UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

School of History

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Using Maps to Find Out About the Past

Old maps can provide topographical and other information about places that is not readily available from other sources. Your local county record office is likely to hold many of the historic maps that survive for any town or village; other maps might be held by The National Archives in Kew, in local museums, large public libraries and in private collections. These may include estate, enclosure, tithe and Ordnance Survey maps, and plans for proposed new roads, canals and railways, which can include some detail of the surrounding area.

Maps are expensive to commission, as surveying is skilled work. They were therefore only produced for a specific reason, and perhaps to suit a limited budget, and these factors influenced their content. Maps produced by the Ordnance Survey were created to provide accurate mapping of the whole country, including landmarks, but other maps vary widely in terms of their accuracy and content. Detail which was not germane to their purpose was often omitted, but a blank space on the map was not necessarily a blank space in the landscape. Even today, a prominent landmark such as a medieval church with a tall spire may not be shown on some online maps, road atlases or the maps that appear on SatNav displays, while the width of the roads might be exaggerated. This emphasises the need to understand why any map was made, and to interpret its content with care.

Scales

Map scales can be expressed as the relationship between a measurement on the map and a measurement on the ground (for example one inch to one mile), or as a ratio (where the smaller the second number, the more detail the map will show). The following scales have been used extensively by the Ordnance Survey:

1: 63,360 (1 inch to 1 mile)
1: 50,000 (2 centimetres = 1 kilometre)

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1: 25,244 (2.5 inches to 1 mile)
1: 25,000 (4 centimetres = 1 kilometre)
1: 10,560 (6 inches to 1 mile)
1: 2,534 (25 inches to 1 mile)

Other maps had scales of their own, to suit their purpose and the price agreed by the parties. The scale on old maps is often expressed in terms of chains per inch. A chain is 22 yards, so a scale of 3 chains per inch equates to 26.67 inches to the mile, and 12 chains per inch converts to 6.67 inches per mile. The catalogues of maps in county record offices will usually indicate the scale of the map, and perhaps also its dimensions, so you can get some idea of whether it is going to be helpful to you before you order it.

Ordnance Survey

The maps produced by the Ordnance Survey make a good starting point for any local study. The 2.5 inch scale will provide an overview of the town or village, the surrounding area and the roads that linked settlements. The shape of the parish and its boundaries, indicated by a dotted line, may also provide clues about how different types of land were shared between communities in the period before documents were created. The interpretation of such boundaries is beyond the scope of this short guide, but if that interests you, a short and very readable book that will help is:

A. Winchester, *Discovering Parish Boundaries* (Shire Books, Oxford, 2008).

You can find digitised copies of historic Ordnance Survey maps at the scale of 2.5 inches to the mile on the website of the National Library of Scotland http://www.nls.uk/. Click the link to 'Maps of Scotland' (even if you want England) and then on the link to 'Series maps'. About half way down that page you will see a list of the Ordnance Survey Map Series, and towards the bottom of that list you will see a link to the 1:25,000 maps of Great Britain, 1937-61. Open that link and select 'Seamless layer on a Google Maps base'. Now type your place name into the search box and Search. Unfortunately, it does not provide an exact date for the survey, other than that it was made between 1937 and 1961. The box to the left of the map allows you to change the map, for example to the one-inch series of 1955-61. These maps will give you an indication of the size of settlements in the early days of the post-war building boom, and will show the railway network and road layout before the Beeching cuts and today's network of motorways.

Larger scale maps, for example, 6 inches to a mile, provide more detail. These have been revised several times by the Ordnance Survey, and it is well worth looking at every revision and every edition for the snapshots they provide. These will enable you to track changes in the built environment over time. Your local record office or local studies library may hold a copy of each revised sheet, helping you to date the changes shown to within a couple of decades. You may be able to see how fields were purchased by developers and became houses, or an industrial estate, or perhaps when and how a quarry expanded.

