

Map reading



well read
informed communications

This education Pack developed by Kate Dawson at Well Read in consultation with local heritage groups and schools. Particular thanks to Denis Hill, Heritage Consultant for his help providing historic background.

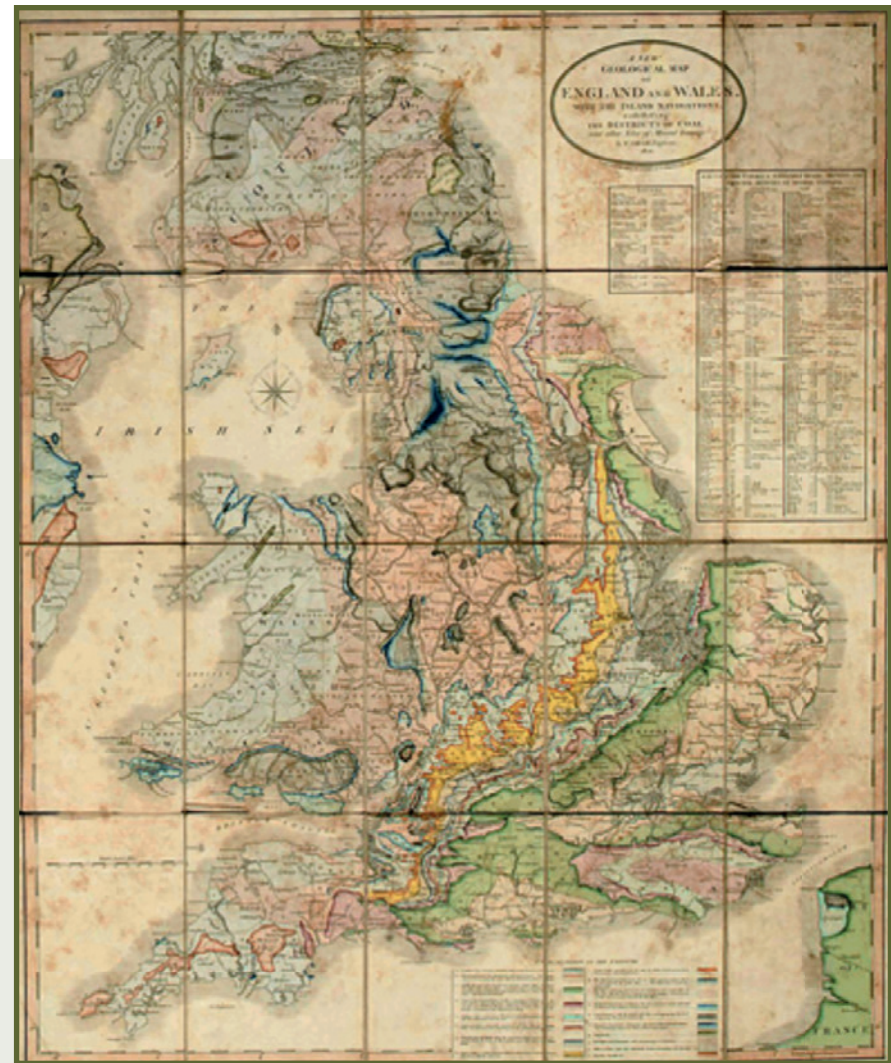


MR_TS

at Mill Waters heritage site

Early maps

Matthew Paris, a Benedictine monk, created one of the first maps of England in the early 1200s (below).



William Smith's "New Geological Map of England and Wales" published in 1820 (above).

Tithe maps

Centuries ago, when the Church owned much of the land around England, farmers had to pay a tenth of what they produced in kind (such as their crops or lambs) to the Church.

When the **Tithe Commutation Act of 1836** was passed, farmers had to start paying a rent charge to the landowner.

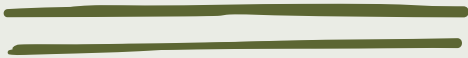
Tithe commissioners were appointed to create **tithe maps** for each Parish - showing the landowners, and then also the occupiers who had to pay the rent charge.

There were 11,800 surveys in England and Wales before 1851.



