

CAIRT

Issue 15 July 2009

Newsletter of the Scottish Maps Forum

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SCOTTISH MAPS FORUM

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

- ◆ To stimulate and to encourage multidisciplinary 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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Mapping and Antiquities in Scotland

Our next Scottish Maps Forum Seminar, to be held on Tuesday 27 October 2009 in the National Library of Scotland, will be on the theme of mapping and antiquities in Scotland.

This seminar brings together several themes concerning the portrayal of antiquities on maps. Maps are key tools in representing and understanding ancient structures, and over time, the same antiquities have been represented in quite different ways.

The morning sessions will examine particular map-makers at different points in time. Matthew Shelley describes the value of early maps, especially by Pont and Blaeu in understanding crannogs and island dwellings in Scotland. Steve Boyle looks at estate mapping of Lochtayside in the latter 18th century and its value for archaeological purposes today. Yolande Hodson draws on her unrivalled knowledge of William Roy, to examine his mapping of Roman antiquities in Scotland in the latter 18th century.

In the afternoon, the focus will be on a very broad range of themes connected to the Antonine Wall, awarded World Heritage Status last year. Lawrence Keppie will review the range of early mapmakers of the Antonine Wall, whilst John Poulter will look at the early Roman surveying of the Wall. Peter McKeague and Rebecca Jones will look at 20th century surveys, fieldwork and mapping debates connected to the Antonine Wall coming through to the present day.

The cost is £15 (£20 with lunch) and booking forms and further information are available from the Map Library (contact details in panel on left) and NLS website www.nls.uk/collections/maps



Details from William Roy. Military Antiquities

of the Romans in North Britain, 1793

WEBSITE NEWS - NEW ORDNANCE SURVEY 25 INCH MAPS OF SCOTLAND, 1855-1882

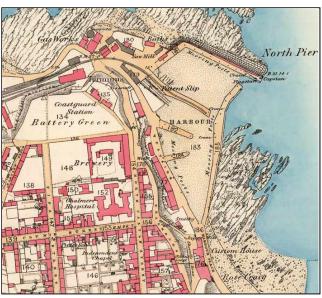
Our latest major website addition, is the Ordnance Survey's 25 inch to the mile (1:2,500) series (1855-1882), the earliest, detailed mapping for all the inhabited regions of Scotland. All towns, villages and cultivated rural areas were mapped, comprising over a third of the total land area of Scotland. The maps are immensely valuable for local history, providing good detail of all buildings, streets, railways, industrial premises, parkland, farms, woodland, and rivers. Their bold style and attractive, informative, hand-colouring allow easy interpretation for a wide range of uses.

Background

The initial surveying of Scotland by Ordnance Survey was carried out at the less detailed scale of six-inch to the mile, which we made available on our website last year. However, there were protracted debates in the 1850s, the 'Battle of the Scales', as to whether this was the correct basic scale to use. Whilst the six inch scale allowed more rapid progress to be made, and was often satisfactory for moorland and uncultivated areas, the 25 inch scale had a number of advantages in more populated regions. The 25 inch maps were more useful for land valuation and registration purposes, railway development, agricultural improvement, conveyancing of land, urban expansion, water supply and sewerage, and defining public and private boundaries.

In 1855, the 25 inch to the mile scale was officially authorised as the basic scale for all cultivated rural areas, with the six inch and one inch maps derived or reduced from the larger scale. As a result, six Scottish counties have no 25 inch mapping before the 1890s. These counties (Edinburghshire, Fife, Haddingtonshire, Kinross-shire, Kirkcudbrightshire and Wigtonshire) and the Island of Lewis had been surveyed at the six inch scale, prior to the decision to survey at 25 inch in 1855.

Surveying proceeded generally from south to north. Most of the Lowlands were surveyed by 1859, and most areas south of the Highland Line were surveyed before 1869. Orkney and Shetland were the final counties to be surveyed in 1877-8.



Ordnance Survey 25-inch map, Banffshire IV.12 (surveyed 1866)

The website includes further information on the maps, their content, sheet numbering and layout, as well as their printing, colouring and publication.

Scanning and website presentation

This has been our largest map digitisation project to date, listing and scanning over 13 thousand A0-sized sheets over three years. The original images collectively take up over seven terabytes (7,000 gigabytes), and the compressed web images alone take up 245 gigabytes.