Post-war planning maps

The National Library of Scotland has also digitised the series of post-war planning maps. From their home page at http://www.nls.uk/, go through the link to 'Maps of Scotland' and open the link to 'Series maps'. At the bottom of the list of the Ordnance Survey Map Series, open the 10-mile planning maps of the UK, 1944-60. Many of these are split between north and south, with the northern map covering Scotland and northern England, as far south as the Lake District. In each case you can zoom in, and move the map to anywhere that interests you (if you have a slow broadband connection, it might take a few seconds for the pixilation to disappear). For quick magnification, hold down the shift key and use the mouse to delineate the area of interest.

The following maps in this series may be of the greatest interest:

Map	Comments
Administrative areas	Provides boundaries of urban and rural districts, county, municipal and metropolitan boroughs in 1958.
Population change between 1939 and 1947	Shows areas of population growth (red) and decline (green). These maps were used in conjunction with planning decisions, for example on housing. They therefore help to put post-war building development into its context.
Land utilisation	Based on a survey carried out by volunteers from universities, colleges and schools between 1931 and 1942. It identifies woodland, pasture, arable, heathland and urban areas.
Land classification	The utilisation survey was followed by the classification of land into three main grades (and ten sub-grades), indicative of soil type and fertility, which can help you to understand the types of farming seen in your area.
Types of farming (in 1944)	Distinguishes, for example, broad areas of arable, pasture and mixed farming. The boundaries may not be quite as clear cut as indicated, but this information can help to put a parish study into its economic context.
Coal and iron / Iron and steel	Shows the location of these mineral deposits, giving clues to the economy of the area; also the location and weekly capacity of blast furnaces in 1944.

Geological map	This can be useful if you have stone buildings in the area you are studying, to see where the stone came from and to look at transport routes to see how it might have got there. The more difficult the journey, the more costly it would have been to use that type of building material. Note that some of the names of different types of rock have changed since this map was produced.

One challenge when using the digital version of these maps lies in trying to remember the precise colour or shading used in an area while scrolling across to find the key. That is not a major issue when looking at, for example, the map of population change, where the darker the tone, the greater the increase or decrease. This can pose particular problems on complex maps, such as the geological map, but you can now obtain a geological map of your area which overcomes this difficulty.

Geological maps

The British Geological Survey website provides recent geological mapping, and uses the most modern terminology for the rocks. Their maps are available at: http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html

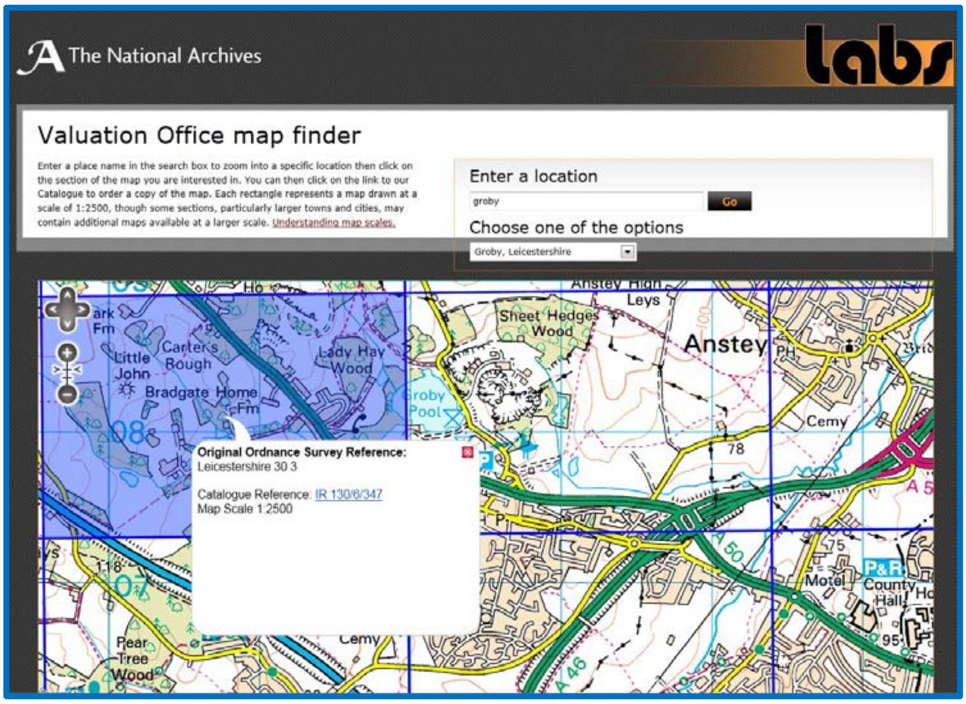
Search for the place that interests you. A base map will open, which will help you to identify the overall geology of an area. As you zoom in, the map will become more complex. To identify the geology, click the button for the key, which you can move to wherever you want. The colours displayed within the key relate to the area you are looking at.

