



# CAIRT

Issue 27  
July 2015

*Newsletter of the Scottish Maps Forum*

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## SCOTTISH MAPS FORUM

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

- ♦ To encourage multi-disciplinary map use, study and research, particularly relating to Scottish maps and mapmakers
- ♦ To disseminate information on Scottish maps and map collections
- ♦ To record information on maps and mapmaking, particularly in a Scottish context
- ♦ To liaise with other groups and individuals with map related interests
- ♦ To build on, and to continue, the work of Project Pont

## CAIRT

The newsletter is issued twice a year. "Cairt" is Gaelic & 17<sup>th</sup> century Scots for map. For further information, or to be added to the mailing list, please contact:

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## Land Utilisation Survey, Scotland (1931-1935)

Our latest online addition has been the Land Utilisation Survey maps of Scotland. This was the first systematic and comprehensive depiction of land cover and use in Scotland (1931-1935), under the superintendence of L. Dudley Stamp. The recording of land use was carried out by volunteers, particularly schoolchildren and students, using Ordnance Survey six-inch to the mile field sheets. All land was colour-coded into six main categories and reduced the one-inch to the mile scale for publication.

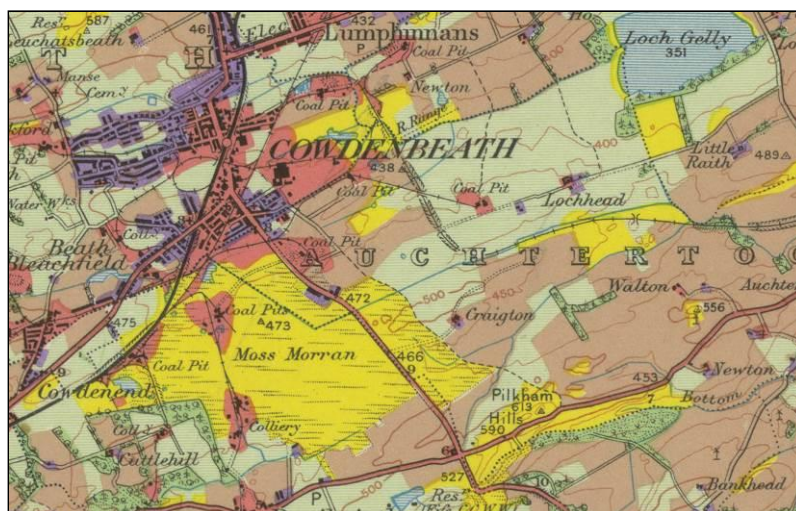
Stamp saw the work not only as a valuable educational exercise and a training in citizenship, but also of value in being independent from any particular government department. The survey work was remarkably successful in completing 90% of the surveying within three years, by the autumn of 1934, although some remoter areas (particularly in Scotland) were only surveyed over the following years.

There was a long and complex publication process for the maps due to funding difficulties. A few sheets were published initially by Ordnance Survey, but from 1935, a number of private publishers were used. Even so, only about one-third of Scotland was covered by published maps, with the remaining areas covered by manuscript maps.

On our website, individual zoomable maps can be searched using a clickable map of Scotland and using a list of sheets, and also as a seamless georeferenced layer, allowing easy comparison to modern satellite imagery and maps.

Home page:

<http://maps.nls.uk/series/land-utilisation-survey/index.html>



## Forthcoming map books

We are delighted to publicise two new books to be published this autumn, both of which have Scottish maps as a central theme.