Searching is possible by an easy zoomable map interface, as well as by drop-down lists of counties, parishes, and place names. The 25 inch map sheet boundaries are presented geographically, and high-resolution zoomable images of every sheet can be selected. There are guides to abbreviations, colour and symbols. For a fee, we can supply high-quality images and stunning colour printouts of any of these maps.

View the 25 inch series at: www.nls.uk/maps/os/25inch/

NEW GEO-REFERENCED GOOGLE MAP OVERLAYS

These new website applications allow historical maps to be directly compared to present day map and satellite views through overlaying them with a dynamic transparency slider.

- 33 geo-referenced image overlays of Bathymetrical Survey Lochs, 1897-1909
- Second World War, British War Office military mapping of Belgium, 1942-1944
 - France and Belgium 1:50,000 GSGS 4040. 121 sheets
 - o Belgium and NE France 1:100,000 GSGS 4336. 21 sheets
 - o North West Europe 1:250,000 GSGS 4042. 11 sheets

These and other geo-referenced overlays are available at: geo.nls.uk/maps



PETER MAY'S PLAN OF THE LANDS OF GLENCARVIE AND THE FOREST OF BUNZEACH

David Walker explains how disputes over both a boundary and the cost of its survey, provide an interesting and informative backdrop to a recently discovered survey and map of part of Strathdon

The Forest of Bunzeach

In the parish of Strathdon, Aberdeenshire, the former commonty of the Forest of Bunzeach lies south of the river Don, between Glencarvie and Deskrieside. These lands came to be mapped by Peter May as a result of 18th century disputes between the lairds of Candacraig and New.

Dr lan Adams' masterly work¹ on Peter May, whom he regarded as perhaps the greatest land surveyor of the eighteenth century, mentioned this plan but regarded it then as missing. However a copy² was found in the Aberdeen University Historic Collections in 2001 by John G Harrison, working on behalf of the Royal Commission for Historic and Ancient Monuments in Scotland, whose CANMORE database³ describes some of the places which are named.

Dissected and folded, May's plan is in remarkably good condition, and on the whole very legible. 485mm wide by 650mm, at a scale of 16 Scots chains (of 74 feet) to the inch (1:14,208), it covers most of the land between present day grid references NJ330050 and NJ390130 ie about 6 km

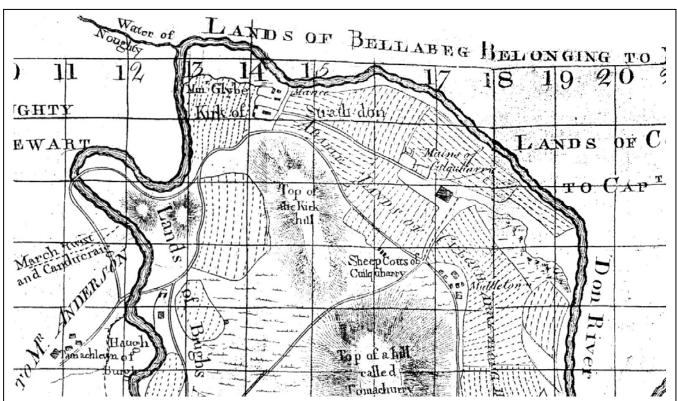
Commissioned by the Court of Session in responding to a summons made in 1766 by Capt John Forbes of New against his neighbour Charles Anderson of Candacraig, the engraved plan shows relief by hatching; watercourses and tracks; farm buildings and boundaries; the several estate boundaries alleged by the various witnesses; and the pastures, mosses and shealings which they claimed within the commonty of the Forest of Bunzeach.

As well as its aesthetic and cartographic qualities, this discovery is of particular interest because it is complemented by evidence heard on behalf of the Court of Session⁴; by Peter May's response to Charles Anderson in a dispute over his fees⁵; by the CANMORE database referred to above; and by estate records held in the Aberdeen University Historic Collections⁶.

Peter May's cartography

Although the compass rose on May's plan is set five degrees west of its half inch grid, this grid appears by comparison with the Ordnance Survey to bear true north. On this basis, six out of a sample of seven bearings measured on May's plan, from Strathdon kirk

continued overleaf



Part of the Plan of Glencarvie & Forest of Bunzeach (Parish of Strathdon) by Peter May Copied by kind permission of Aberdeen University Historic Collections, MS 2769/I/132/6

to landmarks in Glencarvie and Deskryside (each out of direct sight and between 3 and 7 km distant), are within a degree of the same bearings on the present day Ordnance Survey map. The distances agree to within about 2%, except for those to two of the farms in Deskryside⁷.

