



CAIRT

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January 2012

Newsletter of the Scottish Maps Forum

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10th Anniversary Issue!

We are delighted that Cairt is still going strong after 10 years – many thanks to all our readers for their continuing support. To commemorate this special issue, we have changed our header graphic to feature Orkney – as pointed out to us recently by an Orcadian, we have inadvertently ignored the Northern Isles for the first ten years, so we here make amends for past misdemeanours.

CAIRT

The newsletter is issued twice a year. "Cairt" is Gaelic & 17th century Scots for map.

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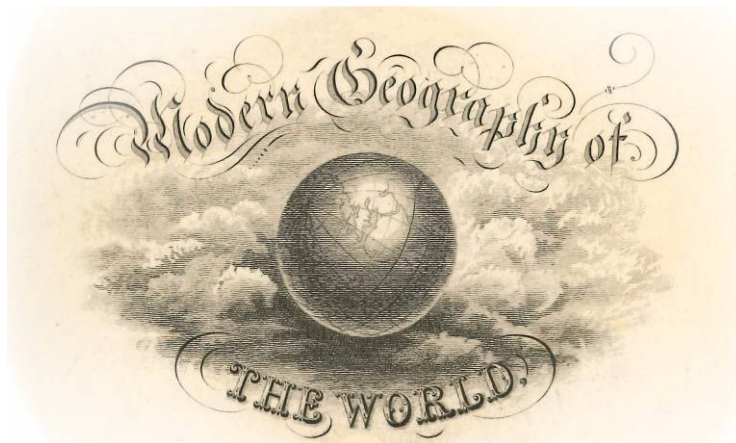
Scottish Milestones in 19th Century Publishing

Our next Scottish Maps Forum Seminar, to be held on Saturday 12 May 2012 in the AK Bell Library in Perth, will be on the theme of *Mapping and Printing the world: Scottish Milestones in 19th century publishing*.

The seminar celebrates the golden age of Scottish map printing and publishing. During this time, Scottish cartographers and map publishers grew to become internationally known household names. This was helped by rapidly expanding markets at home and abroad, and new printing technologies such as lithography, allowing much cheaper mass production and the use of colour. The growth of Edinburgh as an international hub of engraving, printing and publishing, allowed the entire map production process - draughting, engraving, printing and publishing - to be centralised not only within Scotland, but also within particular companies, for the first time in Scottish map history.

The seminar will explore the many linkages between these cartographers and publishers - in training, shared publishing projects, and aspirations. Lizars, for example, trained several engravers, including William Johnston (1802-1888), who with his brother founded W & AK Johnston in 1826, and George Bartholomew (1784-1871), great-grandfather to John George Bartholomew who founded the Bartholomew firm in the 1880s. John Thomson's monumental *Atlas of Scotland* project in the 1820s brought together the leading surveyors, draughtsmen and engravers in Scotland, as did Thomson's bankruptcy and the subsequent afterlife of his *Atlas* plates.

Continued on page 2



Title page detail from W & AK Johnston's *A Miniature Atlas of the Modern Geography of the World* (1844)

Scottish Milestones in 19th Century Publishing (continued from page 1)

New publications and higher print runs in the later 19th century were facilitated by partnerships between cartographers and publishers such as William Blackwood & Sons, Adam & Charles Black, Oliver & Boyd, and Thomas Nelson. International links were also important: for Alexander Keith Johnston and John Bartholomew through training under the leading German cartographers, Heinrich Berghaus and Augustus Petermann, whilst the British Empire allowed new opportunities to publish travel and missionary narratives, as well as new and expanding markets for publications.

