



# CAIRT

Issue 33  
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*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.

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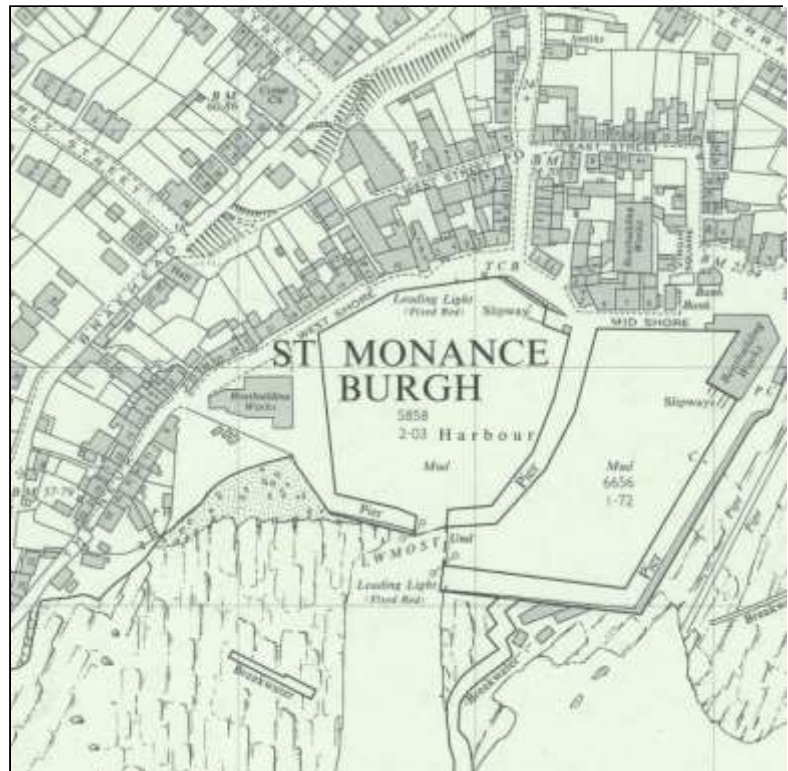


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Editor: C. Fleet      Technical Ed: J. Parkerson

## New detailed OS 1940s-1960s maps of Scotland now online

Our latest maps website addition has been 5,921 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 series, covering large areas of the Central Belt, the Borders and parts of north-east Scotland, dating from 1945-1967. This was the largest scale post-War OS mapping to cover these rural areas, and it shows excellent detail of man-made structures such as houses and settlements, as well as roads, railways and industrial works. The rural landscape of fields, woodland, lochs, rivers and streams is clearly depicted too. These are the earliest OS maps to comprehensively show house numbers, and they also show parcel numbers (to uniquely reference all land parcels or areas) and their related acreages. The new maps complement the more detailed 1:1,250 scale maps of larger urban areas, scanned last year. We are now scanning National Grid 1:10,560 scale maps which will provide comprehensive coverage of all areas.

- Search OS National Grid maps of Scotland:  
<https://maps.nls.uk/os/national-grid/index.html>



The harbour of St Monans, on the East Neuk of Fife, revised in 1964.

## Other new website resources

### National Records of Scotland - new online maps in *ScotlandsPeople* website

More than 2,400 historic maps, plans and drawings from National Records of Scotland (NRS) collections have been made available on the *ScotlandsPeople* website. Many of the maps show the changing Scottish landscape over time. They also record where people lived or worked, so they can throw light on ancestors' lives and even suggest new avenues for research. The maps and plans include both country estates and plans of towns and cities. Most of the maps and plans originate in the records of court cases, Scottish government departments,

Heritors' records, as well as in private collections gifted to or purchased by NRS.



The maps and plans collection is amongst the finest in the United Kingdom and contains the largest number of Scottish manuscript maps and plans held by any single institution. They are particularly strong in estate and railway plans; architectural drawings; and engineering drawings, particularly of ships, railway engines and rolling stock. More maps and plans will be added to the *ScotlandsPeople* website.

- <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/map-s-and-plans>

**Left:** Detail from: W. Blackadder, *Plan of the estate of Carse Gray, Angus* (1815). This lies a short distance east of Forfar, and the plan shows land use, field acreages, a camp possibly of Roman origin, and a hamlet known as Barracks built to house militia during the Napoleonic Wars.

