Culloden*, and even the *Marauder's Map* from Harry Potter - look out for these on the Library's social media.

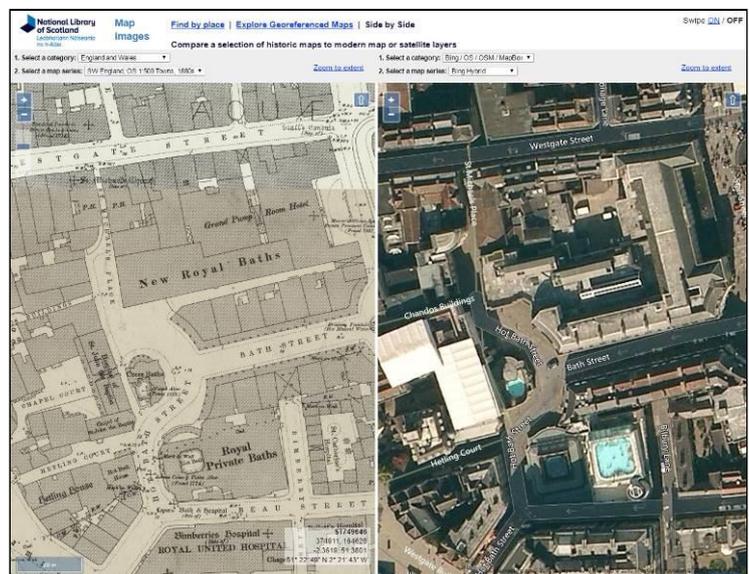
There will also be a programme of lectures and workshops, starting with an illustrated lecture by curator Paula Williams *You are here... at last: the story of the map exhibition* on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September in George IV Bridge. See <http://www.nls.uk/events> for details of this and other map events.

*Left: J. Gellatly's School room map of Europe by the Scottish School Book Association..[ca. 1852]*

## Recent website additions

### New OS Town Plans and OS 25 inch mapping for Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire, 1870s-1880s

We have been pleased to collaborate with the British Library in a recent project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, to scan, georeference and make available more Ordnance Survey mapping for south-west England. The project forms part of the 'Know Your Place' West of England Project (<http://www.kypwest.org.uk/>), and has included OS 25 inch to the mile maps, and more detailed OS town plans at 1:500 scale for the counties of Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire. Another benefit of the project is that the British Library have filled gaps in our incomplete holdings of these series, so that our online presentation of these series is much more complete, including the British Library maps.



Comparing the OS large-scale town plan for central Bath in the 1880s (left) to the present day (right) in our Side by Side viewer

- Georeferenced 25 inch first edition layer, SW England, 1873-1888: <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=7&lat=51.5336&lon=-2.1561&layers=178>
- OS Town Plans of England and Wales, 1840s-1890s, SW England: <http://maps.nls.uk/os/townplans-england/index.html>
- Georeferenced Town Plan layer, SW England, 1880s: <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=9&lat=51.4394&lon=-2.5282&layers=117746211>

## Recent website additions (contd.)

### Progress with OS 25 inch mapping of England and Wales, 1841-1952

Most of our map digitisation work is externally funded, and this is why our main online progress is still with Ordnance Survey mapping of England and Wales. Since the last issue of *Cairt*, we have scanned and made available another 26,594 sheets of this series, taking our overall coverage to 59,338 sheets. We are putting online all NLS 1:2,500 holdings of England, working our way northwards, and we currently have available all counties south of a meandering line from Shropshire to Suffolk. The 25 inch to the mile maps are the most detailed covering rural areas as well as smaller towns and villages, allowing almost every feature in the landscape to be shown. They are excellent for local and family history, as well for researching the detailed history of the landscape. A georeferenced layer of 2<sup>nd</sup> edition mapping from around 1900 is also available.

