



CAIRT

Issue 37
July 2020

Newsletter of the Scottish Maps Forum

In this issue:

- **New online early maps of Scotland**
- **Thomas Shier and his maps of planned villages and roads**
- **Peter Goldman and the earlier history of the Pont maps**
- **Recent NLS website additions**
- **Recent publications**
- **Online map workshops/events**
- **Seminar & Maps Reading Room updates**

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:



National Library of Scotland
Leabharlann Nàisean
na h-Alba

Scottish Maps Forum
National Library of Scotland
33 Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SL
Tel: 0131 623 4660
E-mail: maps@nls.uk
Twitter: @natlibscotmaps

ISSN 1477-4186
© 2020 National Library of Scotland
Edited by C. Fleet and J. Parkerson.

New early maps of Scotland go online

In February-March 2020 we were pleased to be able to scan over 3,800 fragile, folded or special collection maps of Scotland using a loaned, large-format flatbed scanner, and we have been actively putting the images online since then. Our main website additions up to early July have been 450 new printed [maps of Scotland](#) dating from the last five centuries, almost doubling the number of maps of the whole of Scotland we now have on our website. We have also added a further 300 printed [county maps of Scotland](#), useful too for now allowing a much more comprehensive presentation of landscape change over time. For those interested in more detailed rural mapping, we have added 450 new [estate maps](#) online, stretching from Wigtonshire to Orkney. These are useful for showing the division of common land, the planning of new roads, farming and woodland, coal mining, the creation of designed gardens and landscapes, planned villages, architectural reconstruction, and the reclamation of foreshore. For those interested in urban areas, we have added 180 new printed [town plans of Scotland](#), covering 22 towns, allowing urban change to be seen more clearly. We are also delighted to have been granted permission by the WS Society to put their Signet Library map collection online, containing many special and important maps - see page 7.

We have also made available online five colourful and attractive new series of Ordnance Survey maps, which were received by the Library in a folded form - see page 6.

Further details of all these website additions are at:
<https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html>



Thomas Shier (1762-1850): surveying nineteenth century planned villages

Douglas Lockhart summarises the life of a land surveyor and his work laying out new roads and settlements in north east Scotland.

Thomas Shier was born on 13 June 1762 at Cattleshiel Farm in Longformacus Parish, Berwickshire. Initially he specialised in road surveying and in the early 1790s lived in Duns.¹ Shier moved to Aberdeen in 1796 after successfully applying to become road overseer on the Deeside turnpike road. This was the first of many similar contracts awarded to Shier during the next thirty years, mostly in the former counties of Aberdeenshire, Banffshire and Moray though in 1807 he surveyed the proposed road from Loch Maree to Poolewe in Wester Ross.² In all he was involved with some 500 miles of new and improved roads and a large number of his plans and reports survive in the National Records of Scotland [NRS]; Special Collections Centre, University of Aberdeen [AUL]; Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives and in private collections. His expertise also extended to plans for bridges [RHP46019 and 46020] and projects to divert the course of rivers [RHP2483]. From c.1812 until 1840, when based mainly in Huntly, Shier became involved with estate mapping particularly farms; marches between estates and planned villages. He was associated with five new settlements: Charlestown of Aberlour (1812) on the estate of Charles Grant of Wester Elchies; Dufftown (1817); Fife Keith (1817) and Longmanhill (1821) on the Fife Estates and his final project was Insh (1838) near Kingussie on the Invereshie Estate owned by George Macpherson-Grant of Ballindalloch.

The surviving record in estate papers for each village takes a different form and is unfortunately less complete than other places founded in the North East such as Cullen; Cummingstown and New Pitligo. Nothing survives to link Shier with Charlestown of Aberlour and the only known reference his obituary in the *Banffshire Journal*.³ In contrast for Dufftown, the letter book of John Watt, district factor at Mether Cluny, provides a precise record. On 6 January 1817 he noted that 'Mr Shier ... has been

some days marking off the feus on the site of the new proposed village ...' and on 11 January was 'lotting off the land arable and uncultivated ...'.⁴ Afterwards Shier moved to Fife Keith on the west bank of the River Isla. Here the evidence are vouchers for payment for surveying the site, supervising workmen draining, building dykes and altering the course of the river and meeting 'candidates for feus' between December 1816 and September 1817.⁵ These records when assembled provide a detailed picture of Shier's activities. Although the original plans have not survived for Dufftown or Fife Keith, Shier returned to Dufftown in 1832 and his plan is among the Duff House Papers in AUL.⁶

