Navigating the Maps Website Handout

Introduction

We have over 200,000 historical maps now available to view on Library website (http://maps.nls.uk). We are constantly adding new collections to the website as we aim to digitalise one third of our map collections.
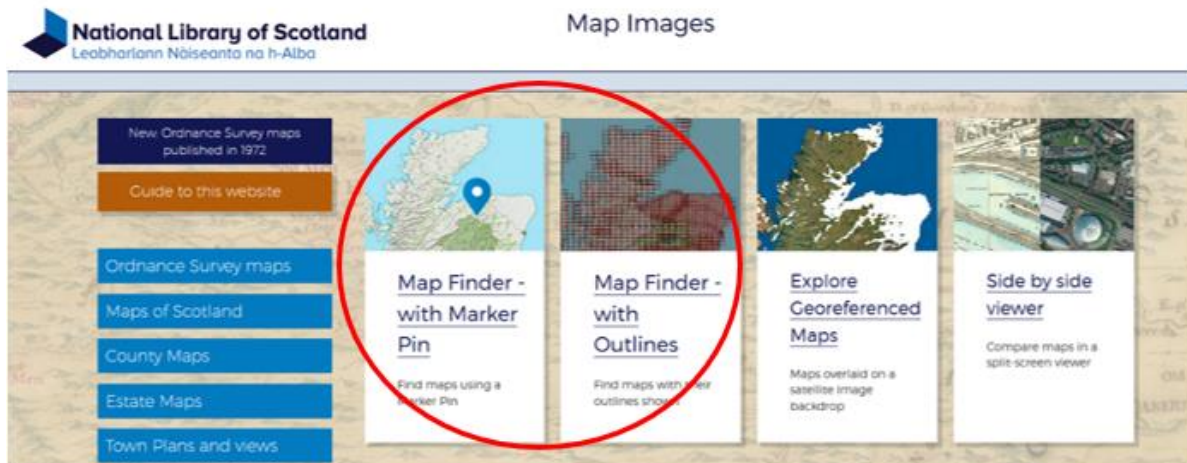
The National Library of Scotland has the right to claim a copy of everything published in the UK. The map collection holds over two million items.

- Particular interest in maps of Scotland but includes detailed mapping of the rest of United Kingdom, and world mapping, star charts, and even maps of imaginary places.
- Printed maps from the 1500s onwards
- Detailed, large scale Ordnance Survey maps for the whole of Britain, from the 1800s to the present
- Wide range of types of mapping – from sea charts to geological maps, estate plans to road networks, railways to battle plans.

The website is a goldmine of information, but we are aware that some viewers struggle to find maps. We have also created a brief overview of the website features here: https://maps.nls.uk/guide/index.html

We will start at the main map images webpage (http://maps.nls.uk).

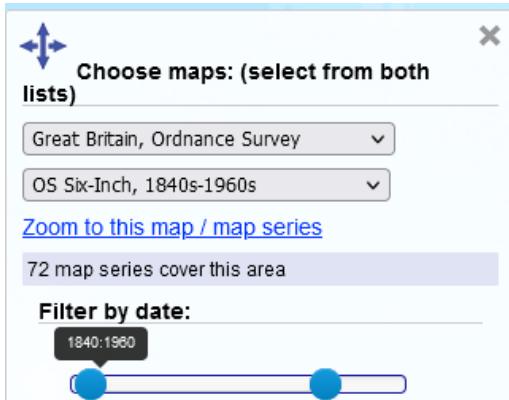## Finding Maps using either our Map Finders