As Ian Adams mentions Peter May's ownership of a theodolite, the accuracy of May's plan presumably was achieved by trigonometric survey. A letter of his on 3 November 1766 8 required his apprentice, Alexander Taylor, to 'copy over' the 'rude draught of the survey I have made lately of Strathdon.' It would be very interesting, if any of Peter May's 'rude draughts' survive, to know whether they cast any light on his demonstrably effective methods of survey.

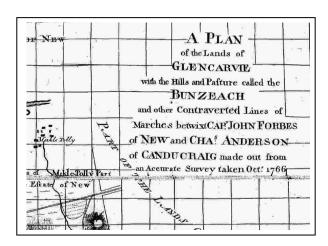
The Court of Session hearing

In response to New's summons against Candacraig, which sought a declaration of marches (property boundaries) and division of commonty, the Court of Session in 1766 appointed neighbouring worthies to hear evidence⁴, from 14 witnesses for the one side and 16 for the other, which runs to 150 manuscript pages (transcribed in part by the writer). The main issue was whether commonty rights between Candacraig's properties in Glencarvie and New's in Culquary and Deskryside should be divided 'as sheared by wind and water' (ie along the watershed) or, as Candacraig argued, along straight lines from peak to peak.

But this issue was blurred by rambling evidence as to shealing places (summer pasture) and customary rights to cast peat from the mosses of Bunzeach, evidence which is rich in social history and begins to make sense only with the assistance of Peter May's plan. Witnesses in 1766 provided various recollections of tramping the supposed boundary with the parties about 11 years earlier, guided by the writer's ancestors, Gustavus and Roderick Farquharson. Candacraig, asked in 1755 if he accepted the outcome, had responded that he would wait until the Farquharsons were dead. Although this was the case by 1766, it did him little good.

Peter May's fees

When Peter May's professional fees came to be divided between the parties, Candacraig objected to May's 'accompt' and challenged the accuracy of his survey. From the ensuing case, we learn that May was employed for 29 days from 4 October until 1 November 1766 in attending the local hearing and making the survey 'and afterwards employed for a very long time in drawing the plan and making out notes and explanations', the plan being transmitted to Edinburgh in March 1767. Peter May's responses to Candacraig's complaints are



In response to the objection that 10 shillings per day was too high and included Sundays and several days spent in visiting:-

This was as charged in other cases except that in this case the petitioner did not charge for days spent travelling and for transporting instruments; and yet when he ended the days work near to Skellater or New he was overnight at those places and would have used the same freedom with Candacraig had he lived in such a way as to give lodging to any person; very often[May] and his servants were constantly employed from morning to night either in attending the proof or making the survey; and though he does not work on Sundays he is distant from home.

In response to the objection to a charge of 2 shillings per day for an assistant surveyor:-

No survey can be made without an assistant who knows something of the business case; [and this rate has] never before been called in question.

In response to the objection to twenty guineas charged for the plan and explanation notes:-

These were according to instructions and at Candacraig's request; Candacraig says [this was] easier work than a survey of a gentleman's estate—not so; for as witnesses differed greatly about one march called "the Farquharsons' line" the surveyor was under the necessity of making five or six different delineations of that line of march according to the directions of as many different witnesses; and the artist who engraved the plate charged £27 sterling for it.

May's total account was £42-6-8, comprising his charges per day plus entertainment and expenses and twenty guineas for making the plan.

Candacraig's defence was that May was extremely precipitate in pressing his petition. The outcome on 9 July 1768 was that the Lord Ordinary found Charles Anderson liable for payment of half the account but not the legal expenses incurred (an outcome which, according to Peter May, left him no better off).

Peter May's Plan of the Lands of Glencalvie and the Forest of Bunzeach (cont.)

Geographical Issues

Peter May's plan, which in other respects matches present day maps, shows a rather different route for the river Don downstream of the church. Probably this demonstrates a substantial change in its course, as estate papers complain of damage by the deposition of stones by the river over the lands of Culquhary. Perhaps this is why the plan shows only a square enclosure where, according to Christie⁹, a present day group of plane trees marks the site of Culquhary.