A further wave of road construction provided work for Thomas Shier between 1818 and 1821 and pressure from other commitments meant that he was late in completing the plan for a roadside community near the quarry at Longmanhill two miles east of Macduff. On 16 February 1822 he wrote to George Wilson, factor, Duff House apologising 'that I have been so backward in sending you the Plan of the Longmanhill Feus' and offered 'to amend it when I come to Banff' (Fig.1, below).⁷

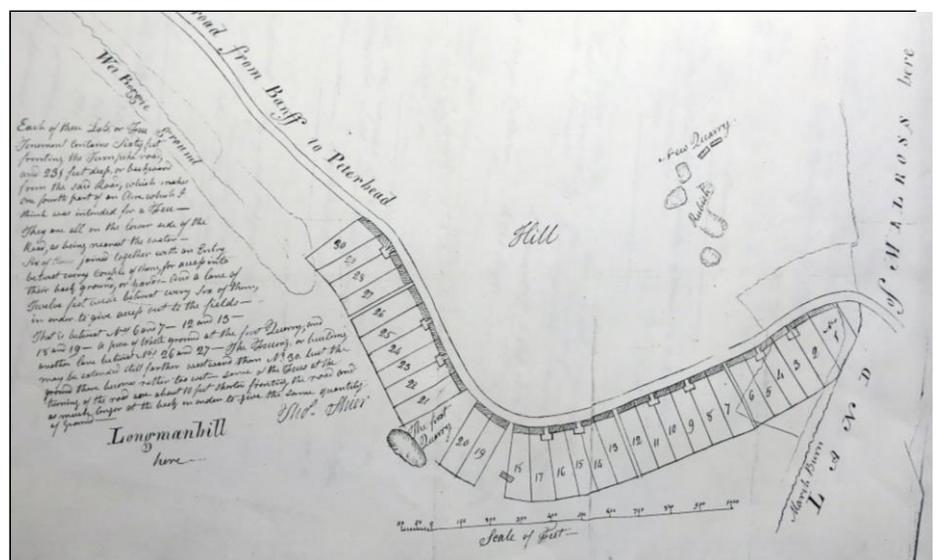


Fig.1: Excerpt from Plan of Longmanhill Village, 1821. AUL MS 3175/ 971. Courtesy of Special Collections and Museums, University of Aberdeen.

¹ D. Lockhart, 'Thomas Shier's Plan of Longmanhill, Banffshire, 1821', *Scottish Local History* 83 (2012), pp.33-7 contains details of his career and family.
² Mackenzie of Gairloch Papers NRAS143, Plan of proposed road from Loch Maree ... to Poolewe, 1807.
³ *Banffshire Journal*, 19 November 1850 p.3 col.2.

⁴ Huntly and Garioch District Agricultural Executive Committee: Glass Parish NRAS1326/ Vol.VII.
⁵ AUL Duff House (Montcoffer) Papers MS 3175/1542/2.
⁶ Ibid MS 3175/RHP31038; photocopy in NRS.
⁷ Ibid MS 3175/971.

The plan was not implemented and instead small crofts were laid out on the opposite side of the road. In spite of his advanced age, Shier produced a number of plans throughout the 1830s including the village of Insh in 1838 (Fig.2, right). The linear arrangement of feus flanked by lotted lands, that enabled part-time farming, was typical of many small villages founded throughout the North East and Eastern Highlands between 1750 and 1840. The late date also means that the Census can be used to study the early inhabitants who numbered 100 in 1851 and were tradesmen, labourers and poor people from the local area.⁸

