

Online Resources for Irish Mapping

Ordnance Survey maps

Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI): <https://www.osi.ie>

OSI is Ireland's official mapping agency. It evolved from the Ordnance Survey Office, which was established in 1824, later becoming a state body under the Ordnance Survey Ireland Act 2001. GeoHive, at <https://osi.ie/services/geohive-2/> an initiative of OSI, provides free, web-based access to Ordnance Survey Ireland and other geo-spatial datasets, including OS first edition 6-inch and 25-inch County Series historical maps. These historical maps can also be viewed on the National Townland and Historical Map Viewer, a GeoHive application, at <https://geohive.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9def898f708b47f19a8d8b7088a100c4>.

Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland (OSNI):

OSNI, which came into being in January 1922, is the official producer of geographic mapping data for Northern Ireland. The Spatial NI Map Viewer at <https://www.spatialni.gov.uk> allows access to view and interrogate OSNI mapping and other geospatial information from multiple sources.

National Archives of Ireland: <https://www.nationalarchives.ie>

The National Archives was established in June 1988 following the enactment of the National Archives Act, 1986 and following the amalgamation of the State Paper Office and the Public Record Office of Ireland. Under this legislation, records of government departments and their agencies are transferred to the National Archives when they are 30 years old. The National Archives holds records and maps for the Ordnance Survey mapping of Ireland since 1824 and, although not possible to view images, it is possible to search their online catalogue to locate some of this material.

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI): <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni>

PRONI is the official archive for Northern Ireland and on its historical maps viewer: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/search-proni-historical-maps-viewer> it is possible to search and browse a range of historical Ordnance Survey maps and find information on sites, buildings and landmarks of historical interest.

Charles Close Society for the study of Ordnance Survey maps: <https://charlesclosesociety.org>

The society was founded in 1980 to bring together all those with an interest in the maps and history of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and its counterparts in the island of Ireland.

Geological & Soil maps

Geological Survey Ireland (GSI): <https://www.gsi.ie>

Founded in 1845, Geological Survey Ireland provides geological data and maps to landowners, the public, government departments and industry.

Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (GSNI): <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/gsni>

The GSNI, established in 1947, holds an extensive archive of maps, boreholes and site investigation reports.

Irish Historical Geological Maps: <http://www.geologicalmaps.net/irishhistmaps/index.cfm>

This site displays a range of historical geological maps, sections and memoirs of the island of Ireland, mostly from the 19th century. The site has been developed jointly by Geological Survey Ireland, the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland and the British Geological Survey.

Teagasc / Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Until recently, approximately half of Ireland had been mapped in detail by the National Soil Survey of An Foras Talúntais (forerunner organisation to Teagasc), in the form of county soil maps. These maps are now available as PDF for free download at

<https://www.teagasc.ie/crops/soil--soil-fertility/county-soil-maps>. In 2014 the Irish Soil Information System was launched. The project was undertaken for EPA by scientists from Teagasc (Agriculture and Food Development Authority) and Cranfield University (UK). The resulting map and database are publicly available at <http://gis.teagasc.ie/soils/map.php>. The system allows the user to zoom in on any area to a 1:250,000 scale and see the soil association for that area.

Archaeological & Heritage maps

National Monuments Service: <https://www.archaeology.ie>.

The Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) is a unit of the National Monuments Service. The ASI was established to compile an inventory of the known archaeological monuments in the State. The information is stored on a database and in a series of paper files that collectively form the ASI Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). This website allows online access to the SMR database and to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage using the Historic Environment Viewer at <https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/>.

Heritage Council: <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/projects/heritage-maps>

The Heritage Council was established as a statutory body under the Heritage Act 1995. Heritage Maps is a web-based spatial data viewer site owned by the Heritage Council, which focuses on the built, cultural and natural heritage around Ireland and offshore.

Down Survey Maps

Trinity College Dublin

Taken in the years 1656-1658, the Down Survey of Ireland was the first ever detailed land survey on a national scale anywhere in the world. Following the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland (1649–53), the survey sought to measure all the land to be forfeited by the Catholic Irish in order to facilitate its redistribution to merchant adventurers and English soldiers. On this website, in addition to other material, all the surviving Down Survey maps, at county, barony and parish level, have been brought together, digitised and made available as a public online resource at <http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php>. Also learn about the Down Survey of Ireland project from Dr Micheál Ó'Siochrú, Department of History, Trinity College Dublin on this YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcQCEG8lhFY>

General Mapping

British Library: <https://www.bl.uk/subjects/maps>

The British Library holds very large and varied collections of maps, plans, Admiralty charts and topographical views, including a collection of Goad fire insurance plans for Cork, Limerick and Dublin, 1893-1897 at:

<http://gallery.bl.uk/viewall/default.aspx?e=Fire%20insurance%20maps%20and%20plans%20Ireland>

Jisc Library Hub Discover: <https://discover.libraryhub.jisc.ac.uk>

Jisc Library Hub Discover allows access to catalogues in UK and Irish academic, national & specialist libraries. This new service replaces Copac, providing access to a wider range of library catalogues and updated options for defining a search, including searching for maps.