1910 Finance Act maps

The maps used by local Inland Revenue offices as part of the process of calculating the new taxes introduced by the 1910 Finance Act will lead you to a wealth of additional information about the land and property in your town or village at this date. The Act stemmed from the controversial 'People's Budget' introduced by the Liberal government in 1909. This included a new tax of 20% on any increase in the value of land and buildings, payable on sale, but with exemptions for land that was purely of agricultural value, and for owner-occupied properties with less than 50 acres of land. This was thrown out by the House of Lords, but reintroduced in 1910 after another General Election had provided a fresh mandate for the proposals. As few people owned their own homes in 1910, most property was affected. A full valuation was made of **each and every property and piece of land** in the country. The details collected can be supplemented by the information within the 1911 census schedules to reconstruct a town or village in detail.

Landowners were obliged to complete a form for each property, including the address of the property, the name of the occupier, the nature of the tenure, the extent of the land and buildings, their use and details of any outgoings relating to the property. Provisional valuation forms were completed for each property by Inland Revenue staff, and the details entered into a large book, entitled 'Duties on Land Values'. Valuation officers and assistants then visited each property to check the details, add further notes within a field book, provide a market valuation of the whole, and apportion that value between land, buildings, timber and things growing on the land. Each property was given a reference number, and each was identified and the references marked on a 25" Ordnance Survey map. The process was intrusive, unpopular and expensive to administer; most of the duties introduced were repealed by 1920.

To find the records, you need to start with the **annotated** map. One copy is held by The National Archives at Kew, and there will often be another copy in the county record office. The National Archives has a helpful online map finder , which gives the reference you would need to order the map there, and this also includes the Ordnance Survey sheet reference, which you will need if you want to use the copy held at your local record office. In the example below, the reference you need to see the map for the shaded area if ordering at Kew is IR 130/6/347. If you want to see the copy held at your local record office you will need the Ordnance Survey sheet number 30.3 and your record office's own catalogue number for the 1910 Inland Revenue series of maps. (For example, the catalogue number at the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland is DE 874, so you would order DE 874/30.3. Other record offices will have their own catalogue numbers.)



