



CAIRT

Issue 39
July 2021

Newsletter of the Scottish Maps Forum

In this issue:

- **New acquisition – Benjamin Wright's miniature sea chart**
- **Cairt newsletter survey**
- **Recent publications**
- **John Givan: an Eminent Man of Fife**
- **Maps Reading Room update**
- **Alexander Adam (1819-1904), Alford and Aberdeen**
- **Recent NLS website additions**

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.

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

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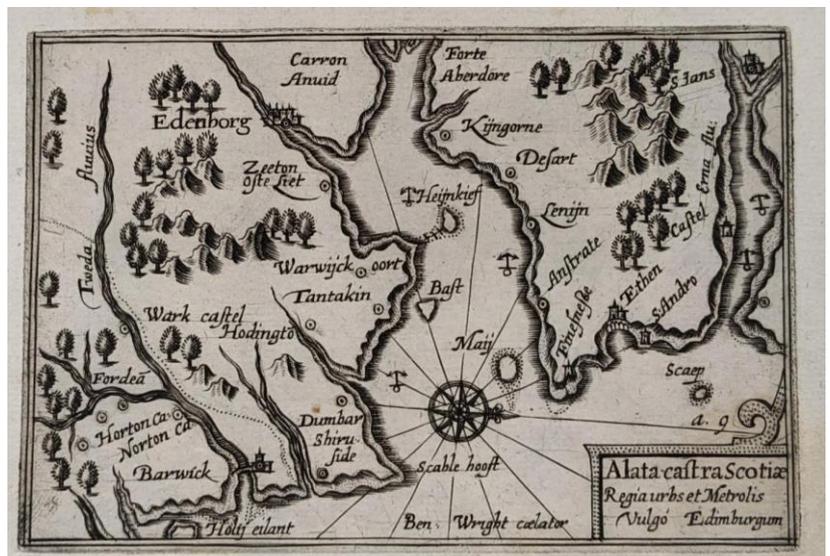
New Library Acquisition – Benjamin Wright's miniature sea chart

Amongst the most recent additions to the Library's collection is this small map depicting the south eastern coast of Scotland from the Holy Island of Lindisfarne to the Firth of Tay. Engraved by Benjamin Wright, *Alata castra Scotiae Regia urbs et Metropolis Vulgi Edimburgum* was first published in 1649 by Claes Visscher in his pocket atlas *Tabularum Geographicarum Contractarum*. However, the engraved plate itself was by then almost 50 years old.

Between 1598 and 1602 the English born and trained engraver Benjamin Wright worked in Amsterdam with map publisher Cornelis Claesz. Following the successful publication of his *Caert Thresoor*, first issued by Barent Langenes in 1598, Claesz appears to have been planning another pocket atlas. *Caert Thresoor* was very popular and ran to several editions in different languages, which included maps of Java, Sumatra, Madagascar and St. Helena engraved by Wright. The new atlas would include maps of coastlines, estuaries and trading settlements to appeal to the Dutch merchants who would have made up the bulk of Claesz's customers. The atlas was never published.

Some of Wright's plates were published by Claesz in a 1603 edition of Lucas Waghenauer's *Den Grooten Dobbelden Nieuwe Spiegel der Zeevaert*. Unusually, the small plates were set within the text in the sea-atlas which was mainly composed of large format charts. It is possible that this was always the planned use for these plates. *Alata castra Scotiae Regia urbs ...* is closely based on *Beschrijvinghe vande Noortkosten van Engelant ende Scotlant, ...* published by Waghenauer himself in 1598.

Contd. on page 2



Benjamin Wright's miniature sea chart (contd.)

Visscher was an apprentice with Claesz at the time Wright was engraving for the firm. The Langenes plates for the pocket atlases were passed to Claesz's business successor Hendrick Laurentsz who issued editions of the *Caert Thresoor* in 1609 and 1611. These editions did not include the additional plates. It is unknown how Visscher came to have all the miniature plates, when much of Claesz's stock was auctioned in 1610.

In 1649 Visscher finally reissued many of the maps from the *Caert Thresoor*, including some of those planned for the maritime pocket atlas, in his *Tabularum Geographicarum Contractarum*. He added volume and plate numbers to each map, and inserted two new world maps to the collation. This publication did not repeat the success of the *Caert Thresoor* and must have been issued in a limited print run as copies are now scarce, with only a handful known, some only partially complete. Not listed in *Early Maps of Scotland*, the rarity of this map and its complex history make it an interesting addition to our collection.