Common symbols on old maps

Turnpike or main roads



Other roads



Unfenced roads



County boundaries



Parish / township boundaries
(on some sheets only)



Railways



Cuttings



Embankments



Tramways and
freight-only railways



Church



Windmill



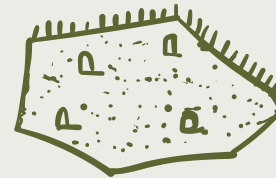
Lighthouse



Woodland



Parkland



Foreshore: sand / boulders / rocks



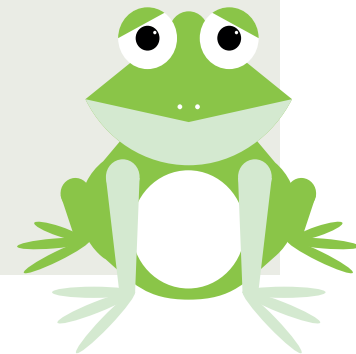
Mileages



Turnpike Gates



Toll Gates

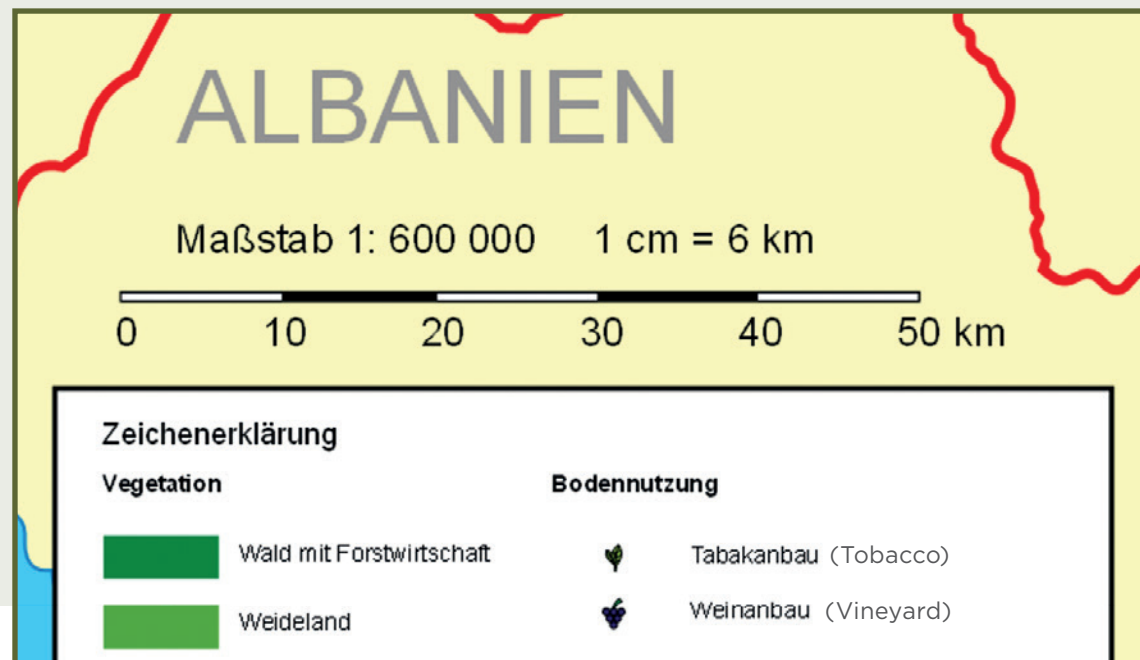


Scale

The scale on a map shows what **distance** is covered by each centimetre (or historically, inch).

Larger scale maps have more detail, whereas **smaller** scale maps show a bigger area.

On this German map 1 cm covers 6 km - the scale is therefore 1 cm: 6 km.