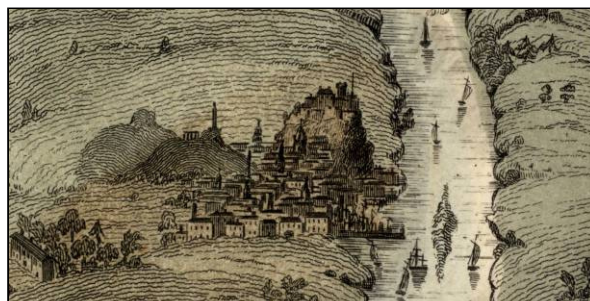
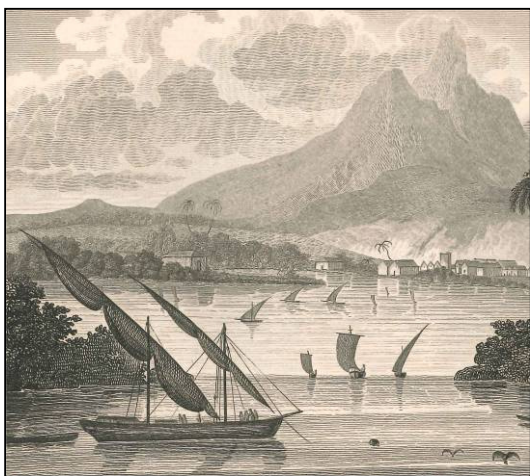
This seminar takes a broadly chronological approach with a selection of papers based on recent research examining some of the leading cartographers in this period. Iain Stevenson (University College London) looks at the fraudster Gregor MacGregor and his fantasy map of Poyais (engraved by Lizars and published by A & C Black) in Central America. Francis Herbert (formerly Royal Geographical Society) looks at the artist, draughtsman, engraver, printer and publisher, William Home Lizars (1788-1859). Chris Fleet (NLS) looks at the production of John Thomson's *Atlas of Scotland* (1830) – the very different sources of

the maps, their financing by subscription, and their publication in instalments and as a whole.

In the afternoon, Diana Webster (formerly NLS) looks at the linkages between Johnston, Perthes and Bartholomew from the 1840s, and the inspiration of German cartography, leading up to Bartholomew's *Physical Atlas* in the 1890s. Louise Henderson (Royal Holloway, University of London) examines David Livingstone's *Missionary Travels* and its journey into print, based on research on the John Murray Archive. The afternoon will be concluded by Julie McDougall and Amy Prior, both in their final year of Ph.D research at the University of Edinburgh, utilising different aspects of the Bartholomew Archive. Julie will look particularly at Bartholomew's publishing history of school atlases and of texts relating to British geography, (c.1880-c.1930), whilst Amy will look at comparative print histories of mapping the Second Boer War (1899-1902).

The cost is £15 (£20 with lunch).

Booking forms and further information are available from the Maps Reading Room (contact details on front page) and the NLS website. <http://www.nls.uk/collections/maps/subject-info/forum>



Above: detail (Edinburgh) from Lizars' *'Lengths of the Principal Rivers'*, in *John Thomson's Atlas of Scotland* (1832)

Left: detail from Lizars' *View of the Port of Black River from the Territory of Poyais*, from *Sketch of the Mosquito Shore...* [1822]

New map reader workshops

In the autumn we introduced two new map reader workshops - one an **Introduction to Maps at NLS**, and the other, **Maps for Family and Local History**. Due to their popularity, we will be running them again during **2012**.

The January and February workshops are already full, so the next workshops with places will be on 29 May (Introduction to Maps) and 20 June (Family and Local History).

The workshops begin at 2 pm and last for 90 minutes, led by map curators in the Maps Reading Room, 159 Causewayside. They include a Powerpoint slideshow illustrating a range of maps, their value and uses, and a practical session exploring maps first hand in the Maps Reading Room.

Please book your place in advance (from April, for the May-June workshops) at <http://www.nls.uk/events/readers-workshops>

WEBSITE NEWS

New website addition - Six-inch 2nd and later edition maps of Scotland, 1892-1960

The results of our most recent digitisation project went online in November. The OS six-inch 2nd and later edition maps of Scotland form the most comprehensive, topographic mapping covering all of Scotland from the 1890s. They complement the first edition maps (1843-1882) already online, and illustrate a very wide range of natural and man-made features. The series is made up of 7,486 map sheets, including 1,136 full sheets and 6,332 quarter sheets. It was revised for the whole country from 1892-1907, and then updated regularly for urban or rapidly changing areas from 1914 to the 1940s. You can zoom into the detail of the OS six-inch maps using an interactive index map, and search for sheets by county, parish and a gazetteer of place names.