View map online: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/228501539>

Paula Williams

References

- Baynton-Williams, Ashley. 'Barents Langenes: an unrecorded miniature atlas', in *MapForum* vol 2. <https://mapforum.com/02/feb.html> [accessed 20/04/2021]
- Baynton-Williams, Ashley & Worms, Laurence, *British Map Engravers* (London, Rare Book Society, 2011), pp 735-6.
- van der Krogt, P.C.J., *Koeman's Atlantes Neerlandici*. 't Goy-Houten : HES, 1997. Volume III, map 8150:341:54. Waghenae, Lucas, *Beschrijvinghe vande Noortcosten van Engeland ende Scotlant, ende ghelegenheit van dien, mitsgaders de monden vande rivieren, ende havenen, ende waer voren, men hem moet wachten = Description des costes Septentrionales d'Angleterre et Escosse...* [Leyden : ghedruckt by Francois van Raphelengien voor Lucas lansz Waghenae, 1592]. NLS shelfmark EMS.s.844. View online: <https://maps.nls.uk/coasts/chart/8155>

Cairt newsletter survey - calling all readers!

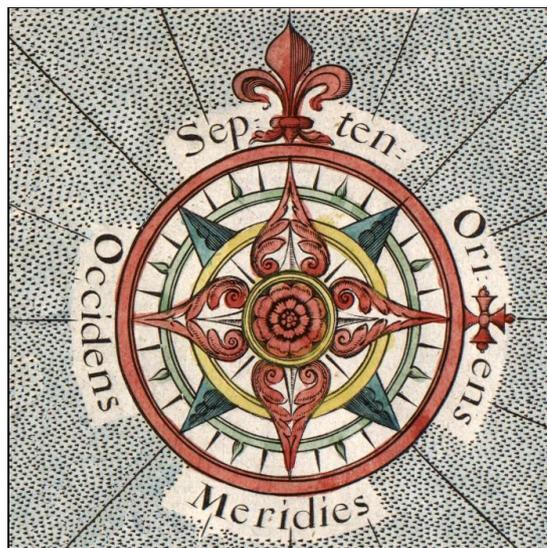
We are keen to keep up-to-date details we hold for those who receive *Cairt*. We have a couple of questions for individual subscribers:

1. Please could you let us know your e-mail address, so if we are unable to send out paper copies of *Cairt* in future, we can tell you when a PDF is put online.
2. Please tell us whether you would prefer to receive *Cairt* on paper or as a link to an online PDF.

For institutional subscribers (libraries/archives etc), please could you let us know the number of paper copies of *Cairt* that you wish to receive.

The form will take less than a minute to complete and is at: <https://scottish-maps-forum-cairt.mailchimpsites.com/>

We would be very grateful for your help with this.



Recent publications relating to Scottish maps and mapping

- P. Bishop, 'OS mapping of water mills', *Sheetlines* 120 (April 2021), 11-34. <https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/sheetlines-articles/Issue120page11.pdf>
- D.C.F. Webster, 'Scottish County Map Surveys, 1770s–1820s: Collating 'New' Evidence', *Scottish Archives* 25/26 (2019/20), 73-94. View online from 2022 at: <https://www.scottishrecordsassociation.org/scottish-archives>

John Givan (1778-1846): An Eminent Man of Fife

Diana Webster discovers the unexpected overlap of two research interests: failed county map proposals and the introduction of Imperial weights and measures.

John Givan is a rare Scottish example of a 'gentleman amateur' surveyor, for whom land surveying was not his principal employment. He was born in Torryburn, and 'bred to the law' with 'writer' Henry Bardner in Dunfermline.¹ After his apprenticeship he moved to Sheriff-Clerk Thomas Horsbrugh's office in Cupar in the late 1790s, where he remained for the rest of his life.

