



CAIRT

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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 and 17th century Scots for map.

View all issues online [here](#).

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Mercator's *Scotia Regnum*

Gerhard Mercator's famous map of Scotland was published in the Spring of 1595. Although its author had passed away four months earlier, due to Mercator's stature and influence, the map had a long legacy, forming the standard outline of the country for the next half century. Mercator's main outlines were taken from the most accurate coastal surveys of Alexander Lyndesay, published by Nicolas de Nicolay in 1583, whilst interior content was drawn particularly from the maps of Laurence Nowell, Dean of Lichfield, and the Scottish Highlander and spy, John Elder.

Although well known, many questions remain about the detail of the map. On the following page, Nevis Hulme illustrates this by looking at the provenance of Mercator's place names for a specific area of Wester Ross.

Mercator may be chiefly remembered today as a mapmaker, but he was also an accomplished engraver and calligrapher, a maker of globes and scientific instruments, as well as a mathematician and geographer. His Atlas of 1595 with its 102 terrestrial maps was part of a much broader study of cosmography, looking at the history and disposition of the universe and man's place within it.

Mercator's *Scotia Regnum* is on display in the [NLS Treasures Gallery](#) until 9 September 2023.



Mercator's mapping of Wester Ross and its lasting legacy

Nevis Hulme examines Mercator's place names for Gairloch

Gerhard Mercator (1512-1594) needs no introduction to Cairt's readership.¹ The following is an examination of his maps of Scotland concentrating on Wester Ross and the parish of Gairloch in particular.

Mercator's map of 1564 is among the first maps² to show a reasonable depiction of the coast and a number of place-names that can be matched to identifiable places. His improved map of 1595 comes in two versions. One divides Scotland into a north and a south sheet of which the north sheet, Mercator (1595a), was used for this analysis. The relevant part is shown in Figure 1. The other version, Mercator (1595b), is coloured and covers the whole of Scotland. This omits some place-names and contains some differences in the representation of names, e.g. Morauia vulgo Muray³ is shortened to Morauia and, in the study area, Grunford Ellan is shown as Ellan Grunford.

There are a number of names written on both the 1564 and 1595 maps representing the same places. Those in the area of interest that can be matched to present day features are shown in the following table.

1564 map	1595 maps	Present day
L. Drum ⁴	L. Brunne	L. Broom
Grunzo	Grunford Ellan	Gruinard Island
L. Hew	L. Hew	L. Ewe and L. Maree ⁵

L. Ewe has one main island with a few skerries. L. Maree, in contrast, has a number of small islands and it may be these that are represented by the islands on the map despite appearing in the sea loch.

The other two names on the 1564 map, Yllerton and Feuris, have proved difficult to identify. A settlement corresponding to Yllerton is shown on Nicolas de Nicolay's chart, a possibly earlier map (see footnote 2), as Willertoune and on Mercator (1595a and b) as Allartown. If the identification of the sea lochs is correct, this would place this settlement somewhere on the peninsula marked A in Fig.1.

¹ However, for an overview of Mercator's life and work see [Wikipedia](#).

² Mercator probably copied Nicholas de Nicolay's coastal chart. The latter, although dated 1583, most probably preceded Mercator's. Similarly, Laurence Nowell's Map of Scotland of 1566 may pre-date Mercator's. The names and coastal detail are similar in all three and clearly two borrowed from whichever was the original. This is discussed in Moir, pp.14-17 and 19-23.

³ Moruia commonly Muray. i.e the Latin spelling followed by the Scots.

There is no place in that area, either from old records or today, that fits any of these names. The nearest that can be found is a reference to Allydyll, thought to be Talladale (NG9170; B in Fig.1), in a protocol granting land to Hector Roy Mackenzie in 1494.

This name appeared in a similar document of 1566 as Allawdill.⁶ Both the location and the difference in the names does make this identification dubious.