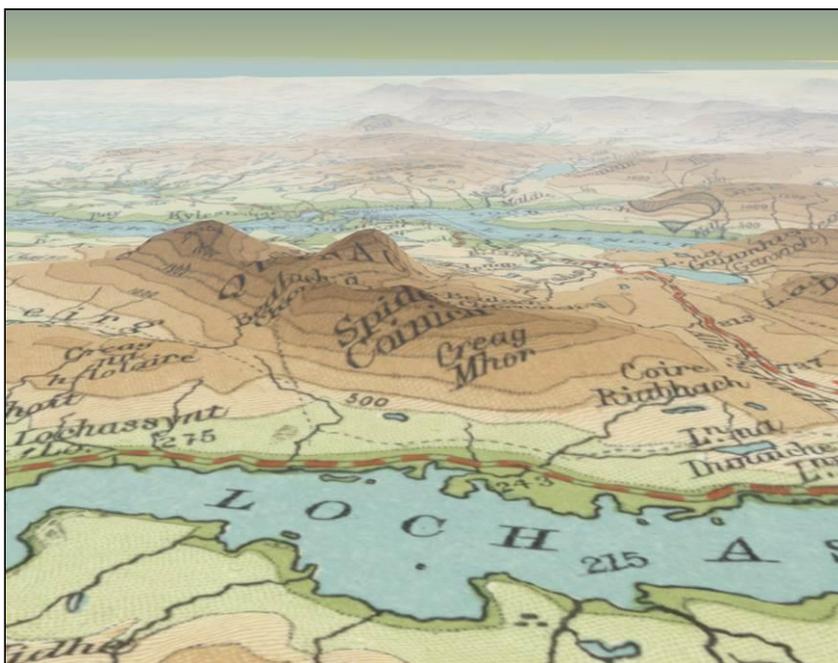


OS 25 inch to the mile map of St Peter's Church, Nottingham in 1881

Home page: <http://maps.nls.uk/os/25inch-england-and-wales/index.html>

### New 3D viewer for our georeferenced maps

Our georeferenced maps are the most popular part of our website and we are continually looking for new ways to view and interact with them. In January we launched a new 3D viewer which allows our georeferenced maps to be explored from a bird's eye perspective. The viewer combines digital elevation data with our historical maps to drape them over a 3D landscape. With a little practice, you can now alter your altitude, tilt and orientation to look down on any one of our 600 historic georeferenced map layers in 3D. It is also possible to fade the transparency and view different modern base maps and satellite imagery too. The results are both great fun and informative, as previous patterns of land-use or settlement on historic maps can be re-interpreted with reference to slope and terrain.



Many large-scale Ordnance Survey maps are plain and carry no shading to show relief, but they can now be viewed and interpreted afresh, allowing visualisations of the modern and historic landscape to be explored from new perspectives. Even maps with hachures or layer-colouring can be viewed in new ways too, as illustrated by this Bartholomew 'Half-Inch to the mile' mapping from 1900 draped over the mountain of Quinag in Assynt (left).

Check out our 3D Viewer directly at <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/3d/>, or through the 3D tab in the footer of our 'Explore Georeferenced Maps' viewer ( <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/> )

## Maps Reading Room News

### New Opening Hours

Over recent years, our online maps collection has become increasingly popular, and many readers are accessing our collections from the comfort of their home or office. As a result, the opening hours of the Maps Reading Room have changed from 4<sup>th</sup> July. The Maps Reading Room now opens three days a week, with map staff working on digitisation projects and other collection tasks on days the Maps Reading Room is closed. This will greatly enhance discovery and access to this collection for the future.

The new opening hours are:

- **Monday 9.30am to 5pm**
- **Tuesday 9.30am to 5pm**
- **Thursday 9.30am to 5pm**

Map staff are continuing to respond to e-mail and telephone enquiries 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. On Saturdays a map assistant is now based in the Multimedia Room at George IV Bridge, Edinburgh. They are providing map expertise, and assistance in viewing our online map collection. You can also view annual snapshots of modern detailed Ordnance Survey digital mapping of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

### New entrance

The Causewayside Building where the Maps Reading Room is located is currently under scaffolding, as part of a major programme of building works. The roof, glass and stonework of the building are all being renovated and this work is scheduled to continue for another two years.