Douglas Lockhart

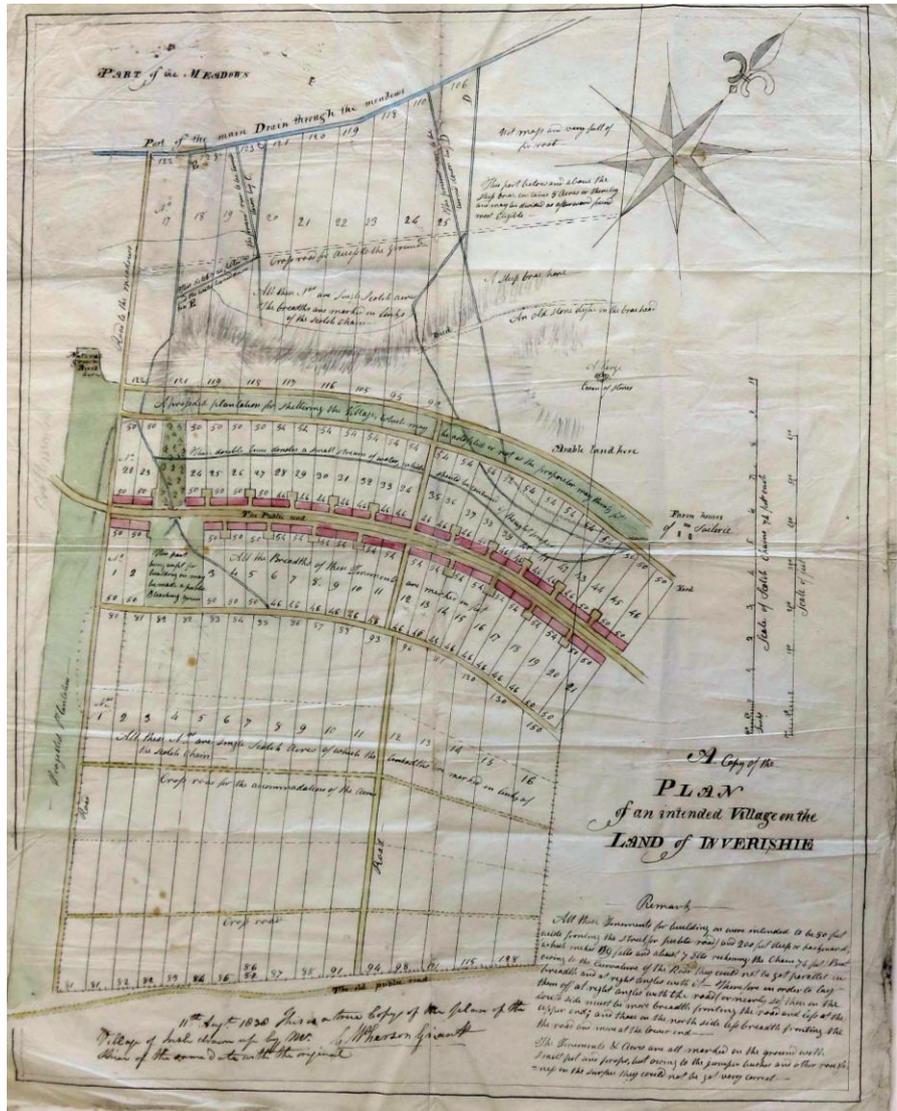


Fig.2: Plan of the Village of Insh, 1838. Macpherson-Grant of Ballindalloch Papers, NRAS771 bundle 572. Courtesy of Guy Macpherson-Grant.

⁸ Kingussie and Insh Parish 1851 Census ED9 pp.1-6.

Cairt competition - two Scottish Map Calendars 2021 to be won!

We continue our tradition of preparing for the New Year well in advance with our Cairt competition - these popular calendars over the last few years continue a happy collaboration with Birlinn – <https://birlinn.co.uk/product/scottish-maps-calendar-2021/>

Our detail in this issue is taken from one of the 450 new printed maps of Scotland that we added online in May. Please let us know the **name of the mapmaker** and **title** of the map.

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

Many thanks to everyone who sent in answers to the competition in the last issue. The detail shown was from C.J. Vooght / J. van Keulen's *Nieuwe paskaart van de Orcades Eylanden* [1695] - variant spellings were also accepted!



Peter Goldman and the Earlier History of the Pont Maps

William Poole of New College, Oxford, shares details of letters which provide new evidence on the Pont manuscript maps and the more significant, earlier role of Sir John Scot of Scotstarvit in sending them to Blaeu.

The history of the Pont maps between the death of Timothy Pont in no later than 1614, and their acquisition from Pont's heirs by the antiquary and geographer Sir James Balfour of Denmilne in Fife, is obscure. We know only that the maps of Pont were in the hands of Balfour by 1629, as a letter of Charles I to Sir William Alexander, Secretary of State for Scotland, of 28 February 1629 awards Balfour £100 (sterling, not Scots) 'to perfect and publishe the same'. Balfour, who is assumed to have acquired the maps not long before this grant, failed either to perfect or publish; and Sir John Scot of Scotstarvit, who had been corresponding on the topic of Scottish maps with the Blaeu firm in Amsterdam since 1626, took over the maps from his neighbour Balfour, bringing them to press over two decades later.