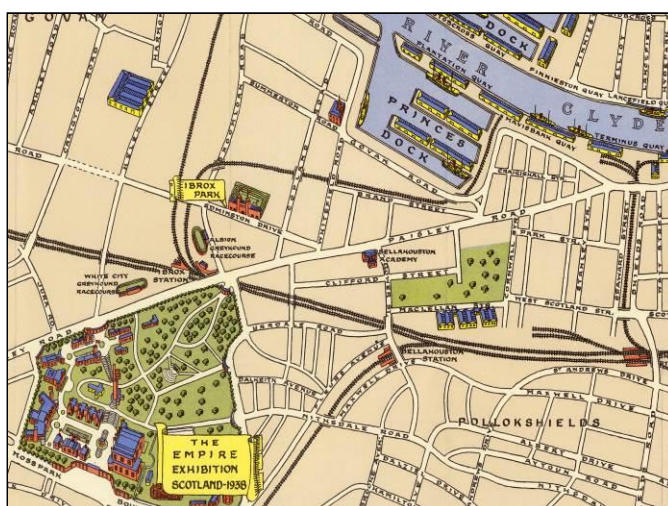
### Glasgow: mapping the city

John Moore, Map Librarian at Glasgow University Library, has recently completed the text of a work covering the maps of the city of Glasgow and its neighbourhood. Similar in style and approach to the Fleet and MacCannell discussion of the capital's maps which appeared late last year, this equally well-illustrated book focusses on the historical development of the cartography of Scotland's largest city.

Glasgow's mapping has a markedly different history and the author has selected more than 60 maps, plans and other images, dating from the late sixteenth century, to highlight significant elements of the city's own story. These reflect some of its major achievements, disappointments and tragedies. The maps are arranged in chronological order and each is accompanied by an extended essay discussing its background, key features and context. Several of the images appear in print for, possibly, the first time and much new research has allowed an updating of the author's earlier study of Glasgow's mapping.

To be published October 2015 by Birlinn in association with Glasgow University and the National Library of Scotland.

ISBN: 9781780273198. Hardback: £30.00



*Bartholomew's Pictorial Plan of Glasgow, showing roads and railways serving the Empire exhibition [drawn by L.G. Bullock]. 1938 (detail)*

### The Scottish Railway Atlas

The rich diversity of Scotland's railway network has never before been the subject of a specialist atlas. This book showcases over 150 topographical and railway maps – the biggest single source being the NLS map collections – telling the story of the country's railways from the early nineteenth century to the present day.

Researched and written by David Spaven – who co-wrote the best-selling *Mapping the Railways* on the history of Britain's rail network – this beautiful atlas allows the reader to understand the bigger story of the effects of the railway on the landscape as well as the impact of Scotland's distinctive geography on the pattern of rail development over a period of nearly 200 years. The unique map selection is supported by an informative commentary on key cartographic, geographical and historical features. This sumptuous atlas will appeal not just to railway enthusiasts and those who appreciate the beauty of maps, but also to readers fascinated by the role of railways in Scotland's modern history.

David Spaven has spent his working life in and around the rail industry and is the author of a number of acclaimed railway books, including *Mapping the Railways* (HarperCollins, 2011) and *Waverley Route: the battle for the Borders Railway* (Argyll Publishing, 2015).

To be published September 2015 by Birlinn, in association with the National Library of Scotland.

ISBN: 9781780272382. Hardback: £30.00

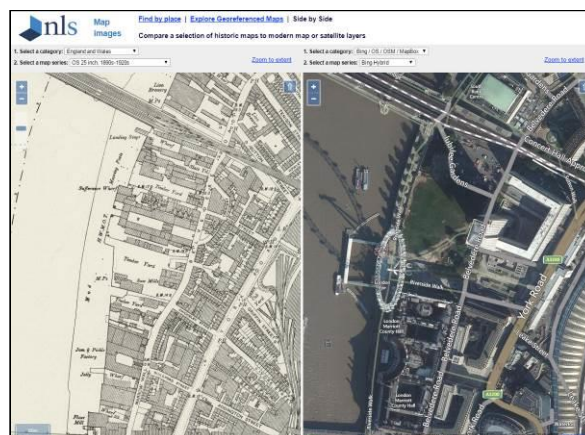


*Airey's Railway Map of Scotland [1875] (detail)*

## New website resources

### Ordnance Survey 25 inch England and Wales (1841-1952)

The vast majority of our map digitisation work is externally funded, and so we have recently been actively scanning Ordnance Survey maps of England and Wales. The OS 25 inch to the mile series is the most detailed topographic mapping covering England and Wales from the 1840s to the 1950s. The maps are very useful for local history, allowing almost every feature in the landscape to be shown. They provide good detail of all buildings, streets, railways, industrial premises, parkland, farms, woodland, and rivers. This layer currently just covers counties in south-east England - some 16,885 sheets so far - but will expand geographically as scanning continues. View the maps using a graphic index, by a list of all sheets, and as a seamless georeferenced layer.