Estate papers also confirm the importance of Bunzeach to the economy of Strathdon, both for peat and for summer grazing. There is much on the plan for those interested in commonty land. Peat tracks mapped in the eighteenth century mostly survive on maps made in the nineteenth century. As demonstrated elsewhere ¹⁰, Peter May's plan implies that tenants from further away had to 'leapfrog' nearer tenants to acquire customary rights to cut peat.

The plan also shows that 'the greens of Badagrainy' supported a surprising density of shealing settlements. Where natural grassland is still visible (under the power line), patches of juniper suggest that these upland 'greens' may be attributable to underlying outcrops of limestone.

Having attempted some surveying, struggled across the Bunzeach, and puzzled over the evidence taken in 1766, the writer can only conclude by expressing admiration for Peter May's ability in completing (from scratch) such a detailed and accurate survey.

eritage Path

- ¹ Ian H Adams (ed.) *Papers on Peter May Land Surveyor 1749-1793.* Scottish History Society, 1979.
- ² A Plan of the Lands of Glencarvie with the Hills and Pasture called the Bunzeach and other Contraverted Lines of Marches betwixt Capt John Fofbes of Hew and Chas. Anderson of Candacraig made out from an Accurate Survey taken October 1766. Aberdeen University Historic Collections, MS 2769/I/132/6
- ³ www.rcahms.gov.uk NMRS site number NJ30NE 80 and others
- ⁴ National Archives of Scotland CS 245/680 Statement of conjoined processes betwixt John Forbes of New & Charles Anderson of Candacraig
- ⁵ The Petition of Peter May 1768 Aberdeen University historic Collections shelfmark pamphlet lambda May
- ⁶ eg MS 3402 bundles 7 and 26 relating to rights to cut peat in the Forest of Bunzeach and MS 2769/I/17/2 re rentals of New, Culquhary and Tollaskinch
- ⁷ These distances were measured on a photographic copy of the plan which is subject to some barrel distortion. The accuracy of the original plan may be even better.
- 8 Ian H Adams op cit page 69
- ⁹ Charles Christie, Stray *Memories of Strathdon. [S.I.]*, 1938.
- ¹⁰ Albert Bil, *The Shieling 1640-1840.* John Donald, 1990.

David Walker

SCOTWAYS HERITAGE PATHS WEBSITE

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Welcome

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We have been pleased to collaborate with ScotWays, the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society, on a new website that documents heritage paths in Scotland. The Heritage Paths website provides detailed information about old paths and routes that have been used for a specific historical purpose. Many rights of way in Scotland have a very colourful and interesting past, such as pilgrimage routes, minister's roads and coffin roads, trading routes

including salters' ways, miners' ways, smugglers' ways and peat cutting paths.

The website provides information on the history and heritage value of the paths, surveys of the route, photographs and shows the heritage paths as coloured overlays using NLS historical maps to create dynamic Google mash-ups.

View the website at: www.heritagepaths.co.uk

CONCEPTUAL ADVERTISING AT JOHN BARTHOLOMEW & SON, LTD.

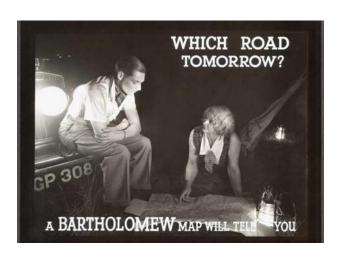
Karla Baker, Bartholomew Archive Assistant, investigates the background to some unusually striking photographs in the Bartholomew Archive.

Arguably one of the key strengths of the Bartholomew Archive is the range of material that can be found within it. Beyond the expected maps and atlases there are also business records and personal documents. The Archive is abundant in material that reveals both how the firm saw themselves and how they chose to be seen by others.

In this regard one key part of the Archive is the large collection of advertising material. For the period of 1865-1984 advertising as diverse as unadorned prospectuses to draft watercolours of posters to television scripts can be found¹. There are rough sketches by John George Bartholomew (1860-1920) and professionally produced artwork by J. G. Rennie, perhaps Bartholomew's answer to Ellis Martin², the man who revolutionised map cover art at Ordnance Survey.

But arguably the most striking of this assortment is a series of five black and white photographs dated to the 1930s. With their strong narrative, dramatic use of light and impossibly smart protagonists it is hard not to be captivated by these images. They mark a bold departure from the conservative and almost reticent advertising which preceded them and it is possibly for this reason that it seems they were never used.

