

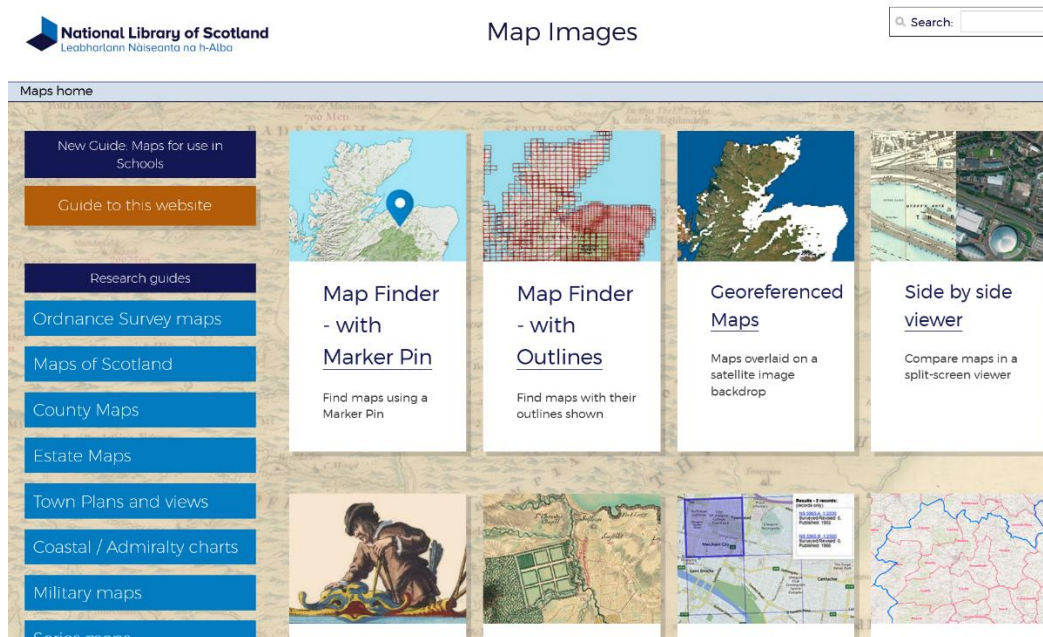
Navigating the Maps Website Handout

Background to the National Library of Scotland Map Collection

The National Library of Scotland has the right to claim a copy of everything published in the UK. The map collection holds over two million items.

- The Library hold over 2 million maps, from early printed atlases to modern digital mapping.
- The Library has a particular interest in maps of Scotland, but we collect world-wide. The collection includes detailed mapping for all of the United Kingdom, world maps and atlases, star charts and even maps of imaginary places.
- The Library holds a wide range of types of maps, including: geological maps; road and railway maps; battle plans; sea charts; town plans and more.
- Over 270,000 historic maps have been digitised and are available to view on the Maps Images Website. <https://maps.nls.uk/>
- Other maps can be consulted in the Maps Reading Room, Causewayside, Edinburgh or in a virtual online consultation. There is a special camera positioned over our map table, which can provide detailed video feed of collection items. Email maps@nls.uk if you would like to arrange a consultation.

