



Between the Lines

Land of Oak & Iron Mapping Project Newsletter

December 2018

This edition of Between the Lines contains a report on our first mapping volunteers meeting, a summary of the project "Roadmap" and an introduction to maps that were available before Ordnance Survey maps were produced. Our meeting schedule for January to March is also included.

Volunteers meeting 12th December 2018

Considering the festive season is already impacting on many peoples lives we had a great turnout, with 30 people attending the meeting.

Using the geographic areas of Upper, Mid and Lower Derwent Valley plus Tyne Valley, 4 teams started tracing township boundaries with woodlands being the next priority.

Considerable enthusiasm was displayed in plotting the line of township boundaries and by the end of the evening they were approximately 75% complete. As a bonus there was some tracing of minor rivers in one of the groups.

In the feedback after the activity some improvement areas were identified including: better lighting, improve map mounting and supports, more space in room and more guidance.

Use of the duplicate map to identify and follow lines, in conjunction with the one being used for tracing was shared as an effective technique.

Some apparent anomalies in the boundaries were identified. To resolve these it may be useful for volunteers to visit the NLS site and view the [OS 1:25000 \(1937-1961\)](#) digital maps and zoom in to the area of interest. The township names are shown in large italic capitals and boundaries as series of spaced dotted lines e.g.

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If the boundaries are still unclear consider searching an earlier map series using the options in the drop down menus, but be aware that the conventions used to indicate boundaries may differ and use the relevant [characteristic sheet](#).

Programme for early 2019 (all 19:00 to 21:00)

Wednesday 9th January 2019, The Lodge, Laburnum Avenue, Blackhill, Consett, DH8 5TA

Tuesday 22nd January 2019, The Winlaton Centre, North Street NE21 6BY (in Winlaton village)

Tuesday 12th February 2019, Clara Vale Village Hall, Clara Vale, Tyne and Wear, NE40 3SY

Wednesday 27th February 2019, The Lodge, Consett

Monday 11th March 2019, The Lodge, Consett

Tuesday 26th March 2019, The Winlaton Centre

Mapping "Roadmap"

Summer 2018

- Mapping project proposed to provide information to visitors and local people.

September 2018

- Project outline agreed with LO&I Board.
- Area extended to include source of River Derwent and Devils Water.
- Priorities for mapping content: Oak - particularly the ancient woodlands. Iron - the industrial heritage and villages. Leisure - places to relax and enjoy the area.

Late 2018

- Mapping volunteer group established

Looking ahead:

Through 2019 Focus on 1690 to present day

Through 2020 Extend time line to the Roman Era

Through 2021 Pre-Roman period added.

Below are a number of topic headings (most with sub-topics) to be included. Please feel free to make suggestions and have your input to how the mapping project goes forward.

Topics for mapping:

Waterways	Great events and people
Contours	Extraction industries
Woodlands	Process industries
Historic Townships	Agriculture
Boundaries	Power generation
Transport	Recreation
Historic Buildings	Visitor service

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Maps before Ordnance Survey

This article is intended to provide an introduction to earlier maps with a focus on those available to view in the internet.

Maps of Britain

The oldest surviving map of Britain is believed to be the [Anglo-Saxon Mappa Mundi](#), thought to have been created in Canterbury between 1025 and 1050. Early maps of the country are very different to those we are familiar with today. Scale and orientation were not to a convention recognisable to the modern eye, and whilst interesting for their curiosity, they are more indicative than accurate.

County Maps

[DUNELMIENSIS Episcopatus](#) and [NORTHUMBRIAE COMITATUS](#) of the 1570's, by Christopher Saxton, form part of an Atlas of Britain which belonged to William Cecil Lord Burghley, Elizabeth I's Secretary of State. Settlements, rivers, larger ranges of hills and woodlands plus the line of Harians' Wall are included. The proof copy of the Durham map on the British Library website (above link) has numerous handwritten notes. This style of the map recurs in several guises for more than 100 years, including [The Bishoprick of Durham](#). 1610 by John Speed, [Comitatus Northumbria, vernacule Northumberland](#) 1646 by Joan Blaeu, and [The Bishopricke of Durham](#). 1664 also by J. Blaeu.

Maps by Thomas Kitchin from the mid 1750's, An Accurate Map of the [Palentine of County Durham](#)", which was prepared for Joseph Butler, Lord Bishop of Durham, and [A New Improved Map of Northumberland](#), show greater detail. They include ward boundaries, distances between market towns, rectories, vicarages, parks and details of nobility and gentry along with lead works, coal pits and quarries.

The 1768 map by Andrew Armstrong, entitled The County Palatine of Durham, and his 1769 [A Map of the County of Northumberland](#) shows the topography of the area by shading slopes of the valleys and hills they also include woods with names, detail of road type and buildings according to type. The [northern](#) and [eastern](#) areas of the Durham map are of particular interest to us.

Greenwoods County Durham map of 1820, based on surveys in 1818 and 1819, adds a further level of detail, and includes coal pits, lead mines, parks,

mills and importantly woodland areas in addition to towns, rivers and roads. Topography is indicated in a similar manner to the Armstrong map. A number of versions of this map from 1820 to 1850 are held at libraries in Durham and Sunderland. Scanned images of the [Greenwood maps](#) may be found on the Pictures in Print website, which also has records of where the maps may be found. Greenwood maps of Northumberland also exist, however, are more elusive in digital form. Extracts of non-interactive sections may be found on the [Northumberland Communities](#) website by selecting the community of interest and then the Plans option from the left hand panel.

Other maps

Examples of estate maps commissioned by wealthy Landowners may be found in County Records Offices, and Gateshead Central Library have a small collection, however, on line examples for our area are less readily available. Tithe Maps and associated records for Durham are held in the [Durham University Library Collection](#). Northumberland Tithe maps are available on the subscription site, "The Geneologist". Colliery records in Mining Museums and County Records offices often reference the OS maps.

Although they do not include our area of interest strip road maps, which show the line of a road and the immediate surrounds only, warrant brief mention. This style of mapping date from the 13th century when it was used by Matthew Paris, a monk in St. Albans, in his text "Book of Additions" describing the journey from London to Jerusalem. An example from this work from [London to Chambrey](#), is available in the British Library site. Late 17th Century maps by John Ogilby use a similar and more detailed format. This [link](#) shows and extract of the road map from Whitby to Durham.

Coming up in January:

Wednesday 9th January 2019, The Lodge, Laburnum Avenue, Blackhill, Consett, DH8 5TA

Tuesday 22nd January 2019, The Winlaton Centre, North Street NE21 6BY (in Winlaton village, not Winlaton Mill)

Please register to attend [links to be added](#).