<http://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-2nd-and-later/index.html>



Ireland - new seamed, georeferenced mosaics of 1940s mapping

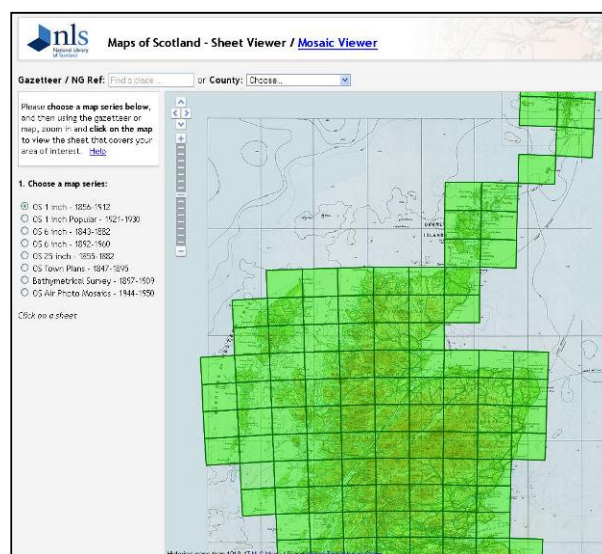
Through help from an Irish Open Street Mapper, Bartholomew, Quarter Inch to the mile mapping of Ireland (1940), and War Office, One Inch to the mile, G.S.G.S. 4136, (1940-43), has been seamed, georeferenced and overlaid on Google/Bing mapping

<http://geo.nls.uk/maps/>

New georeferenced search applications

During the late summer we moved our georeferenced search applications to a new *Sheet Viewer* and *Mosaic Viewer*. These applications provide a significantly improved method of accessing 25,000 of our online maps, as well as 5,000 georeferenced mosaics. A range of both old and modern mapping layers provides a customisable backdrop to selecting areas of interest, and keyword searching is possible by place-name and National Grid Reference, alongside browseable gazetteers of counties and their parishes.

The new search interface integrates our previous five separate search applications into a faster and clearer interface. The application uses the open-source Geoserver and Openlayers software.



During 2012 we hope to create bounding boxes for all our historic maps allowing access to them through the *Sheet Viewer* so that it will be easier to know exactly which online maps are available for any particular place.

Sheet Viewer: <http://geo.nls.uk/search/> Mosaic Viewer: <http://geo.nls.uk/search/mosaic>

COMING SOON...

25 inch 2nd and later edition maps of Scotland, 1892-1960

To complement the new six-inch maps website above, these 17,177 sheets should all be available online by February 2012 at <http://maps.nls.uk/os/index.html>. This will therefore complete the scanning of OS County Series maps for Scotland, and we will move on to make available post-War out-of-copyright map sheets.

Pont's Evil Map of the River Nairn

Bob Henery, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Strathclyde University

Timothy Pont's map of *Lower Strath Avon* was rightly said by Robert Gordon to be "evil and wrong". How evil was described by Jeffrey Stone:

*The map was drawn in mirror image,
so that the east bank names appear
on the west bank of the river Avon,
and vice versa.*

The root cause of this evil is not so well known. It probably results from a misreading of a Pont text when the map was drawn. Pont's texts¹ often seem to describe a perambulation of a territory, typically listing the places along a river, starting at the source and proceeding first down one side of the river, then crossing to the opposite side and returning to the source. Of course, if you start on the wrong side of the river, you will end up on the wrong side, and all the places in between will be mirror imaged.