### Ordnance Survey Books of Reference for Scotland, 1859-1882

The Ordnance Survey Books of Reference (or Area Books) record acreages of each land parcel on the OS 25 inch to the mile maps, and usually land use too, except in settlements and for counties surveyed after 1879. From 1859, Books of Reference were published for specific parishes, which the Library bound together into 22 volumes, ordered alphabetically by parish.

- Browse Books of Reference by county and parish: <https://maps.nls.uk/os/25inch/books-of-reference/>
- Browse Books of Reference by volume (with parishes ordered alphabetically): <https://digital.nls.uk/97363649>

PARISH OF DRYMEN.					
No. on Plan.	Area in Acres.	Description.	No. on Plan.	Area in Acres.	Description.
	24797-063	<i>Brought forward.</i>		25020-538	<i>Brought forward.</i>
1577	19-018	Arable & plantation.	1612	9-987	Arable & occupation road.
1578	8-174	Arable & trees.			
1579	2-647	Rough pasture, slope, part of Altquhar Burn, &c.	1613	10-971	Arable.
			1614	1-597	Rough pasture & whins.
			1615	18-490	Arable.
1580	5-580	Plantation, slope, & half of Altquhar Burn.	1616	11-558	Rough pasture & whins.
			1617	7-610	Arable & part of Altquhar Burn.
1581	2-072	Rough pasture, slope, & part of Altquhar Burn.	1618	7-289	Pasture & part of Altquhar Burn.
			1619	4-538	Arable.

### Briefer online additions:

- In addition to our historic map layers in *Digimap for Schools* - <http://digimapforschools.edina.ac.uk/> - we have made available three historic georeferenced map layers of Great Britain for use in *ArcGIS Online* and the *ESRI GIS for Schools* programme: <https://schools.esriuk.com/>. This includes an OS one-inch layer (1885-1903) and two Bartholomew half-inch layers (1900s and 1940s) - see <https://bit.ly/2KKjwFT> and <https://bit.ly/2twSbHI>
- A new graphic index for all the maps in the *Blaeu Atlas Maior* (1662-5) <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/find/#zoom=3&lat=54.0925&lon=3.8231&layers=68>
- New 'Add Marker' tool in our *Explore Georeferenced Maps* viewer – hold SHIFT key down and left-click.

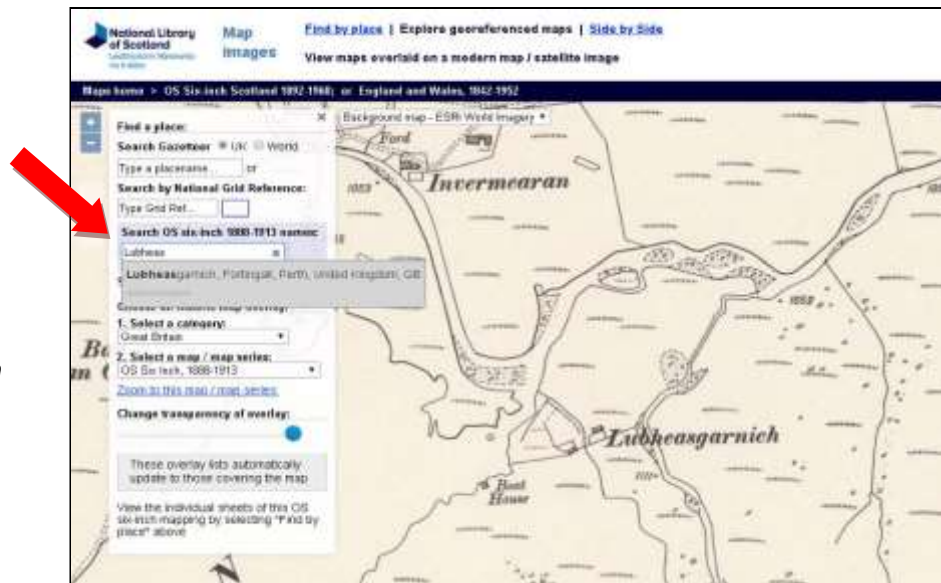
## Initial GB1900 gazetteer for searching Ordnance Survey six-inch to the mile, 1888-1913 maps

This new gazetteer allows 2.52 million names on [Ordnance Survey six-inch to the mile, 1888-1913 maps](#) of England, Scotland, and Wales, dating from a century ago to be searched. The names have been gathered through the [GB1900 transcription project](#), which ran from September 2016 to January 2018, transcribing all text content from these maps.