Mercator shows Feuris next to what is now called Loch Maree. Robert Gordon's map, produced between 1636 and 1652, has Foulis at the same location. It appears in 1750 by Dorret as Furnace. Sir George Hay came to Loch Maree in 1607 and commenced an ironworks at Letterewe⁷ or, more specifically, Furnace (NH9570; C in Fig.1). It is thought that iron-working had been carried on before this date so this may explain why the name, of a place of such economic importance in the area, appeared on the early maps.

This leaves the remainder of the names on Mercator (1595a). There are additional names added to all areas of northern Scotland when compared with the 1564 map. Some of the names are recognisable but others are not immediately obvious and would require a good deal of research to determine their veracity. In Wester Ross, a striking feature of the extra names is that most are of four or five letters. Mera, Zutz, Brew, Skoir, Culk and Dunra, amongst others, making them a little suspect. The names of many settlements in the area are known from the 1566 document mentioned earlier; those on the 1595 map do not suggest any similarity with these. Toir, next to what is believed to be L. Torridon (called L. Refart by Mercator), may just be a coincidence. Lome, at the southeast end of L. Maree lies where Kinlochewe (NH0261; D in Fig.1) stand today. The name Kinlochewe (Ceann Loch lù in Gaelic and spelt as Kenlochew(e) in early documents) appears to be very old, possibly dating back to the 14th century.⁸ Again, it has to be wondered where this name came from. While Roffia (partly shown on Fig.1), for Ross, is accurate, it is likely that Cog youth has been displaced from north of L. Broom where the district of Coigach is found.

⁴ There is a L. Droma inland from L. Broom on the east-west watershed. This name is used on the 1595 for a sea loch in the L. Carron area.

⁵ The freshwater loch was called L. Ewe, like the adjacent sea loch, until c.1700. This explains the presence of Kinlochewe at the southeast end of L. Maree. Pont did, however, state of the freshwater loch, 'Loch Ew, by sum it is cald Loch Mulrui.'

⁶ Mackenzie, p. 388 and 403; p.303 and p.315 in first edition.

⁷ Dixon, p.75.

⁸ Mackenzie, p. 57; p.32 in first edition.