Anyone searching for the occupation 'surveyor' in the online *British Newspaper Archive* or *Directories* will quickly realise that most hits do not relate to land surveyors, but are for Excise surveyors, who checked imported goods for customs dues, or assessed alcohol duties. There were also Tax surveyors, who enumerated, for example, windows for the Window Tax. John Givan had a facility for numbers and was appointed as accountant for the Fife Bank and, while a young man, also as Surveyor of Windows, later rising to District Surveyor (of Taxes).² It was during this work, when he had to visit and identify properties, that he realised that John Ainslie's map of Fife and Kinross, first published in 1775, and reissued in 1801, was very out of date, and he began to collect information for a new county map of Fife.³

In 1808 he was promoted from Ensign to Lieutenant in the Cupar Militia and meanwhile his legal career was progressing.⁴ He 'frequently occupied the judicial bench as assistant to our late lamented Sherriff-Substitute [sic], Mr Jameson (exclusively, however as a friend and not as an official judge)'. By 1823 he had had two children with Mary Lawrie.⁵ Little wonder that in March 1822 he advertised to his subscribers an apology that his proposed county map of Fife was delayed, but he expected 'to have it ready in the coming months for the Engraver'.⁶

However, John Thomson in his *Atlas of Scotland* reported

Mr Govan [sic], Surveyor of Taxes in Cupar was for many years engaged on a Map of Fifeshire, and after taking up names as subscribers for it, he delayed from year to year, and it now remains in hopeless abeyance.⁷

Instead Thomson employed Cupar land surveyor Alexander Martin for a new survey of Fife between 1822 and 1826, and during 1826 and 1827 Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler also surveyed Fife and Kinross, published in 1828.⁸

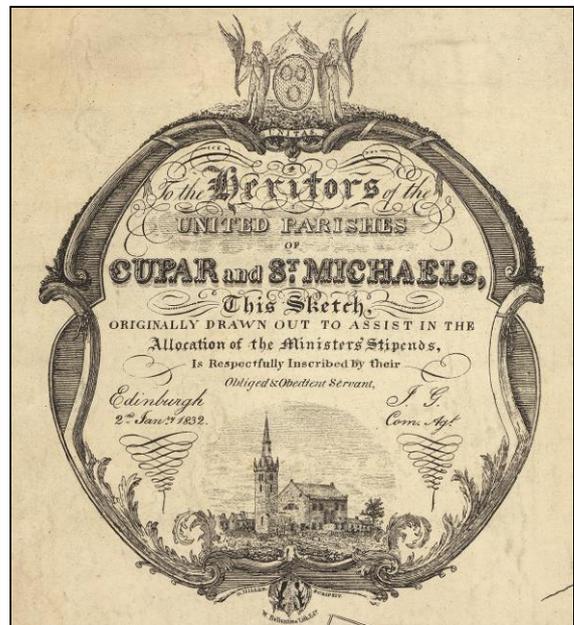


Fig.1: To the Heritors of the United Parishes of Cupar and St Michaels this sketch originally drawn out to assist in the allocation of the ministers' stipends is respectfully inscribed by their Obliged and Obedient Servant, J.G. Com.Agt. Edinburgh 2nd Jan 1832. **Signet.s.51**

It seemed that no maps by Givan had survived, but while browsing the National Library of Scotland's recently added digital map images, a possible candidate emerged (**Figs 1 and 2**).

This relates to the introduction of Imperial weights and measures, as described in *Cairt 38* (January 2021), when the stipends of ministers who had received part of their payment in kind, such as grain, were recalculated using the new measures.

¹Biographical details in Matthew F. Conolly, *Biographical dictionary of eminent men of Fife* (1860), p.196, derive from obituaries in the *Fife Herald*, 30 July 1846, p.3, col.2, and the *Fifeshire Journal*, 30 July 1846, p.3, col.1.

² In *Pigot's new commercial directory of Scotland for 1825-6*, p.349 he was a Surveyor of Windows. He is not to be confused with his contemporary George Givan (1788-1845) District Surveyor at St Andrews; a family connection is not known.

³ John Ainslie, *The counties of Fife and Kinross* (1775).

⁴ The *Edinburgh Gazette*, 5 January 1808, p.194.

⁵ The *Scottish Jurist*, 2, 1830, p.172, refers to a trust established by her father for Mary Lawrie and her two children in case of widowhood.

