



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

An Leabharlann
Library

Guide to Map Resources



Ordnance Survey of Ireland

(beginning with the most recent)

Discovery/Discoverer Maps Scale 1:50,000, produced since c.1992, Ireland covered by 89 sheets, several editions of each sheet now available. Located in Map Cabinets A and B in the Map area, adjacent to the Law books on the Ground Floor. Can be viewed online on the Archaeological Survey of Ireland's Historic Environment Viewer <https://www.archaeology.ie/archaeological-survey-ireland>

Half-inch Maps: Forerunners of Discovery but smaller scale of ½ inch: 1 mile. Produced in 1970s. Located in upright map cabinets under stairs to first floor. You can request assistance from Special Collections Reading Room staff. Largely superseded by Discovery series.

Cassini Maps: Scale 6-inches: 1 Mile, mostly produced in 1940s. Black & White. Good for tracking the existence of features originally seen on earlier maps. Only available at <https://webapps.geohive.ie/mapviewer/index.html> labelled 6-inch last edition.

Revised Edition 6-inch: Scale 6-inches: 1 Mile. Black & White. Mostly date from early 20th century but were reprinted up to the 1930s. We only have access to county Galway. Hardcopy, in Map Cabinets E & F in the Map Area.

25-inch Maps: Scale 25-inches: 1 mile. Mostly date from the 1890s up to c.1915 with later printings. Very good for showing individual features in the landscape. Black & White. We have c.3/4 of the series for county Galway in hardcopy but they are in poor condition so we encourage students to use the online version, available at <https://webapps.geohive.ie/mapviewer/index.html> Note that there are some locations for which these are unavailable.

1st Edition – Scale 6 inches: 1 mile (1838-1842). The first comprehensive series of maps covering the whole of Ireland, which was the first country in the world to be mapped in this manner. We have the whole series in large bound volumes but these can only be consulted by appointment in the Archives & Special Collections Room. This series is available, in both colour and B&W versions at <https://webapps.geohive.ie/mapviewer/index.html>.

Accessing OSI maps in the library

As noted above, paper copies of some of the maps are available in the library. In other instances, electronic access is the only means of viewing the map. There are also PCs in the Archives & Special

Collections Room and in the Special Collections Microfilm Room, though priority on these is given to those consulting digital archives and microfilms respectively. The OSI Digital Map archive <https://webapps.geohive.ie/mapviewer/index.html> can be accessed off campus.

Ordnance Survey of Ireland <https://webapps.geohive.ie/mapviewer/index.html>

Use the zoom on the map to find the location or use the query box at the top of the screen to search for either an Eircode or a townland. Use the black windowpane box under the search box to choose which maps you would like to view. Choose the black+ box to select “Add Data” to see the various other types of maps available..

National Mapping Agreement Geohive

<https://webapps.geohive.ie/mapviewer/index.html>

The Ordnance Survey of Ireland, part of Táihte Éireann, makes extra map layers available to third-level institutions through the National Mapping Agreement. For a copy of their detailed guidance and log-in details please contact the staff at the desk in the Archives & Special Collections Reading Room by emailing specialcollections@universityofgalway.ie. Please note staff are unable to provide any guidance beyond making this material available.

Historic Environment and Monument Service

www.archaeology.ie

Choose the “Historic Environment Viewer” tile at the bottom left of the home page and choose Archaeological Survey of Ireland, the Historic Environment Viewer.

You can search for an address in the search box. You can also click on the “key” symbol at the top of the screen which offers a search box and you can choose a town or townland from the drop-down list. The only snag occurs if that particular townland doesn’t contain an archaeological monument.

The default map is the modern plan. To view other maps, click on the “window pane” symbol at the top of the screen, Base-map Gallery will come up. Archaeological (red dots) and architectural monuments (blue dots) are clearly highlighted on this resource and you can click through to a description where one has been uploaded.

Finding places on Ordnance Survey maps

Ordnance Survey of Ireland hard copy maps have sheet numbers, usually in the top right-hand corner of the map. There are a number of resources you can use to locate the correct map for a location. Probably the easiest one is the online database provided by the Irish Genealogical Research Society at <https://www.irishancestors.ie/index-of-townlands-1901-87>

This page also has good information on the different kinds of administrative divisions within the country.

The only snag with this resource is that it doesn't include the numbers of the Discovery Map sheets which are in a different series to the earlier maps.

Townlands

To get an idea of the location and adjacency of townlands on a map you can consult the Ordnance Survey's *Townlands Index* sheets, produced in the early part of the 20th century. These are arranged by county and stored in the upright map cabinets beside the stairs to the first floor. You can request assistance from the staff at the Special Collections Reading room desk with accessing these.