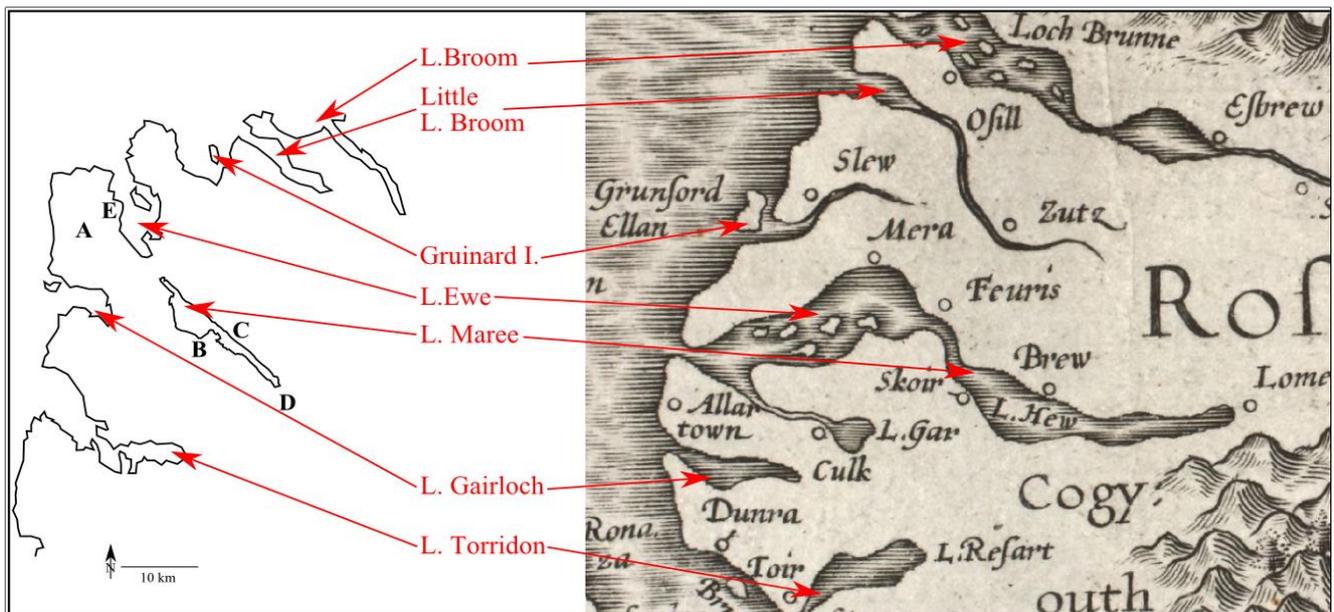


Fig.1. Wester Ross coastline compared with Mercator (1595a). See the text for the key to A-E

Lastly, there is L. Gar, indicated as an inland loch extending from (the sea) Loch Ewe. The name may also be a coincidence but it may come from Gher-loch, as appears on Gordon, or Gerloth, given in Bagimond (1275)⁹ and the earliest reference to Gairloch. There are lochs a short distance from the shore of L. Ewe to which this may apply with one contender being L. Squod (NG8187; E in Fig.1).

It is possible that John Elder from Caithness may have contributed names to Mercator¹⁰ or that the names came from another, possibly written, source but it has not been possible to determine what this could be. It is clear, however, that some of the names may have been unwittingly added by Mercator from what he believed was a reliable source.

Mercator's maps, then, provide an interesting early insight into how this part of Wester Ross was viewed in the 16th century. It can be seen from the Fig.1 that they had a fair degree of accuracy despite some doubtful names. Mercator's work was long-lived and imprints of his maps with only minor spelling changes continued to be published for 139 years. In 1610, John Speed added the name Claight between Mera and Fewris, his spelling of Feuris. This name is also a mystery although not all of his additions were so; he did add useful mineral information, for example. The last known reproduction of Mercator's map of northern Scotland appeared in 1734 when Henri Du Sauzet published his map of Scotland.

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- Nowell, L. (1583) [Map of Scotland ...](#)
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- Speed, J. (1610) [The Kingdome of Scotland](#)

⁹ Bagimond, p.50.

¹⁰ Moir, pp.15-16.

The founding of Maryton and Padanaram, Angus, in 1824 and 1826

Douglas Lockhart explores plans of these villages situated between Kirriemuir and Forfar.

Planned villages founded in Strathmore during the 1820s and 1830s were closely linked to handloom weaving of coarse linen cloth. Lower rural wages helped homeworking weavers secure employment from manufacturers based in towns such as Dundee, Forfar and Arbroath. Housing became available when landowners, aware of the opportunity to increase their rent rolls, created small villages on peripheral parts of their estates (Wolfhill and Caroline Place, Perthshire) or on poor agricultural land (Feus of Caldhame, Kincardineshire). The latter type of site was characteristic of Maryton and Padanaram, originally known as Balmuckety Feus and Ellenorton, when Gilbert Laing Meason of Lindertis (1769-1832), perhaps best known for the early use of the term 'landscape architecture', leased building plots of 'very worthless land' at £6 per acre.¹

Maryton is typical of the villages founded at this time with just twenty-four plots on a triangular site on which were built single-storey cottages. The plan was made by John Reid, land surveyor in Kirriemuir. Nothing is known of Reid's life, and this is probably his only surviving survey. It was found in a Strathmore Estate Chartulary Book held by the estate's lawyers which is now in the Glamis Castle Archives (Fig.1, below).

Such plans are very elusive: Maryton is one of only two village plans found by the author in chartularies in north-east Scotland.² Chartularies were an important reference tool for lawyers because they contain copies of feu-charters and long leases granted to households. For historians they are an invaluable source of information on employment and previous place of residence of purchasers of village building plots.

