



CAIRT

Issue 36
January 2020

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 & 17th century Scots for map.

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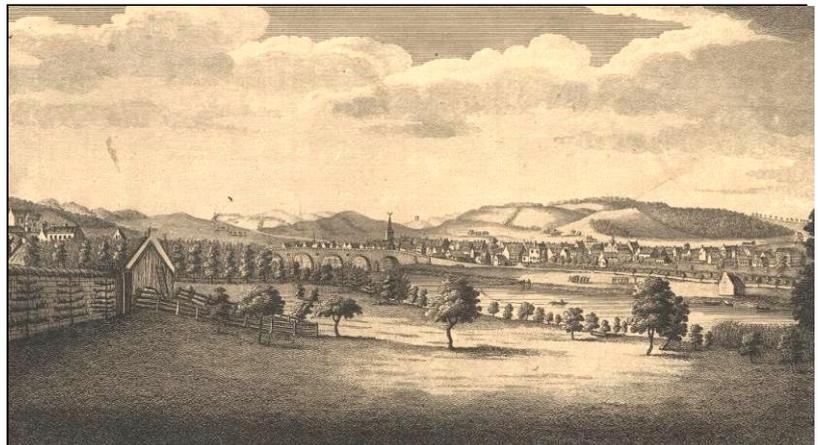
ISSN 1477-4186

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Editor: C. Fleet Technical Editor: J. Parkerson

Scottish Maps Forum seminar Perth – 15 May 2020

Our next Scottish Maps Forum seminar will be held in the AK Bell Library in Perth on 15 May, and features a packed day of talks on many recent projects and research relating to early maps of Scotland. The first part of the day will focus on various community mapping projects from Beaulieu, Glenlivet, and Dumfries and Galloway, describing scanning initiatives and related research that has been encouraged. The discovery and rescue of local maps, and work to allow their wider availability is also covered. The afternoon includes a recent map restoration project, describing the intricacies and practicalities of conserving an early map of Stornoway, as well as a couple of current university research projects. One of these is on the Stevenson civil engineering plans, and a project to make records of these plans more accessible, whilst the other is a recently completed PhD on the Scottish lime industry. We will also look at ongoing research on the automatic extraction of features from historic maps. The event is a collaboration with Perth and Kinross Archives, and during the lunch break, there will be a tour and display of their early maps. This will include selected county and estate maps, town plans, engineering drawings, coastal charts, and publications of the Munro Society, all with a local connection.

Booking is essential - please find an enclosed flier (online at <https://www.nls.uk/collections/maps/subject-info/forum>), to be returned by Friday 1 May.



'Perth from the North West' on James Stobie's *The counties of Perth and Clackmannan* (1783)

From gossip to wild goose chase? Assessing Paton, Gough and Thomson as map history sources, 1771-1832

Diana Webster suggests a tentative 'caveat lector'.¹

While researching Scottish county maps between 1770 and 1820, it became clear that some of the evidence used to research maps in this period is based on flawed information which has been repeated from one source to another. This note highlights two queries about the lists of Scottish maps by English topographer Richard Gough (1735-1809) in his works *British Topography* and *Essay on the nature and progress of geography* (both published in 1780). Gough drew most of his information about Scottish mapping from his correspondent George Paton (1721-1807) and often quoted directly from his letters.

The two men met on Gough's visit to Scotland in 1771 and corresponded for about thirty years. Paton was an antiquarian in Edinburgh, who (reluctantly) worked in the Excise Office after his bookselling business failed. He sourced information, books and maps for Gough and their gossipy letters are full of detail about their antiquarian and topographic interests. The National Library of Scotland holds this treasure trove of information about late 18th century Scotland. However the organisation of the bound volumes of these manuscripts is somewhat haphazard; some volumes are separated into Paton's outgoing correspondence, with Gough's replies bound separately, but occasionally they are bound together. Fortunately the details of Scottish mapping are found in Paton's outgoing correspondence, as he has the neat hand of a clerk, while to describe Gough's almost impenetrable handwriting as a tangled spider's web is an understatement.

Another source for information about early Scottish county maps is the introduction to the *Atlas of Scotland*, published in 1832 by John Thomson (1777-c.1840), which lists the sources he used for the county maps in the atlas, as well as an overview of his knowledge of previous Scottish mapping.

