



Bradford Local Studies Library

Local History from Maps and Plans

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Local History from Maps & Plans

Maps, especially when used in conjunction with other documents and with field study, are one of the most valuable sources of information for the local historian and geographer. They show the development of settlements, roads and buildings, the position of antiquities, the course of boundaries and the existence of old place names. Plans closely resemble maps but usually cover a smaller area and are drawn with a specific purpose, such as the identification of resources or explaining some changes to the built environment. Thought must be given to the purpose for which they were created and the methods by which they were made. They may not be as accurate as you hoped, and may even show developments which were considered but which did not take place.

Viewing facilities & map catalogue

Bradford Local Studies Library has two map cabinets which combine viewing and storage areas. One cabinet contains current, and one historical, maps. A card catalogue should enable you to identify the maps or plans that interest you, together with the map reference. The reference will enable members of the library staff to locate the item. Maps and plans held by the Local Studies Library fall into several distinct categories.

Estate Maps

These start to be drawn in the late sixteenth century and serve to show the property of a large landowner, either Private or corporate. They are often valuable in that they usually predate other maps of a similar large scale.

County Maps

From the late sixteenth to the early nineteenth centuries maps were usually produced on a county basis. Copies of some of the more important maps of Yorkshire can be found in the Local Studies Library.

1577 Christopher Saxton

For about 150 years cartographers of the county drew on his work.

1610 John Speed

Beautifully produced maps but almost all the information is copied from Saxton.

1720 John Warburton

In 4 sheets, this is the largest map of the county to date (2½ miles to 1 inch), with much new information about roads.

1771-72 John Jeffreys

In 20 sheets this is the first large scale map of Yorkshire (1 mile to 1 inch). The map gives very full information. There were new editions in 1775 and 1800. (Only the 1775 edition is in the Local Studies Library).

1817-18 Christopher Greenwood

This is in 4 sheets (1 mile to ¾ inch). A new edition was published as Teesdale's map in 1828.

Bradford Maps

When using these maps it is important to remember that the townships that constitute modern Bradford were not incorporated into the borough or city at the same time.

Heaton, for example, did not feature in Bradford maps earlier than 1882 and Idle & Eccleshill not before 1899. Below is a selection of the maps held by Local Studies.

c.1722

Bradford and Horton [BRA 1722 BRA]: there is some doubt concerning the authenticity of this map; see the article by J.S. Roberts [B 912 ROB]. The original is in the York Minster Library.

1802

Johnson: Map of the town & township of Bradford [BRA 1802 JOH].

1844

Dixon: Map of the Borough of Bradford [BRA 1844 DIX].

1851

Ordnance Survey bound volume [BRA 1851 OS]

1854

Bradford Board of Health plans [BRA 1854 BOH]

1873

Walker & Virr: Plan of the Borough of Bradford [BRA 1873 WAL].

1879

Plan of the Town and Environs of Bradford prepared for the Post Office Bradford Directory. Similar maps accompany the directories until 1928 [BRA 1879 BYL].

1880

Hardwick: Plan of the Townships...forming the Borough of Bradford [BRA 1880 HAR].

Deposited Plans

Plans for all proposed undertakings such as turnpike roads, canals and railways had to be deposited with the Clerk of the Peace. Those for the West Riding are mostly at the Wakefield headquarters of the West Yorkshire Archive Service, Registry of Deeds, Newstead Road, Wakefield WF1 2DE. There are a few for late nineteenth century Bingley in the West Yorkshire Archive Service (Bradford) located within the Local Studies Library.

Enclosure Maps

These are large scale maps produced after a private Enclosure Act, usually in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth centuries, or the General Enclosure Acts of 1836 and 1845. The maps accompany Enclosure Awards by which land was enclosed. They do not exist for all places, and usually show only the land that was enclosed, and not the remainder of the township. Sometimes they were used to commute tithes. The locations of most of the West Riding Enclosure Awards and Maps are given in a hand list of West Riding Enclosure Awards, produced by the West Riding Committee of National Register of Archives in 1965. (See also Yorkshire Enclosure Awards, Barbara English, 1985 [B 333.2 ENG]) Copies of the Heaton, Thornton, and Wibsey Slack & Low Moor awards are in the Local Studies Library.

Tithe Maps

Large scale maps were produced after the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836. Together with the Tithe Award they give information about those townships which had not previously been commuted and the tithes due from it to the established church. (In places where the tithes had already been

commuted there are, of course, no Tithe Awards and Maps.) Three copies were made, for the parish, the diocese and the Tithe Redemption Commission. Many Yorkshire Tithe Awards and Maps are at the Leeds branch of the West Yorkshire Archive Service. Copies of those for: Allerton, Baildon, Bolton, Bowling, Bradford, Burley in Wharfedale, Eccleshill, Heaton, Idle, Manningham, Menston, Shipley and Wilsden were deposited at the Bradford branch of West Yorkshire Archives in 1993 [55 D 93]. The library has a few copies of Tithe Maps including Tyersal and Wilsden.

Ordnance Survey Maps

These can be studied in the Local Studies Library. The Ordnance Survey (OS) was founded in 1791 to produce 1 inch to 1 mile maps for the whole country. Between 1805 and 1873 this was completed in 110 sheets. The local area was surveyed at 6 inches to 1 mile in 1847- 50 and published at a scale of 1 inch to 1 mile in 1858 (sheet 92). The 6 inches to 1 mile map was published in 1852 (sheet 216). The survey for the Bradford area was revised and published c.1893 at a 25 inches to 1 mile scale. Later editions were published in 1908 and 1934.

Large scale plans (5 feet to 1 mile) of Bingley, Bradford and Keighley were published in 1852, and even larger scale plans (at 10 feet to 1 mile) of Bingley, Bradford, Idle, Ilkley, Keighley and Shipley in 1891.

OS maps published after the Second World War (National Grid series) are available at 1:1250, 1:2500, 1:10,000 and 1:25,000 scales.

Godfrey and Cassini reprints

A number of historic maps have been reprinted. These may be easier to use than the originals. The publisher Alan Godfrey produced many large scale maps (15 inches to the mile), mostly from the 1906 edition. Publisher Cassini has reprinted several historic maps of Bradford to match the current Landranger series (1¼ inches to the mile).

Other Maps

Goad Fire Insurance Plans exist for 1886 and 1929. There are nineteenth and twentieth century Sale Plans. An example is the Rosse Estate sale plans (1911) which cover large areas of Heaton and Shipley. These, like Enclosure Maps, usually only show land around the property of sale. Maps are also included in books, directories, reports etc.

On-line resources

In recent years several valuable series of maps have become accessible on-line:

Ordnance Survey maps

Available at <http://maps.nls.uk/index.html>

Tithe maps from the Bradford area

Available at the website of West Yorkshire Archives:

<http://www.tracksintime.wyjs.org.uk/tracks-in-time-bradford>

Bradford Historical & Antiquarian Society

A small number of maps and plans of Bradford are available at the society's website:

<http://www.bradfordhistorical.org.uk/maps.html>

British Geological Survey

The website of the BGS offers access to several useful maps on the geology of the UK which can be most helpful for those interested in Yorkshire industries:

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/>

Coal Authority

The website of the Coal Authority offers an interactive map which allows access to a database of sites at which coal mining remains have been recorded:

<http://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/coalauthority/home.html>

Vision of Britain

The website brings together historical surveys and extensive mapping facilities. It has OS maps as well as statistical trends covering England and Wales 1805-1873.

<http://visionofbritain.org.uk>

Copyright & publication

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