Additional information for Maryton and Padanaram was sourced from miscellaneous Strathmore Estate deeds held by the estate's lawyers. The deeds and Census enumerators' books point to a population consisting of weavers, tradesmen and labourers drawn from the surrounding area. By January 1832 Meason had leased about nine acres in quarter acre plots and two years later the *New Statistical Account* reported that the population of Maryton was 136 and that of Padanaram, 108.³ At the 1851 Census their populations had reached 215 and 186 with 77% of household heads and 83.5% of the economically active population employed in the linen trade.⁴

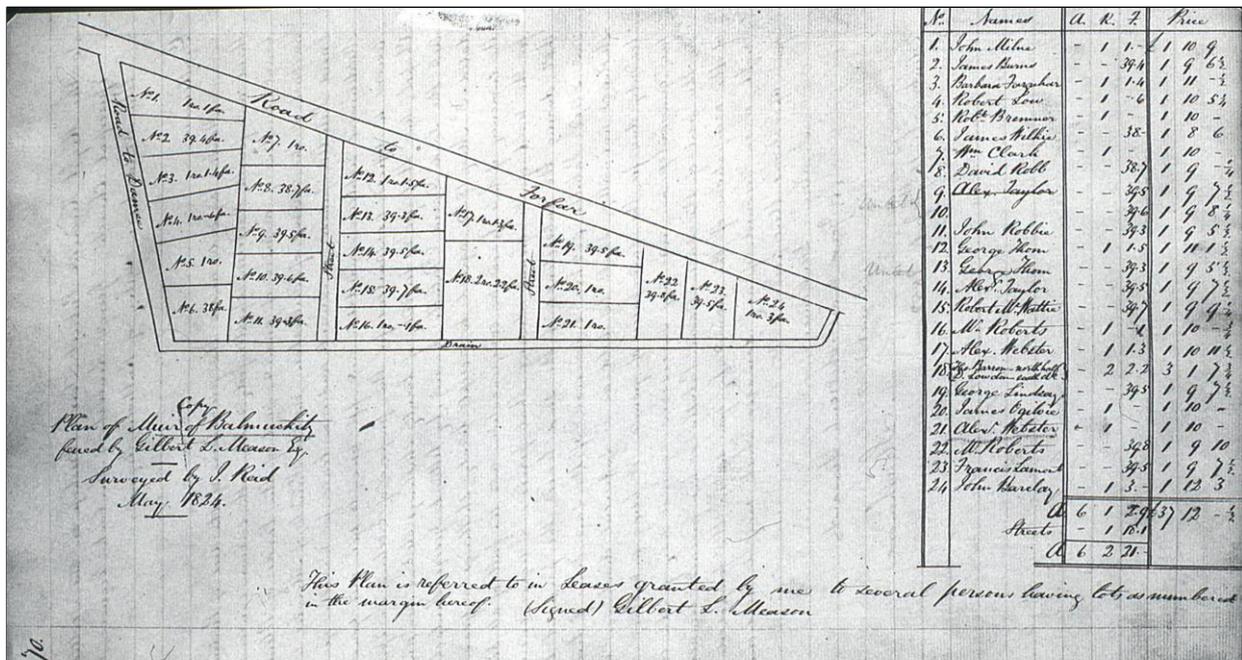


Fig.1. Plan of Muir of Balmuckety feued by Gilbert L. Meason, May 1824 by John Reid.
Source: Strathmore Chartulary No.2, p.70, Glamis Castle Archives Acc 2023/11.

¹ Sheffield Archives, Wharnccliffe Muniments Wh.M.277, Letter Andrew Dalgairns to Lord Wharnccliffe: Ingliston, 3 January 1832.

² The second plan is of New Deer, Aberdeenshire, 1878 by James F. Beattie & Son in Chartulary of the Brucklay

Estates No.2, pp.484-5. Read at W. & J. Cook WS, Edinburgh, present location unknown.

³ Wharnccliffe Muniments op cit; NSA Vol.XI, p.185 (compiled December 1833).

⁴ 1851 Census Kirriemuir Parish ED 24 pp.1-11; ED 25 pp.1-10.