⁶ *Cupar Herald: Fife, Kinross, Strathearn, and Clackmannan Advertiser*, issue 1, 14 March 1822, p.3, col.3. Thanks to John Moore for drawing my attention to this rare first issue, held in St Andrews University Library.

⁷ John Thomson, *Atlas of Scotland* (1832), p.v.

⁸ Thomas Sharp, Christopher Greenwood, and William Fowler, *Map of the counties of Fife and Kinross* (1828).

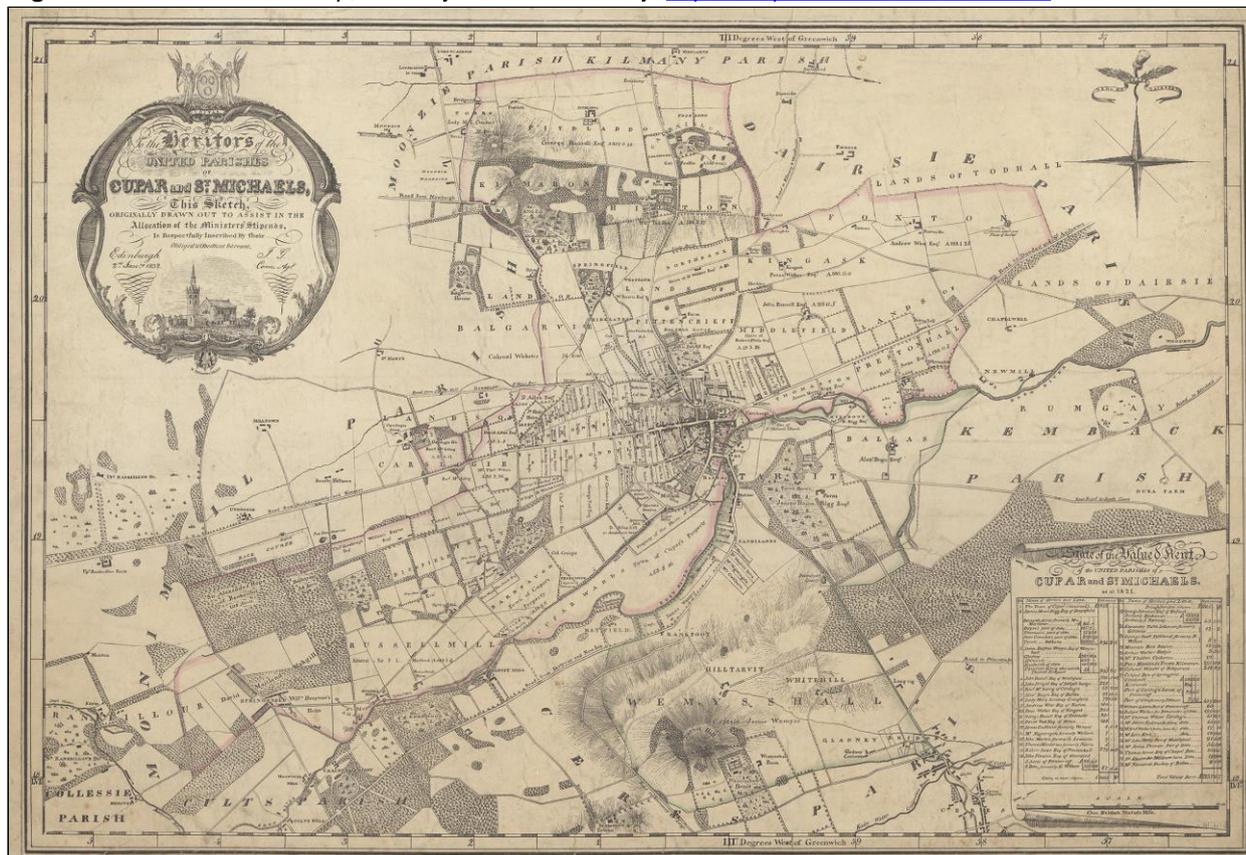
It is highly likely that 'J.G.' was John Givan. He was a friend and associate of the law officer before whom the jury, or weights and measures 'inquisition' for Fife would have been held in 1825, the date of the information about heritors on the map. 'Com. Agt.' indicates he was an agent for the Weights and Measures Commissioner. He was a 'writer' and this map comes from the collection of the Writers to the Signet, and he was a known land surveyor, based in Cupar, the county town.