This classic narrative of the midwifing of Scotland's first atlas is substantially correct, but I have a minor complication to reveal. Our understanding of the early history of the Pont maps was put on a proper footing by Moir and Skelton in a 1968 article which exploited for the first time Scotstarvit's manuscript letterbook now among the Advocates' Manuscripts.¹ Focussed as they were on letters between Scotstarvit and the Blaeus, they understandably passed over Scotstarvit's other correspondents.

One of these was the Dundonian physician and Latin poet Peter Goldman, a man chiefly remembered today for his description of the Dundee plague of 1607 in a longer poem lamenting the deaths of four of his brothers.² Later, when Scotstarvit was putting together the collection of Scots Latin poetry that would be published by the Blaeus in 1637, the *Delitiae poetarum Scotorum*, Goldman assisted Scotstarvit by reviewing a draft, and indeed earning for himself a spot in the final anthology. These letters were discussed in a 1984 St Andrews thesis on Scots Latin.³ But their significance for the study of the Pont maps has not been fully recognised. At the time of Charles I's grant to Balfour, the latter was resident in London, returning to Scotland in 1630. In mid 1631 W.J. Blaeu thanked Scotstarvit for a letter enclosing another from Balfour, along with a map, the first of the many Pont maps to follow. Although Blaeu had been asking Scotstarvit for cartographic material

on Scotland since late 1626, when their correspondence opens, this is the first explicit reference in their letters to Balfour and the Pont maps. Thus, according to Moir and Skelton, 'Scot did not hear of the Pont manuscripts until after Balfour's return from London in 1630'.

If we turn to the letters of Goldman to Scotstarvit, however, we find that Goldman was exhorting Scotstarvit to publish the maps specifically of Pont long before Scotstarvit can have acquired the maps in Balfour's possession, because Goldman was dead by late 1627.⁴

Three letters from Goldman to Scotstarvit survive, all undated.⁵ The one I place earliest in time mentions only poetry. The second is addressed to Scotstarvit as 'Equiti ornatissimo Cancellariæ directori et in supremo regni Senatu consiliario dignissimo' ('To the most distinguished knight, Director of Chancery, and most worthy councillor in the supreme senate of the state [i.e. the Privy Council]'). After discussing their principal topic of interaction, Scots Latin poetry, Goldman adds:

Scotiæ tabulas geographicas et chorographicas Pontani manu accuratissimè delineatas, si prælo commiseris, te et Pontanum immortalitati consecrabis. Fauebunt tam honesto incœpto D.D. Cancellarius et Carnegius patriæ bono nati, quique literas maximi faciunt et quos literæ. (Fig.1)

('If you commit to the press the geographical and chorographical maps of Scotland so accurately depicted by the hand of Pont, you will consecrate yourself and Pont to immortality. The lords Lord Chancellor and Carnegie, born for the good of their country, will favour such a noble undertaking, who do so much for learning, and learning for them.')

'Carnegius' is David Carnegie, first earl of Southesk (1574/5–1658), at the time of this letter Lord Carnegie of Kinnaird, and an Extraordinary Lord of Session. Now we might assume that the Lord Chancellor here is Alexander Seton, first earl of Dunfermline (1556–1622), who in 1599 had received the dedication of a book by Robert Pont, father of Timothy, and likewise later of John Ray's edition of Buchanan (1615), and of

¹ D.G. Moir and R.A. Skelton, 'New light on the first atlas of Scotland', *Scottish Geographical Magazine* 84 (1968), pp. 149-59, including a text of the letter quoted.

² William Poole, 'Peter Goldman: A Dundee Poet and Physician in the Republic of Letters', in Steven J. Reid and David McOmish, eds., *Neo-Latin Literature and Literary Culture in Early Modern Scotland* (Leiden, 2016), pp. 100-125.

³ Christopher A. Upton, 'Studies in Scottish Latin', PhD thesis (St Andrews, 1984), esp. pp. 43-6.

⁴ NRS, Brechin Commissary Court, CC3/3/4, pp. 629-33.

⁵ NLS, MS Adv. 17.1.9, fols. 64, 21, 14 (adopting my chronological ordering).