Please note that this is a crowdsourced data project, and ongoing cleaning, editing and enhancement of this gazetteer will result in more accurate releases of the data in future. Parish and county names have been added to the transcribed names to make the names easier to tell apart and to provide locational context.

*This illustrates how the GB1900 gazetteer can be searched in the Explore Georeferenced Maps viewer.*

*It also shows the farm of Lubheasgarnich, now submerged under Loch Lyon in Perthshire, one of many thousands of places that are shown on these maps, which have disappeared from later and present-day maps and gazetteers.*



- Search the names in our *Explore Georeferenced Maps* viewer ( <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/> ) under the **Search OS six-inch 1888-1913 names:** search box
- Query specific names and their distributions at: <http://geo.nls.uk/maps/gb1900/>
- Access raw gazetteer data at: <http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/data/>

## Maps of Scotland by commercial map-makers, 1840s-1940s

A set of 220 maps of Scotland, including maps of Scottish towns, counties and regions, and some coastal charts. These were generally published by private companies, including G.W. Bacon & Co., John Bartholomew & Son, J. & W. Emslie, Gall & Inglis, W. & A.K. Johnston and Edward Stanford. The set also includes the pioneering Botanical Survey of Scotland maps (1900-5) by Robert and William Smith, educational maps for school room use, and detailed road and railway maps.

For more information, see <https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html>  
The maps are available within our [Scotland](#), [counties](#), [towns](#), and [charts](#) pages.

**Right:** *Pratts high test plan of Scotland: a curious yet authentic plan setting forth the principal highways and romantic places of the country / [designed by] A.E. Taylor, 1931.*

NLS shelfmark: Map.I.84.10

Zoom into the map at <https://maps.nls.uk/view/142841679>

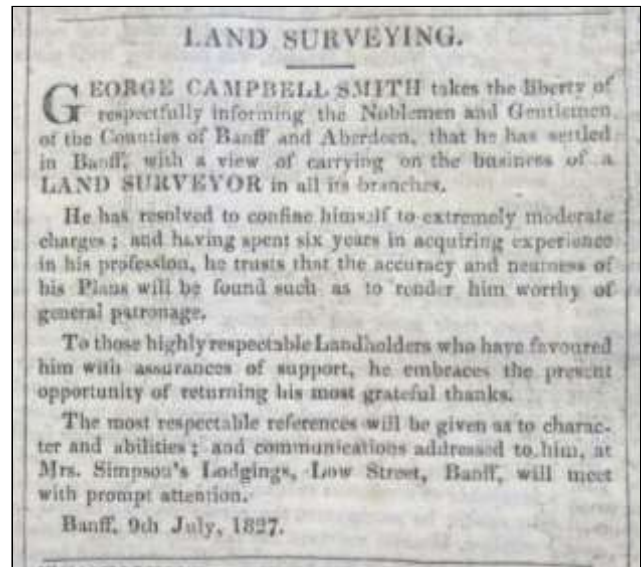


## George Campbell Smith of Banff (1804-68): surveying in Ross-shire, 1833-1851

### Douglas Lockhart outlines one focus in a surveying career that also included North East Scotland and Victoria, Australia.

George Campbell Smith, or Campbell Smith as he preferred to be known, completed an apprenticeship with George McWilliam of Sheriffston near Elgin in 1827 and set up in business in Banff soon afterwards. His career in Scotland continued until 1856 when he was sequestered forcing the abandonment of a survey in Kilmuir, Skye. About 1860 he migrated to Victoria becoming a contract surveyor with work recorded there between 1862 and his death at Beechworth on 28 July 1868. He was a prolific surveyor and his plans of many of the great estates in the North East such as Fife, Seafield and Duff of Hatton can be found in archives in Edinburgh and Aberdeen while plans of Ross-shire are in private ownership and at Gairloch Heritage Museum.

