

Learning Activity

This resource provides learning activities for your students using People's Collection Wales. It can also be used as a template for creating your own activities using the People's Collection Wales website.



Key Stage or Level

Key Stage 2



Subject

Using Archives to Explore Local History



Title

On Your Doorstep - Maps

Using archives to explore local history



Author

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales and the following local archives: Gwent Archives; Pembrokeshire Archives; Anglesey Archives; Wrexham Archives and Local Studies Services.

Using Archives to Explore Local History - Maps

This resource explores how you can investigate the history of your locality using Ordnance Survey and tithe maps as a type of source found in local and national archives or record offices in Wales. It forms part of a series forming the basic building blocks for finding out about local history.

The resource is intended as a guide for teachers, helping them to use primary sources in the classroom. The resource can also help teachers work with their local archive to locate similar sources for their own locality. It aims to introduce teachers and students to the types of archival sources used for local history and to familiarise them with the form, appearance and content of the sources.

On Your Doorstep - Maps - Learning Objectives

Learners will understand:

- The role of the archives in providing important historical sources.
- The role of using maps as a type of historical source.
- What life was like in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century for their own locality compared to other localities across Wales.

Learners will be able to:

Subject Curriculum—History

- Use a range of sources, including ICT, to search for information.
- Ask and answer relevant questions about the past.
- Identify differences between ways of life at different times.
- Identify the ways in which the past is represented and interpreted.
- Plan the investigative approach to be used, suggesting how to find relevant information.
- Select, record and organise historical information.
- Communicate ideas, opinions and conclusions with increasing independence in a variety of ways.

Literacy Framework

- Gain an understanding of unfamiliar information.
- Carry out research to develop full understanding.
- Organise and analyse relevant information.
- Use appropriate technical terms and vocabulary appropriate to the subject-specific content.

Subject Curriculum—Geography

- Identify similarities and differences to describe, compare and contrast places and environments.
- Describe the causes and consequences of how places and environments change, from past to present.
- Identify and describe human features.
- Identify and describe the spatial patterns of places and how they are connected.
- Use maps, imagery and ICT to find and present locational information.
- Communicate findings in a variety of ways.
- Observe and ask questions about a place.

On Your Doorstep - Maps - Skills Focus

Thinking

- Asking questions.
- Activating prior knowledge, skills and understanding.
- Gathering information.
- Considering evidence, information and ideas.

Communication

- Developing and presenting information and ideas.
- Organising ideas and information.
- Communicating information.
- Writing accurately.

ICT

- Finding and developing information and ideas.
- Creating and presenting information and ideas.

On Your Doorstep - Introductory Text

Introduction

This resource forms part of a series of eight. Each resource in the series introduces a different type of historical source. The types of historical sources introduced in this resource are typically what you might look at during a local history project and they are all available from local archives.

The different types of sources introduced are:

- The Census
- Tithe and Ordnance Survey Maps**
- School Log Books
- Photographs
- Parish Registers – baptisms and deaths
- Trade Directories
- Sales Catalogues
- Newspapers

The exemplar historical sources in each resource come from four localities across Wales: Holyhead, Blaenavon, Saundersfoot and Wrexham. They cover the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Using these as examples, it is possible to explore, make connections and comparisons, ask and answer questions, discover landscapes and people, and the links between them.

There is a short film introducing archives and for each type of source there is an additional short film explaining the type of source and how we can use it to find out more about local history. A transcript of the films and thumbnail images are included in the **teachers' notes**. The full size images are available by following the links to the People's Collection Wales website.

Each resource in the series has several **online tasks** for pupils which use the sources from the four localities. These sources can be viewed online at the People's Collection Wales website by following the links on the pupil task sheets. There are also **additional activities** that suggest ways in which pupils could use sources from local archives to investigate local history on their doorstep. These additional activities enable pupils to compare and contrast their own locality with those across Wales. There is a contact list for local and national archives throughout Wales at the end of the teachers' notes.

[View the film - The Archive and the Archivist](#)

On Your Doorstep - Introductory Film - Maps

This is a short filmed introduction with an archivist explaining maps as a type of source and how we can use them to find out more about local history.

[Maps | Peoples Collection Wales](#)

Looking at Archives — Maps



Using Maps

This resource explores how you can investigate the history of your locality using Ordnance Survey and tithe maps.

There are four examples of Ordnance Survey and tithe maps to be used in conjunction with the pupil tasks. Each one is from a different area of Wales.