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.
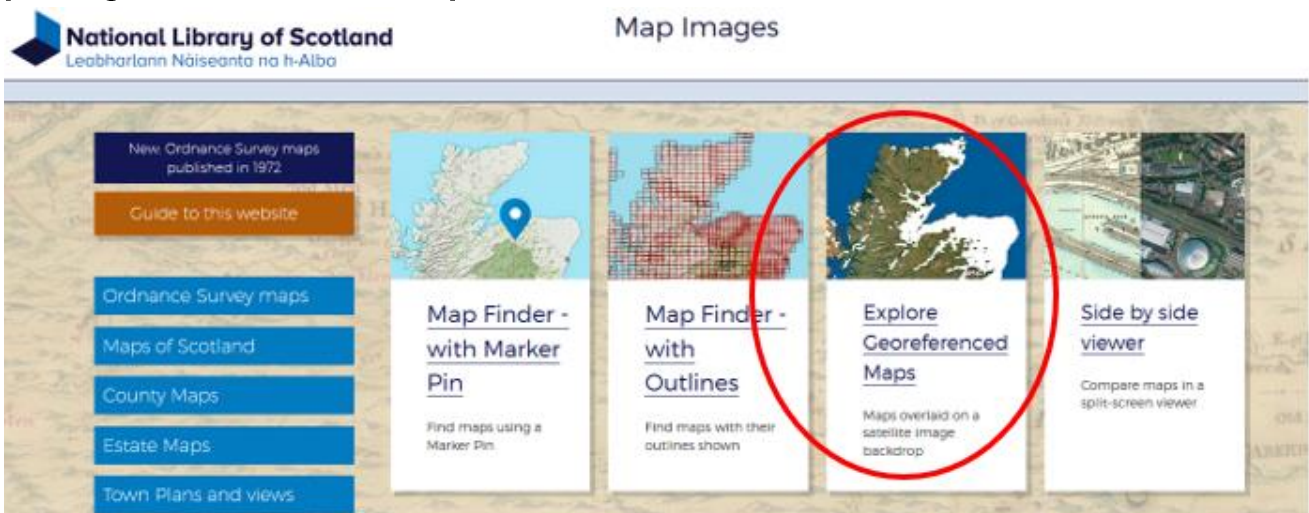- You can change the maps using the Choose maps box:

- 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.

There are lots of different things that you can do in the map viewer that are beyond the scope of this workshop. If you would like to know more, then please click on the following link: https://maps.nls.uk/imagery.html
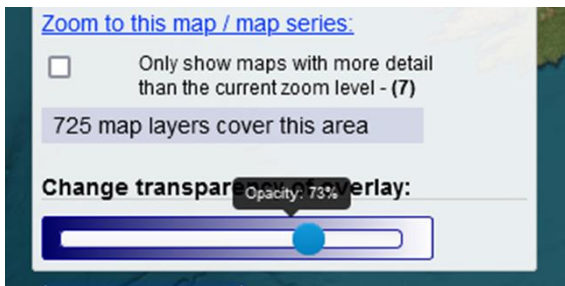
Exploring Georeferenced Maps

In the georeferenced map viewer, you can explore a series of maps "seamed" together and aligned with their real-world location. If you are curious about how we geo-reference our maps, we have a handy website here: Copyright - Map images - National Library of Scotland (nls.uk)

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/).
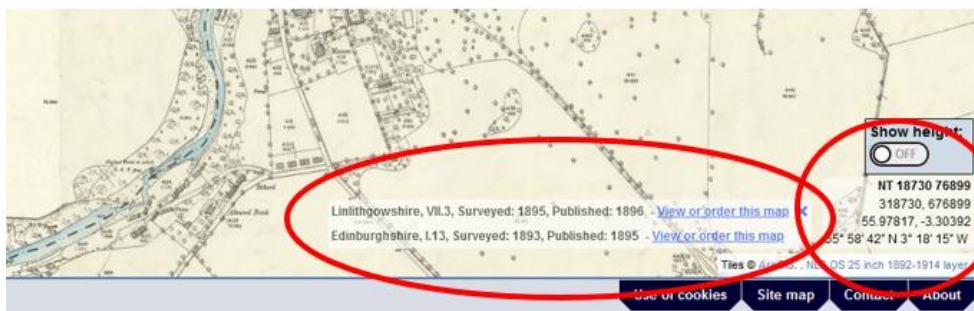
- If you would like to view more of the modern map – just use the transparency slider:

- We also have added a choice of background maps. You can change the background map by using the drop-down menu at the top of the page:
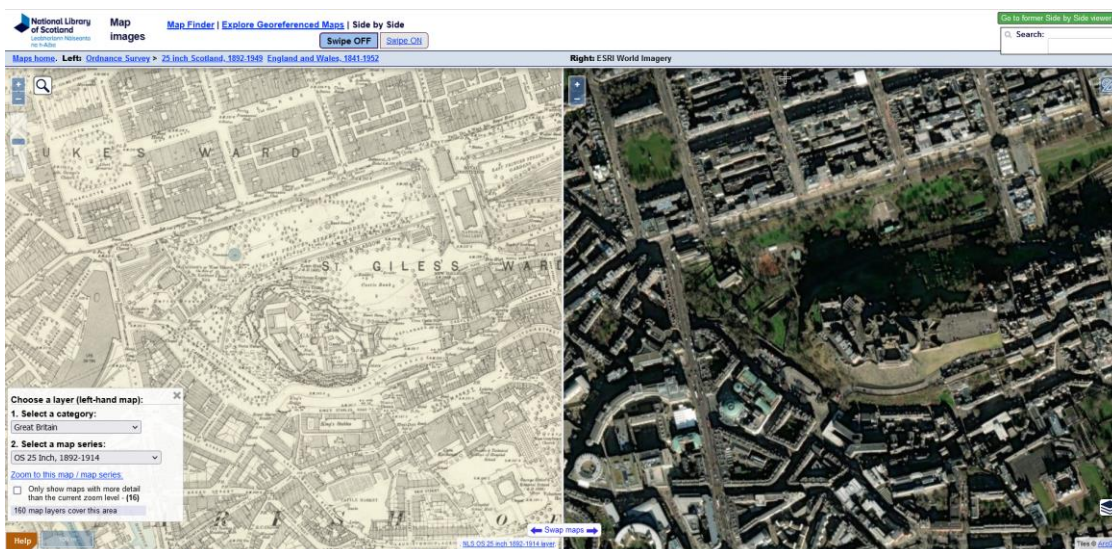