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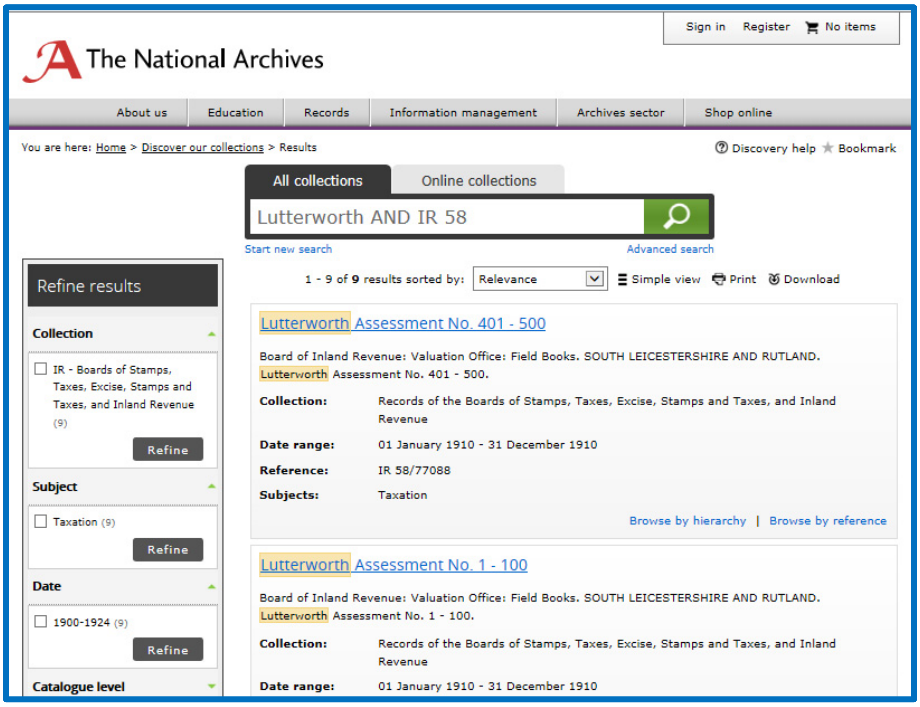
On the map, find the property which interests you and note the **red handwritten number** that has been marked alongside. This is the reference number used for that property in the other documents. If it includes the letters Pt, the property is only part of a combined entry, and you need to find the other part on the map. (Ignore the black printed numbers, which are the OS land parcel numbers and their acreages.) In most counties, the county record office will also hold the 'Duties on Land Values' books and perhaps also the provisional valuation forms (although these often contain no more information than the 'Duties on Land Values' books); you may need to ask a member of staff to help you to find the full catalogue details to order these. Make a note of the name of the Inland Revenue parish, as shown in the record office catalogue, as this will help you to find the field books at The National Archives.

The pages within the 'Duties on Land Values' books are set out in columns, and contain the following information for each property:

- Names of occupiers and name and residence of owner
- Description and location
- Estimated extent, and actual extent determined by valuer (in acres, roods, perches and yards)
- Gross annual value; rateable value
- Various allowable deductions, for example for buildings, machinery, things growing on the land, fixed charges on the land, public rights of way or rights of common, easements, restricted covenants, and the cost of enfranchising copyhold land (where appropriate)
- The value of any recent capital expenditure, works executed, site clearance costs or goodwill
- The assessable site value, or the capital value of minerals
- The value of the land for agriculture, if different
- Comments

The field books are held at The National Archives in Kew. Each entry can be up to four pages long, and each field book can contain up to 100 properties. They can specify the number and use of rooms, the building materials used, the size of sheds and outbuildings, and there may also be sketch maps, drawings and the calculations made to arrive at the final value. There are 95,579 volumes in the series, all within catalogue reference IR58, and the easiest way to find the reference for the volume you want is by using the paper catalogue at Kew. You will also need the property number from the map. Within this paper catalogue, the field books are catalogued firstly by district valuation office and then by the name of the income tax parish (which may include more than one actual parish). If you want to know the reference number before you go to Kew (to order the item in advance), search the online catalogue using the name of the Inland Revenue parish and the reference IR 58, linked with the word AND (for example 'Lutterworth AND IR 58'). Most parishes will have many field books, which is why it is important to know the property number from the handwritten details on the map. The example below shows a search for the field books covering Lutterworth, which was within the area covered by the South Leicestershire and Rutland district valuation office. The field books are listed in an apparently random order, but if you wanted to see the book which included land and properties that had been assigned numbers between 401 and 500, for example, you would order field book reference IR 58/77088.