Ordnance Survey 25 inch to the mile mapping is available for the early 1860s and in addition Robert Blackadder (1833-1913) of Dundee, who had been apprenticed to his uncle William Blackadder (1789-1860) at Glamis, surveyed both villages in 1867 (Figs 2-3).⁵

In his later career, Blackadder completed a major survey of the Dalhousie Estates in Angus (1883) and a plan of St Andrews Links (1894), but he became better known as an architect and civil engineer.⁶ His survey of the Ballinshoe estate coincided with the villages reaching their peak populations. The second edition Ordnance Survey mapping in 1900-01 shows little change in the layout of both villages however the loss of handloom weaving in the intervening years had a huge impact on their populations. Maryton was untouched by depopulation, probably because it was only a mile from Kirriemuir, whereas Padanaram, always smaller than its sibling and nearly equidistant between Kirriemuir and Forfar, lost 55% of its population between 1861 and 1901.⁷ Those employed in textiles lived in Maryton and were mainly jute factory workers. Another trend was a marked rise in the number of the elderly, many of whom had been farmers or farm workers.

The names of both villages are different from when they were founded. Ellenorton, sometimes spelt Ellinorton, was named for Meason's daughter Eleanor, and gradually became known as Padanaram, for example in the Valuation Roll for 1855-56 and in Census enumerators' books from 1861 onwards.⁸

The place names Balmuckety Feus and Maryton were both used in the Census in 1841 and 1881. The NSA also called the village Marytown [sic]; Meason's wife was Mary Whitelaw Wemyss (1792-1858).⁹ In May 1897, the *Dundee Courier* reported 'a unique Jubilee commemoration' that followed the decision taken at a meeting in the village to use Maryton as the correspondence address.¹⁰ The change was officially recognised in the Valuation Roll for 1899-1900.¹¹

Acknowledgements

Plans are reproduced courtesy of The Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne, Glamis Castle. Thanks to Ingrid Thomson, Glamis Castle Archivist; staffs of Dundee Central Library, Arbroath Library and National Records of Scotland.

⁵ Ordnance Survey 25 inch to the mile, Forfarshire sheet XXXII.13 surveyed 1861; sheet XXXVIII.2 surveyed 1860 to 1861, both published 1863; The estate of Ballinshoe was purchased by The Trustees of the Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne in 1841.

⁶ *Dundee Courier*, 21 March 1913 p.6 col.6 [obituary].

⁷ 1861 Census Kirriemuir Parish ED 13 pp.7-15; 1901 Census ED 8 pp.8-12.

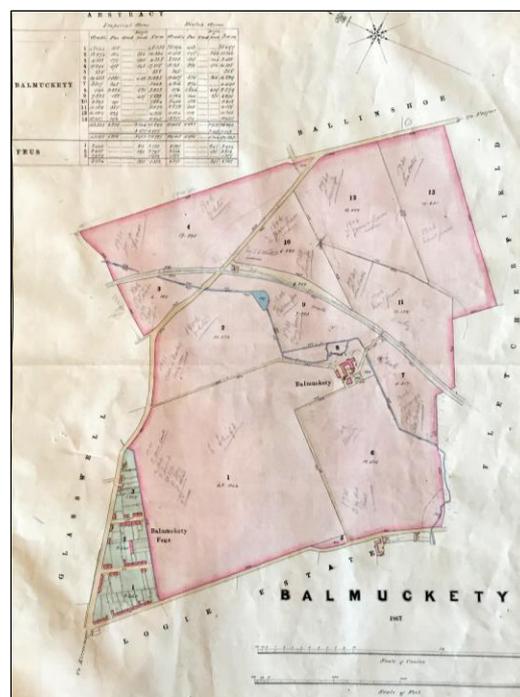


Fig.2 (above). Excerpt from Plan of Balmuckety, 1867 by Robert Blackadder. Source: Glamis Castle Archives NRAS885/3/P382 Book of Plans of the estate of Ballinshoe.