A search of the Bartholomew Archive's business records reveals little by way of further information regarding these images. Almost certainly Bartholomew would have commissioned a photographer, who would in turn have employed models and who subsequently also developed the final images. As such Bartholomew's involvement, on a practical level, may have been limited. It is therefore hard to know if the photographs meticulously conform to a dogmatic design brief or whether the photographer was afforded artistic carte blanche.





What is known however is that this bold departure from Bartholomew's traditional corporate identity corresponded with a period of financial strain. Business records show that net profits in 1928 were at £17,270 but by 1931 they had fallen to just £2,609.

The 1929 Wall Street crash and the ensuing Great Depression shocked a society that was only just coming to terms with the effects of the Great War. Bartholomew were not immune to the immense difficulties of trading at this time. So concerned was one member of staff that he took the unusual step of issuing a call for action to the management.

January 1932 saw the internal publication of Kenneth Cousland's "Suggestions". Kenneth Cousland came to Bartholomew in 1928 and prior to 1932 worked in various departments, including the main office and as the Assistant Printing Foreman. His document adds the human dimension that the figures alone do not fully convey. He describes "black days" as being "here again" and warns that:

They can be blacker days if we allow them to be

Yet in spite of this, the tone is one of hope and optimism and it is in this spirit that Kenneth Cousland offers a key suggestion as to how Bartholomew might avert this catastrophe:

Our advertising does not reach a quarter of the people it should. Our advertising is not being used to its greatest force. There are places which offer very good advertising results and we should use such places. The public do not know enough about our publications. They arrange their holidays and motor tours, very often new haunts, and when doing so forget a map would add untold joy, during and after a holiday. I say they forget, I feel it is more exact to say they have not thought at all about maps.

Conceptual advertising at John Bartholomew & Son Ltd. (cont.)

There is strong evidence to suggest that Bartholomew took this document very seriously and in fact implemented at least one of his suggestions, that a member of staff be permanently positioned in London. By 1936 Kenneth Cousland himself was fulfilling this role and by 1937 was involved in almost daily correspondence with the firm's headquarters at Duncan Street.

It is therefore possible that it was Kenneth Cousland himself who was behind these images and incidentally, the car in the photographs displays a London registered licence plate. It would be nice to think that this neatly sums up the history of the photographs but of course it is possible that we may never fully resolve the mystery of what prompted Bartholomew to go down this new and experimental route.

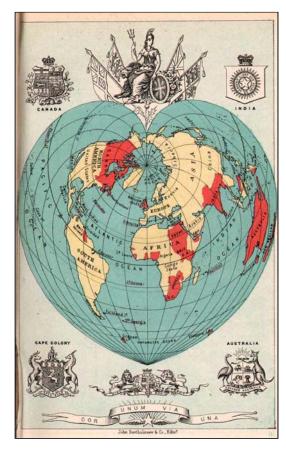
Of course, another question waiting to be answered is why did Bartholomew never use them? I have found no evidence of these images ever appearing in print. In fact the photographs are drafts, evident in the fact that the lettering is merely hand-painted directly onto the paper. However, with an awareness of Bartholomew's corporate identity before and after these photographs, it is possible that in the end they were just too radical for Bartholomew.

BARTHOLOMEW ARCHIVE PROJECT UPDATE

We are pleased to report that work on the Bartholomew Archive is progressing on many fronts. 69 volumes of the Printing Record have now been conserved (1877-1926), and cataloguing has reached volume 26 (1877-1898). New content has been steadily added to the Bartholomew Archive website (www.nls.uk/bartholomew), including the curators' blog. Publicity has included a fully illustrated article by Karla Baker on JG Bartholomew ('The Man Behind the Map', pages 20-23) in the Summer 2009 issue of *Discover*.

Arts and Humanities Research Council funding has been secured for two collaborative Ph.D research studentships. Starting in September 2009, the studentships will use the Bartholomew Archive to answer questions on the broad theme of *Printing and Mapping the World: the Bartholomew Archive and networks of publishing and geographical knowledge, c. 1830-1980.*

One of the studentships will focus on the cartographic conception and representation of the British Empire and the range of maps, atlases and related publications that promoted notions of empire. The other will look at communication networks in the geographical book trade, investigating the publishing and cultural history of the networks underpinning Bartholomew's successes. The research will be supervised by Charles Withers, Professor of Historical Geography at the University of Edinburgh, David Finkelstein, Research Professor of Media and Print Culture at Queen Margaret University, and Chris Fleet.