Whilst there is no surviving Pont text for Strath Avon, there is a map where we can compare the text and the relevant bit of that map. This is near the source of the *River Nairn* in the Pont map of *Murray* (Pont 8 – see **Figure 1**, in which north is at the bottom of the map).

The relevant Pont text, *In Stra Nairne in Murray, etc* 127v-128r, if properly interpreted, puts them on the correct side. The critical passage is at the start of the text, i.e. at the source of the *River Nairn*, but we also quote the end of the text where the places are on the opposite bank, near the source again. The text, according to Robert Gordon's copy, begins with (bold font denotes a "seat"):

In Stra-Nairne in Murray

Drumminglash the first seat in *Stra-narne* within a myl *Faerlin* in *StrathArkeg*, 2 myl thence is **Abir-ardour-moir**. half 1 myl therfra **Abirardour-beg**. 2 myl thence on the southsyd of the water of *Nairn* is **Tom-aken** (or *melmet moat*) *melmet* is *juniper*. A myl thence **Bruy-moir** 1 myl thence **Lechakely**. 2 myl thence **Far**. etc. etc. etc.;

and ends with:

3 myl thence **Brum-beg**. a myl thence **Tulich** and so endeth *Stra-narn*.

Pont's map follows the expected pattern: the first seven names *Dunmaglassh*, *Abreairdour moir*, *Abreairdo' beg*, *Tomackenne*, *Brÿy moir*, *Fecchely*, and *Farr* are mapped on the right bank of the river, and the last two names *Breun* and

Tulich on the left bank. But crucially the first three placenames - *Dunmaglassh*, *Abreairdour moir* and *Abirairdour beg* – should be on the opposite bank, as on our second map.

On a modern outline map of this area (**Figure 2**) we have shown this part of Pont's itinerary, from *Farraline* in the south west to *Farr* in the north east, crossing the *River Nairn* after *Aberarder*.

In today's geography *Dunmaglass* is on the *River Farigaig*, which might be described as flowing on the **left** side of the *River Nairn*; *Aberarder Mains* and *Aberarder House* are truly on the **left** bank of the river, 1.2 miles from *Dunmaglass* (**Figure 2**). Immediately after *Aberarder*, the places listed in Pont's text are on the opposite bank of the *Nairn*. Pont's text therefore starts at the external reference point of *Farraline* and essentially follows the modern B851 by way of the following itinerary (with the distances in miles travelled between waypoints):

Farraline 3.3 **Dunmaglass** 1.2 **Mains of Aberarder** 0.3 **Aberarder House** (all these on the left bank); cross the river *Nairn* (by the bridge carrying the B851²); 3.0 **Tomintoul** 0.4 **Brinmore** 0.7 **Flichity** 2.2 **Farr** ... (these on the right bank as far as **Geddes Chapel**); cross the river *Nairn* and then go up the left bank to **Brin Mains** 2.4 **Tulich**.

Looking back at the original Pont text, the phrase "on the southsyd of the water of *Nairn*" is an implicit instruction to cross the river. In drawing his map, Pont made two errors: he started on the wrong side of the *Nairn*, and he missed the instruction to cross the *Nairn* after *Aberarder*. In drafting a map of Moray for Blaeu, Robert Gordon had available all the information necessary to correct Pont, but he accepted uncritically the mapping in Pont 8, leading to another common "evil", that of duplicate places. He ignored the Pont text for *Stra-Nairn*, though he must have seen it, and abutted material from another map (Gordon 5) that placed *Dunmaclaish* on the *River Farigaig*, without spotting the "clash" with the *Dyumaglash* coming from Pont 8.

As we have seen for the upper reaches of the *River Nairn* in Pont 8, it is critical that we follow any instruction to cross the river, or else all places from that point on will be on the wrong side. The same phenomenon occurs in Pont 27



Figure 1: River Nairn as depicted in Pont 8 Murray, with north at the bottom. Places listed at the start of the text are mapped on the right bank of the river; places listed at the end are on the opposite bank.

where the upper reaches of the *Lornty Burn* are mirror imaged, but not the lower reaches, the most likely dividing point being the *Bridge of Drummad* (a listed building). Another instance is in Pont 28, which is partially mirrored about the *Melgam Water*, displacing *Lintrathen Loch* and surrounding places to the east of the *Melgam*. The loch is in its proper place, west of the *Melgam*, in Pont 29 *Middle Strathmore*.