The ornate style of the cartouche and map decoration date from an earlier era, and self-taught Givan would have been influenced by the 18th century maps of his youth.

His working life ceased in 1838 when he was struck down with paralysis (probably a stroke) and after a long illness died on 27 July 1846 at his home Southfield, near Cupar.

Diana Webster

Fig. 2: John Givan's whole map, courtesy of the WS Society: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/216390155>



National Library of Scotland Maps Reading Room update

The National Library of Scotland's Maps Reading Room is open by appointment. All are welcome to view maps and atlases from the collection. Visits can be booked online at <https://auth.nls.uk/maps-reading-room> up to 24 hours in advance. If you know which maps you wish to consult during your visit, you can request these in advance using the Map Request Form <https://auth.nls.uk/map-request/>. Alternatively, staff are happy to advise you on relevant maps for your research and can be contacted by telephoning 0131 623 4660 or emailing maps@nls.uk

To ensure the safety of readers and staff, the National Library of Scotland regularly updates its procedures to take account of the latest Government guidance regarding Covid. The latest information on procedures and services can be viewed on the Library website. <https://www.nls.uk/reopening/>

Map Workshops

Join a free online workshop to discover the National Library of Scotland's maps website. Learn about the range of maps available to view online and the different viewers available. Plus hints and tips for: searching, comparing, measuring, annotating and printing these online maps. Two workshops run regularly: *Navigating the Maps Website*, and *Maps for Family and Local History*. <https://www.nls.uk/events/workshops-and-tours/>

An expert at his profession: Alexander Adam (1819-1904), Alford and Aberdeen

Douglas Lockhart highlights the life of a successful land surveyor and farmer.

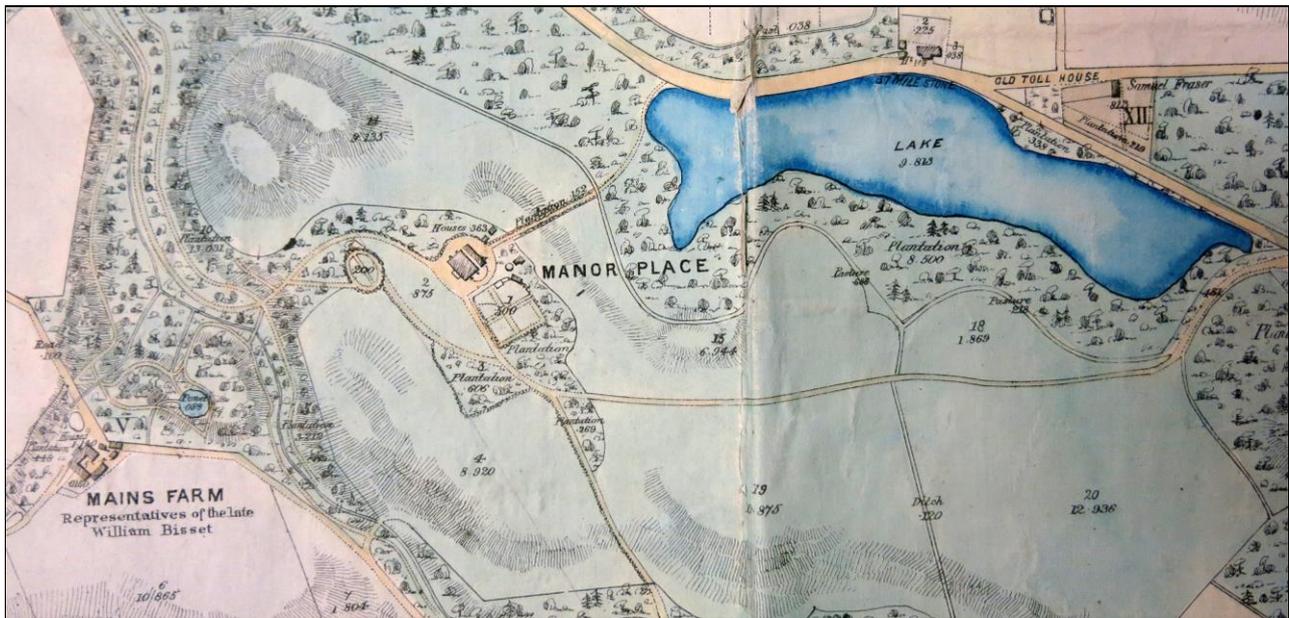


Fig.1: Plan of the lands of Cortes lying in the Parish of Rathen and County of Aberdeen, 1867. AUL MS 3860/21255. Courtesy of Special Collections and Museums University of Aberdeen.