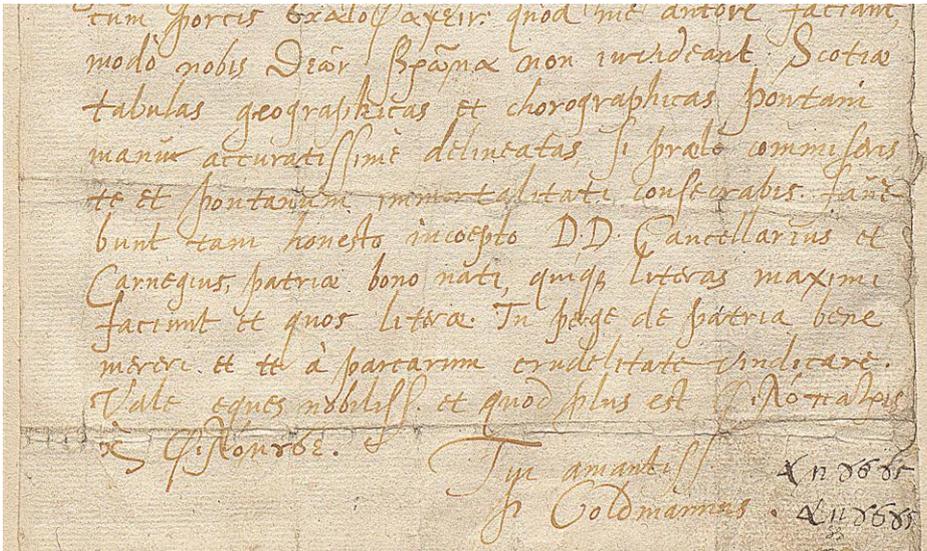


Fig.1. The excerpt describing Pont from Goldman's second letter to Scotstarvit, Adv.MS.17.1.9, fol. 21.

John Napier of Merchiston's *Rabdologiæ* (1617). But given the *terminus a quo* of the letter, the more likely man is Seton's successor George Hay, 1st Earl of Kinnoull (1570–1634). Although Scotstarvit described him as of 'little or no learning', at least one manuscript work passed between the two men, namely John Geddy's *Methodus sive compendium mathematicus* of 1586.⁶ Hay was also the co-dedicattee of Francis Hamilton of Silvertonhill's *King James His Encomium* (Edinburgh, 1626). But the clinching connection to Goldman is that in Goldman's long poem on the deaths of his brothers, mentioned earlier, a 'Haye' is celebrated for his patronage:

Haye, decus generis, genus alto à sanguine patrum;

...

In commune bonus, patriæque in commoda natus;

Quas tibi persolvam grates? quæ dona rependam?⁷

('Hay, ornament of your family, a family from the noble blood of fathers, | . . . | A good for all, born for the advantage of your country; | What thanks can I discharge? What gifts can I repay you?')

This letter therefore demonstrates that at some point no earlier than mid 1622 and no later than late 1627, Goldman knew that Scotstarvit had some Pont maps, that he was discussing publication, and so recommended to him Carnegie and Hay as likely patrons.

⁶ Alex D. D. Craik, 'A Book for the King', *BSHM Bulletin: Journal of the British Society for the History of Mathematics* 30 (2015), pp. 113-130, at p. 114.

⁷ Petrus Goldmannus, *Lachrymæ* (Paris, 1614), p. 11, accompanied by the annotation 'Georgius Hayus eques auratus', confirming the identification.

As for the third and final letter, I place it last in chronological sequence because its content seems to confirm rather than preface the material in the other letters, and because its reference to maps implies prior discussion. Now, Goldman advises: 'Chartas Geographicas si in Hollandiam miseris, propediem excusas videbis. Id tibi et tuis immortalem gloriam pariet'. ('If you should send the geographical maps to Holland, you will see them printed very soon. That will bring forth immortal glory for you and yours'.) As stated, this must date from before late 1627

when Goldman died, and probably just after the point in 1626 when Scot commenced his correspondence with the Blaeus. Goldman himself was the first Scot to graduate with an MD from Leiden, in 1610, and he may have fancied himself as an advisor on Low Country publishing firms as a result.