Comparing central London in the 1890s to present day satellite images in our Side-by-side viewer

Home page: <http://maps.nls.uk/os/25inch-england-and-wales/index.html>

### New detailed gazetteers for searching Timothy Pont's manuscript maps (ca. 1583-1614)

The Pont manuscript maps are well-known cartographic treasures - the earliest detailed maps of Scotland from four centuries ago. We have just made searching the Pont maps much easier by making available two detailed gazetteers of all the place-names on the Pont maps - over 13,000 names. For most of these names, this is their earliest known depiction on a map and so the new gazetteers have great historical value. The place-names have been recorded in their original form by Pont and in a modern form. Clicking on the place-name takes you directly to the specific name on the Pont manuscript map. We are very grateful to Dr Bob Henery for compiling these gazetteers.



Detail from *Pont's map of Tarbet Ness, Easter Ross*. [Gordon 20]

View the gazetteers at: <http://maps.nls.uk/pont/>

### New, improved map website viewers

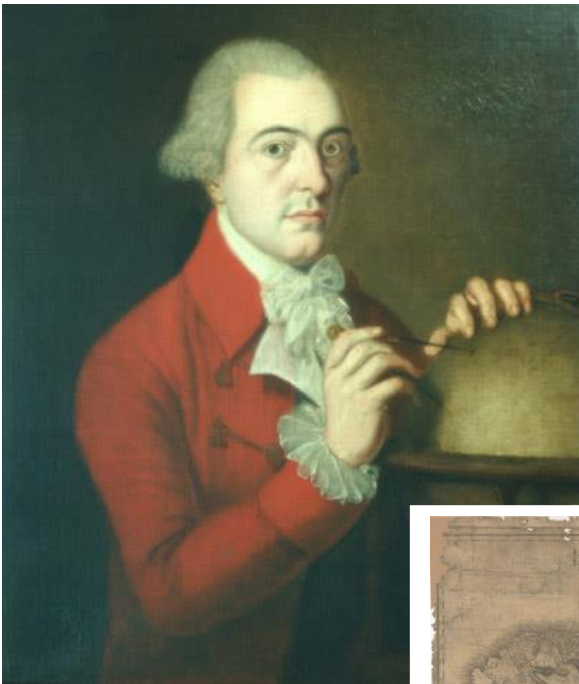


In February we updated all our map viewers, offering a number of improvements to viewing and printing. It is now possible to easily rotate all images by holding down the [Alt] and [Shift] keys while dragging the mouse cursor. Obtaining screen prints is also much more straightforward - choosing the 'Print' option (or Ctrl + P in most web browsers) will result in the current map view extending across your default page for printing or saving what you can see on screen. In the map images viewer we also have a new 'Print PDF' option which creates a default A4 landscape PDF file of your current map view. All map images now load faster, and zooming and panning is more responsive, especially on mobile devices. The only main drawback has been having to drop Google satellite and map layers, which cannot currently be displayed within our viewer software - but Bing and MapBox satellite layers are still available.

**Forthcoming map exhibition: *James Robertson: The Shetlander who mapped Jamaica***

**26th September - 22nd November 2015**

**Shetland Museum and Archives, Hay's Dock, Lerwick**



James Robertson (1752-1829) was born on the island of Yell, and emigrated to Jamaica where he owned a sugar plantation and worked as a surveyor. In 1796, Robertson petitioned and was appointed by the Jamaican Assembly to survey Jamaica, producing a three-sheet map of the whole island at a scale of a half-inch to the mile (1:126,720), and 3 four-sheet maps of each county (Cornwall, Middlesex and Surrey) at a scale of one-inch to the mile (1:63,360). Robertson was paid the generous sum of £10,450 for his maps and returned to Great Britain, where he later compiled a map of the north-eastern counties of Scotland (1822).



In contrast to his Jamaican maps that were well-received, his Scottish 1822 map was the subject of detailed litigation in the Court of Session, with criticisms raised both over the topographic detail on the map, and whether Robertson had undertaken an original survey.

