



# Between the Lines

Land of Oak & Iron Mapping Project Newsletter

April 2021

With great progress being made on tackling the pandemic we give an update on our early preparations to enable physical meetings to be restarted.

The National Library of Scotland announced the release of two major series of maps in their digital collection earlier in the year. We have an article with an overview of both series and a more detailed analysis of the development of the 1" to 1 mile series, which were the forerunners of the modern 1:50,000 Landranger Maps.

## Mapping meetings

We know from your feedback that many of you are desperate to be able to get back together around a table, with maps spread and pencils in hand, to continue our various mapping topics. With the prospect of being able to meet indoors on the horizon we have placed an order with The Lodge in Blackhill and Consett Park for use of the meeting room through the remainder of 2021. Until there is clarity about the conditions which would apply to such meetings we have not fixed any dates. Our expectations at present are that, subject to advice from DCC, it might be possible to schedule a meeting in July and we will let you know what is happening as soon as we are able to. The position at Winlaton Community Centre is unclear although we understand that monthly bookings, such as ours, may not be feasible. We will seek an update over the coming month, however, we have started enquires into alternative locations in the northern end of the Valley to understand the availability of alternatives.

Work continues and the teams report back on progress to our regular virtual meetings. If you would like to know more or join one of our virtual meetings please get [in touch](#).

## New maps added to NLS website

We are all fairly familiar with the excellent National Library of Scotland (NLS) website and the range of Ordnance Survey (OS) maps that are available. OS maps are covered by Crown Copyright for 50 years from the end of the year in which they were published. As a result maps published up until 1970 came out of copyright on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 and NLS have wasted no time in making a whole raft of additional maps available.

### 1" to 1 mile (1:63,600) maps

Although not to the scale we would normally look to for finer details, availability of the [1" to 1 mile 7<sup>th</sup> Series](#) maps for the whole of Great Britain is a useful addition. These maps range through various edition levels, from 1952 to 1970, when large infrastructure changes were taking place. Two styles of map are available; the "Outline" sheets which are black and white only and the "Regular" or "Coloured" sheets which are probably far more familiar to us.

The Outline and Regular maps are available for the A-Edition, whilst Regular maps are also available for later editions.

The majority of the Land of Oak & Iron area is covered by [sheet 78 - NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE](#), with the A-edition being revised 1947/8 and published in 1953. Publication dates for subsequent editions were: B - 1961; C - 1965; and C/\* - 1968. With C/\* indicating it is a partial revision to edition C. Examination of the map legend shows that there was a revision of major roads in 1967. Small areas to the west and south of the Land of Oak & Iron also appear on sheet 77 - Hexham, and 84 - Teesdale.

## County Maps

An additional 22 maps were added to the [County Map collection](#) which now includes Durham and Northumberland, as well as a few other counties in the North of England. The collection ranges from the 1580s to the 1950s.

The earliest maps for Durham and Northumberland are those from Blaeu *Atlas Maior*, 1662-5, Vol.V, published by Joan Blaeu in Amsterdam. Towns and villages are shown, as are rivers and enclosed estates, with what appear to be churches also being marked. Tree symbols around Chopwel(l) and Spennithwaithe show the area to be wooded, as is the enclosed and now largely barren Muggleswick Estate. Whilst Hadrian's Wall is shown on the Northumberland map unfortunately no roads are shown on either it or the Durham map.

Armstrong's maps from 1768/9 are included in the collection. The [Durham map\(s\)](#) show roads and tracks in addition to towns, villages, rivers and estates, with an early form of hachures indicating land relief. A fascinating map of Durham City is shown in the south-west section of the map.

Unfortunately the Armstrong [map of Northumberland](#) (in 9 parts) is incomplete: the section of most interest to us being absent. The complete map, however, can be found on the M<sup>c</sup>Master University website [here](#).

Land relief is shown on this slightly earlier map as diagrammatic hills rather than the hachures of the Durham map.

The now familiar 1820 [Greenwood map of Durham](#) is also available and the [1840 Hobson](#) map has additional detail, particularly railways and "tram roads". It usefully includes a legend.

Later maps in this collection are the regular OS maps which can be accessed in the normal manner.