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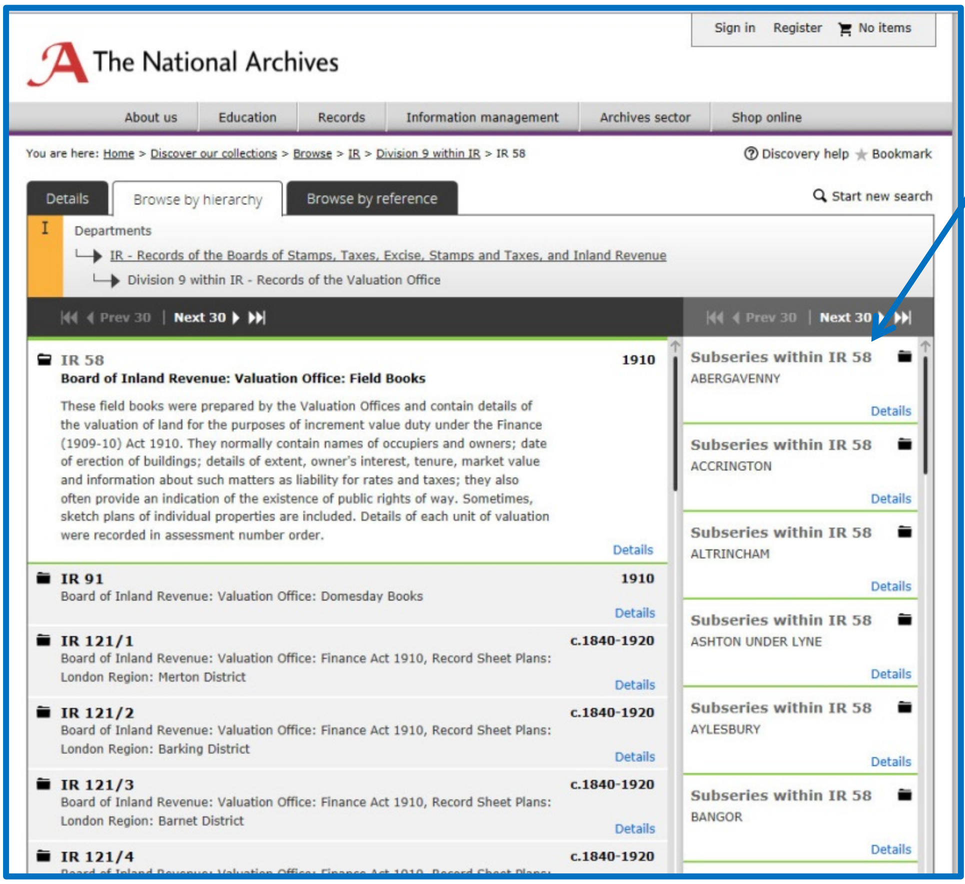
A list of District Valuation Offices can be found from the online catalogue: search for IR58, open 'Board of Inland Revenue: Valuation Office: Field Books', open the tab 'Browse by hierarchy' and an alphabetical list of District Valuation Offices appears on the right (marked 'subseries'), 30 districts at a time. By going to the 'Browse by reference tab' you can keep clicking through until you reach the actual field book you want (and you may have to do this if the keyword search doesn't find the parish).

This column contains the names of the District Valuation Offices



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Case study: three Leicestershire properties in 1910

- This case study will look at the information available in the 1910 Finance Act records about three types of property in the village of Groby, Leicestershire: the (then) village hall, a private house and a quarry.
- By using either the online mapfinder (see above) or the red ring binder marked **25" OS maps Inland Revenue series** in the county record office, the maps needed have been identified as OS sheets 30.4 and 30.8.
- These can be ordered at the record office using their catalogue number for the Inland Revenue maps, which is DE 874, and the OS map number, i.e. DE 874/30.4 and DE 874/30.8.
- Identify the properties that interest you and note the red hand-written numbers for each – in this example they are 075, 647 and 607.
- The order reference for the Duties on Land Values book for Groby can be found in the record office catalogue, and is DE 2072/196. Within this volume, the lines for property numbers 075, 647 and 607 provide some basic information about ownership, occupation and the calculated valuation.

- The field books held at The National Archives (TNA), provide more detail. Perhaps surprisingly, Groby is in the South Leicestershire and Rutland district. The TNA catalogue tells us that property reference 075 is in field book reference IR 58/77135 and properties 647 and 607 can be found in field book IR 58/77141.
- These tell us that the (then) village hall in Groby was a zinc-built shed, owned by the Grey estate (which owned most of the land in the village), was let on a yearly tenancy and was valued at £60.
- The house was owner-occupied and described as having a front and cornice made of 'common brick', a slate roof, forecourt with iron railings and a cement slab walk. It was 3 storeys with a porch and contained 4 bedrooms, a sitting room, parlour, kitchen and 2 cellars. Outside there were stables, a coach-house and a garden and the property had the 'use of closet over the road'. The buildings were valued at £260 and the 700 yards of garden at £70.
- The entry for the quarry lists buildings, offices, garden, filter beds, mills, shops, railway, engine house, sheds, spoil banks, allotments, cottages and pasture. The site was 138 acres in extent, owned by the Grey estate and occupied by Groby Granite Co. Ltd on a 42 year lease from 1907. It was valued at £4,506 for the buildings, £7,830 for the machinery and £5,533 for the land itself.