Map Images Website Homepage

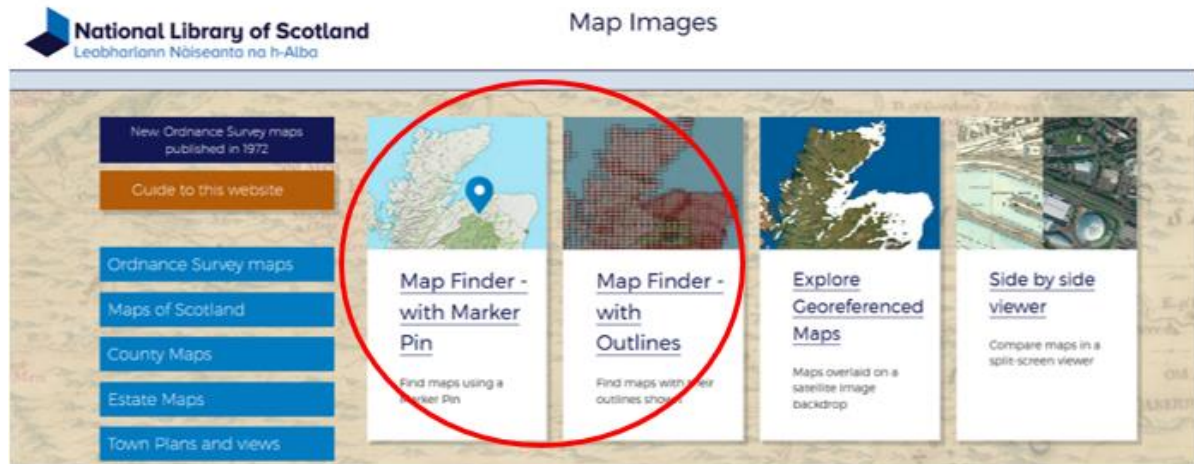


- **New Additions** <https://maps.nls.uk/additions/>
As we add newly digitised historic maps, or update our tools and search options, we will let you know in the New Additions page.
- **Guide to this Website** <https://maps.nls.uk/guide/>
Here you can watch an introductory video, view help guides for finding relevant maps for particular subjects, and guidance on finding and viewing maps, and information on enquiries and copies.
- **Browse by category**
Select from the types of maps listed on the left-hand side of page, to browse digitised maps. E.g., Select “County Maps”, then choose from an alphabetical list of counties to reach a chronological list of maps covering your chosen county.

- **Search Options**

You can search using our Map Finders, or our Geo-Referenced or Side by Side Viewers. Further down the page are: Browse by Map Maker, Boundaries Viewer, and the OS Sheet Records Viewer, which allows you to view the sheet boundaries for historic Ordnance Survey maps, including in-copyright maps.

Finding Maps using either our Map Finders

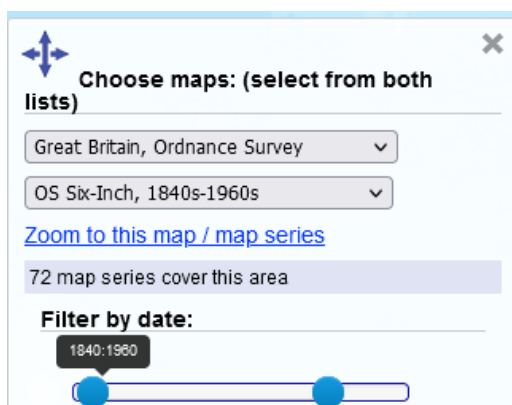


Map Finder – with Marker Pin

- This allows you to search all the maps we have digitised that cover a marker pin.
- A lot of our users prefer to search for places in the *Search Names* box. Be careful as there are lots of similar placenames and the gazetteer search box will try to predict where you are interested. If you press return too quickly you may find that you are in a different place that you expected.
- Remember to select World gazetteer if you are looking for maps beyond the UK like the WWI Trench maps.
- You can move and drop the pin in anywhere that you would like to view maps. The level of zoom will change the scale of maps that will appear in the right results panel.
- You can zoom in/out using a mouse or by pinching or spreading your fingers or by using the +/- buttons in the bottom left corner.
- You can filter by date, map type, keyword and even change the automatic scale settings.

Map Finder – with Outlines

- This map finder uses bounding boxes to show map coverage. The default setting is the OS 6-inch to the mile maps, and you can see the red boxes that show each map.
- You can change the maps using the Choose maps box:



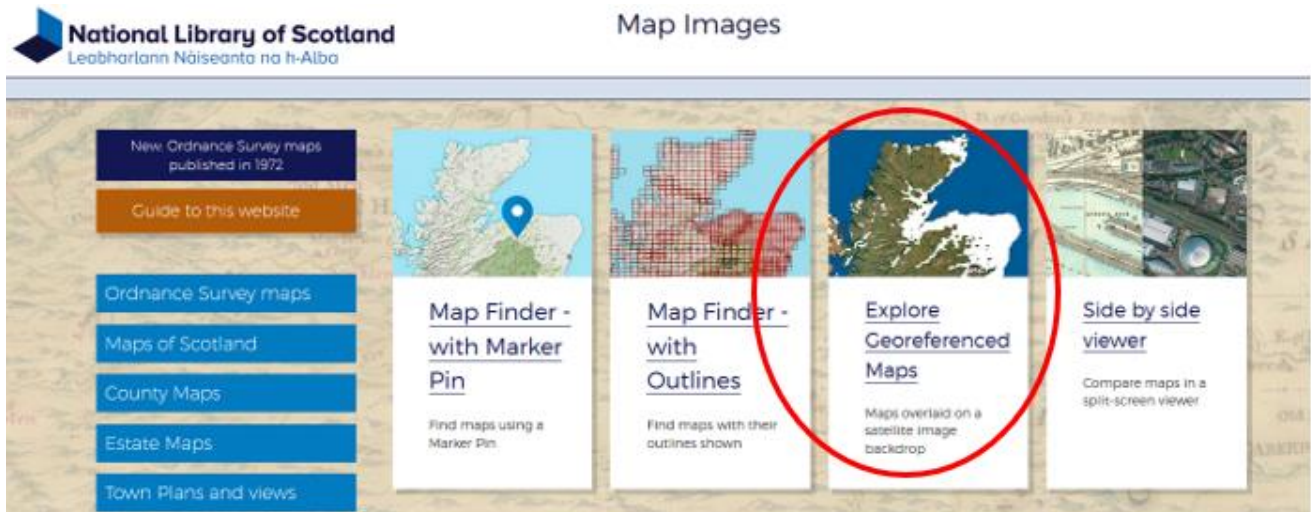
- There are a lot of maps to choose from including OS maps, Bartholomew maps and an enormous collection of county maps.

- All map results appear in the results panel on the right. Sometimes you may need to click on the background map for the result panel to appear.
- If you find the map you are looking for appears in the results panel, just click on the thumbnail and you will be taken to the map viewer page.

For more tips, read the guide to the Map Images Viewer. <https://maps.nls.uk/imagery.html>

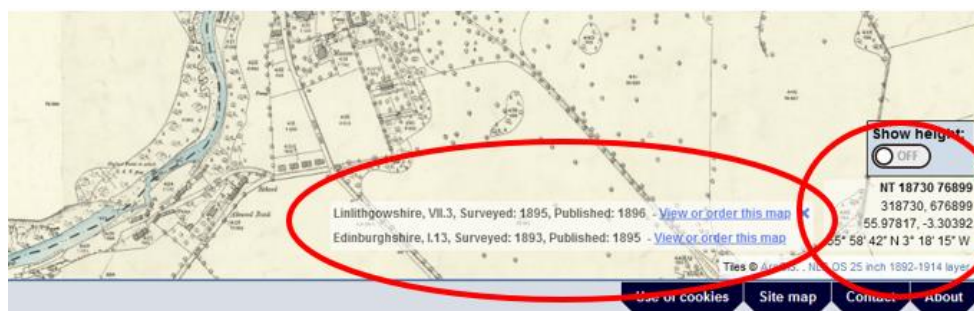
Exploring Georeferenced Maps

Our Georeferenced Maps viewer presents a series of maps “seamed” together and aligned with their real-world locations. [What is georeferencing](#)? You can explore the entire series as a seamless layer.



Geo-referenced Search

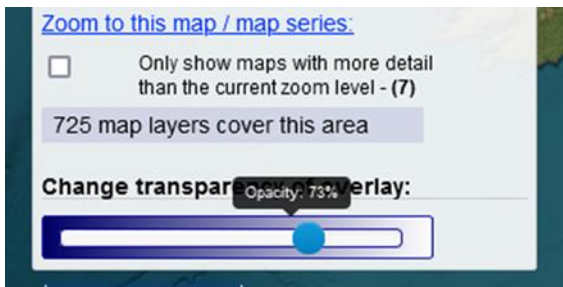
- The modern place-name gazetteer and the drop-down menu will be familiar from the Map Viewer.
- We have also added a historical place-name gazetteer too labelled *Search OS six-inch 1888-1913*. This gazetteer is based on a crowd-sourced project called GB1900 (<https://geo.nls.uk/maps/gb1900/>).
- You can view the map details when you hover over the map. We have also added a link to the Map Viewer here. The details appear in the bottom right corner of the page. You can also find the National Grid Reference as well as the latitude and longitude:



Geo-referencing allows us to offer several additional tools and features for exploring these maps:

1. Transparency Slider

You can turn the historical mapping layer transparent using the transparency slider. The background map will then appear. This will default to modern satellite imagery, but other options are available in the Change Background Map drop-down menu.



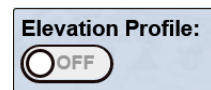
2. Measurement Tools

Click on  then select your preferred tool.

-  Measure a bearing by clicking on two points on the screen.
-  Measure Area. Click on the corners of the site you wish to measure, and the area will be displayed in square metres and square feet.
-  Measure Distance. Click along the route you wish to measure, then double-click at the end point. The distance will be displayed in metres and feet.

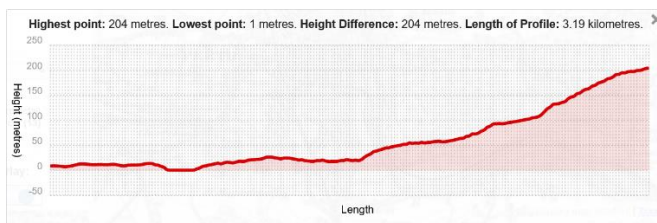
3. Elevation Profile

You can trace a route on the map to view its elevation



profile:

1. Switch the 'Elevation Profile' button (lower right) to ON.
2. Click or tap a line or route on the map.
3. Double-click / Double-tap to finish, and an Elevation Profile popup box should appear showing the elevation profile for your line.



4. Additional options Co-ordinates / Annotations / Map Key

are listed in the footer. These include:

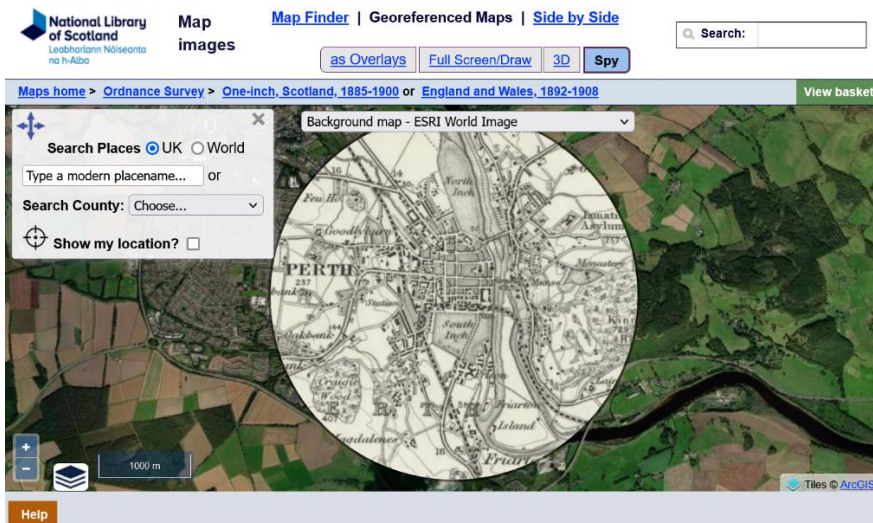
- Viewing a key to displayed map layer
- Showing Co-ordinates (Latitude and Longitude, British National Grid Reference, BNG Eastings and Northings)
- Adding a marker – allowing you to annotate the map layer on screen

Alternative Viewers

Spyglass Viewer

The Spy Viewer allows all the different historic maps to be viewed through a circular spy glass.

1. Choose different historic map layers for viewing inside the spy glass from the lower left-hand panel drop-down lists.
2. Alter the size of the spy glass radius by sliding the blue slider bar in the lower left-hand panel.
3. Choose different modern map layers for viewing outside the spy glass from the drop-down list at the top of the page.