Fig.3 (below). Excerpt from Plan of Dragonhall and Padanaram, 1867 by Robert Blackadder. Source: Glamis Castle Archives NRAS885/3/P382 Book of Plans of the estate of Ballinshoe.



⁸ NRS VR88/3 Valuation Roll - County of Forfar, 1855-56, f.71.

⁹ 1841 Census Kirriemuir ED 34 pp.1-10; 1881 Census ED 16 pp.2-11; NSA op cit.

¹⁰ *Dundee Courier*, 24 May 1897 p.6 col.6.

¹¹ NRS VR88/52 Valuation Roll - County of Forfar, 1899-1900, p.287.

Recent NLS acquisition: Wood atlas of towns of North-east England

The Library is excited to have recently acquired the *Town atlas of Northumberland and Durham* by the important Edinburgh based cartographer John Wood. The maps depict twelve towns in the north-east of England and were created between 1820 and 1827.

We are grateful for support from the R.W. Clark Fund and the T.A. Fund which enabled the purchase of the atlas.

This is an unusual atlas with original, individual maps gathered by the collector and historian Frank Graham. The maps were brought together to mirror an example held by Newcastle Public Library. Graham reproduced the maps in a limited-edition facsimile atlas in 1991. One of those modern bindings has been used for the original maps which are pasted on paper guards.

Wood's town plans are often the earliest for many small and medium sized towns across Great Britain, and these are no less significant. They depict Berwick upon Tweed, Alnwick, Morpeth, Hexham, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Shields & Tynemouth, South Shields, Sunderland, Bishop Wearmouth and Monk Wearmouth, Durham, Darlington, Stockton and Barnard Castle. Detailed and clearly drawn, the plans capture many towns at a point in history just before the arrival of railways changed their shape and demography. In these examples, the termini of the new Stockton and Darlington railway, the first in the world to use steam locomotives for passenger transport, are shown on the separate town plans. The plans depict individual buildings, streets and landowner's names, as well as often a list of references to public houses, institutions and religious buildings, creating a picture of life in the town in the late Georgian period.

Many of the plans give a local address for Wood, who clearly based himself near the towns for the survey. Many were available for sale directly from Wood and from a stationer in the town. It is likely that Wood returned to Edinburgh each winter to prepare his fair copies and use his established networks to publish the plans. They were variously engraved by William Murphy, A. Forrester, or W. & A.K. Johnston.

Wood is best known for his Scottish work but also made maps of many English and Welsh towns. These maps are poorly represented in map collections. The maps appear to have been produced in very small print runs, and few examples of any given town are extant.

To have been able to acquire 12 maps together, makes this an important and significant acquisition for study of both Wood's cartography and British urban geography.

The atlas, and individual maps have been catalogued and are available for request, shelfmark EME.b.6.6.

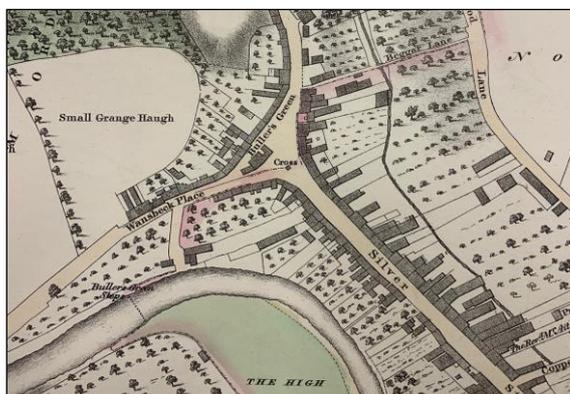
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Robson, B. 'John Wood 1: The undervalued cartographer' in *The Cartographic Journal* 51(3), (August 2014), pp.257-73

Robson, Brian. 'John Wood 2: Planning and paying for his town plans' in *The Cartographic Journal* 51(3) (August 2014), pp.274-86

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Detail from John Wood's *Plan of the city of Durham* (top), and *Morpeth* (above), 1820.

Virtual Map Consultation

If you would like to view any historic maps, but are unable to visit the Maps Reading Room in Edinburgh in person, why not try our Virtual Reading Room service? Make an appointment [here](#) to consult maps via a live video feed.