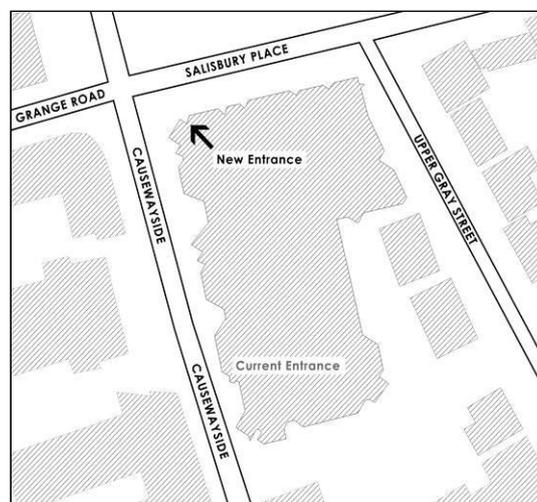
From 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016, the entrance to the Maps Reading Room has had to move to 33 Salisbury Place. (This was the old public entrance until the Reading Room moved 5 years ago, so will be familiar to many of you.) There is an intercom at this entrance - please press the intercom on arrival, and map staff will come quickly to escort you to the Reading Room. The move will allow the current entrance foyer facing Causewayside to be replaced.

The new external fabric on Salisbury Place has recently emerged from behind the scaffolding (see photograph, below right). This is the first side of the building to be completed and gives an encouraging impression of how the whole building should appear at the conclusion of the project.

We apologise for the inconvenience caused to readers by these building works

### Self-service photography arrangements now permanent

The trial of self-service photography in the Maps Reading Room was successful and popular with readers. This is now a regular service – if you are interested in photographing collection items in the Reading Room please sign up for this service at the front desk. Details of the terms and conditions, and frequently asked questions, can be viewed on our website. <http://www.nls.uk/using-the-library/reading-rooms/maps/photography> Self-service photography is also available in the Special Collections Reading Room. Work is currently underway on allowing self-service photography in the General Reading Room at George IV Bridge. A trial is expected to start later this summer.



## New Map Publications

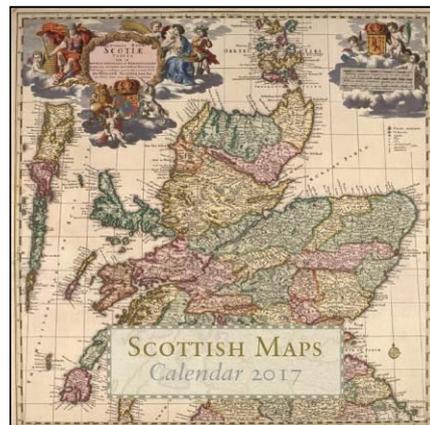
### Scottish Maps Calendar 2017

Is it too early to be thinking about a calendar for next year? Possibly, but as our next issue of *Cairt* will be in early 2017, we are bringing you advance notice now so you can beat the rush! This new calendar features a selection of some of the most beautiful maps of Scotland, including maps of the whole country, county maps, town plans and military maps. Stay organised for the year ahead whilst looking at an attractive early map of Scotland every month.

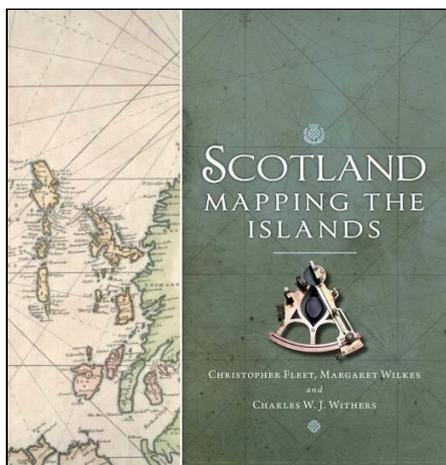
<http://www.birlinn.co.uk/Scottish-Maps-Calendar-2017.html>

Published June 2016 by Birlinn in association with the National Library of Scotland.

Page size: 30 x 30 cm. ISBN: 9781780273280 £9.99



### Scotland: Mapping the Islands



*Scotland: Mapping the Islands* by C.Fleet, J.M. Wilkes and C.W.J. Withers looks at the history and geography behind the many maps of Scotland's islands. It aims to show how that history and geography has been realised in and produced through the art, the artifice and the authority of maps. The book is due to be published in October 2016, and continues the successful series of Birlinn-NLS illustrated volumes on the historical maps of Scotland.