The survey is also relevant in respect of the history of modern properties. You might want to find the owner and occupier in 1910 of a field where a modern house now stands, which could lead you to the sales particulars for that field and help you to identify the developer and the year the property was built. It may not be easy to see on the 1910 map precisely which field you want, especially in a village with a lot of modern development. Grid references enable you to pinpoint places on two Ordnance Survey maps of different dates. You can quickly find the grid reference for the property that is there now through modern online mapping. Go to http://www.getamap.ordnancesurveyleisure.co.uk/ and search for the town or village you want. Now move the map with your mouse until the orange spot appears over the property that interests you, and simply read off the grid reference from the box that appears at the top. You can then find that point on any OS map, remembering that grid references follow the pattern of east-west axis followed by the north-south axis.

Estate maps

Wealthy landowners began to commission maps of their estates from the late 16th century, to supplement or replace the written descriptions which had sufficed in medieval times. These maps, which became more common over the 17th and 18th centuries, are known as estate maps, because they record the estate or landholding of one person. That land might comprise anything from a few acres to several townships. The most useful estate maps, from the viewpoint of the local historian, are those which cover a whole parish, or all of the land attached to a township.

Because extensive landholdings in single hands tended to be enclosed at an early date, many estate maps show an enclosed landscape. Others can show individual strips lying in the open fields, the names of the furlongs, perhaps some ancient enclosures near the boundaries of the parish, streams, wind and watermills, the village stone pit, any brickworks, large houses with landscaped parks or gardens, woodland, the church and any chapels, the size and shape of the core village, and the network of roads and paths that connected it to neighbouring villages. The amount of detail can vary, according to the wishes of the landowner who commissioned the map. Many show property elevations, although these are not always depicted accurately. Some maps are accompanied by a key, giving the names of tenants.

Even the wealthiest landowners may not have owned every plot of land in a parish, and may not have been willing to pay for an accurate survey of the land he did not own. The result can be a map with ‘missing’ parts, akin to an incomplete jigsaw. If a few acres are also owned across in a neighbouring parish, the map might show these scattered pieces as islands on a blank canvas. Maps of smaller estates of 50 or 100 acres may just show this land and nothing else, leaving the historian to decide exactly where in the parish it was situated. Yet however imprecise or incomplete the information, estate maps are often the earliest maps of a parish, and can provide information that is not available from other sources.

Estate maps will normally have been deposited with the deeds and other documents relating to the management of that estate. Often they will not be held locally, as the class of people who owned large estates tended to have land in several counties, and all their documents are likely to have been deposited in one place. As well as consulting the catalogues in your local record office, it is therefore worth consulting the national A2A catalogue at http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/ which lists documents held by many record repositories across the country, although this is not a complete list of everything held in the record offices listed.

Enclosure maps

Enclosure involved taking all or part of the communal open fields, or the 'waste' land beyond the fields, into private ownership and surrounding it by a fence or hedge to keep others out. It was often followed by the conversion of some or all of the arable land into permanent pasture. Enclosure could be achieved by private agreement, but to ensure that this was legally binding on all the parties and their heirs and successors, from around 1730 the usual method of enclosure seen across most of midland England was through an Act of Parliament, with the consent of those owning a majority of the land.

An accurate survey of the land and the preparation of a map was an essential part of the process of enclosure by Act of Parliament. If you are lucky, a working copy of the surveyor's map may survive, showing the individual strips and furlongs in the open fields, with the new enclosed landscape superimposed on top of this. More usually, the enclosure map only shows the new fields, together with the roads and paths (some of which may be new) and any river or streams. The map will be accompanied by an enclosure award, which might be on several very large sheets of parchment, or written into a small book, which sets out how the land was shared between the various owners in the parish.