Early in his career Campbell Smith looked for surveying work beyond Banffshire. He advertised the start of his business in the *Inverness Journal* rather than in the *Aberdeen Journal* (**Fig. 1, right**); in 1831, he was employed on the Macpherson-Grant of Ballindalloch estate at Ruthven (Inverness-shire) and by the mid-1830s he had extended his business into Ross-shire.



**Fig. 1:** Advertisement: *Inverness Journal*, 13 July 1827 p.3 col.4.



A lack of surveying work in Banff may account for this. His apprentice and first cousin, Alexander Duncan, left Banff to assist in the Tithe Survey in England in the late 1830s and after he returned complained of the number of surveyors seeking employment. Campbell Smith was also ambitious. In 1831 he published *Scale of Charges for Surveying & Planning ...* [NLS EMS.b.5.15] which contained plans and tables and was effectively an advertisement for his services.

Two years later he floated a prospectus for a survey of the counties of Ross and Cromarty that envisaged estate plans, reduced plans of each parish and 'perhaps, a general Map of the COUNTIES ...' [NRS GD296/199]. Although his proposals were not carried out, the scheme may have raised his profile to the extent that he was awarded a number of surveying contracts. An early example was a commission from Hugh Innes Cameron (1802-71), Procurator-Fiscal at Dingwall, to produce a plan of the site of the Mulbuie murder [see G Clark, *John Adam: the Mulbuie murderer* (London, 2013) pp.101-3].

A succession of estate surveys followed: in the Black Isle; Torridon; a detailed survey of Gairloch in the mid-1840s (**Fig. 2, left**); the Home Farm and policies around Conan House (**Fig. 3, next page**).

**Fig. 2:** Arrat. Plan XII, *Atlas of the Townships of Gairloch ...* 1846 (private ownership).

**Right: Fig. 3**  
*Excerpt from Plan of the Manor of Cononside ... 1850*  
 (private ownership).



**Below: Fig. 4**  
 Beinn Alligin and Loch Toll nam Biast. In *Plan of the March betwixt Gairloch and Torridon ... 1851*  
 (private ownership). This area can be found on Ordnance Survey Six-inch First Edition Sheet LXXXI (surveyed 1875; published 1881).



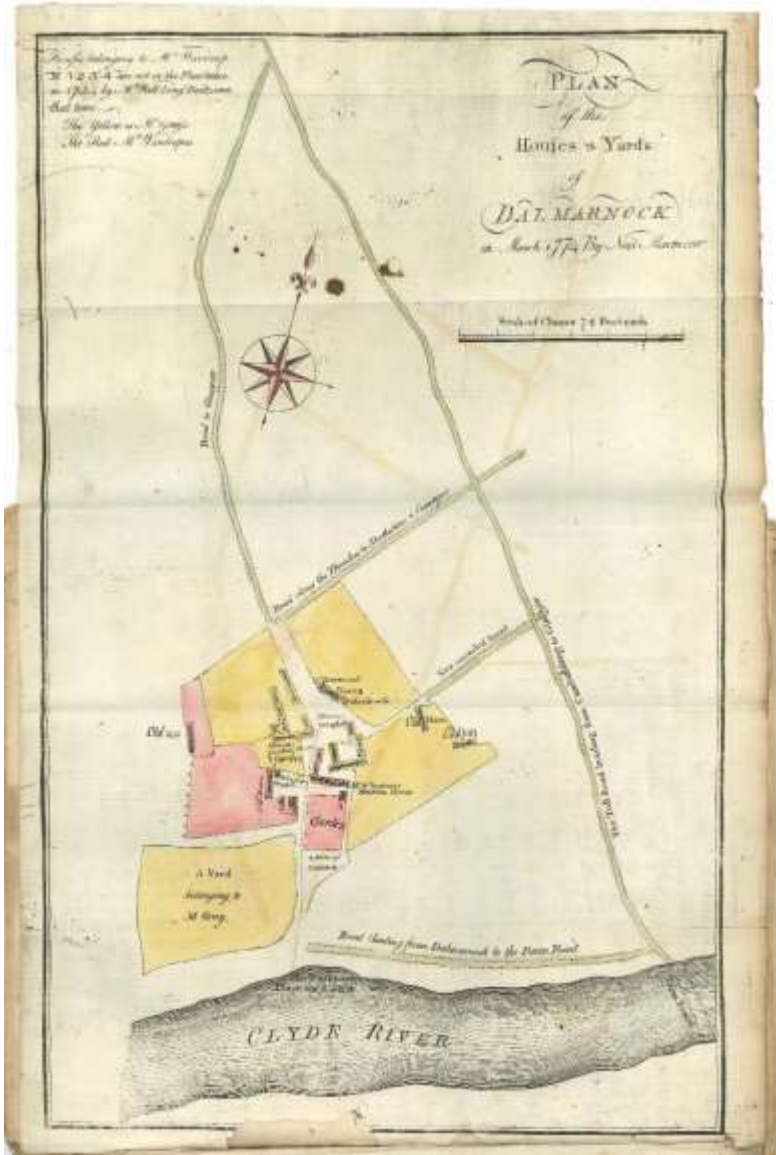
Campbell Smith was also employed to mark out the march between the Torridon and Gairloch estates that involved a survey over particularly challenging terrain (**Fig. 4, left**). Unfortunately his early association with Cameron had life-changing consequences as he was persuaded by him to make speculative investments in England and Wales that led to financial ruin and migration to Victoria where he found employment as a government contract surveyor.