- You can view the map details when you hover over the map. We have also added a link to the Map Viewer here. The details appear in the bottom right corner of the page. You can also find the National Grid Reference as well as the latitude and longitude:

Side by Side viewer

You can view a split-screen georeferenced maps with the Side-by-Side viewer:
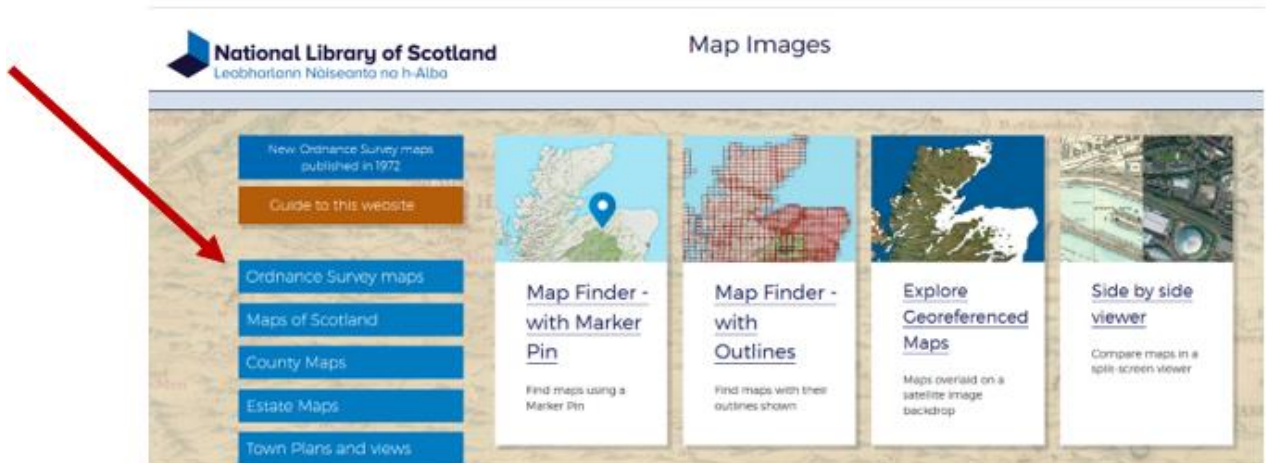
There are two ways to get to the Side by Side viewer. You can either click on the link on the geo-referenced viewer or by the link on the maps home page:

- If you click on the **Swipe ON,** you can move the bar separating the historic and modern map.
- Lots of our website users love the Side-by-Side viewer so we encourage you to explore it too.
- We have more tools in our geo-referenced images including measuring and drawing on geo-referenced maps. If you would like to explore this a little more, we would recommend heading to https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/help.html

Category List and Finding out more

Category List

We also have a list of categories for website users who know what they are looking for. The Category List can be found on the main map images page starting with *Ordnance Survey maps.*

Where to find out more

Introductory videos and help-guide online

If you would like to watch an introductory video – we have two on our website: https://maps.nls.uk/videos/

Here is a guide to a successful ramble through our map images website: https://maps.nls.uk/ten-things/index.html

New Additions

We often update our website with New Additions. To be one of the first people to hear about our new additions follow us on Twitter on https://twitter.com/natlibscot

We also have a New Addition page too: https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html

Collaborative projects and newsletter

We often work with other communities and archives, click on the following link if you would like to find out more about our collaborative projects: https://maps.nls.uk/projects/index.html

For more information about Scottish Map History, join the Scottish Maps Forum's mailing list to get copies of CAIRT. Back issues can be viewed here: https://www.nls.uk/collections/maps/subject-info/cairt/

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.