The evils in Pont's map of *Lower Strath Avon* stem from thinking that *Inveravon* should be at the mouth of the *Avon*. In fact *Ballindalloch Castle* and *Inveravon Kirk* are on the same side of the *Avon*, but *Ballindalloch Castle* is nearer the confluence, and *Inveravon Kirk* is half a mile further down the *River Spey*. Further confusion arises along the *River Livet*, which is not only on the wrong side of the *Avon*, but *Drymin* and *Blairfindy* are on the wrong side of the *Livet* as well.

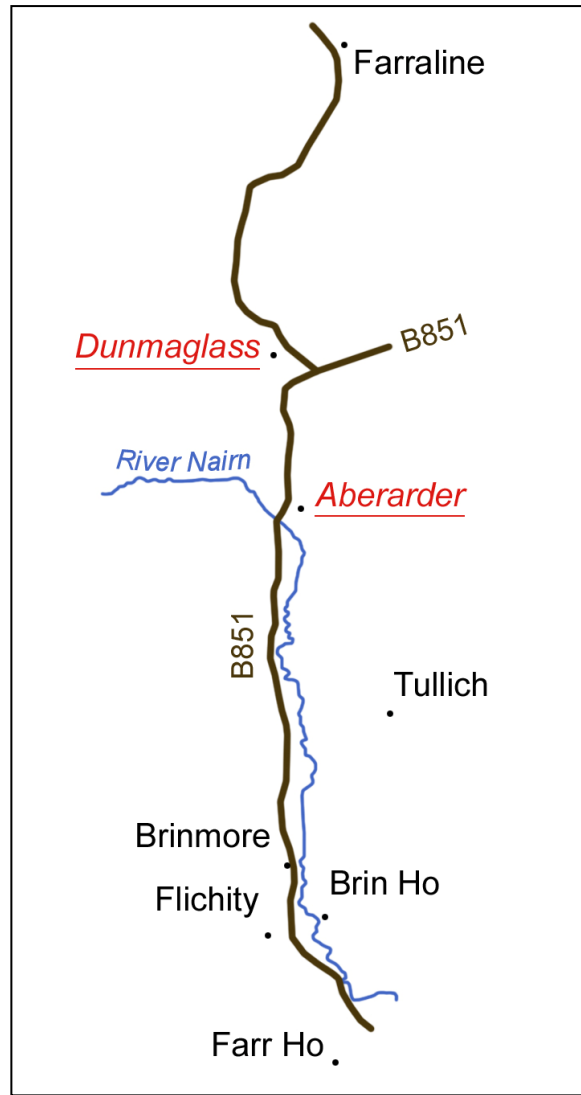


Figure 2: A modern outline map of the River Nairn, showing the correct location of seats (the two names underlined were those incorrectly placed by Pont)

Together these examples suggest that the Pont texts formed a primary source of information for the Pont maps.

1. The surviving Pont texts are primarily those transcribed by Robert Gordon of Staloch and appearing in the *Topographical Notices of Scotland* (Adv.MS.34.2.8) - viewable and transcribed on the Pont maps website - <http://maps.nls.uk/pont> - and also transcribed by Walter Macfarlane and published as *Macfarlane's Geographical Collections* (ed. A Mitchell), 1906-8.
2. Bridgend, presumably named for an old bridge, is 200 yards downstream of the modern bridge. From the Google Earth view of *Bridgend* ([centred on latitude 57.30182 and longitude -4.27924](#)) it seems likely that this bridge carried the old road from *Aberarder* to *Nairn*, and here took a straighter route than the modern B851.