I propose, therefore, that Scotstarvit held some Pont maps of Scotland independently of Balfour and probably before Balfour acquired his maps. This conclusion is strengthened by the map of Orkney and Shetland published in 1654 in the *Blaeu Atlas*, but bearing a dedication by Blaeu the Elder (who had been dead for sixteen years) to Scotstarvit. This map, as the Blaeu-Scotstarvit correspondence demonstrates, was in preparation by 1626 and engraved by 1628, and as Goldman wrote specifically of Pont, this is further evidence that Pont's (lost) map was the source for the published Orkney-Shetland map. Thus at least some of Pont's maps had become detached from the body of papers later acquired by Balfour from Pont's heirs, and were in the possession of Scotstarvit by the mid 1620s. The earliest efforts to publish Pont's maps therefore ran in parallel between Balfour and Scotstarvit, and not in series.

William Poole



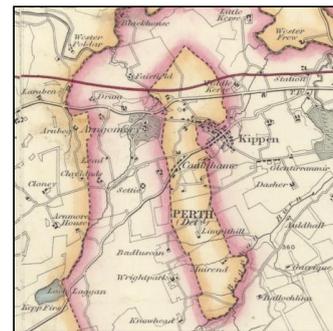
Fig. 2. The Goldman family estate, marked with the tenorial affix 'Gold', to the east of 'Sanfurd', Forgan parish, Fife, from James Gordon's *Fifae Vicecomitatus, The Sherifdome of Fyfe* (1654).

Recent National Library of Scotland website additions - map series

- **Ordnance Survey, One-inch to the mile, Scotland 1st Edition (Coloured), 1856-1891**

A hand-coloured one-inch series, covering all of Scotland and published on 132 sheets between 1856 and 1891. Very often, these new coloured sheets were earliest states which were later re-issued, sometimes with updated information relating to railways, docks, or parish boundaries. <https://maps.nls.uk/os/one-inch-1st/>

Right: The detached part of Lecropt parish by Kippen, Stirlingshire on the OS One-Inch 1st edition, ca. 1868.



- **Ordnance Survey, One-inch to the mile, Scotland 3rd Edition (Coloured), 1902-1923**

This attractively-coloured series covered most of Scotland in the early 20th century, and was Ordnance Survey's earliest attempt to produce a one-inch to the mile map with coloured topographic detail. The maps were intended for practical recreational purposes, and they were issued in a convenient folded form with covers. <https://maps.nls.uk/os/one-inch-3rd-colour/>

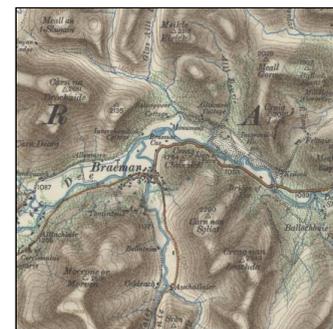
Right: Fort Augustus on the OS One-Inch 3rd edition (1909)



- **Ordnance Survey Half-Inch to the mile, Scotland 1908-1918**

The Ordnance Survey began working on a series of maps at the half-inch to the mile scale (1:126,720) from 1902, with topographic content derived from the main nationwide revision of maps at the larger-scales from the 1890s. We have scanned all our sheets of this series, which were received by the Library in a folded form, including one with hachures <https://maps.nls.uk/os/half-inch-hills/> and another with layer colours: <https://maps.nls.uk/os/half-inch-layers/>

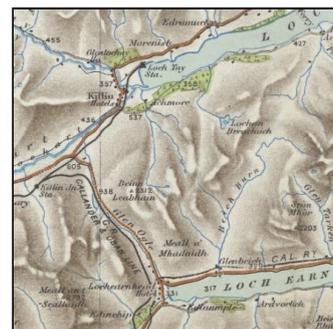
Right: Braemar on the OS Half-Inch (hachured) series (1909)



- **Ordnance Survey, Quarter-inch to the mile, Scotland 1st Edition, 1901-1914**

This series covered all of Scotland in ten sheets, with detail drawn from larger-scale maps, comprehensively revised in the 1890s. The maps were attractively coloured and provide an overview of significant landscape features, including larger settlements, railways, and roads, the latter distinguished into three classes: <https://maps.nls.uk/os/quarter-inch-first/>

Right: Killin and Lochearnhead from the OS Quarter-Inch series (1903)