Clackmannan & Stirling (1776)

Paton informed Gough about subscription proposals for surveys, which in several cases did not reach fruition. However Gough was not consistent about defining which of the maps he listed were proposals, and which had actually been published. For example, Gough wrote about John Ainslie: **'He has published a survey of Clackmannan and Stirling shires, 1776. 4 sheets'**.² Bound in the volume of Paton's letters is Ainslie's printed proposal (Fig.1).

Gough's statement appears definite, but Thomson's introduction confirms this was never produced:

¹ caveat lector = reader beware.

² Richard Gough, *Essay on the nature and progress of geography* (1780), p.89.

John Ainslie offered proposals dated April 24, 1776, for an actual survey of the shires of Stirling and Clackmannan, to be printed on four sheets imperial, of one guinea each, to commence surveying when 200 names were obtained. Suitable encouragement not being given, the undertaking was abandoned.³

Thomson's details suggest he also had access to the printed proposal (Fig.1). Paton's letters were acquired by the Advocates' Library in 1816 so would have been available to Thomson, but he could also have obtained first-hand information from Ainslie (1745-1828) who was still alive.

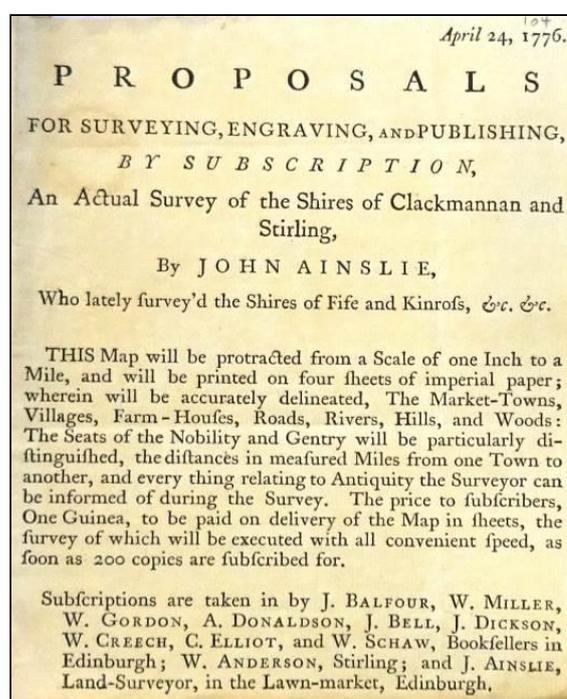


Fig.1: Adv.MS.29.5.7(ii), f.104. Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland

County of Renfrew (1774)

Gough listed: **'A survey of Renfrew, done at Glasgow 1774'** by Charles Ross. Has this sent researchers on a wild goose chase? John Moore was forced to conclude 'this has never been traced'.⁴ Paton's letter dated 31 October 1774 informed Gough that 'Renfrewshire is doing at Glasgow on a sheet probably of Imperial paper'.⁵ Paton's information may derive from a subscription proposal or from the postscript in this advertisement in March 1774:

³ John Thomson, *Atlas of Scotland* (1832), p.xv.

⁴ John Moore, *The early cartography of Renfrewshire to 1864* (1999). <http://eprints.gla.ac.uk/89729/1/89729.pdf>

⁵ NLS Adv.MS.29.5.7(i): f.172v.

This day is published and sold at the shop of William Creech, Edinburgh, and by Messrs Foulis and John Smith, Glasgow; Price ... One guinea. A MAP of the SHIRE OF LANARK taken from an actual survey and laid down on a scale of an inch to a mile, by CHARLES ROSS of Greenlaw, near Paisley. Mr Ross proposes, at the desire of several Noblemen and Gentlemen to publish by subscription maps of the Counties of Dumbarton and Renfrew.⁶