Scotland's many islands have an extraordinary fascination on countless people - as miniature worlds, beautiful locations and homes to communities seemingly distant from the stresses of modern life - not least on the hundreds of thousands of visitors who visit them each year. Maps too fascinate, as objects of visual delight and historical importance, and as a means of representing and understanding landscapes.

This is the first book to take the maps of Scotland's islands as its central focus, reproducing some of the most beautiful and historically significant maps from the National Library of Scotland's magnificent collections in order to explore the many dimensions of island life and how this has changed over time. The book is arranged thematically and covers topics such as population, place-names, defence, improvement, the exploitation of natural resources, navigation, and leisure and tourism. The book presents the rich and diverse story of Scottish islands from the earliest maps to the most up-to-date techniques of digital mapping in a unique and imaginative way.

<http://www.birlinn.co.uk/Scotland-Mapping-the-Islands.html>

To be published October 2016 by Birlinn in association with the National Library of Scotland.

ISBN: 9781780273518. Hardback: £30.00

There will be an illustrated talk at 6 pm on 21 November in George IV Bridge on *Scotland: Mapping the Islands* by the authors - see <http://www.nls.uk/events> from September to book a place.

### Calling all researchers - forthcoming Scottish Maps Forum workshop

The Scottish Maps Forum is planning to resume its series of annual workshops, bringing together recent research on historical maps of Scotland into a day seminar on a shared theme. We would be particularly interested in hearing from you if you are or have recently been working on any aspect of maps and mapping relating to Scotland over time and might be interested in speaking at a forthcoming seminar - please contact Chris Fleet ([c.fleet@nls.uk](mailto:c.fleet@nls.uk)) or Paula Williams ([p.williams@nls.uk](mailto:p.williams@nls.uk)) to discuss or with a brief note about your work. We are planning to hold our next SMF Seminar in February 2017, so we hope to put plans together in the next 3-4 months for this.

## FA MacDonald Plans Collection, University of Aberdeen [MS 3860]

**Douglas Lockhart provides an introduction to this recently indexed collection of estate, engineering, and infrastructure plans relating to north-east Scotland**

The records of FA MacDonald and Partners, engineers and surveyors, held in the Special Collections Centre at the University of Aberdeen contain more than 5,000 plans. The coverage of plans reflects the hinterland of the Aberdeen firm Walker and Duncan and its predecessors that were incorporated into FA MacDonald in the 1950s. The majority of the plans are of Aberdeen City and the former counties of Aberdeenshire, Banffshire and Kincardineshire, though there are a few plans from other areas of eastern Scotland and the Highlands. The plans date from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century and include examples of estate mapping immediately before and after enclosure; investment in drainage in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and infrastructure projects such as commutation roads, water supply and sewerage schemes. The collection also contains a number of plans prepared for the sale and break-up of landed estates in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The plans have been organized into parish portfolios (wards in Aberdeen City) and by date. Some parishes have more than one portfolio: Maryculter, Kincardineshire has three, Dyce, Aberdeenshire has two, most have one and Udny, Aberdeenshire has none.

The catalogue provides an indication of roughly how many plans survive for each parish. In the past, readers would order the relevant portfolio(s) though what each folder contained was a matter of guesswork. That changed on 1 March 2016, when Special Collections launched an index which enables readers to search for plans of a particular place. This can be accessed from the University of Aberdeen: Library, Special Collections and Museums page by selecting 'Manuscripts & Archives Catalogue':

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/about/special/search-catalogues/>

*Continued on page 7*



**Fig.1.** A plan of Balhaggarty and Conglass belonging to Miss Mary Erskine of Pittodry [sic] surveyed Anno 1771 by Geo[rge] Brown. MS 3860/5501