ROYAL SCOTTISH GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY – PROGRESS IN PERTH

Margaret Wilkes, Convener of RSGS Collections & Information Committee

Those who work in archives, libraries and museums, know the testing circumstances which arise when normal operations are halted by sudden change. The Royal Scottish Geographical Society has experienced these recently at first-hand. In 2008 we moved our Headquarters from Glasgow to Perth along with our collections, which were stored off-site for 3 years until purpose-built accommodation for them was completed in the Fair Maid's House. We therefore had to close our enquiry and information service but continued to offer help to enquirers wherever we could. Additionally, in 2009 we were gifted 2 substantial collections of polar material, but couldn't continue our Collections Officer's post and were, and remain, heavily reliant on volunteers. Also, during this period, for reasons beyond our control, we had to move our stored collections twice.

This difficult period has come to an end and we now possess a superb, purpose-built Map Room – the Cuthbert Room - named in memory of Bill and Margaret Cuthbert of Scone, who gifted a collection of 300 early maps and a generous legacy to us. We have yet to finish unpacking numerous boxes, find appropriate shelving for their contents, extend use of mylar folders to more of our earlier map sheets, re-order our map collections to make best sense of their classified order and our space and, accordingly, amend our on-line collections database. We also need to finalise a Five Year Plan to develop our collections further.

From 2009 onwards we've acquired 5 volunteers to help with the collections. They present a formidable line-up of expertise and experience, not least with maps; all have recently retired or taken early severance. They comprise: from the Ordnance Survey (a surveyor); the National Library of Scotland Map Division (a curator); the British Library India Office Records (a map archivist); a recently retired civil engineer adept with maps and plans, and a former Principal Teacher of Geography at Perth Academy with interest in the history of Scottish geography and geographical education.

We have another volunteer joining us shortly to help with our slide collections as well as help from the Society's Vice Chairman, Bruce Gittings (School of GeoSciences – Geography - in the University of Edinburgh), a GIS and database specialist - surely a 'dream team'! But we welcome more volunteers, not least to help us with visitors to the Fair Maid's House.

Our Headquarters (in Lord John Murray House) are now physically linked to the Fair Maid's House, the latter opening in summer 2011 as an exciting new Visitor and Education Centre including an Education Room and an Explorers Room. We have an Education Officer, courtesy of Perth & Kinross Council, initially to develop liaison with local schools and our collections are already in use here.



Above: the 'Earth Room' in the Fair Maid's House

RSGS's Progress in Perth (*continued*)

There is a very positive spirit at present in the Society, with its entirely new staff team from August 2008 onwards, its new Board of Management and its enthusiastic volunteers. This is demonstrated in our new-style Newsletter, *The Geographer*, (see past copies at <http://www.rsgs.org/publications/geographer.shtml>). Do take a look at these for they detail what we're doing and what we hope to do, as well as giving an opportunity to read about current geographical issues written by a very varied authorship. If you like what you read, why not join us? See: <http://www.rsgs.org> for details. We also run a series of winter Talks at 14 different Centres in Scotland and other activities. You don't need to be a geographer to join us – only to have an interest in our planet.



On 17 January the Princess Royal – one of the Society's Vice Presidents – visited the Fair Maid's House to see its transformation. Significantly, given the Princess's - and the Society's - interest in things polar, this was exactly 100 years on from when Robert Falcon Scott's ill-fated team reached the South Pole. But, unlike Scott, the RSGS team hopes to travel forward safely and make the Fair Maid's House a vibrant centre for Geography in what is arguably the geographical centre of Scotland.

Left: Explorers Room

Below left: external view of the Fair Maid's House



The Society welcomes visiting parties – by advance appointment only please, preferably between April - October when the Fair Maid's House is open to the public (see <http://www.rsgs.org> for forthcoming details of opening times).

Enquiries about visits should be addressed to Fiona Parker, RSGS Office Manager: fiona.parker@rsgs.org

New Publications

Lindsay Farquharson, *General Wade's Legacy: The 18th Century Military Road System in Perthshire*. Perth: Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, 2011. This publication has good background on Wade's maps, and also includes a new map showing military roads in Perthshire.