Dumbarton was published in 1777. If Ross were proposing a Renfrew map in March 1774 it would be difficult to issue in that year, unless it could be produced quickly by merely revising the County of Renfrew map he had previously published in 1754. Paton was still expecting the map to be delivered when he wrote on 14 February 1775: 'Renfrewshire tho' promised to be ready by the beginning of last month is not yet come into my hand, but you may depend upon it'. However on 25 March 1775 Paton indicated that he had received 'the reduced map of Lanerksire [sic] or Clydesdale, instead of Renfrewshire ... [which] will not be finished (by other intervening work crowding upon the engraver) for some months'.⁷ There is no further mention of a Renfrew map in this volume of correspondence. An indication that Ross may never have succeeded in publishing this map is John Ainslie's attempt to raise a subscription for a survey of Renfrew about ten years later in 1783-4.⁸ Renfrew gentlemen were slow to provide support, and Ainslie did not undertake the survey until 1796, published in 1800. Unfortunately Thomson's atlas omits a summary of Renfrew county maps, so there is no confirmation of any publication.

Ayrshire (1771)

Another conundrum is Gough's listing of 'Ayrshire, by Hamilton Leslie, 1771'.⁹ Thomson expands the information:

The first account we have of the topography of Ayrshire is a survey made by Hamilton Leslie, topographer to his Majesty, which exhibited the roads, rivers, hills, plantations, towns, villages, noblemen and gentlemen's seats. This map pretends to give the divisions of the parishes. Also, Captain Armstrong and his Son, in 1772, 1773, 1774, and 1775, published a Map of Ayrshire, on four sheets, which for nearly forty years, was

the only map of the county. The proprietors in the county saw the errors to be so great, that various efforts were made to have a new one, or to get this improved, which never met with suitable encouragement.¹⁰

Leslie's map has not been found, and it seems unlikely that the Armstrongs would have pursued their survey of Ayrshire only a year after Leslie's putative map was published. Thomson's use of the word 'pretends', meaning 'claims', may imply that his description comes from a proposal and suggests that he has not actually seen the map.

In 1771 Hamilton Leslie was attempting to enter the county map market and he also proposed to survey the county of Aberdeen.¹¹ The list of features in his Aberdeen proposal is in exactly the same order as Thomson's description of his possible map of Ayr, although there are some additional items: 'All the Roads, Coasts, Rivers, Rivulets, Hills, Plantations; Towns, Villages, Noblemen and Gentlemens Seats and Farm houses therein' [author's underlining]. Was Leslie submitting county map proposals around Scotland, with a similar form of words? Leslie continued to work for the Forfeited Estates Commission until at least 1778, his attempts to survey county maps having failed.¹²

In spite of Gough's listing, it seems unlikely that these maps of the counties of Renfrew (1774) and Ayr (1771) were ever published. However occasionally 'lost' maps do appear. At least two copies of John Bell's *Map of Kinross-shire* (1796) have emerged since the publication in 1983 of *Early maps of Scotland*, which did not record it, and it was not available to Thomson, who mentions using only Bell's *Plan of Loch Leven* (1809) in his atlas.¹³ Charles Ross's 1780 *Map of Stirlingshire* was known to have existed but was 'not located' in *Early maps of Scotland* and has since been re-discovered.¹⁴

Perhaps Renfrew (1774) or Ayr (1771) may turn up one day, but do not hold your breath!

Diana Webster

⁶ *Caledonian Mercury*, 2 March 1774, p.3.

⁷ NLS Adv.MS.29.5.7(ii), f.5; f.11v.

⁸ National Records of Scotland (NRS) E728/54/3(1).

Petition to the Commissioners of the annexed Estates, by John Ainslie, 1784.

⁹ Gough, *Essay* (1780), p.89.

¹⁰ Thomson, *Atlas of Scotland* (1832), p.xv. The Ayrshire map was actually published in six sheets, not four.

¹¹ NRS GD345/911. Proposals by Hamilton Leslie to survey the county of Aberdeen, 5 Mar. 1771.

¹² Ian H. Adams, *Descriptive list of plans in the Scottish Record Office*, vol. 3 (1974), p.xiv; *Dictionary of land surveyors and local mapmakers of Great Britain and Ireland, 1539-1850*, 2nd ed by Sarah Bendall, vol. 2 (1997), p.314

¹³ In Patrick Graham, *General view of the agriculture of the Counties of Kinross and Clackmannan* (1814).

¹⁴ *Early maps of Scotland*, vol. 2 (1983), p.237 - online at: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/193322409>.