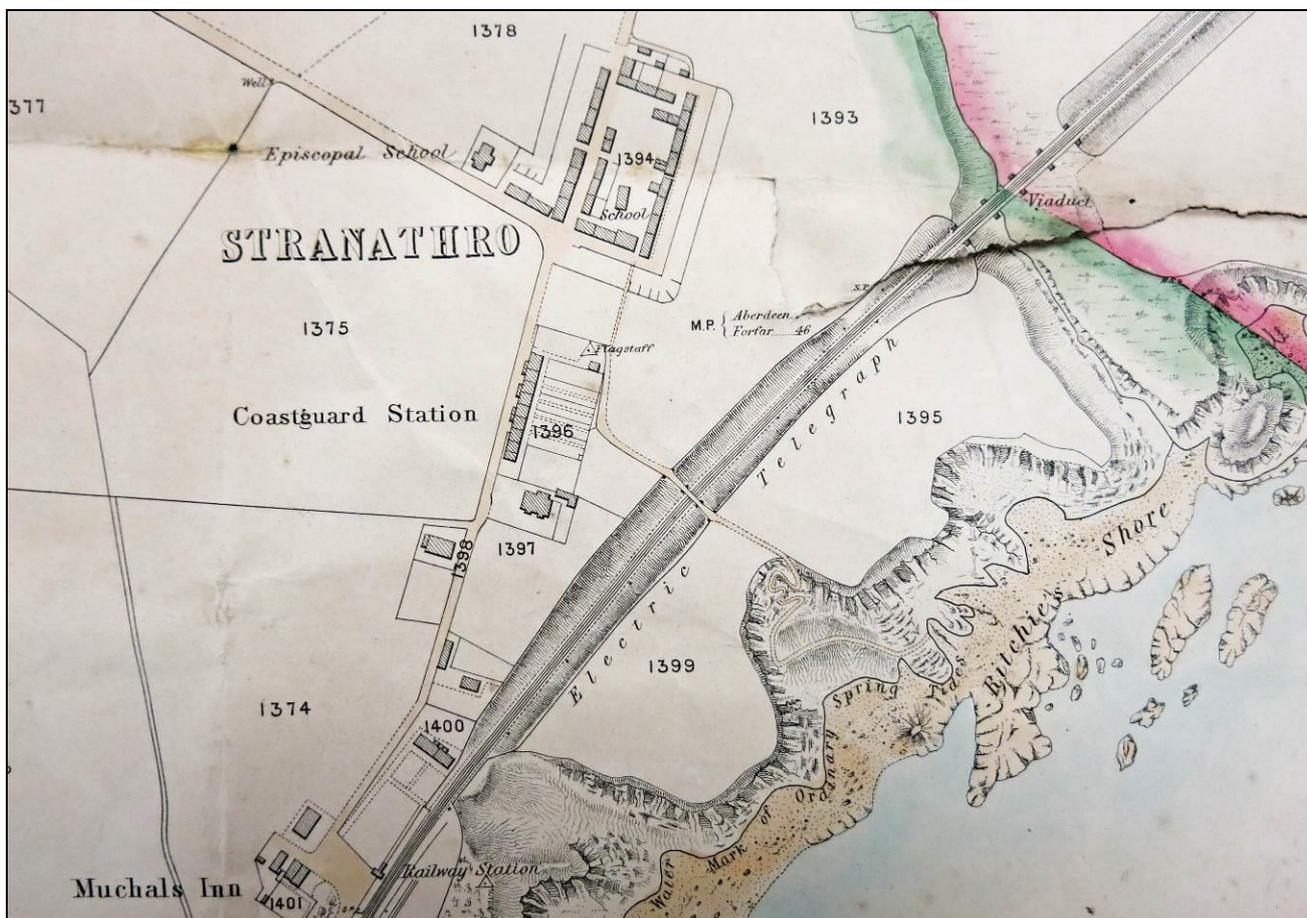
In the box 'Ref No' type **MS 3860\*** [it is space sensitive] and in the box 'Title' type the place name. Most plans in the MacDonald Collection are in good condition, a few of the earliest plans are too fragile to be consulted and some annotated Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 plans have been damaged by heavy use in the surveyor's office.

Digital photography for research purposes is permitted and there is a form on which to record items that have been photographed. Anyone wishing to publish photographs of plans should submit these for approval to Special Collections staff who will also advise on the wording of an acknowledgement.