The middle decades of the nineteenth century witnessed sustained investment in agricultural infrastructure in north east Scotland. New building work, land drainage and improvements to estate roads occurred widely throughout the region. Land surveyors played an important part in this transformation, preparing plans, advertising for builders and meeting contractors on site. In addition, surveys of estates continued until the publication of the first edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch to the mile plans ca.1870 (**Fig.1**). The plans in the Macdonald Collection [MS 3860] in the Special Collections Centre, University of Aberdeen [see *Cairt* 29, July 2016] provide many clues to the careers of local surveyors. Men like John Hepburn (1810-74) who lived his entire life at Overtown of Keithfield (Tarves Parish) on the Earl of Aberdeen's Haddo estate and facilitated improvements on this and neighbouring estates. Another significant figure was Alexander Adam whose business extended throughout eastern Aberdeenshire and Kincardineshire.

Adam was the first of a family of eight children born at Sunnyside (Kemnay Parish) between 1819 and 1835, and little is known of his early life. At the 1841 Census he was enumerated less than a mile away at Leschangie where he was a farm labourer. This farm was the birthplace of land surveyor Alexander Ogg (1811-65), whose links with the parish including teaching surveying at Kemnay School in 1834, before moving to Inverurie in 1836.¹

It is not known if Adam received tuition from Ogg: an obituary indicates that he was trained 'early in life' in Aberdeen.² By the 1840s Adam's father (John Adam ca.1782-1869) had taken up the tenancy of Mains of Whitehouse near Alford, where he was joined by his son. Alexander Adam's skills as a ploughman were recorded in newspaper reports of district ploughing matches in 1845.³ After many years where his occupation appears to be working on the family farm, his entry in the 1851 Census was land surveyor, an occupation which he would follow for the next forty years, initially in the Alford area, then from 1859 he moved office to Aberdeen.⁴ With a practical knowledge and experience of agriculture and forestry, he had been ground officer at Carnaveron (Alford Parish) in the late 1850s, complementing the surveying work which he undertook, a feature common to many in his profession.

Advertisements in the Aberdeen, Banff, Peterhead and Stonehaven press, located by searching the *British Newspaper Archive*, provide an insight into the day-to-day activities and geographical extent of his business. Sixty-five notices published between 1858 and 1887 were found, with farm building projects such as new cottages and steadings and drainage-related schemes accounting for more than half of

¹ *Aberdeen Journal*, 3 September 1834 p.2 col.5; 5 October 1836 p.1 col.1.

² *Aberdeen Weekly Free Press*, 19 March 1904 p.10 col.2.

³ *Aberdeen Journal*, 19 February 1845 p.4 col.5; 9 April 1845 p.4 col.6.