Tithe maps:

Holyhead Urban, 1841

Parish of Llanover, Blaenavon, 1844

Saundersfoot, 1841

Chirk Tithe Map (with schedule and transcript, included in the teachers' notes), 1837

Ordnance Survey maps:

Holyhead First Edition published 1891

Blaenavon First Edition published 1891

Saundersfoot Second Edition published 1907

Wrexham, 25" Ordnance Survey Map, 1900

Tithe Maps

Tithe maps were created after 1836 as part of a government survey to work out how much each household in a parish owed the local church. They were made for most parishes in Wales. From early times tithes were paid by all those living in a parish to support the parish church and clergy. Originally they were paid 'in kind' with produce but from 1836 they were to be paid in cash. The numbers on the maps related to an accompanying schedule which listed landowners, occupiers and other details.

Ordnance Survey Maps

The first edition of the Ordnance Survey maps of the British Isles was completed in the 1890s. The maps are based on surveys undertaken in the 1830s and 1840s, but have later details such as railway lines added. Eighteen sheets are required to cover the whole of Wales and there are roughly 25 inches or 63 cms to the mile. The second edition (or "first revision") was begun in 1891 and completed just before the First World War.

During the tasks, use the links to the collections on the People's Collection Wales website to look at all the maps online. Comparing the maps gives useful information about similarities and differences in various parts of Wales in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century.

On Your Doorstep - Maps / Task 1

What can we learn about places and settlement from the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century Ordnance Survey and tithe maps?

Study the maps from the collection below to help you answer this question .

Here are some questions to help you with your task.

Can you identify any of the places and features on the maps?

Which of the four settlements was the smallest/largest in the 1840s?

Which of the four settlements was the smallest/largest in the 1890/1900s?

Which settlement grew the most between the 1840s and 1890/1900s? Which settlement grew the least? Why do you think this was?

Collection for Task 1

[Link to collection on People's Collection Wales website](#)

On Your Doorstep - Maps / Task 2

What can we learn about industry from the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century Ordnance Survey and tithe maps?

Study the maps from the collection below to help you answer this question .

Here are some suggestions to help you with your task.

Identify the main industries or opportunities for employment in each place based on what you see in the Ordnance Survey maps.

How does this compare with the occupations listed in the 1891 census returns?

Is there any industry which is still there today? Use modern day maps to help you with this.

Collection for Task 2

[Link to collection on People's Collection Wales website](#)

On Your Doorstep - Maps / Task 3

What can we learn about transport and travel from the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century using Ordnance Survey and tithe maps?

Study the maps from the collection below.

Here are some questions to help you with your task.

What evidence is there for how people could travel to Holyhead in the 1840s and in the 1890s?
How about Saundersfoot, Wrexham and Blaenavon?

Can you recognise any of the roads, railways or bridges that are still there today? Use modern day maps to help you with this.

Collection for Task 3

[Link to collection on People's Collection Wales website](#)

Well done you have finished your tasks and you have collected information using maps.

Now it's over to you to find out more.

You can visit or ask your local record office or archive for examples of Ordnance Survey maps and tithe maps for your own area.

Walk through your local area, village, high street etc. and see if you can identify any remaining buildings, roads or bridges that are on the maps. You could develop a classroom exhibition of historic local maps with present day photographs of buildings or features which are evident on the maps.

What new questions would you like answers to?

You can do further research online, at archives, local record offices and museums.

Find your local archive or record office @ www.archiveswales.org.uk/

Find your local museum @ <http://www.culture24.org.uk/places+to+go/wales>

The National Library of Wales @ <http://www.llgc.org.uk>

People's Collection Wales @ www.peoplescollectionwales.co.uk

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales @ <http://www.rcahmw.gov.uk>

Coflein @ <http://www.coflein.gov.uk/>

Additional Activities - The Development of Places

Using maps from your local archives compare how the development of places and settlement in your local area differs from that of the other localities in Wales during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Discussion

Look at late nineteenth century and early twentieth century Ordnance Survey and tithe maps from your local area. What do they tell us about our locality at that time and how does that compare to the other localities?

Looking at late nineteenth century and early twentieth century maps - identifying information on the Ordnance Survey and tithe maps

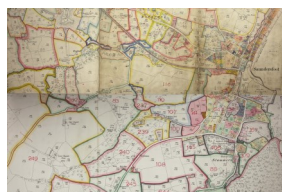
After studying the maps for your locality identify the kinds of information that the Ordnance Survey and tithe maps contain, and produce an illustrated key for the different types of maps. How do they compare? How do they differ from a modern day Ordnance Survey key?