New tools on the NLS georeferenced map viewers

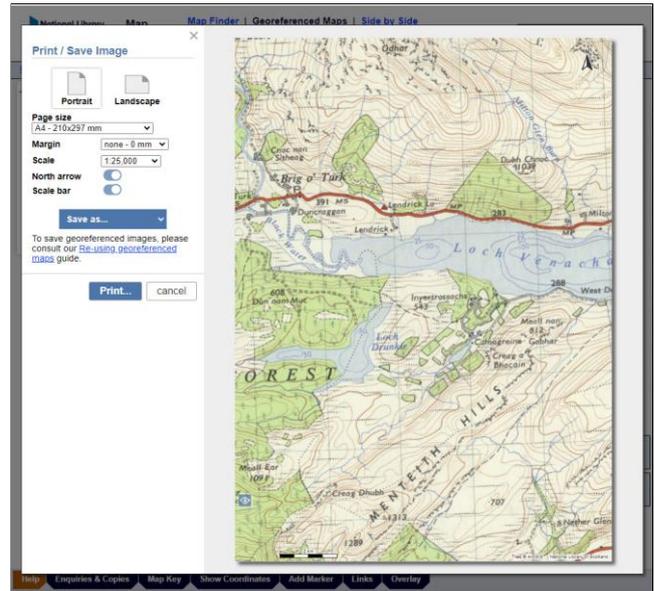
Our **New Print / Save Image tool** allows you to easily save an image or print it. In any of our georeferenced map viewers, select the print icon to the lower left of the screen, and a print panel opens with various options (see image):



- Portrait / landscape orientation
- Page size – A4 to A0
- Margin – 0 to 10 mm
- Scale – 1:500 to 1:1,000,000 - set an exact scale for your map
- North Arrow – off or on
- Scale bar - off or on

You can save the image in various formats – JPEG, PNG, PDF, or copy the image to clipboard. It is also possible to print the map directly to a printer.

We have added the print function into all our georeferenced map viewers, including our Boundaries viewer, showing different dates of parish and county boundaries over time, as well as our Side by side viewer, allowing you to save images or print maps comparing different time periods.



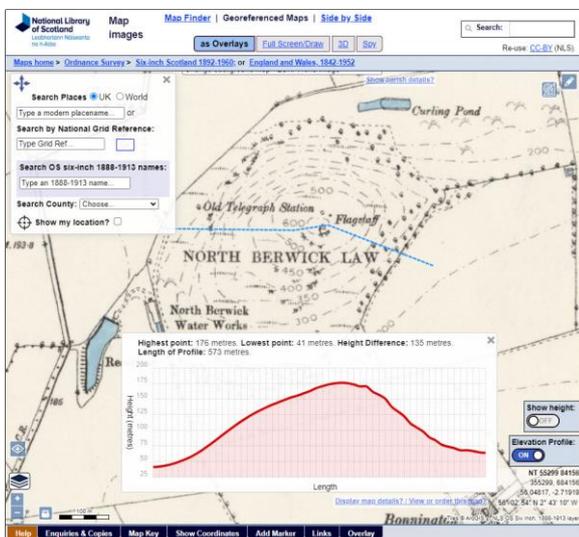
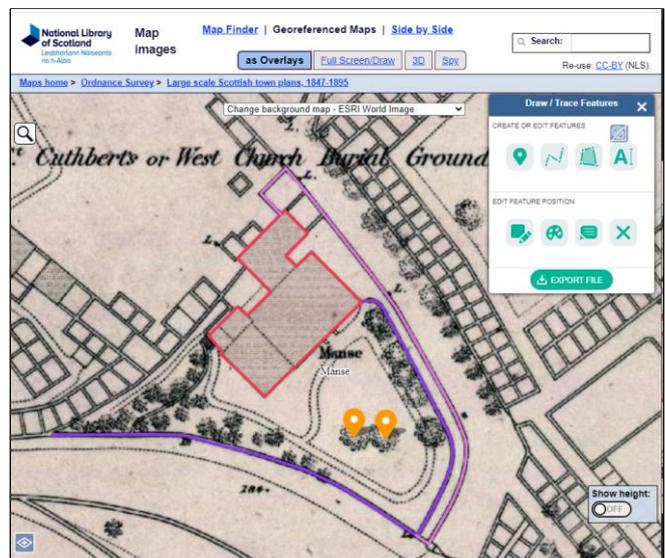
We have upgraded our tools for **Drawing and Tracing Features** - see  button (top right of screen).