This exhibition will illustrate Robertson's life and work, and will also be a rare opportunity to view all of these original maps by Robertson. There will be talks on Robertson and on Shetland mapping.

As part of the preparations for the exhibition, we have also recently scanned and georeferenced all of Robertson's maps of Jamaica. As well as being the most detailed maps of the island in the early 19th century, they also present a powerful image of British colonial control, naming and dividing the island into counties and parishes, and prominently showing the geographic distribution and location of all the sugar plantations and their owners.

**James Robertson's Maps of Jamaica** can be viewed using a clickable map, and a georeferenced overlay, or in a side-by-side viewer (allowing comparison to modern map or satellite layers), as well as via individual map sheets.

Home page: <http://maps.nls.uk/jamaica/index.html>  
Shetland exhibition information from: <http://www.shetlandmuseumandarchives.org.uk/>



**Above:** Sugar estates near Kingston, many owned by Scots, from Robertson's *...Map of the County of Middlesex...* (1804)

**Top:** James Robertson (1752-1829)  
**Middle:** Robertson's three-sheet *...map of the island of Jamaica...* (1804).

Alan Ereira shares recent work-in-progress which has made exciting new discoveries on John Ogilby (1600-1676), his birthplace and connections...

In 1672, when John Ogilby was preparing Britain's first road-atlas, he hired John Aubrey as an assistant. Aubrey was warned to be suspicious of the old man and smelt danger: "he is a cunning Scott and I must deale warily with him, with the advice of my friends"<sup>1</sup>. *Britannia* was published in 1675 at a cost equivalent to £1 million<sup>2</sup>, and claimed to set out 7,500 measured miles of the principal roads of England and Wales as "an aid to commerce". Reading it with Aubrey's warning in mind, I saw that Ogilby carefully mapped insignificant sheep tracks and disused pilgrim ways that were not in contemporary itineraries, while omitting some important routes and commercial centres. The atlas is more mysterious than it looks, as was its author.

Ogilby kept his origins secret. Aubrey reported that he said "drollingly that he would have as great contests hereafter for the place of his birth as of

Homer's"<sup>3</sup>. The only person to whom we know he confided any part of the truth was his astrologer, Elias Ashmole, and Ashmole's copy of his horoscope survives (Fig. 1, below left).<sup>4</sup>

It says he was born at "Killemeure, 10 myles north from Dundee". Killemeure is today's Kirriemuir, and is best known as the birth place of James Barrie. It is over 20 miles north from Dundee.

Kirriemuir was the closest community to Airlie Castle, home of the Lords of Airlie. In 1654 Ogilby published an illustrated edition of his translation of Virgil, supported by subscription. One of the subscribers was James Ogilvy, the 7th Lord and first Earl of Airlie, who was probably about seven years older than John Ogilby. His coat of arms was engraved on one of the illustrations. It shows a lion passant gardant, crowned (see Fig 2, below). Ogilby also included a frontispiece with his own portrait, and his own coat of arms. That too shows a lion passant gardant, crowned. There is a difference: Ogilby's arms show a five-pointed straight-sided star called a "mullet" over the lion's back (see Fig. 3, below). The mullet is used to distinguish between members of the same family. Today it would signify that he was a third son, but according to the Court of the Lord Lyon, which is in charge of Scottish heraldry, the system was not so formalised in the 17th century and it simply indicates a "cadet", a younger son or brother.

Continued overleaf...