Discussion topics might include the following:

- Look at the buildings and industry. How are these depicted?
- How are natural features (for example, forests, woods, beaches, cliffs, levels, fields etc.) depicted ?
- How are transport routes (rail, roads and canals, for example) depicted?

Ideas for further follow on activities:

- Using the Ordnance Survey and tithe maps from [Collection 1](#) and your local archives make comparisons between the four different places in Wales and your own locality. Compile a list of how each developed between the 1840s and 1890s.
- Look at the Holyhead maps in [Collection 1](#). How far has Holyhead spread between 1841 and 1891? What might have caused this growth? Can you identify any of the same place names in both maps, for example, Black Bridge?



Additional Activities - Industrial Development

Using maps from your local archives compare how the development of industry in your local area differs from that of the other localities during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Discussion

Look at the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century Ordnance Survey and tithe maps from your local archives. Is there any evidence of industry on the maps? How does this compare to the other localities? Is the industry similar or are there different types of industry? Why might this be?

Looking at late nineteenth century and early twentieth century maps - industry over time

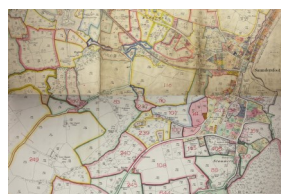
After studying the maps from the local archive, each pupil or group of pupils chooses a type of industry and researches the history of the industry in their locality, using the maps as a starting point for their investigation. Is there any evidence of this industry in any photographs, census returns, trade directories or sales catalogues of the local area from your local archives? The People's Collection Wales website has a mapping feature which will help with the pupils' research.

Their report might include the following information:

- The type of industry.
- On which map does the industry first appear?
- How does the industry change between successive maps?
- Is the industry still there today?

Ideas for further follow on activities:

- Look at the maps in [Collection 2](#). How much of Blaenavon is shown in the maps? The tithe map shows only one parish, Llanover, and the map stops on the left where the parish boundary ends. Is this parish shown on the Blaenavon OS map in the collection? A clue is the right hand dash-dotted line on the OS map which shows the boundary between Llanover and Trevethin parishes. You should be able to find the blue feeder pond on the OS map and the same blue water on the tithe map. Find King Street, Blaenavon on the OS map. Look at the rows of houses facing onto King Street in 1891. See if you can find the same rows on the 1844 tithe map. What do you notice? See what other features you can find in both maps. How has this part of Blaenavon changed from 1844 to 1891?



Additional Activities - Transport and Travel

Using maps from your local archives compare how the development of transport and travel in your local area differs from that of the other localities during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Discussion

Look at the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century Ordnance Survey and tithe maps from your local area. Can you see any evidence of transportation features on the maps? How do these differ from the other localities?

Looking at late nineteenth century and early twentieth century maps - transport and travel over time

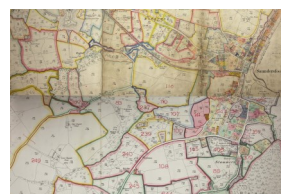
After studying the maps from the local archive, each pupil or group of pupils compares the transport network from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century maps to those shown on modern-day maps and aerial photographs. Aerial photographs offer an excellent opportunity to compare and contrast past and present landscapes and can be sourced from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales, Coflein and the Britain from Above website . What are the main differences in the transport networks? How can these differences be displayed?

Pupils may include the following information:

- What transport features are still evident today?
- Which transport features are no longer evident?
- Are any new transport features evident? If so when were they built?
- What is the best way to display these changes?

Ideas for further follow on activities:

- Look at the maps and census returns in the [Saundersfoot Collection](#). Find Railway Street, Saundersfoot on the Ordnance Survey map. Can you identify the houses from the 1891 census return for Saundersfoot? Is the tramway on the earlier tithe map?
- How much has the surrounding countryside of Saundersfoot changed between the 1840s and 1907? Do the photographs in the [Saundersfoot Collection](#) help us identify any further changes?



Ordnance Survey and tithe maps can give us useful information about the history of our local area.

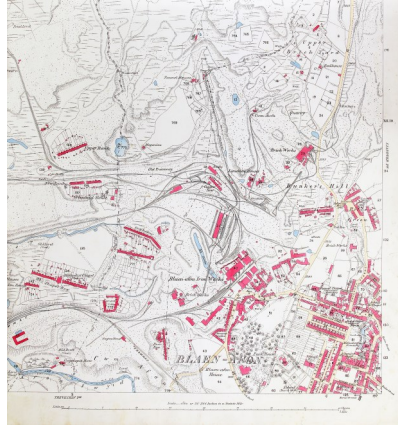
The following is the film transcript detailing the use of Ordnance Survey and tithe maps.