Stephen McDougall: recent 'discoveries' of work by a mid-eighteenth-century Glasgow surveyor

While there is much evidence to the contrary, there is still a general assumption that the major development of the land surveying profession in Scotland was a consequence of the influential instructions to surveyors tabled by Lieutenant-Colonel David Watson at the inaugural meeting of the Commissioners of the Annexed Estates in June 1755.¹ This brief note seeks to highlight a small number of previously overlooked plans which provide additional information on the work of Stephen McDougall, a Glasgow-based surveyor whose career immediately pre-dates those men employed on the Forfeited Estates.

Comparatively little is known about either McDougall or his career. Unfortunately, some of what has been written is unverifiable, in particular his surveying activity in Antrim in the period 1740-44. Regardless of this, his first surviving commissions are two maps of the island of Gigha and the estate lands around Taynish prepared in the summer of 1747 for Roger MacNeil of Taynish.² Subsequently, he was brought to Islay by Daniel Campbell to establish the extent of his holdings on the island as a preparatory stage to land improvement, particularly identifying areas where such beneficial change could be initiated. He appears to have conducted an extensive survey of the estate between 1749 and 1751.

Daniel Campbell had received a considerable sum of money from the Crown as compensation for the damage to Shawfield House, his Glasgow residence during the 1725 Malt Tax riots and he combined this with the proceeds from his commercial enterprises to purchase the islands of Jura and Islay. Previously, he had bought the Lanarkshire estates of Shawfield and Woodhall. Much material relating to these estates was lost in a fire which damaged Woodhall House in the mid-nineteenth century. As a result, few of his commissions from Campbell appear to have survived but the possibility that others were prepared is suggested by a surviving list of the contents of the library at Islay House from 1777 which contains an entry for a 'Book of Maps of Islay'.³ A surviving plan of Achnacraobh and Barbreck dated 1748 may be the one original

example of his Islay estate mapping recorded in the major public archives.⁴ The remaining cartography resulting from McDougall's Argyll surveys appears to exist as either a nineteenth-century lithographic plan of Islay produced in London or as photostat copies of material held by the Islay Estates Company.⁵

In 1751, his daughter Nancy married her cousin, Alexander McDougall (1732-1786) on the island. Deeply respected by George Washington, Alexander was to become a Major General in the Continental Army, member of the first U.S. Congress and state senator. It is thought that McDougall returned to Glasgow after completing his work in Argyllshire and his final plan appears to be one of the estate of Petershill in Glasgow in 1763 which was subsequently engraved by Alexander Bell ten years later.⁶ The only other recorded reference to him is a remark he made to the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce regarding the monetary awards offered to encourage county mapping based on original surveys, triangulation and accurate measurements of longitude and latitude which had been initiated in 1759. The following year, he commented that the premium was 'too little for a man to execute the survey'.⁷

The twelve year gap between the completion of his Islay survey and the Petershill plan can now be filled in a little. Thirty-five years ago, Cruft discussed a 1753 plan of Woodhall in her study of the house's architecture but no reference was made to its location.⁸ It is possible that the document was commissioned by Daniel Campbell the younger who succeeded to his grandfather's estates that year. This plan was varnished, mounted on wood and may have decorated a deed box.⁹ Three years later, in a printed memorial for Walter Ralston relating to a Court of Session case

⁴ RHP962/3. Storrie mentions maps in the Islay Estates Office of Coull, Cladavill and elsewhere which indicate early enclosures. *Islay: biography of an island*. Islay, 2011, p.73.

⁵ RHP11112. This was prepared for the sale of the island. RHP11052.

⁶ RHP1044. RHP665. It is interesting to note that McDougall's original plan has hand-stamped lettering in a style similar to his contemporary, James Barry

⁷ Royal Society of Arts, G.B. IV. 105. This is cited in C. Fleet, 'Atlases, map-makers and map-engravers' in Stephen W. Brown and Warren McDougall (eds.) *The Edinburgh History of the Book in Scotland. Vol.2. Enlightenment and expansion 1707-1800*. Edinburgh, 2012, p.94.

⁸ K. Cruft, 'The enigma of Woodhall House' *Architectural History*, vol.27, 1984, p.210-13.

⁹ East Dunbartonshire Archives. Gartshore and Woodhall estate papers GD101/13/116A. The plan was varnished by John McDougall.