3D Viewer

You can alter your altitude or distance, your tilt and orientation to explore any of our georeferenced map layers draped over a 3D landscape.

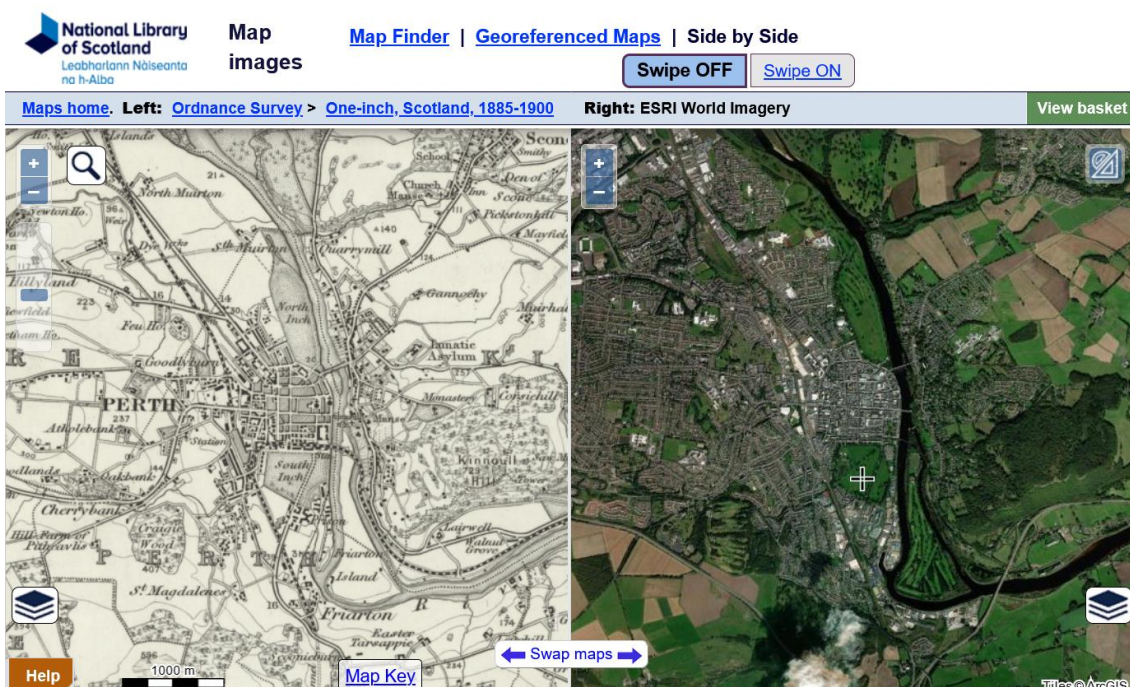
You can change your **Tilt** and your **Heading** in three ways:

1. *With a mouse*, hold the SHIFT key down and drag with the mouse, holding the left-click button down.
2. *With a mouse*, hold the central mouse wheel down and drag.
3. *On a touch-screen*, hold one finger on the screen and drag with the other finger.

You can change your **Zoom** level, **Distance** or **Height** using the +/- buttons to the lower left, scrolling with a mouse wheel, or pinch-to-zoom on a touch screen.

Side by Side viewer <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/side-by-side/>

The Side by side viewer allows all the different historic map overlays to be compared to each other, or to present day Satellite footage, OpenStreetMap, Lidar data or Ordnance Survey maps, in a split-screen viewer.



- Locate the map by searching placenames, Grid References, historic counties/parishes or by showing your location.
- Choose the map layers that you would like to view. As you zoom or pan the 'side by side' maps, the historic overlays lists update dynamically to show just those relevant to the current map view.
- Select the Zoom to this map / map series link to zoom to the extents of the selected layer.
- Select the Swipe OFF / Swipe ON buttons in the header to change the central vertical bar, so that it can be moved sideways to compare two maps.

We hope you will have hours of fun exploring our website, and the thousands of maps available. Please e-mail maps@nls.uk if you have any queries and we will be happy to help.