The two maps below illustrate a tithe map (dated 1844) and a first edition Ordnance Survey map (published in 1881). Both of these maps were created for very different reasons.



Blaenavon Tithe Map

[Link to image](#)



Blaenavon first edition Ordnance Survey map, 1881

[Link to image](#)

So what is a tithe map?

Every year people had to pay part of their income to support the local church and its ministers. Before 1836 these payments were made 'in kind' by each person giving part of their crops, wool and milk, etc. In 1836, the government decided to replace this with a money payment called a Tithe Rent Charge. To work out how much each household owed, surveys were carried out. Part of the survey included a tithe map. Tithe maps were made for most parishes in Wales. The quality of the survey and scale can vary from parish to parish. This map has the scale of 3 chains to 1 inch/2.5cm. A chain is the same length as from one set of stumps to another on a cricket pitch – about 20 metres.

So what is an Ordnance Survey map?

The Ordnance Survey (OS) was founded in 1791, originally making maps for the military. Since that date it has surveyed various parts of the country to varying scales. This 1881 OS map is 1:2500 (roughly 25 inches/63 centimetres to the mile). It is also what is known as a first edition map. Many archives and libraries hold maps from this and later editions.

You can see copies of tithe maps at local county archives, The National Archives in London, and The National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth.

We have a section of the Llanover Tithe Map. In 1844 the town of Blaenavon in Gwent was not a parish in its own right but part of the parish of Llanover. As for OS maps, these were arranged by county, then each county was broken down into a grid. Blaenavon town unfortunately fell on the join of four maps, so in this instance we have the north-eastern section of the town. In this example we have a section of map 12-9 from the Monmouthshire County Series.

What information can be found on a map?

Maps are a snapshot of an area at a given point in history. It is interesting comparing the two maps here. Firstly, how good the survey was. The Ordnance Survey map shows the following:

- buildings in red
- streets with names
- chapels/churches (with their denominations) – along King Street is the Bethel Baptist Church, which still exists today
- areas of Blaenavon are named, such as Rifle Green
- industrial features such as iron works, brick works, and quarries are all labelled
- parish boundaries are clearly defined with names on the edge of the map
- rivers are labelled, such as the Afon Llwyd
- major properties, such as Blaenavon House are labelled
- streets/woodland, footpaths, schools, wells, public houses are all shown.

On an OS map north is always running up at 12 o'clock. This is not always the case with tithe maps. On this tithe map north is running at about 11 o'clock, and it is far more limited in what it shows. The tithe map shows the following:

- buildings are marked in red and sometimes with grey stripes
- roads are shown
- bordering parish names are given

Little else is shown. The majority of the map is made up of plots containing numbers.

These numbers match with another document called an apportionment which provides information on who owns each plot, who actually lives there, what type of land it is and the size of the land. For example, No 31 is owned by the Earl of Abergavenny (who was living in a castle in Kent), it is occupied by the Blaenavon Company, described as specifically 'The Blast Furnaces,' and takes up the following area: 1 acre, 0 roods and 14 perches. This is roughly the size of a football pitch. (The Blast Furnaces were part of the Blaenavon Iron Works).

In this example it is quite easy to locate where you are on each map. For example, a water feature such as the 'feeder pond' on the OS map is easy to spot on the tithe map. However, it does not always work as easily as this, especially if an area has changed dramatically over time. Unlike OS maps which are standard around the country in the detail they provide, tithe maps can vary from parish to parish. Some tithe maps do not show individual buildings and may consist of nothing more than a bunch of squares with numbers on them.

It is interesting to see how Blaenavon and the surrounding area have changed between 1844 and 1881, as heavy industry has taken off. In this 37-year period a lot more housing has been built as more people have come to the area to work. Railways and tramways have also taken off during this time, although the tithe map does not show tram roads existing in 1844.

Maps are useful to all sorts of people. People researching their house history will use maps to find out whether their house existed at a given time. The tithe survey also provides details of ownership and occupation. Maps can be very helpful in seeing how an area has developed over time. The 1844 tithe map and 1881 OS map have shown how Blaenavon developed as an industrial town. But a map of Blaenavon today would show that there is very little industry now.

On Your Doorstep - Maps / Teachers' Notes

All this historical information has come from just one historical source: maps

You can ask your local record office or archive for copies of Ordnance Survey and tithe maps for your own area and see how that compares with these.