A Selection of Other Useful Maps

Historical

Griffith's Valuation

Griffith's Valuation was a property valuation carried out all over Ireland between 1848-1864. Both the actual valuation and the accompanying maps are available online at <https://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/>. The same data is also available on the Find My Past database to which the library has access. It is possible to search for either a family name or a place name. In the context of most students' research the latter search would be the more useful. The occupier results for the place will show the original page of the valuation. The numbers in the left hand column relate to numbers on the accompanying maps, links to which appear on the entry.

Note: *the maps do not always open accurately, they sometimes open at a nearby townland rather than the one being searched. Also, some don't have any demarcation of the individual holdings.*

Placenames Database of Ireland

See www.logainm.ie and click on "Resources" then "Toponymy Resources"

Menu on right hand side - Historical Maps by county – e.g Map of county Galway by William Larkin (1819). A useful map that predates the 1st ed. Ordnance Survey by 25 years.

Down Survey Maps of Ireland

The Down Survey is a mapped survey which set out to measure every townland Ireland to be forfeited to soldiers and adventurers following the 17th century Cromwellian "settlement". The resulting maps, made at a scale of 40 perches to one inch (the modern equivalent of 1:50,000), were the first systematic mapping of a large area on such a scale attempted anywhere. The primary purpose of these maps was to record the boundaries of each townland and to calculate their areas with great precision.
<http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php>

Memorial Atlas of Ireland

Atlas of Irish counties published in 1901 in the USA. Includes a colour map of each county with administrative units called Baronies and Civil Parishes marked. Our digitisation service has

created an online version which can be accessed through our Digital Collections page: <https://library.universityofgalway.ie/collections/digitalheritage/>. Click on Digital Collections and then search for “Memorial Atlas”.

Heritage Council of Ireland Heritage Maps

<http://heritagemaps.biodiversityireland.ie/#/Map>

Sea (Admiralty) Charts

Charts showing depths of water off the coast as well as features such as rocks, islands, harbours etc. We hold a hard copy set in drawer 3 of Map cabinet D

Street Maps & Town Plans

Modern street plans of most major Irish cities are available in hard copy in the 1st drawer of Map Cabinet C in the Map area.

Town Plans

The Ordnance Survey produced large scale detailed maps of towns from the later 19th century onwards. The Library holds a hardcopy series for Galway City, printed in 1872 at a scale of 10 ft: 1 mile. UCD’s Digital Library service has digitized an extensive series of these town maps for most counties in Ireland, including the 1872 and also series from the early 20th century. Details of the towns covered in each counties and links to the map images can be seen at <http://digital.ucd.ie/view/ucdlib:40377>. The Ordnance Survey continued to update these town plans and the library also holds a series covering Galway city from the 1980s. These are stored in the upright map cabinets beside the stairs to the first floor. You can request assistance from the staff at the library desk with accessing these.

Environmental Maps

Soil Maps

Soil Maps – Teagasc-Environmental Protection Agency Ireland

<http://gis.teagasc.ie/soils/map.php>

Irish Soils Information System. The site contains various resources, including the new 1:250,000 scale soil association map of Ireland.

Groundwater Maps

<https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/data-and-maps/Pages/Groundwater.aspx>

Groundwater Viewer – Geological Survey of Ireland

The groundwater resource (aquifer) maps and groundwater protection (groundwater vulnerability) maps are based on field studies, interpretation of existing data, and on other mapping with varying scales of resolution.

Flood Map OPW Flood Maps

<https://www.floodinfo.ie/map/floodmaps/>

Maps of Flood hazards and areas of flood risk compiled by the Office of Public Works.

BRITAIN

UK National Archives

Looking for a map. <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/maps/maps-family-local-history.htm>

Maps for local and family history <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/maps/maps-family-local-history.htm>

British History Online

Ordnance Survey maps <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/catalogue/maps>

National Library of Scotland

<https://maps.nls.uk/>

Booth's Poverty Maps of London

<https://booth.lse.ac.uk/>

WORLD MAPS

Open Street maps

OpenStreetMap is built by a community of mappers that contribute and maintain data about roads, trails, cafés, railway stations, and much more, all over the world.

www.openstreetmap.org

Library of Congress Map Collections

<https://www.loc.gov/maps/collections/%20>

University of Texas, Perry-Castaneda Library map collection

<https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/maps/>

ATLASES

A collection of geographical and other types of atlas is held in the Atlas Collection, usually on the First Floor. Atlases can also be found in the main book collections. Search the Library catalogue on www.library.nuigalway.ie for atlases in your chosen subject.

For help with map queries
Contact the Main Library Desk
or Staff at the desk in the
Archives & Special
Collections Reading Room
By email:

Special Collections
specialcollections@universityofgalway.ie

Marie Boran, Special Collections Librarian
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