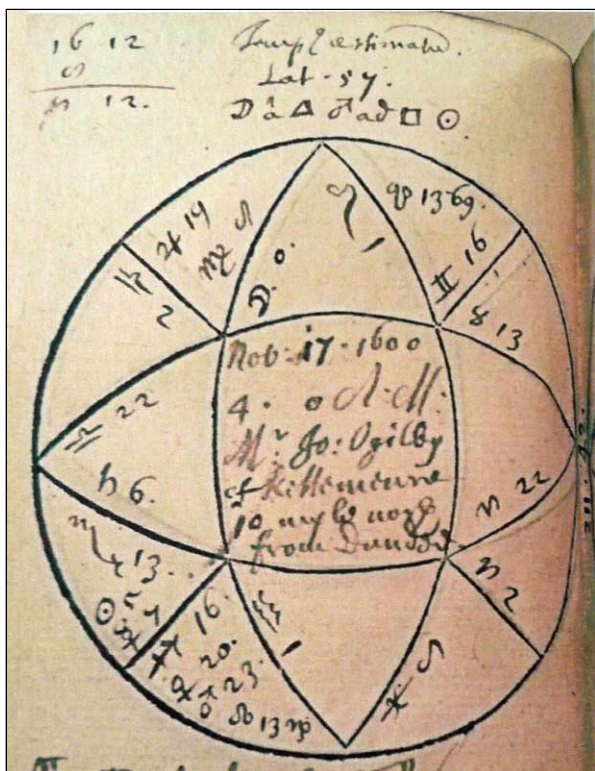


Fig. 1. Ashmole's natal horoscope for John Ogilby, cast c.1680 (Courtesy of the Bodleian Library).

<sup>1</sup> O.L. Dick (ed.) *Aubrey's Brief Lives*, New Hampshire (1999) lxxvi

<sup>2</sup> W. Morgan, *Mr. Ogilby's and William Morgan's Pocket Book of the Roads*, 4th ed., London (1689) gives the cost as 7,000l., representing an historic opportunity cost of £967,200 in 2013 (<http://www.measuringworth.com>).



Above left: Fig 2. Airlie coat of arms

Above right: Fig 3. Ogilby coat of arms



Left: Ogilby's arms in "The Fables of Aesop", 1665

<sup>3</sup> MS. Aubr. 8, fol. 45. There follows a verse clue from Ogilby, illegible due to blots.

<sup>4</sup> Bodleian: Ashmole 332, f.35v

## Ogilby, Ogilvie and *Britannia* (cont. from page 5)

Ogilby's lion was clearly drawn by an engraver used to the English lions of the Royal Standard, but this is the same device. There are no surviving records to explain how Ogilby was related to the Earl, his only Scottish subscriber. The Earl obviously recognised the relationship; he paid for his arms to appear after Ogilby's and was financially assisting him, though his own castle had just been destroyed.

The Earl's arms have a crest, the bust of a woman holding what looks like a portcullis rising out of a Coronet. He died in 1665 and Ogilby assumed that crest, retaining the mark of difference, but did not

claim the title.

Aubrey, who had a good understanding of armorial bearings, described Ogilby's arms as 'a lion passant gardant crowned ... the crest is a ½ virgin in an earle's coronet holding a castle'.<sup>5</sup> He must have recognised the meaning of that, but made no comment, and no-one since seems to have noticed. The significance of Ogilby's silent identification with the Earl of Airlie, and the unexpected purpose that lay behind the creation of *Britannia*, is the large and exciting story on which I am currently working.

Alan Ereira

<sup>5</sup> MS. Aubr. 8, fol.44(1681)

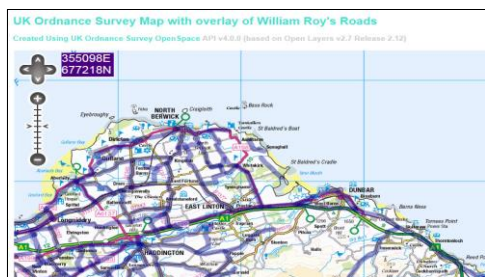
## Other new website resources

### New maps website help videos

We have recently added three short help videos to the website: an *Introduction to the Map Images website*, a second on using the *Find by Place* viewer, and a third on the *Explore Georeferenced Maps* viewer: <http://maps.nls.uk/videos/>

### OS 25 inch Scotland georeferenced layer (1892-1905)

We are pleased to announce the completion of this layer (11,030 sheets), begun last year. This is our most detailed series for rural Scotland, covering all arable or cultivated areas, as well as towns and settlements. The new layer can be viewed in our *Explore Georeferenced Maps* viewer. <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/>



### Roy's Roads update - now including the Lowlands

David Simpson's useful tracings of the all roads shown on the Roy Military Survey of Scotland (1747-55), presenting them on a modern OS map backdrop, now includes all the roads on the Lowland sheets of the Roy Survey too - well over double the combined lengths of the Highland road network.