Schedule for Chirk Tithe Map, 1837

Transcript of the Schedule for Chirk Tithe Map, 1837

LANDOWNER	OCCUPIER	NUMBERS REFERRING TO THE PLAN	NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF LANDS AND PREMISES	STATE OF CULTIVATION	QUANTITIES IN STATUTE MEASURE			Amount of Rent Charge apportioned upon the several Lands and Payable to the Vicar		
					A	C	F	£	s	d
Dungannon Lord	Dungannon Lord	17	Rough side of River opposite the Forge		1					
Viscount	Viscount	31	Strip of waste along the river		"	"				28
Arthur Hill Trevor		39	Rough above pont-y-blew Bridge		2	"				33
continued		115	Brynkinault Lodge & Garden		"	1				10
		116	Brynkinault House (outbuildings and pleasure grounds		15	"				6
		118	Wood adjoining Ladys Bridge		3	"				2
		119	Ornamental River		1	"				3
		120	Island of wood		3	3				23
		122	Waste adjoining the River in meadows		"	3				36
		125	(Waste and gravel at the bottom of Dobbs Meadow		"	1				3
		127	Coed-yr-allt		23	2				8
		128	Chirk Lodge & plantation		2	1				26
		129	Occupation Road adjoining		"	2				29
		130	Park Bridge Wood		1	3				"
		131	(The Park small plantation in ditto		117	2				28
		132	(plantation on Chirk green side of pinfold field		1	1				14
		137	Plantation adjoining the Farm House		"	3				19
		138	Farm Yard & Buildings		2	"				19
		139	Plantation top pinfold field		1	"				22
		140	Bailiffs house garden yards & building			2				5
		141	Pasture in plantation		1	"				16
		142	Plantation in garden field		3	1				32
		144	Brynkinault garden Hothouses and Shrubberies		8	1				20
					193	-				36

[Link to the Chirk Tithe Map, Schedule and Transcript on the People's Collection Wales website](#)

Further Information - Local Archives

Find your local archive below:

[Aberystwyth University Archives](#) archives@aber.ac.uk Tel: 01970 628593

[Anglesey Archives](#) archives@anglesey.gov.uk Tel: 01248 751930

[Bangor University Archives](#) archives@bangor.ac.uk Tel: 01248 382966

[Cardiff University, Special Collections and Archives](#) keelanp@cardiff.ac.uk Tel: 029 2087 5678

[Carmarthenshire Archive Service](#) archives@carmarthenshire.gov.uk Tel: 01267 228232

[Ceredigion Archives](#) archives@ceredigion.gov.uk Tel: 01970 633697/633698

[Conwy Archives Service](#) archifau.archives@conwy.gov.uk Tel: 01492 577550

[Denbighshire Record Office](#) archives@denbighshire.gov.uk Tel: 01824 708250

[Flintshire Record Office](#) archives@flintshire.gov.uk Tel: 01244 532364

[Glamorgan Archives](#) glamro@cardiff.gov.uk Tel: 029 2087 2200

[Gwent Archives](#) enquiries@gwentarchives.gov.uk Tel: 01495 353363

[Gwynedd Archives, Caernarfon](#) archives.caernarfon@gwynedd.gov.uk Tel: 01286 679095

[Gwynedd Archives, Meirionnydd](#) archives.dolgellau@gwynedd.gov.uk Tel: 01341 424 682

[Neath Antiquarian Society Archives](#) westglam.archives@swansea.gov.uk Tel: 01639 620139

[Pembrokeshire Record Office](#) record.office@pembrokeshire.gov.uk Tel: 01437 775456

[Powys Archives](#) archives@powys.gov.uk Tel: 01597 826088

[Swansea University Archives](#) archives@swansea.ac.uk Tel: 01792 295021

[University of Wales, Trinity St David Archives](#) rodericbownlibrary@tsd.ac.uk Tel: 01248 38296

[West Glamorgan Archive Service, Swansea](#) westglam.archives@swansea.gov.uk Tel: 01792 636589

[Wrexham Archives and Local Studies Service](#) archives@wrexham.gov.uk Tel: 01978 297480

You can find more resources online, at archives, local record offices and museums.

Find your local archive or record office @ www.archiveswales.org.uk/

Find your local museum @ <http://www.culture24.org.uk/places+to+go/wales>

The National Library of Wales @ <http://www.llgc.org.uk>

People's Collection Wales @ www.peoplescollectionwales.co.uk

RCAHMW @ <http://www.rcahmw.gov.uk>

Coflein @ <http://www.coflein.gov.uk/>

Britain from Above @ <http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/>