Enclosure maps were often made at a fairly early stage in the process, as illustrations of proposals rather than as agreements of what would be laid out. In most cases there was little deviation from these proposals, but occasionally roads may not have been constructed, or may have taken a slightly different route, field boundaries might vary a little, or owners might 'swap' small parcels of land between themselves. Enclosure maps should therefore be compared with the earliest Ordnance Survey map for the same area, to see if the proposals were amended. If the map and award are studied together, it may be possible to reconstruct a pre-enclosure map of the parish. This can then be refined from other documentary sources, and from the ridges and furrows of the medieval fields, which may still be visible on the ground or may have been recorded in aerial photographs before the physical traces were obliterated by modern ploughing.

Not everywhere that had an enclosure award will have an enclosure map. In many cases separate copies were made for the lord of the manor, the church and the people of the parish, but may have been lost, or may now be in the hands of unknown descendants. In some cases a map may never have been made, as there was no legal requirement to produce one until 1801.

A list of all the enclosure maps for England and Wales can be found in:

R.J.P. Kain, J. Chapman and R.R. Oliver, *The Enclosure Maps of England and Wales 1595–1918: A Cartographic Analysis and Electronic Catalogue* (Cambridge, 2004), and the index of maps included within this is [available online through the publisher's website](#).

Tithe maps

The 1849 tithe map for the Leicestershire village of Enderby includes a separate village plan. Each property or parcel of land is numbered, and the accompanying apportionment provides details of the owner, occupier, plot size, description, state of cultivation and the rent charges payable to the impropriator (lay rector) and to the vicar. Plot 189, in the centre of the village, for example, was the New Inn public house. This was owned by John Marston Murby, occupied by Joseph Dixon, comprised 33 perches and paid 9d. annually to the vicar.
Plan reproduced by courtesy of The Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, catalogue reference Ti/101/1

Parishes which were not enclosed by Act of Parliament, or where land was enclosed after 1836, will usually have a tithe map. The tithe was one-tenth of the annual produce of the land and was originally paid to the church, although after the dissolution of the religious houses by Henry VIII some tithes became payable to lay people. Many tithes were extinguished when land was enclosed, either through an allocation of land to the tithe owner(s) in lieu of future tithes, or by commuting them into a cash payment known as a 'corn rent', which fluctuated with the price of grain. Other tithes were converted from 1836 into an annual (variable) cash sum under the terms of the Tithe Commutation Act. As part of the process of commutation, the land had to be surveyed and mapped. Accuracy was initially seen as vital, as the Act did not extinguish tithes, but merely replaced one type of payment with another, and therefore the map needed to be of sufficient quality to support possible legal claims at any time in the future. (Tithes continued to be payable until as recently as 1996.) The requirement for total accuracy soon had to be relaxed for practical reasons, but tithe maps and their accompanying apportionments, which set out the owner, occupier and use of each parcel of land, are among the most reliable documents available to the historian.

Tithe maps will usually only include that part of the land where tithes were still payable in 1836. Where that was all or most of the parish, they can provide a great deal of detail about fields, farmhouses, woodland, orchards and marshy ground, and also about buildings and their use. Most tithe maps were completed in the 1840s, although a few are earlier and a small number of parishes were not mapped until the 1850s. For some villages this will be the earliest known map.

What tithe records can tell us

- Because the schedule provides the names of all occupiers and owners, these are wonderful sources for family history, and for local groups wanting to help family historians.
- For local historians more generally, they can tell us how much of the farmland was pasture and how much was arable, so we can get an idea of farming practices, and from other records can see how these have changed over the years.
- They show the range of trades carried on in a village, in a period which is just about contemporary with the earliest detailed trade directories, such as White's 1846 Directory of Leicestershire. They reveal how some people combined farming with a trade.
- The map shows the size of the village, the number of houses and the location and use of business premises and outbuildings.
- Tithe maps are a wonderful source for house history. They can also be matched to other records, including sales particulars and the 1910 Finance Act material.