¹ National Records of Scotland. E726/1/1-2. Exchequer Records. Forfeited Estates 1745. General Management. Commissioners for the Annexed Estates. Letter Books 1755-1761.

² These appear to have been acquired by the military authorities and now form part of King George III's Topographical Collection at Maps K.Top.49.37.1 and Maps K.Top.49.28.

³ Smith, George G. *The Book of Islay: documents illustrating the history of the island*. Edinburgh, 1895, p.473.

against the heritors of Carmyle, he is recorded as surveying those lands prior to February 1756. Two further books of plans have now been traced. A survey of the Easter and Wester baronies of Sir John Shaw's Greenock estate was carried out in 1758. Shaw had succeeded to the baronetcy in 1752 and the plans indicate lands improved and others still held as crofts.¹⁰

Hospital in Stirling and prepared a book of sixteen plans, including Spittal's lands which indicate the feus, crofts and tofts.¹¹ In May that year, he received a share of monies granted to Provost Gourlay by the Patrons for his efforts.¹² While McDougall may not have been a major figure in the mapping of western Scotland, it is clear that he was employed by some of the local leading

figures of his day. It is possible that other surveys may come to light and, of course, these 'discoveries' may encourage other researchers to investigate local archives for further 'pieces of the jigsaw'.

John Moore



Image courtesy of East Dunbartonshire Archives (EDLC Trust)

The following year, McDougall was commissioned to measure the lands owned by Cowane's

¹⁰ Glasgow City Archives. Ardgowan Papers. T-ARD1/5/A0. Hand-stamped lettering has been used on these plans too.

¹¹ Stirling Archives. MP/SB/35.

¹² Stirling Archives. SB5/1/3. Cowane's Hospital minute books, vol.3, 1741-1762 for 5th May 1759. An image of one of McDougall's plans can be seen on the Stirling Archives Document of the Month web-page for August 2013.

Recent publications on Scottish maps and mapping

C. Fleet, 'An open-source web-mapping toolkit for libraries', *ePerimtron* 14 (2019), 59-76. http://www.e-perimtron.org/Vol_14_2/Fleet.pdf

C. Fleet, 'Bartholomew's maps: a cartographic window into Edinburgh's past', *University of Edinburgh Journal* 29 (2019), 45-52.

C. Fleet, 'Maps for Scottish local history - an overview', *Scottish Local History* 104 (Autumn 2019), 21-35.

C. Fleet, 'Creating, Managing, and Maximising the Potential of Large Online Georeferenced Map Layers', *ePerimtron* 14 (2019), 140-149. http://www.e-perimtron.org/Vol_14_3/Fleet.pdf.

D.C.F. Webster, 'Surveying the Stewartry: John Ainslie's County Map of Kirkcudbright, 1791-1821', *Scottish Local History* 104 (Autumn 2019), 3-10.

Recent map-related blog posts

Planning Washington DC in the 1790s: <https://blog.nls.uk/planning-a-capital-city/>

Geocoding the Stevenson Maps and Plans of Scotland: <https://blog.nls.uk/geocoding-the-stevenson-maps-and-plans-of-scotland/>

Setting up a web-mapping interface for the Stevenson Collection: <https://blog.nls.uk/setting-up-a-web-mapping-interface-for-the-stevenson-collection/>

John Mathieson's St Kilda map (1928): <https://blog.nls.uk/map-of-the-month/>

Temperance mapping - putting pubs on and off the map: <https://blog.nls.uk/edinburgh-citizens-beware/>

Denoyer-Geppert's Globe Gores: <https://blog.nls.uk/mapping-around-the-story-of-globe-gores/>