Chris Fleet, *Perth on the map - a cartographic voyage through time* in 'Perth: a place in history' (ed. David Strachan). Perth: Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, 2011, 53-61.

Chris Fleet, *Atlases, Map-makers and Map Engravers* in 'The Edinburgh History of the Book in Scotland, Vol. 2: Enlightenment and Expansion, 1707-1800' (ed. Stephen Brown and Warren McDougall). Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2011.

Chris Fleet, 'Historical maps in *ScotlandsPlaces*: new collaborative geographic retrieval and presentation options for the National Library of Scotland's maps', *e-Perimtron*, Vol. 6, No. 4, (2011), pp. 230-243.

http://www.e-perimtron.org/Vol_6_4/Fleet.pdf

New partnership - NLS - Wilbourn Associates

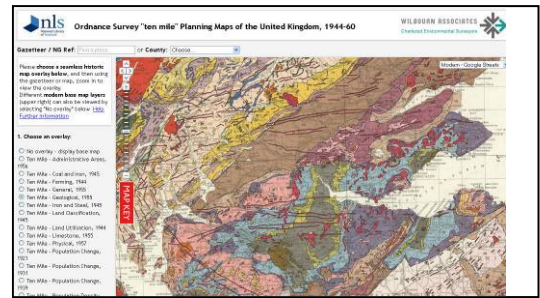
In October, NLS signed a new partnership with Wilbourn Associates, a firm of chartered environmental surveyors, based in Sheffield. The partnership will fund the scanning and georeferencing of historical maps. So far, the following main georeferenced map series have been made available:

- Ordnance Survey, Scotland, One-Inch to the Mile, 2nd edition, 1885-1900
- Ordnance Survey, Scotland, One-Inch to the Mile, Popular edition (with National Grid), 1945-48
- Ordnance Survey, Great Britain, Ten Mile to One-Inch Planning Map series, 1944-1960

This small-scale Planning Map series provides an excellent set of thematic maps, illustrating a wide range of natural and man-made phenomena in the 1940s and 1950s. The thematic maps include Administrative Areas, Coal and Iron, Farming, Geology, Land Classification and Land Utilisation, Local Accessibility, Limestone, Population Density and Population Change, Railways, Rainfall, and Roads. The Planning Map series was initiated during the 1940s, aiming to form a survey of national life and resources, particularly to support the war effort and then post-war reconstruction.

<http://geo.nls.uk/partners/wilbourn/>

Right: sections of OS Ten-mile Planning Maps showing geology (top), population change (middle) and rainfall (bottom).



New Open Studies Course - Maps and Mappery in Scottish History, 1100 - 1850

Dr Aaron Allen

For anyone who enjoys studying maps and who has a passion for history, this is the perfect course to indulge your interests while developing research skills. A deeper appreciation of maps as an historical source will be cultivated while exploring the rich collections of the National Library of Scotland's Map Library. Maps as both objects and documents will be set in the context of Scotland's history, giving greater awareness of how maps enrich our understanding of Scotland's past.

The course is organised in three sections: a general background of Scotland's maps and mapmakers; a series of six case studies, looking at medieval maps, renaissance maps, town plans, sea charts, military maps and the Ordnance Survey; and finally a look at how maps are being used in historical research today. Each topic will be covered through an informal lecture followed by a workshop, giving hands-on experience in using cartographic evidence in historical research.



The class is intended to complement the range of skills-building history classes offered in the University of Edinburgh's Open Studies programme. Further details can be found on the website:

<https://www.course-bookings.lifelong.ed.ac.uk/courses/>
(and search under course name or in History section)

The course runs on Wednesdays from 10 – 12 noon, from the 18th April to 20th June 2012 at the University of Edinburgh and at the Map Library at Causewayside,

Left: Detail from James Gordon, 1642 'Fyfe Shire, MDCXLII'