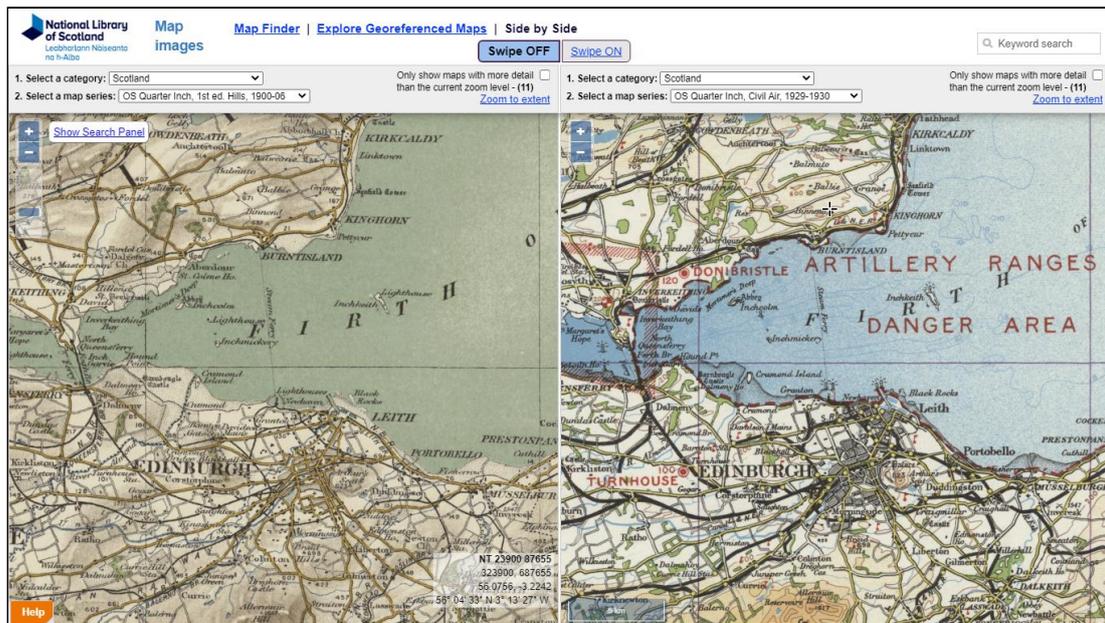
⁴ *Ibid* 27 November 1858 p.8 col.4; 20 April 1859 p.4 col.2.

Recent National Library of Scotland map website additions

- ### OS Quarter-inch to the Mile, maps of Scotland, 1901-1960

This addition is of all Ordnance Survey Quarter-Inch to the mile maps of Scotland, numbering 182 maps across 16 series. The quarter-inch to the mile series is useful in providing an overview of significant landscape features, including larger settlements, reservoirs, railways, and roads. It was also particularly valuable for aviation, with various Civil Air and Royal Air Force editions, as well as a set captured and reissued for the German Luftwaffe, showing new aerodromes, landing strips and conspicuous features (including golf courses) from the air.

Further information: <https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html#108>

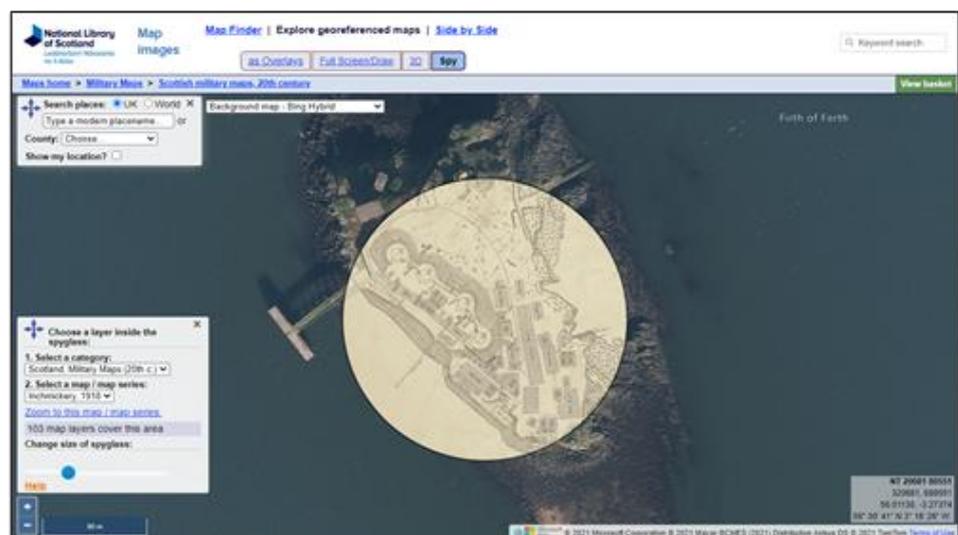


Comparing OS Quarter-Inch 1st edition mapping (1900-6) on the left with the OS Quarter-Inch 3rd Civil Air Edition (1929-30) on the right, with the latter showing new airports at Donibristle and Turnhouse, artillery ranges in the Forth, as well as new golf-courses and roads.