From: J.G. Bartholomew, *The Handy Atlas of the British Empire*. (London: George Newnes, 1904).

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¹ A summary listing of advertising material can be found online in the Bartholomew Archive Business Record Inventory: **www.nls.uk/catalogues/online/cnmi/inventories/acc10222.pdf**. Additional advertising material can be found in the firms Printing Record for which a listing is currently being compiled.

² See *Map cover art : a pictorial history of Ordnance Survey cover illustrations* by John Paddy Browne (Southampton : Ordnance Survey, 1991)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON EARLY MAPS OF SCOTLAND

Anderson, Carolyn Jane, 'State Imperatives: Military Mapping in Scotland, 1689-1770', Scottish Geographical Journal 125 (March 2009), pp. 4-25

Baker, Karla, 'The Man Behind the Map' Discover 12, Summer 2009, pp 20-23

Boyle, Steve, Mapping Landscapes of the Improvement Period: Surveys of North Lochtayside, 1769 and 2000, *Scottish Geographical Journal* 125 (March 2009), pp. 43-61

Cruickshank, Graeme, 'Prestonpans and its potteries: the story in map form', in *Prestonpans Potteries*. (Prestonpans: Prestongrange Arts Festival, 2007), 104-119. Illustrates 19 maps, 9 manuscript and 10 printed.

Henrie, Daniel, 'Ordnance Survey historic town plans of Scotland (1847-1895): Geo-referencing and web delivery with ArcIMS and OpenLayers', *e-Perimetron* 4, 2009, pp. 73-85. http://www.e-perimetron.org/

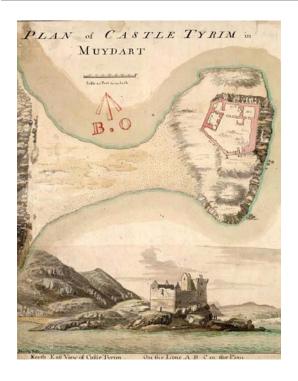
Pollard, Tony, 'Mapping Mayhem: Scottish Battle Maps and their Role in Archaeological Research', *Scottish Geographical Journal* 125 (March 2009), pp. 43-61

VISUALIZING URBAN GEOGRAPHIES

We are very pleased to report that the Arts and Humanities Research Council are funding a Knowledge Transfer Fellowship, entitled *Visualizing Urban Geographies*, a 15 month project beginning in August 2009. The project will re-use existing historical research data obtained originally from the census, property registers, occupational and business addresses in Directories, and information on Edinburgh relating to the period c.1820-1940. This data will then be interrogated in innovative ways, using new mapping technologies and geo-referenced historical maps of the city supplied by the NLS, to develop maps of the social, cultural and political profiles of the city at various dates.

Whilst the focus is on Edinburgh, one of the key outcomes will be to demonstrate how new and existing research on other towns, cities and villages can be linked to a rapidly expanding corpus of freely-available geo-referenced mapping and imagery. The work will be undertaken by Stuart Nicol (Web Developer), supervised by Richard Rodger (Professor of Economic and Social History) at Edinburgh University and Chris Fleet of the NLS Map Library.

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITION - PICTURING BRITAIN: PAUL SANDBY



A major exhibition of the work of the artist and topographical draughtsman Paul Sandby (1731-1809), will come to Edinburgh in November. Commemorating the bicentenary of his death, this is the first exhibition devoted to this pioneering figure in the development of British landscape painting and topographical drawing, and it includes works from all the major collections.

Sandby was appointed chief draughtsman to the Roy Military Survey in 1747, and he worked in Scotland for a further five years, drafting military maps, plans and views. The exhibition features original NLS items from this period, as well as other Scottish material, including part of the Roy Map itself. The exhibition opens in Nottingham (where Sandby was born) at the Nottingham Castle Museum and Art Gallery: 25 July 2009 – 18 October 2009, then moves to the National Gallery of Scotland, Edinburgh: 7 November 2009 – 7 February 2010; and finally the Royal Academy of Arts, London: 13 March 2010 – 13 June 2010

Left: Paul Sandby, *Plan of Castle Tyrim* [i.e. Tioram] in Muydart [i.e. Moidart]. 1748 MS.1648.03/28e