His enduring legacy in Scotland is certainly worth remembering on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death this year. It includes the plans that helped re-shape the Gairloch landscape, which were described by the late Professor JB Caird as 'quite the finest of any crofting estate' and a carto-bibliography that stretches from Macduff to Poolewe.

**Douglas Lockhart**

## Lanarkshire Land-Surveyors: Neil McVicar - provost and surveyor of Rutherglen

John Moore begins an occasional series on lesser-known Lanarkshire surveyors working prior to the Ordnance Survey.



While certain leading map-makers have been the attention of considerable research, the influence and activities of the local surveyor can indicate the more general qualities and competencies of their work. These men came from a wide range of backgrounds, often drawn from the ranks of estate factors, mathematicians or teachers. Their careers were frequently brief and their output limited, many following a number of different occupations to ensure a sufficient income.

No better example of this may be the short career of Neil McVicar who drew a very small number of plans in the immediate area of Rutherglen. Most records suggest that he drew only one plan, namely a depiction of houses and yards at Dalmarnock prepared in March 1774 as part of a process of runrig division between William Wardrop and James Gray. While the survey itself is no more remarkable than many hundreds of other such commissions, the accompanying documents provide an interesting illustration of what was happening at the local level and, more importantly, the onward transfer of earlier surveying information.

The runrig division case began in 1733 but little was achieved until 1765, when it was transferred to the sheriff court. Nonetheless, Gray's submission states that the regality court instructed that the grounds be perambulated, and he ordained 'John Watt, mathematician in