Recent National Library of Scotland website additions

Medium-scale 20th century mapping

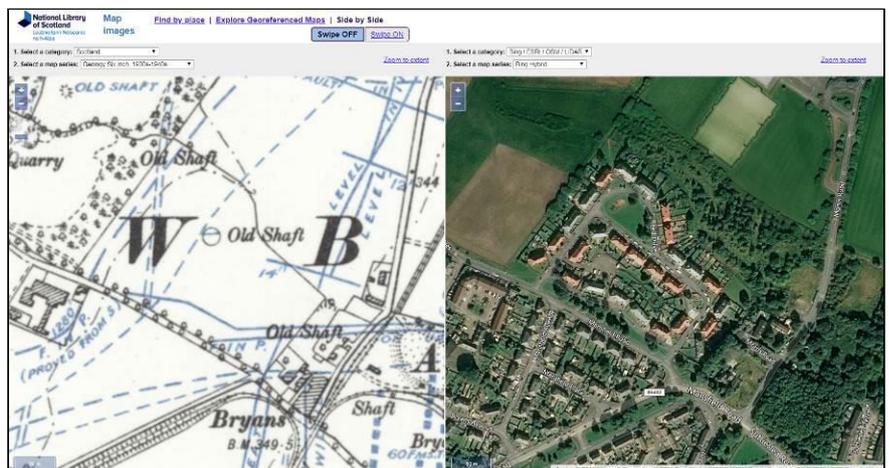
Several of our recent digitisation projects focus on medium scale mapping at 1:20,000-1:25,000 from the 20th century:

- **War Office, Great Britain 1:20,000, GSGS 2748, 1923-29** (21 sheets). This military series by the War Office had its origins during the First World War on the Western Front, but also continued after 1918, covering selective parts of England, Scotland, and Wales, primarily for artillery training purposes. <https://maps.nls.uk/os/20k-gb/>
- **Ordnance Survey, Great Britain 1:25,000 Administrative Area Series, 1945-1968** (1,130 sheets). An outline (ie. uncoloured) edition of the standard, coloured 1:25,000 Provisional series, overprinted in red with administrative information. The boundaries included those for administrative counties and county boroughs in a heavy line; metropolitan and municipal boroughs, as well as urban and rural districts in a medium line; civil parishes in a thin line; and borough and urban district wards in a thin pecked line. <https://maps.nls.uk/os/25k-gb-admin/>
- **Ordnance Survey, Great Britain 1:25,000 Outline Series, 1945-1965** (4,129 sheets). This outline edition extended over most of Great Britain during the 1940s-1960s, and was quickly appreciated by planners and local government officials for administrative purposes. <https://maps.nls.uk/os/25k-gb-outline/>

New Georeferenced Layers

Georeferenced layers have been created for several map series digitised during 2019, including:

- OS Scotland, One-Inch Popular (Outline), 1921-30
- War Office, Scotland 1:25,000. GSGS 3906, 1940-43
- OS Scotland, One-Inch Popular with National Grid (Outline), 1945-47
- Geological Survey of Scotland, One-Inch, 1840s-1950s
- Geological Survey of Scotland, Six-Inch to the Mile maps, 1850s-1940s

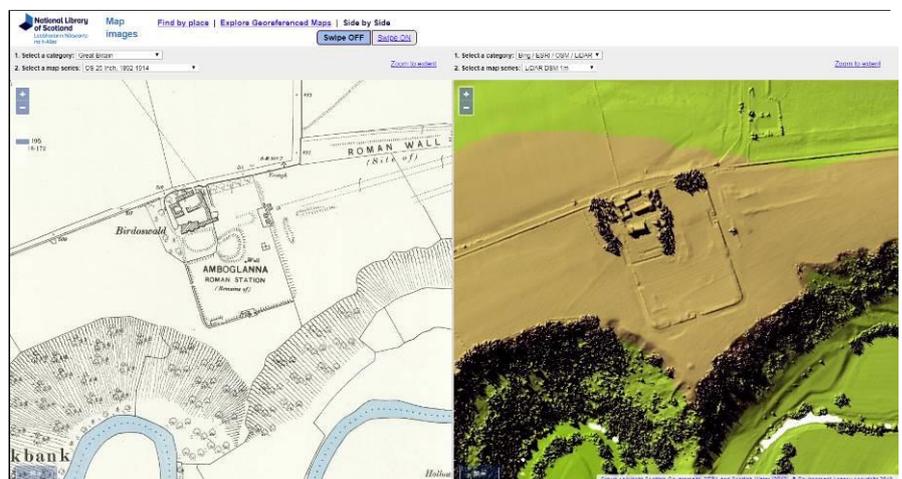


Above: Comparing old mine shafts on the Geological Survey maps (left) with present day satellite imagery (right) at Newtongrange

View these (above and below) at: <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore>