The new tools allow better options for customising and editing features, as well as better export options, allowing you to save the coordinates, features and styles of your drawing for onward use.



Downloaded files can be brought back into the Georeferenced Maps viewer using the new Add Layer tool for further editing.

The new Add Layer tool allows you to import KML, GPX, or GeoJSON files, display these on any of our georeferenced map layers, and also view and edit layer details.



Our new tool for **Tracing an elevation profile** can be found in our *Georeferenced Maps* viewer. Simply click along any route of interest, and it will display an elevation profile. Tracing an elevation profile is a really useful way of understanding the landscape terrain, revealing details about the shapes of valleys, the steepness of hills and mountains, and the rise and fall of features like paths and roads.

You can find further details about these tools on our [Help pages](#).

New guide – Maps for use in Schools

This [new online resource](#) covers tools for viewing and interpreting historic maps, topic and curriculum suggestions, the most useful maps for investigating different subjects, and related online teaching resources.

Right: Changing coastal landscapes - comparing historical maps and satellite imagery in the [Side by Side](#) viewer.



Other recent NLS website additions

With the completion of our Scottish flat-sheet map scanning, our focus has been on maps of England and Wales. This year we have added over 6,600 maps to our website, with map series including:

- Ordnance Survey One-Inch Maps of England and Wales, 1870s-1950s
- One-Inch land utilisation and agricultural maps of England and Wales (1930s and 1960s) (**Fig.1**, below)
- Geological Survey of England and Wales, One-Inch and Six-Inch maps, 1860s-1950s. (**Fig.2**, below)
- Ordnance Survey Half-Inch to the Mile, England and Wales, 1914-1942
- Ordnance Survey Half-Inch Administrative Area Diagrams, England and Wales, 1899-1972 (**Fig.3**, below)
- Ordnance Survey maps published in 1972
- Glenkens Estate mapping project. Georeferenced layers of the [Earlstoun Estate](#) (1815-17) and nearby [Holm Estate](#) (1799) in the parishes of Balmaclellan, Dalry and Kells, Kirkcudbrightshire. (**Fig.4**, below)



Fig.1

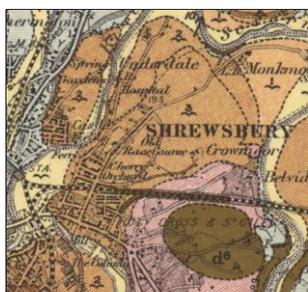


Fig.2



Fig.3



Fig.4

More information can be found on our [Recent Additions](#) page.

New NLS Data Foundry datasets:

- [Historic Footpaths](#). Download, explore and view records of over 120,000 footpaths traced by volunteers in 2022 from Ordnance Survey Six-Inch to the mile maps of Scotland (1888-1913).
- [Living with Machines: railspace and building datasets](#). Gold standard annotations from the [MapReader project](#), extracting railways and buildings from [OS Six-Inch 2nd edition mapping](#).

Recent publications on Scottish Maps

- Nevis Hulme, 'The representation of a place-name term on OS maps', *Sheetlines* 126 (April 2023), pp.18-28
- Nevis Hulme, 'The Isle of Skye and the Principal Triangulation of Scotland', *Sheetlines* 126 (April 2023), pp.29-36
- Douglas Scott, 'Timothy Pont and the First Map of Teviotdale', *Transactions of the Hawick Archaeological Society* (2012), pp.34-48.