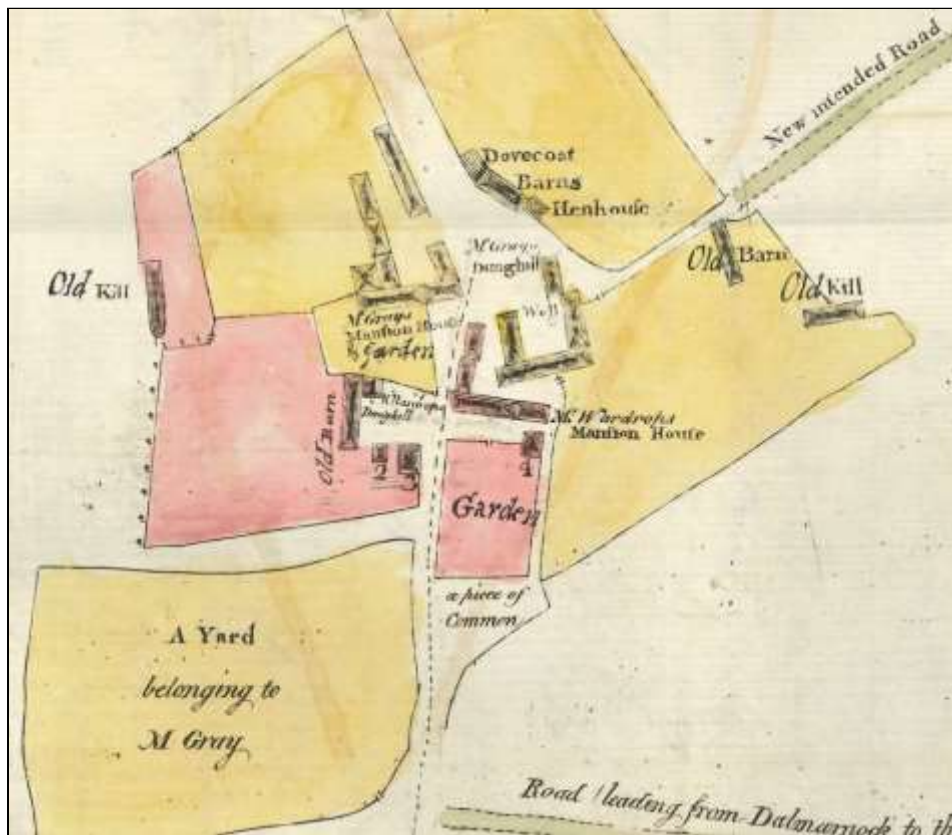
Glasgow, to measure the said whole four-pound land ... and to report'. Watt, the finest surveyor in the area, prepared his report in January 1734 and produced a plan as the basis for the division. His finished plan has not survived but a collection of manuscript surveys of the lands of 'Demarnock', dated February 1734 is among the Watt family's Muirhead papers held in the Library of Birmingham. More importantly, McVicar's plan mentions that certain of his marked buildings are not on Watt's earlier depiction. This is important because McVicar is not specifically named in the process and one of the few other plans by him, indicating Rutherglen, has a style remarkably similar to that of Watt<sup>1</sup>. Given the brevity of his surveying career, it is possible that his ability was reliant on others' work.

McVicar first appears in the journal of John Burrell, factor on the Hamilton estates, when he was employed with William Douglas to mark out ground for division in the winter of 1767-68. In all, only four of his plans have been traced but the Rutherglen Council Minutes indicate a series of small commissions between November 1771 and September 1784. He became involved in local politics, being elected provost in September 1777 and it would be natural to think that his interests shifted elsewhere. However, the story is somewhat different.

Contd. on page 7

Court of Session processes can be complex, confusing and only rarely entertaining but McVicar may well have been a rogue. In an action for libel and damages, Claud Marshall, an eminent Glasgow solicitor accused him of fraud and embezzlement. McVicar had moved from the Highlands in the early 1760s and was fortunate to find work with John Farie of Farme. However, in a way not dissimilar from the actions of Uriah Heep, he ingratiated himself with his master and slowly gained mastery over him, largely due to Farie's fondness for alcohol. The facts suggest that McVicar could not stick to any one employment, successively, and unsuccessfully, taking up the professions of surveyor, farmer, miller, baker, brewer, inn-keeper and distiller. In a bitter and contentious case, McVicar was eventually found guilty of libel, declared insolvent and was imprisoned in Rutherglen jail in 1781. It is significant that in both August 1779 and January 1781 the Rutherglen Council were to turn to John McArthur of Keppochhill for surveys of local land parcels and McVicar's earnings for five pieces of work later amounted to less than three and a half guineas.<sup>2</sup>

John Moore



Above: Plan of the Houses & Yards of Dalmarnock (1774) – detail.

1. Glasgow City Archives. RU11/1A. Plan of Farmlone Road, July 1773.  
 2. Glasgow City Archives. RU3/1/13. Rutherglen Council Minutes, 1779-88.

## Two copies of the *Scottish Maps Calendar 2019* to be won!

With the summer solstice now behind us, our thoughts naturally turn to the year ahead and wall calendars for 2019. We have collaborated with Birlinn again this year with a completely new set of attractive early maps of Scotland - further details at: <https://www.birlinn.co.uk/Scottish-Maps-Calendar-2019.html>

To win a copy of *The Scottish Maps Calendar, 2019*, please provide details of the **map-maker** and **title** from which the extract shown on the 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 September 2018. The winners will be picked randomly from the correct entries and informed by 15 October 2018.