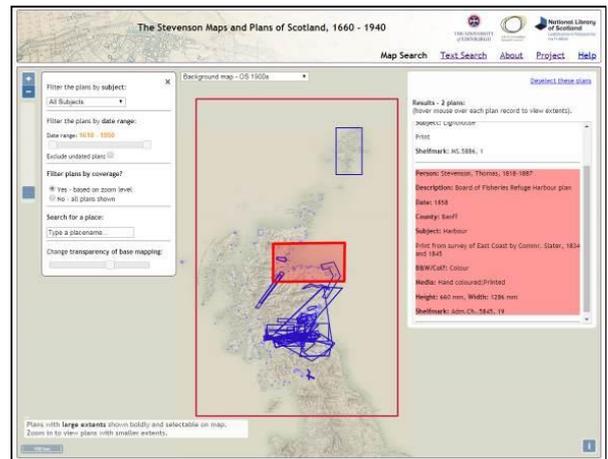
Modern LiDAR layers have also been added to our georeferenced map viewers. Although coverage of Scotland is currently more limited and at lower resolutions, there are detailed 1 and 2 metre layers for many parts of England and Wales from the Environment Agency. LiDAR is particularly good for showing subtle variations in elevation on the ground - useful for archaeological and historic landscape research.

Right: Comparing 25 inch mapping from 1895 (left) with a LiDAR Digital Surface Model (right) for Birdoswald Roman fort on Hadrian's Wall.



Stevenson Project Website Resource

Records for over 2000 plans relating to historical engineering in Scotland from the Stevenson archive can now be searched online using our [new map-based viewer](#). The Stevenson archive contains material from the firm established by [Robert Stevenson](#), celebrated lighthouse engineer and grandfather of Robert Louis Stevenson, in the early-nineteenth century. Stevenson and his descendants worked on projects all over Scotland, ranging from designing harbours and lighthouses to surveying routes for new railways to remodelling the streets of Edinburgh. Records for Stevenson plans of Scottish places can now be viewed, sorted and filtered using a [dynamic map interface](#). The archive can also be [searched by keyword](#), or users can browse a full list of the [places, subjects and people](#) featured on the site. The online resource was created during a three month placement by Rachel Dishington, an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership PhD student at the University of Edinburgh. We are planning to scan many of the Stevenson maps in 2020, and the interface here will then provide access to the zoomable map images.



Library Data Foundry launched

This new website, launched in September 2019, aims to promote new datasets and tools based on the National Library's collections, to support digital scholarship and digital humanities work. It includes tools for re-using georeferenced maps, tools for viewing maps and data, tools for viewing historic boundaries, data extracted from gazetteers, as well as the GB1900 gazetteer: <https://data.nls.uk/>

You are here! travelling exhibition



Based on the National Library of Scotland's map exhibition in 2016-17, this touring exhibition was launched last summer, and has already spent time in Stirling Central Library, Irvine Townhouse and Falkirk Library. The exhibition features 10 colourful panels, each tackling a particular cartographic theme, along with an interactive map-handling kit featuring an array of map tools, globes and curiosities.

Further details at: <https://www.nls.uk/exhibitions/touring-displays/you-are-here>.

Two Scottish Map Jigsaws to be won!

Our *Cairt* competition offers the chance to win a 1,000 piece jigsaw of John Speed's *The Kingdome of Scotland* (1610) – <https://birlinn.co.uk/product/scottish-map-jigsaw/>

2020 is the Year of Coasts and Waters, and so to win one of these jigsaws, please provide details of the **map publisher** and **title** from which this detail (right) is taken.

Send or e-mail your answers, marked *Cairt Competition* to maps@nls.uk or to the address on the front cover by 30 March 2020. The winners will be picked randomly from the correct entries and informed by 15 April 2020.

Congratulations to Ishbel Jones and David Twist who each won a copy of *The Scottish Maps Calendar* from the last issue's competition, and thanks to all who took part. The detail shown was from the map of Scotland, drawn and engraved by J. Rapkin, and included in *Tallis's illustrated atlas, and modern history of the world* (1851).