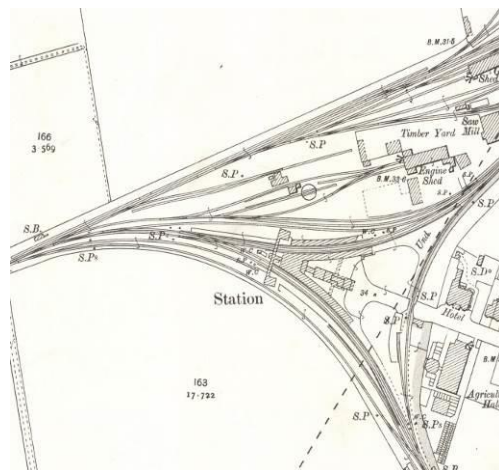
View the Roy's Roads website at: <http://www.roysroads.co.uk/>

### CAIRT COMPETITION - two copies of *The Scottish Railway Atlas* to be won...

To win a copy please let us know which station is shown in this image (from our new 25 inch to the mile, georeferenced layer of Scotland, 1892-1905 - see above)

Please send or e-mail your answers, marked *Cairt Competition* to [maps@nls.uk](mailto:maps@nls.uk) or to the address on the front cover by 30 September 2015. The winners will be picked randomly from the winning entries and informed by 15 October 2015.

Congratulations to Maggie Dawson and Paul Gatto who each won a copy of *Edinburgh: Mapping the City* from last issue's competition.



## The National Records of Scotland's collection of John Home's Scottish estate plans

Land surveyor John Home (c.1733-1809) is perhaps most widely known for his impressive survey of Assynt, Sutherland in 1774 – digital images of which can be viewed on the website of the National Library of Scotland.<sup>1</sup> However, the Assynt plans represent just a small fraction of a much larger body of his work that encompassed many Scottish estates.

Many of Home's plans can today be found in the National Records of Scotland [NRS]. Archivists there have recently been working to identify and digitise many of these plans and to upgrade the catalogue entries in order to broaden access to these unique items. In all, the NRS holds just under 100 of Home's plans, including originals as well as copies of plans held privately. This represents one of the largest collections of Home's work in Scotland.<sup>2</sup> The plans themselves come from a variety of different sources and now form part of the extensive RHP [Register House Plans] collection.

John Home worked across the length and breadth of Scotland during the mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> century. It was something of a golden age of surveying in Scotland – a time when estate plans were much in demand from landowners wanting to assess and 'improve' their holdings. Home's plans are all characteristically highly detailed and inform us about much more than the geography of the area in question. They often include specific information about the condition of each area of land on the estate, for example, whether it was currently held in common; whether it was farmed in runrigs; whether the area was mossy, or boggy,

or covered in 'whins' [gorse]; and whether it was considered 'improvable' – a feature much in demand by contemporary landowners.

The plans also exhibit many instances of usage of older vocabulary: the example above shows which areas were being *toathd* [manured]; the *laigh* [low] pasture and *haugh* [meadow] lands; or indicate *baulks* [unploughed ridges] within individual fields. Field areas are also given in the old Scots measures of acres, roods, and falls.

Home's plans exhibit his artistic as well as surveying talents. Many have elaborate cartouches surrounding the titles, while others contain detailed drawings of buildings, animals, landscapes, and people. Some of these serve as valuable records of scenes and places that are no longer extant: in RHP11776, below, the old Kirk of Inverkeethnie [Inverkeithny] is shown. This building no longer exists and a 19<sup>th</sup> century church (whose Session House incorporates part of the old belfry) stands on this site<sup>3</sup>. In like manner, Home's plan of Braeside and Gartnach Hill, Aberdeenshire<sup>4</sup> gives a view of Castle Forbes in 1770 before the building was replaced by a later structure in 1815.

For the local and family historian, the plans are a treasure-trove of useful information. Many of them indicate the names of the owners or tenants of individual holdings in rural areas, or dwellings in the urban plans, and others show the names of individual fields and landmarks as well as the positions of march stones marking the boundary marches.