Congratulations to Cathy Gibb and Derek Forrest who each won a copy of *The Clyde: Mapping the River* from last issue's competition, and thanks to all who took part. Although focusing on the landward detail of Dumbarton, this map extract was from the earliest detailed Admiralty Chart of *The Clyde* (1846), by Captain Robinson.

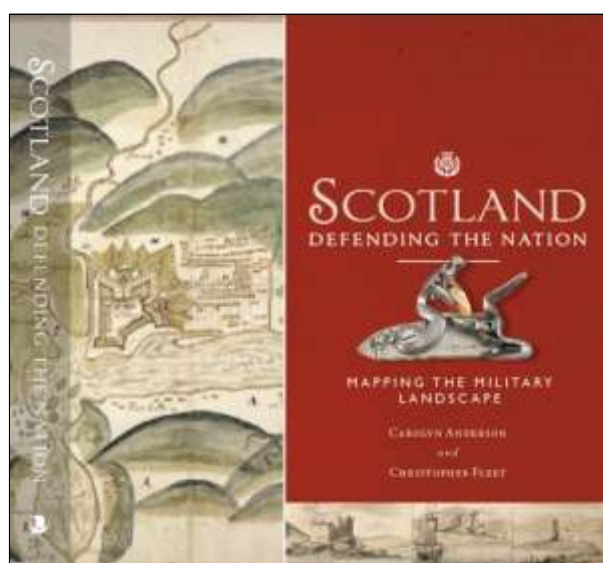


## Recent Publications

- Minty Donald and Paul Bishop, 'The reservoirs of the Forth and Clyde Canal: eighteenth century engineering and twenty-first century sculptures', *Scottish Local History* 100 (Summer 2018), 53-60.
- Douglas Lockhart, 'From Banff to Beechworth, Victoria: George Campbell Smith (1804-1868), land surveyor', *Scottish Local History* 100 (Summer 2018), 65-75.
- Aonghus MacKechnie, "'The new Citie of Edzel- Idea'", *History Scotland* 18 (July/August 2018), 26-31.
- John Moore, "'We are all on tiptoe here": Queen Victoria's visit to the Clyde', *History Scotland* 18 (July/August 2018), 44-46.
- Fiona Watson and Piers Dixon, *A history of Scotland's landscapes* (Edinburgh: Historic Environment Scotland, 2018).

## Forthcoming publication: *Scotland: Defending the Nation: Mapping the Military Landscape*

Warfare, attack and defence have shaped Scotland's history over the last five centuries. Conflict with England in the 16th century, persistent violence on the 'debatable' Scottish borderlands, and the Cromwellian occupation of Scotland in the mid-17th century all resulted in significant cartographic activity. In the first half of the 18th century, the Jacobite threat and uprisings, led to a huge militarisation of Scotland, with new defences, forts, roads and armies clashing in battle. Some of these defences were put to new uses by the late 18th century and early 19th centuries, to counter the very real worries over French invasion, particularly on the east coast. By the 20th century, defences and enemy threats had shifted in their focus again, with German sea and airborne attacks, particularly during the Second World War, followed by new fears over Russian military predominance in more recent decades.



In this book Carolyn Anderson and Christopher Fleet explore the rich legacy of Scottish military mapping, showing and explaining the variety of military maps produced for different purposes. These include fortification plans, reconnaissance mapping, battle plans, military roads and route-way plans, tactical maps, plans of mines, enemy maps showing targets, as well as plans showing the construction of defences. In addition to plans, elevations, and views, they also discuss unrealised proposals and projected schemes — the paper military landscape that was never implemented. Many of these maps are both striking and attractive, and have been selected for the particular stories they tell about attacking and defending the country.

To be published October 2018 by Birlinn in association with the National Library of Scotland. Hardback: £30.00. Further details: <https://www.birlinn.co.uk/Scotland-Defending-the-Nation.html>

## Receiving *Cairt* and our mailing list

We send *Cairt* out to those who have previously indicated that they wish to be on the mailing list for it. We have recently updated our privacy information. For full details on how your personal information will be held and used by the National Library of Scotland please see our privacy page - <https://www.nls.uk/privacy> - in particular our communications privacy notice - <https://www.nls.uk/privacy/communications-notice>.

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