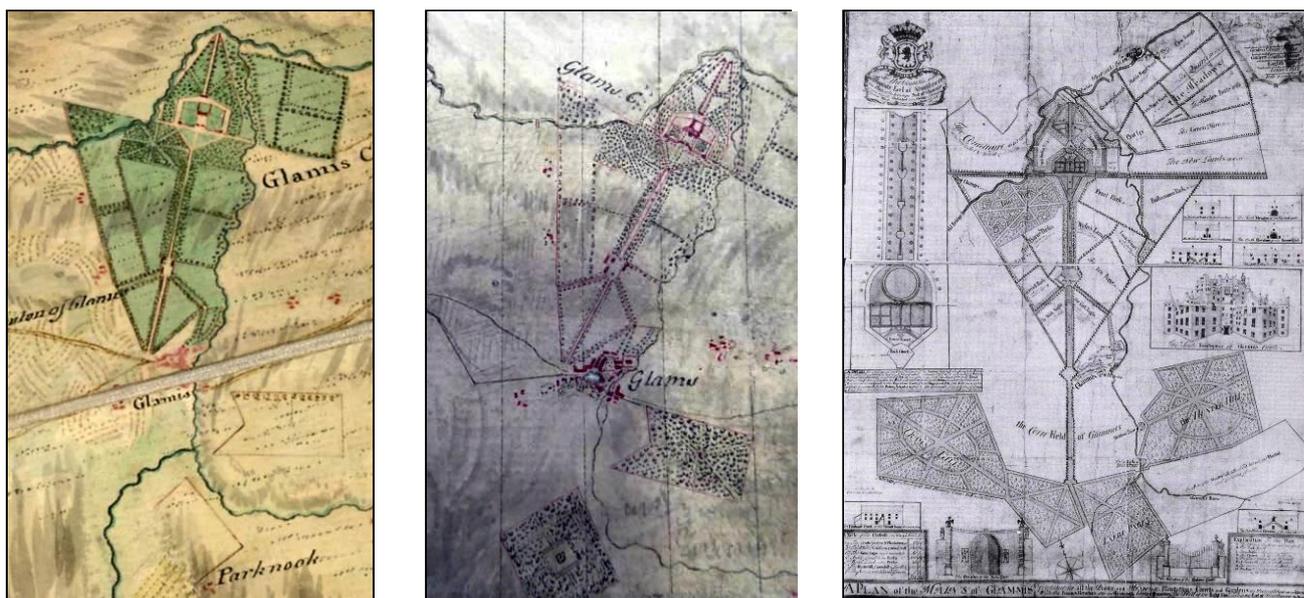


Don't believe the hype? The Roy Military Survey and landscape research

The Roy Military Survey of Scotland (1747-55) is rightly known as one of the most useful, detailed surveys of all of mainland Scotland in the 18th century, and of great value for those researching many aspects of landscape history.¹ However, over the years, those looking at it in detail have often been aware of its various idiosyncrasies and omissions; features known to be there, but not recorded, or with significant differences between the 'original protraction' and 'fair copy'.² These two examples below illustrate this well, suggesting limits to the trust that is often placed on the Roy map, and the value of confirming information by referencing other maps where possible.

1. Glamis. The core landscape is fairly faithfully depicted on the 'fair copy', but the plantations to the south are not, even though part of their outline is sketched in. However, there is a carefully surveyed plan of the Glamis landscape by Thomas Winter dating from 1746, so contemporary with Roy's map, which shows the plantations.

Below: Glamis on Roy's 'fair copy' (left), the original protraction (centre) and Winter's plan (right)



2. Meikle. Although the village appears on maps from Pont onwards, it is entirely absent from the 'fair copy' of Roy's map. Comparison of the 'original protraction' with the 'fair copy' shows that while it is clearly marked on the former version, nothing is to be seen on the latter. Note too the zig-zag surveyors' traverse lines on the original protraction, one running along the south bank of the River Isla and crossing the Dean, the other running just to the south of Meikle.

Below: Meikle (centre right on map) on Roy's original protraction (left) and missing from Roy's 'fair copy' (right)



Roy Map images courtesy of The British Library Board.
Winter plan courtesy of Strathmore Estates.

Christopher Dingwall

¹ View online at <https://maps.nls.uk/roy/index.html>, with supporting further information and references.

² These are explained at: <https://maps.nls.uk/roy/originals.html>.