Researching the MacDonald Collection is very rewarding. It offers coverage that complements the plan holdings of the National Records of Scotland [RHP series] and the National Library of Scotland and the huge range of plans particularly during the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century provides an insight into the day to day work of the private land surveyor. The collection contains examples of plans by some of the North East region's early professional land surveyors in particular George Brown of Linkwood (1747-1816) (**Fig.1, opposite page**) and his apprentices, Colin Innes, Robert Johnston and George McWilliam.

Some surveyors are only represented by a single plan such as *Plan of the Farms of Kinchyle Antfield and Dares* [sic] in 1844 by Hector Morrison of Inverness (1805-88) [MS 3860/42001] and a *Plan of the Lands and Barony of Drumlithie ... 1850* by the Aberdeen combination of Alexander Smith (1811-84) and William Black Ferguson (1824-81) [MS 3860/36001]. However without doubt the collection offers its greatest insight into the careers of David Walker (1793-1844) and James Forbes Beattie (1804-77) whose partnership and Beattie's later work are represented by a vast range of plans. Finally, those interested in the history of cartography will find examples of manuscript and lithographed plans of the same location such as the *Estate of Westhall lying in the Parish of Oyne by James F Beattie, 1856* [MS 3860/19510 and /19513]; draft tracing plans; copies of earlier plans and plans modified from Ordnance Survey maps (**Fig.2, below**). The MacDonald Collection also provides compelling evidence that land surveyors in North East Scotland were very busy in the 1850s and 1860s and even after the arrival of the Ordnance Survey in the region in the late 1860s there were employment opportunities in public utilities and preparing plans for suburban housing.

**Dr Douglas Lockhart**



**Fig.2:** Plan of Part of the Lands and Barony of Muchalls in causa Milne's Trustees v The Crown Taken from the Ordnance Survey Plan, by George Cooper Roger, Land Surveyor, Aberdeen 1868. MS 3860/35286

## National Library of Scotland at Kelvin Hall



Years of planning and preparation will culminate in September with the opening of the Library's new facility at the Kelvin Hall in Glasgow. The £35 million refurbished Kelvin Hall building is part of unique collaboration between the Library, Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Life and the University of Glasgow. This will see the Kelvin Hall transformed into a cultural, academic and sporting complex of international significance.

Kelvin Hall will provide the Library with a base in Scotland's largest city for the first time. It will house the staff of the Moving Image Archive together with a new public access centre for the Library's digital and moving image collections. Readers will be able to view the latest in-copyright detailed Ordnance Survey mapping (from 1998 to the present day) at Kelvin Hall, as well as the digitised maps from the Library's collection available on our website.

Find out more at: <http://kelvinhall.org.uk/> and at: <http://www.nls.uk/using-the-library/kelvin-hall>

## CAIRT COMPETITION - two copies of the *Scottish Maps Calendar 2017* to be won...

This year is the 250th anniversary of Bonnie Prince Charlie's dramatic escape from Scotland, following a relentless pursuit over the Highlands and Islands after Culloden, an event which signalled the end of the Jacobite cause and which was soon documented in broadsheets, books and maps. This pro-Jacobite map is a good example, showing the Prince's various crossings of the Minch, hunted by naval warships.

To win a copy of the Calendar, please let us know the **name of the map-maker** of this map (which can be found on our website) - send or e-mail your answers, marked *Cairt Competition* to [maps@nls.uk](mailto:maps@nls.uk) or to the address on the front cover by 31 September 2016. The winners will be picked randomly from the correct entries and informed by 15 October 2016.



Congratulations to Graeme Cruickshank and Lesley Donald who each won a copy of *Glasgow: Mapping the City* from last issue's competition, and thanks to all who took part. The answer to how far the south-east corner of Glasgow University Library (where it was in the 1890s) was from the nearest trigonometrical station / trig point was 70 metres or 230 feet (rounded up to the nearest 10 metres/30 feet) - the nearest trig point being on the tower of the Gilmore Hill / south entrance to the Gilbert Scott university building.