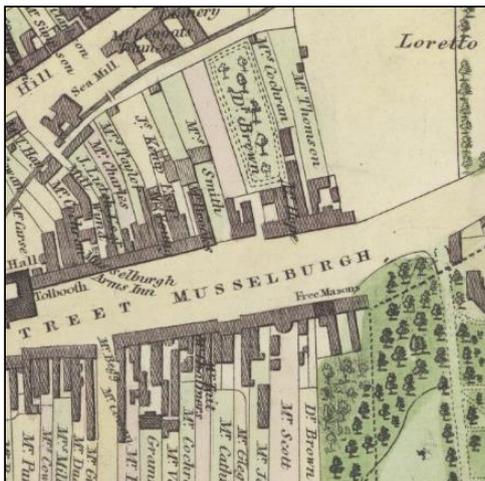


New Data Foundry map pages

The Data Foundry was launched last year, to promote digital scholarship and digital humanities work. New project pages have been recently added on using data extracted from maps:

- Mapping and Querying with QGIS: <https://data.nls.uk/projects/mapping-quarries-and-collieries/>
- Finding Lost Footpaths using GB1900: <https://data.nls.uk/projects/finding-lost-footpaths-using-gb1900/>
- Tracing Edinburgh's Boundaries: <https://data.nls.uk/projects/tracing-edinburghs-boundaries/>

Signet Library's Scottish maps go online



Above: A detail from James Hay's *New plan of Musselburgh and its Environs* (1824). Signet.s.116.

We are very grateful to the WS Society for granting NLS permission to scan and put online their fine map collection, which has been held on deposit in NLS since 1981. The collection includes over 400 flat-sheet maps of Scotland, dating from the late 16th century through to the mid 20th century.

Of these, there are 91 county or district maps, a further 47 plans of towns, (with a focus on Edinburgh), 23 estate plans (including 6 in manuscript), 16 coastal charts, and 9 maps which relate to the whole of Scotland. There are also two Ordnance Survey One-Inch to the mile series of Scotland, the 2nd edition with coloured parishes and a third outline edition (1903-1912). The collection includes several important early editions and unusual maps, as well as some unique manuscript maps, all not found in the main NLS map collections.

View all Signet Library maps at: <https://geo.nls.uk/maps/signet.html>.

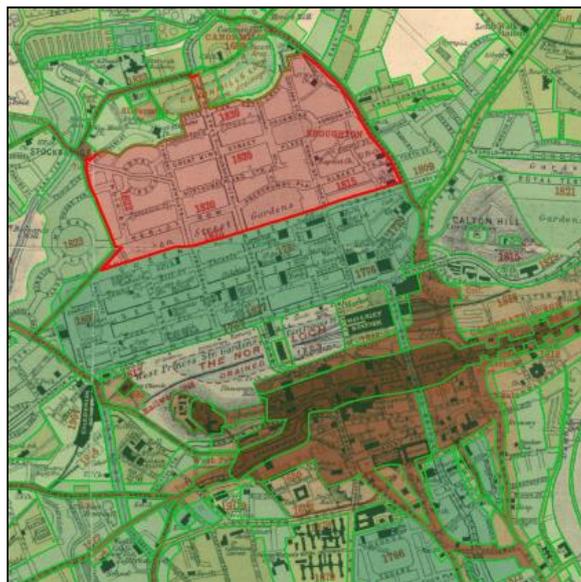
Edinburgh Boundaries Viewer

This new viewer allows a selection of boundaries to be interactively explored. The boundaries were traced from historic maps of Edinburgh, originally by the *Visualising Urban Geographies* project.

There are boundaries showing landownership (1804-1817), Police Wards (1822-1848), Sanitary Districts (1864-1880), Municipal Wards (1852-1902), and Registration Districts (1865-1902). Also included are the extensions of the Royalty Boundary from 1685 to 1885, and Bartholomew's *Chronological Map of Edinburgh* (1919).

These boundaries provide many insights into the administration of Edinburgh over time, particularly its local government, public health, and ownership of land, as well as its patterns of development. It is possible to download any of the boundaries as shapefiles or KML files.