- ### Scottish military maps, 20th century

A small selection of military maps, dating from the 20th century, including very detailed plans of defensive works in and around the Forth and Clyde estuaries, constructed before and during the First World War. These were the largest-scale plans ever surveyed of these sites, and allow the terrain and defences to be scrutinised in minute detail, with whole islands and related coastal sites remodelled for military purposes. There are also plans relating to military training areas, and the construction of new barracks. We have georeferenced a selection of these maps, to allow them to be easily compared with other maps and the present day:

<https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html#113>



Viewing First World War military mapping of Inchmickery with the NLS Spy Map Viewer

Recent NLS map website additions (contd.)

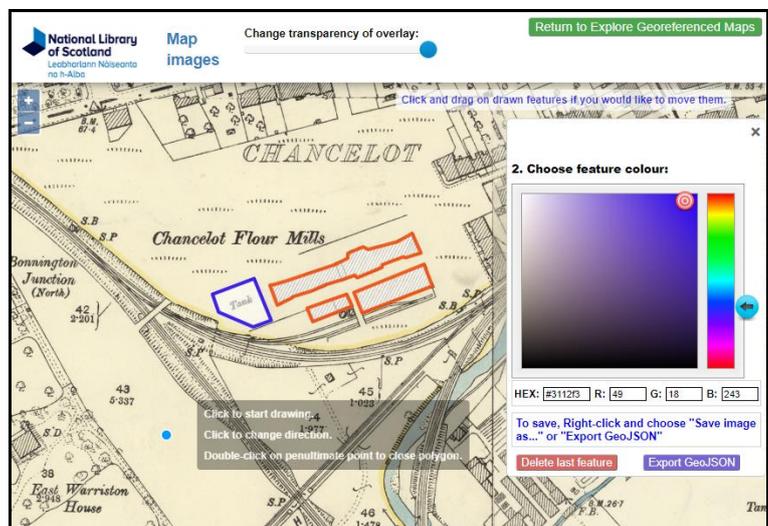
- OS One-Inch Seventh Series, Great Britain, 1952-1970.**
 All of our Ordnance Survey [One-Inch Seventh Series](#) maps (896 sheets), covering all of Great Britain, 1952-1970. Our previous coverage of this series just included one edition for each sheet map, but we have now put online all our out-of-copyright editions: <https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html#109>
- OS Half-Inch and Quarter-Inch Indexes, Scotland, 1890s-1960s.**
 143 sheets showing the sheet boundaries of OS Six-Inch and 25 Inch maps: <https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html#110>
- OS Quarter-Inch Administrative Maps, Scotland, 1930s-1960s.**
 85 maps showing administrative and Parliamentary Constituency boundaries: <https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html#111>
- County maps of Northern England, 1760s-1840s.**
 22 maps covering counties in northern England to support a research project on mills with Glasgow University: <https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html#103>

New tools for Drawing / Tracing Features

We have added new tools to allow easy drawing / tracing of features on our maps. You can choose a feature type for drawing, choose a colour, and just click/tap on the map to draw. The resulting drawn features can be saved locally as an image or JSON file of coordinates (which can be easily edited with a text editor).

Further details:

<https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html#105>



Maps for Scottish local history May 2021



Detail from Thomas Winter's [Plan of the estates of Kethick and Renoche](#) (1751)

This resource explains some of the key kinds of maps that are useful for local history research. Maps can reveal detailed information about the local area over time, including buildings, gardens, industries, railways, roads, woodland and agricultural land. The topics below are divided by the **subject** and **purpose** of maps, including a breakdown of Ordnance Survey maps by scale (level of detail).

• County Maps	• Ordnance Survey: a brief history	• OS One-Inch and smaller scales
• Estate Maps	• OS large-scale town plans	• Thematic maps
• Military Maps	• OS 25 inch to the mile	• Further reading
• Town plans	• OS Six-inch to the mile	
• Transport		

If you would like to use our map collections to **research your own local history**, you can [search for digitised maps on our website](#), [watch help videos](#), [contact us](#) or [ask a question](#). You can also [visit us](#) by making an appointment to visit our Maps Reading Room in Edinburgh.

New User Community resources

We have begun to compile a new series of guides or resources for particular user communities. Our **Researching Climate Change** resource illustrates how historic maps can be used to research a wide variety of subjects connected to climate change.

Our **Maps for Scottish Local History** resource highlights some of the most useful maps for local history research, with summary information about their content, and links to further information.

View these resources

at: <https://maps.nls.uk/communities/>