**Continued overleaf...**



Detail from National Records of Scotland, RHP11776: *Plan of the lands of Haddo, the property of Captain George Morison. September 1766.* Images of this plan are available to view on computer terminals in the Historical Search Room of the National Records of Scotland.

<sup>1</sup> <http://maps.nls.uk/estates/assynt/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> Collections of Home's plans exist in the National Library of Scotland and in Aberdeen University, and individual examples of Home's plans can be found in a number of other archives, but I am thus far unaware of another large collection of his works – any additions to my list of locations for Home's plans would be gratefully received.

<sup>3</sup> Places of Worship [website]: Inverkeithny Former Parish Church  
<http://www.scottishchurches.org.uk/sites/site/id/590/name/Inverkeithny+Former+Parish+Church+Inverkeithny+Grampian>

<sup>4</sup> National Records of Scotland, RHP44705: Plan of Braeside and Gartnach Hill, Aberdeenshire. 1770

## John Home's Scottish estate plans (contd.)



Detail from: National Records of Scotland, RHP142494: *Plan of Stonehaven, Kincardineshire, 1795*. Images of this plan are available to view on computer terminals in the Historical Search Room of the National Records of Scotland.

Recent work at the NRS has seen the digitisation of many of John Home's plans and images of these can be viewed in the Historical Search Room of the National Records of Scotland. However, this is just the first stage of a larger project to widen access to these items. Where copyright and ownership restrictions allow some of these plans have also been made available online at [www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk) and work is currently underway to allow further online access to more of the NRS's collection of Home's plans very soon.

Detailed descriptions of the individual plans can be found by searching the NRS online catalogue at: <http://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrsonlinecatalogue><sup>5</sup> and copies of many of the plans can be ordered by contacting [plans@nrscotland.gov.uk](mailto:plans@nrscotland.gov.uk).

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<sup>5</sup> John Home's plans can be most easily identified in the NRS online catalogue by searching for his name within the RHP references. Any available images can be located on the ScotlandsPlaces website by searching for 'John Home' in the free text search box.

### Recent publications relating to Scottish cartography

**Douglas G. Lockhart, 'Last of the line: the twilight years of private land surveying in Moray', *Scottish Local History* 91 (2015), 26-37.**

This detailed and well-illustrated paper examines a number of little-known land surveyors in north-east Scotland who were active after 1850: Thomas Smith Hutcheon, Peter MacBey, Alexander Brown Murdoch, George Gordon, and Harbourne Mackay. The impact of Ordnance Survey mapping forced a diversification of these surveyors' work into many other fields such as civil engineering, land valuation, public utilities, architecture, and advice to statutory bodies such as the Deer Forest Commission.

**David L Walker, 'A view of the Grampians' *Sheetlines* 100 (August 2014), 23-26.**

<http://www.charlesclosesociety.org/files/Issue100page23.pdf>

**David L Walker, 'James Gardner 1808-1840' *Sheetlines* 101 (December 2014), 31-38.**

<http://www.charlesclosesociety.org/files/Issue101page31.pdf>

These two well-researched papers by David Walker shed much new light on James Gardner and his talented and versatile career both in and out of Ordnance Survey. James Gardner worked at OS from 1808 and played a very active role in the trigonometrical survey of Great Britain until 1822, during which time he observed and published a famous panorama of the Grampians (1820). The key to the panorama shows the heights of a dozen Scottish mountains. Whilst this provides one of the few progress reports between 1811 and 1856 on the development of the initial triangulation of Scotland, it also raises several questions over the calculation of the mountain heights themselves compared to other contemporary estimates. After 1823, Gardner acted as sole agent for selling OS maps and assisting OS with surveying and trigonometrical mathematics. He also engraved and published many other maps, including some for the Great Reform Act (1832), as well as the Irish Railway Commission (1837).

### Telephone number changes

The main NLS Maps Reading Room telephone number changed at the start of 2015. The new number is **0131 623 4660**. Please note that map staff numbers have now also changed – contact details can be checked at <http://www.nls.uk/contact/staff-and-departments>.