Leslie Brown Collection: <https://www.lbrowncollection.com>

A private collection of over 40,000 digital historic maps of Ireland and the world dating from circa 1500.

National Archives, Kew: <https://nationalarchives.gov.uk>

Can search their online catalogue for Irish maps, plans and charts.

National Library of Ireland (NLI): <https://www.nli.ie/en/printed-maps-introduction.aspx>

The NLI has a collection of approximately 150,000 maps. The collection is predominantly Irish but there are also maps which relate to Britain, Europe and the world. Details of maps from the 12th century to the early 19th century, including military and engineering maps, estate maps and grand jury county maps can be found in the manuscript maps section of the website. Many maps are available in digital format - use the 'Advanced Search' at

<http://catalogue.nli.ie/Search/Advanced> to find digitised maps. e.g. enter a place name in the 'search for' box, choose 'map' from the format options and under online availability click the 'digitised' option.

National Library of Scotland: <https://maps.nls.uk>

The National Library of Scotland has a large array of high-resolution online images of maps on display on its website. They relate primarily to Scotland, though there are also maps for England, Wales and other countries, including a few for Ireland.

OpenStreetMap (OSM): <https://www.openstreetmap.org>

OSM is an open source world-wide geospatial dataset built by a voluntary community of mappers since 2004. The Irish community are at <https://www.openstreetmap.ie>. Over 61,000 townland maps using OSM data can be viewed at <https://www.townlands.ie>. As an example of an aid to historical research, see OSM with many Dublin historical maps and boundaries overlaid at: www.dublinhistoricmaps.ie.

Royal Irish Academy: <https://www.ria.ie>

The Irish Historic Towns Atlas project was established in 1981 to record the topographical development of a selection of Irish towns and cities. Each town is published separately as a fascicle and includes a series of maps complemented by a detailed text section. Digital editions of selected atlases are now available online, free of charge at <https://www.ria.ie/irish-historic-towns-atlas-online>. The digital editions include the full text for each town or city, as well as three core maps: 1. 19th century OS map, 1:50,000; 2. Reconstruction map based on town plan c. 1840, 1:2500 and 3. Modern OS map, 1:5000.

Trinity College Dublin Digital Collections: <https://digitalcollections.tcd.ie>

Trinity's online digital collections include digitised books, maps, paintings, manuscripts and photographs.

University College Dublin Digital Library:

Find and access map collections at UCD and on the web at: <https://libguides.ucd.ie/findingmaps>.

One of the collections is Ordnance Survey Ireland 19th century historical maps at: <http://digital.ucd.ie/view/ucdlib:40377>. This is a collection of mainly 19th century OS maps of almost 150 cities, towns, and villages in the Republic of Ireland. Most are town plans which were surveyed at either five-foot or ten-foot to one mile scale between 1837 and 1896. The remainder were produced by enlargement of the 1: 2,500 maps between 1892 and 1911

Admiralty Charts

UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO): <https://www.admiralty.co.uk/charts>

The Hydrographic Office provides admiralty charts for navigation of deep sea, coastal passages, port approaches and harbour berthing for around the world, including Irish waters.

National Maritime Museum, Greenwich

The National Maritime Museum collections contain more than 100,000 sea charts and maps, including some relating to Ireland, dating from the medieval period to the present day.

They are available to view at:

<https://collections.rmg.co.uk/collections.html#!csearch;collectionReference=subject-90232;authority=subject-90232>.

Property Maps

Griffith's Valuation

The Primary Valuation of Ireland was the first full scale valuation of property for taxation purposes in Ireland. It is better known as 'Griffith's Valuation', after Sir Richard Griffith, who was the first commissioner of valuation between 1829 and 1868. The maps and list of ratepayers in Griffith's Valuation (circa 1844-1865) are available online at <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation>. Searches can be made by surname or placename. Unpublished town plans are also available when viewing the maps.

Property Registration Authority (PRA): <https://www.landdirect.ie>

The PRA is the State organisation responsible for the registration of property transactions in Ireland. This site allows access to many land registry services including searching the registry map and viewing documents (folios) which contain information relating to the title and ownership of more than 2.2 million registered properties.