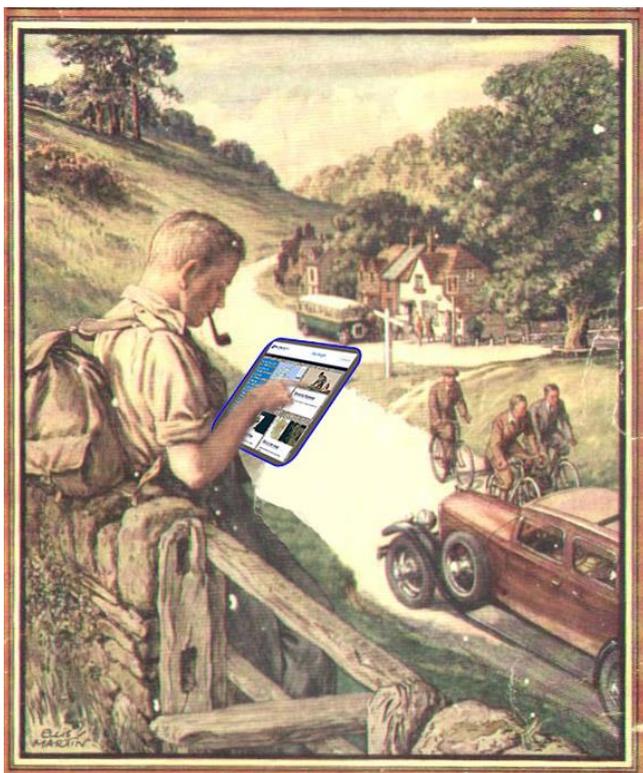
<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/boundaries/edinburgh/>



Recent Publications relating to Scottish maps and mapping

- J. Davies, 'Secret Cold War maps of Scottish cities', *Scottish Local History* 106 (Summer 2020), 24-9.
- R. Dishington, 'Towards a historical geography of marine engineering: D. & T. Stevenson, Wick harbour and the management of nature', *Journal of Historical Geography* (in press) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhg.2020.04.006>.
- C. Fleet, 'Maps for Scottish Local History - principal free online services', *Scottish Local History* 105 (Spring 2020), 23-32.
- D.G. Lockhart, 'Thomas Smith Hutcheon's Plan of Elgin', *Scottish Local History* 105 (Spring 2020), 33-40.
- R. Spencer-Jones, 'Peter May, the Commissioners, NOSAS and the National Library of Scotland – a story of discovery'. *NOSAS Archaeology Blog*, 3 April 2020. <https://nosasblog.wordpress.com/2020/04/03/>.
- P. Williams, 'The Chimney Map', *British Connections* 21(1) (January-March 2020), 48-9.

Online map workshops, events, blogs and more...



The National Library of Scotland's maps team have very much viewed lockdown as an opportunity and have been active in giving online workshops and talks since it began. These can be watched on the [National Library of Scotland Youtube channel](#), and details of forthcoming events are at: <https://www.nls.uk/events>.

The Library's blog (<https://blog.nls.uk/>) has an ongoing local studies theme, *Zoom into Scotland*, and also carries map-related posts.

Please also take a look at our new web page, *Ten things you (maybe) didn't know about our maps website* at <https://geo.nls.uk/maps/ten-things/>. Top tips for successful online map rambles.

The *Dumfries Archival Mapping Project* has also been active in holding various estate map talks – view on the [Galloway Glens Youtube channel](#), with news and details of forthcoming talks on their [Facebook page](#).

Left: A doctored version (with apologies) of Ellis Martin's classic picture, taken from the OS One-Inch to the Mile, *Dorking & Leith Hill* map cover, ca. 1929.

Scottish Maps Forum seminar



We were very sorry that we had to postpone this day seminar, which was due to be held on 15 May, due to lockdown restrictions. We are optimistic that we will be able to hold the seminar in Spring 2021, with a similar line-up of talks and venue, and we will publicise this in our next issue of *Cairt*.

In the meantime, thank you to everyone for their understanding. We have a record of all payments made and all those who booked for the 2020 Seminar will be guaranteed a place next year. We look forward to seeing you there.

Reopening of the National Library of Scotland's reading rooms

The National Library of Scotland Reading Rooms are planning to reopen from Tuesday 11th August 2020. The Library will make several changes to buildings and services to protect readers and staff, and full details of these will be published on our website.

As before, the Maps Reading Room will reopen by appointment only, so please book your visit to the Maps Reading Room online, or phone or e-mail us to make an appointment <https://auth.nls.uk/maps-reading-room>. You can request items, or provide details of your enquiry when booking, so that staff can have your maps waiting for you when you arrive.



We've missed seeing you all at Causewayside, and look forward to welcoming you to the Maps Reading Room from 11th August.