Tithe maps should be studied alongside the apportionments which accompany them. These often set out the reasons why tithe is not payable on certain lands within the parish, and continue with a numbered schedule of the owners and occupiers of every field or close (corresponding to the numbers on the map), its area, the land use (arable, pasture, meadow, woodland, etc.) and the charge payable to the tithe owner(s) for that land (in £ or the equivalent in bushels of grain).

One copy of the tithe map would usually have been provided to the parish or to the tithe owner, with a second copy to the diocese (either or both of which may now be held by the local county or diocesan record office). Another copy was held by the tithe commissioners and will now be at The National Archives (TNA), although these are stored offsite, and need to be ordered in advance of a visit. There may also be a tithe file at TNA (even when all tithes had been extinguished before 1836), which can contain more information about tithe customs, disputes and how the acreage of any land awarded in lieu of tithes at enclosure had been calculated.

The best guide to surviving tithe maps is:

R.J.P Kain and R.R. Oliver, *The Tithe Maps of England and Wales* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1995)

Arranged by county and parish, this book includes the date of the apportionment, the number of acres it covered, the date of the map, its scale, brief details of the features shown and the National Archives catalogue number.

Maps and plans of roads, canals and railways

Road maps, in strip form, have been produced from the 17th century, and those of John Ogilby are perhaps the best known. Only the roads connecting important towns were mapped and the routes were then divided into short strips and arranged in columns, with the journey moving from bottom left to top right. This gave the map a more practical rectangular form, with each strip containing a compass rose which might rotate slightly between columns. As well as the road, they also show bridges, major road junctions and places that the road passed through, together with the names of villages near the route (whose churches might be seen by the traveller), the location of mills, steep gradients, distant hills, occasional warnings of land that could flood and sometimes information about whether the fields lining the road were arable or permanent (enclosed) pasture.

Although not intentionally a road map, the large scale county maps of the late 18th and early 19th centuries are a useful source of information about the contemporary road network, and often about other features such as windmills and watermills. Parliamentary enclosure often resulted in the creation of new roads and the diversion of others, but these county maps often predate the enclosure of the open fields of some parishes. John Prior's map of Leicestershire (1777) distinguishes between turnpike roads (shown with solid lines) and others (indicated by broken lines). In respect of the turnpikes, their milestones and tollbars are also mapped, with the latter being very useful, as while there may be documentary evidence for their approximate location, it is not always obvious either from their names or from the road itself exactly where they stood. Other counties have similar maps of this period, such as Burdett's map of Derbyshire (1767) or Donn's map of Devon (1765).

Turnpikes were local initiatives, approved by Parliament, under which a trust funded by investors would take over the maintenance of an existing stretch of road in exchange for tolls from travellers over an agreed number of years. Most turnpike trusts were established in the 18th and early 19th centuries. A list can be found at http://www.turnpikes.org.uk/English%20turnpike%20table.htm. From 1807, any proposal to turn an existing road into a turnpike, to create a new turnpike or to alter an existing turnpike had to be accompanied by a plan which was to be deposited with the county clerk of the peace. These plans can now be found at your local county record office. They show the proposed turnpike road, roads which crossed the turnpike and their destination, buildings, towns and villages along the way and sometimes also details of landowners or land use.

In a similar manner, from 1794 (when canal mania was at its height), Parliament required all bills for new canals, river improvements or extensions to existing canals to be accompanied by a map showing the intended works, and a copy of that plan also had to be deposited with the county clerk of the peace. From 1807 these had to be produced on a scale of at least four inches to the mile. These are now held by county record offices. As well as the proposed works, they often include details of the countryside that the canal was to pass through, and where this was unenclosed land, some can even show the pattern of individual strips in part of the open fields, and any early enclosures.

Although railways had not been invented in 1794, the legislation was worded in a matter that resulted in all railway plans also having to be deposited with the county clerk of the peace. These plans are therefore also held by county record offices. Because railways and canals followed the straightest route possible, the companies had to purchase land to create the route. The plans therefore had to be drawn to a high degree of accuracy, and often include details of land owners and land use. They should always be compared to later maps, as not every landowner was willing to sell, and therefore many routes were proposed which were never built. The stories of the negotiations surrounding those lines are some of the most interesting of their period.