## Contact:

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## History of the 1" to 1 mile series maps

### Old Series (1805 - 1869)

The first 1" to 1 mile OS maps were published in 1805. Comprising 4 sheets and covering the county of Essex they were known as the *Old Series* and were progressively released until by 1869 they included the whole of England and Wales. These maps can be viewed on-line and downloaded from the "A Vision of Britain" website. The most relevant map for us is [sheet 105 SW - Newcastle](#), which was published in 1864. The image resolution is not as good as the maps on the NLS site, however, the map serves as a baseline for the standard of early OS mapping.

### New Series (1872- 1892) and Revised New Series (1893 - 1908)

The *New Series* of maps had been authorised in 1863. In 1892 committees were set-up to review these maps which, by this time, were many years out of date. The War Office committee recommended that the maps be improved for military purposes by including new information on roads, railways, and landmarks such as church steeples. Post and telegraph facilities were also recommended for inclusion. The Board of Agriculture recommended that the maps be updated every 15 years, independently of the large scale map revisions. This series of maps was notable for the introduction of new symbology for roads and railways, depending on their standard and size.

Work on the *Revised New Series* of maps started in 1893 and all of them had been published by 1899. This series of maps is available on the NLS website. The most relevant map in this series for us is sheet 20 - *NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE. Revised New Edition* maps were published in two styles: *Outline* which showed contour lines, and *Hills* on which the slope was depicted by hachures (as used on the *Old Series* maps). Links to [sheet 20 \(Outline\)](#) and [sheet 20 \(Hills\)](#).

### Third Edition (1901-1912)

Next to be published was the revision of 1901-1912 and titled the *Third Edition*. This came in two formats. Initially 360 maps, each 18" x 12" and referred to as the *Small Sheet Series*. Four styles were produced - outline, hachured, coloured and district, although all four styles were never completed for all of the sheets in this edition. A new format - 27" x 18" - was introduced in 1906; with 152 sheets covering the whole country.

### Fourth Edition (1911 - 1912)

This edition only covered part of south-east England and it seems was not progressed further.

### Popular Edition (1919 - 1938)

Just to add a little more confusion into the *editions* and *series* equation the *Third Edition* was followed by the *Popular Edition*. Maps, on 146 sheets, for England and Wales were published between 1919 and 1926. 92

sheets for Scotland followed between 1921 and 1928, with revisions nationwide continuing through to 1938. As the name suggests these maps were intended to broaden the appeal of OS maps to the general public. They showed contour lines and features in seven colours.

The *Popular Edition* maps formed the basis for War Office maps, with some maps from the late 1930s including air raid precaution information.

### Fifth Edition (1931 - 1939)

This edition was planned to show a coloured relief layer, with different heights represented by different shades of colour. Only a small number were completed.

### New Popular edition (1945 - 1948)

Conceived in 1938 as a replacement for the *Popular Edition* maps, publication was delayed by the war. It will probably come as little surprise by now to learn that these maps were also known as the *6<sup>th</sup> Edition*. In many ways this edition was a landmark: incorporated change from the Cassini Projection method, used for previous OS maps, to Transverse Mercator projection; a [metric national grid](#); and a change in print format from landscape to portrait. These maps are available on the NLS website and are catalogued as the *New Popular Edition*. Just to add a little more complexity to the naming conventions, the equivalent maps for Scotland in this period were referred to as the *Popular Edition with National Grid*.

### Seventh Series (1952 - 1970)

These are the most recently released additions to the NLS on-line map collection. To better align with military and international naming conventions the term *Series* was used for the complete collection of sheets, with *edition* referring to revisions to individual sheets within the series.

The series comprised 190 sheets starting at the Shetland Islands. Running generally west to east, in sections, they continue southwards to Lands End: Falmouth Peninsular being the final sheet on account of it being further south than Lands End.

This series of maps included more categories of road than previous maps: trunk roads (and later motorways); class 1 ("A") roads; Class 2 ("B") roads; unclassified roads greater than 14 feet wide; unclassified roads less than 14 feet wide; and unmetalled roads. The latter two were differentiated by colour and line width. More categories of railway were also shown. Contours, at 50ft intervals were shown along with footpaths and tracks.

The first, or "A" *editions*, of these maps were published between 1952 and 1961: with on-going revisions being printed until the Series was replaced by 1:50,000 *1st series* maps in the 1970s.



#### Coming up:

Physical meetings are suspended until further notice.

Get in touch with us at [volunteering@loit.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@loit.org.uk) if you would like to join us in a virtual meeting.