Compass points

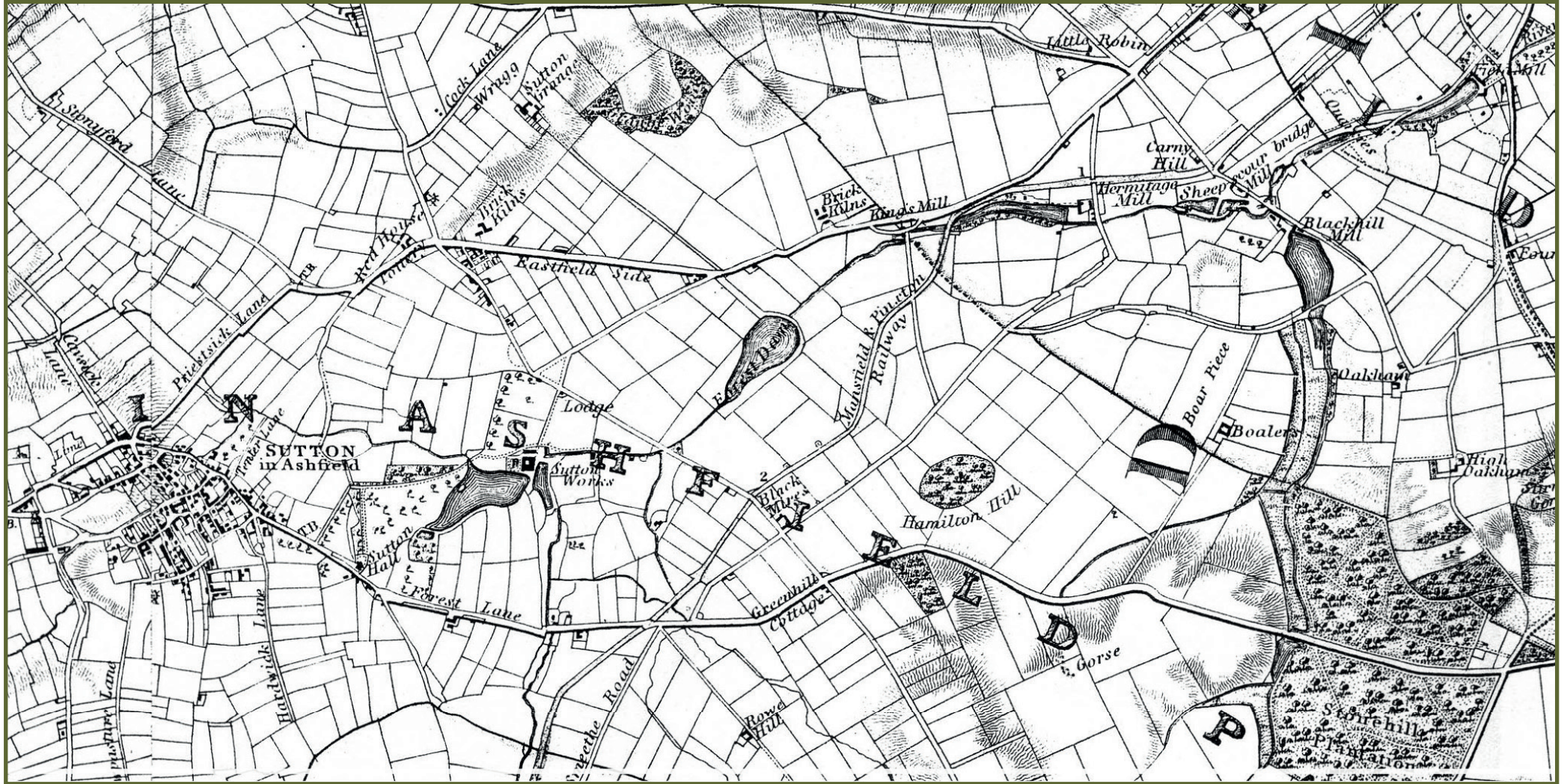
On a **compass**, the magnet points **north**. This is because all magnets have two poles - **north** and **south** - and the north pole of one magnet is attached to the **south** pole of another.

It is important to know where the direction of north is on your map - so you know you have your map the right way around.

Modern maps have '**north**' at the top, but on old maps you may need to look for the '**north**' symbol.



Sanderson's 1835 map



Ordnance Survey

Ordnance Survey began by producing maps of Scotland for the British Army in 1774.

Between 1841 - 1952 Ordnance Survey published a series of detailed county maps to the scale of 25 inch to the mile (1:2,500).

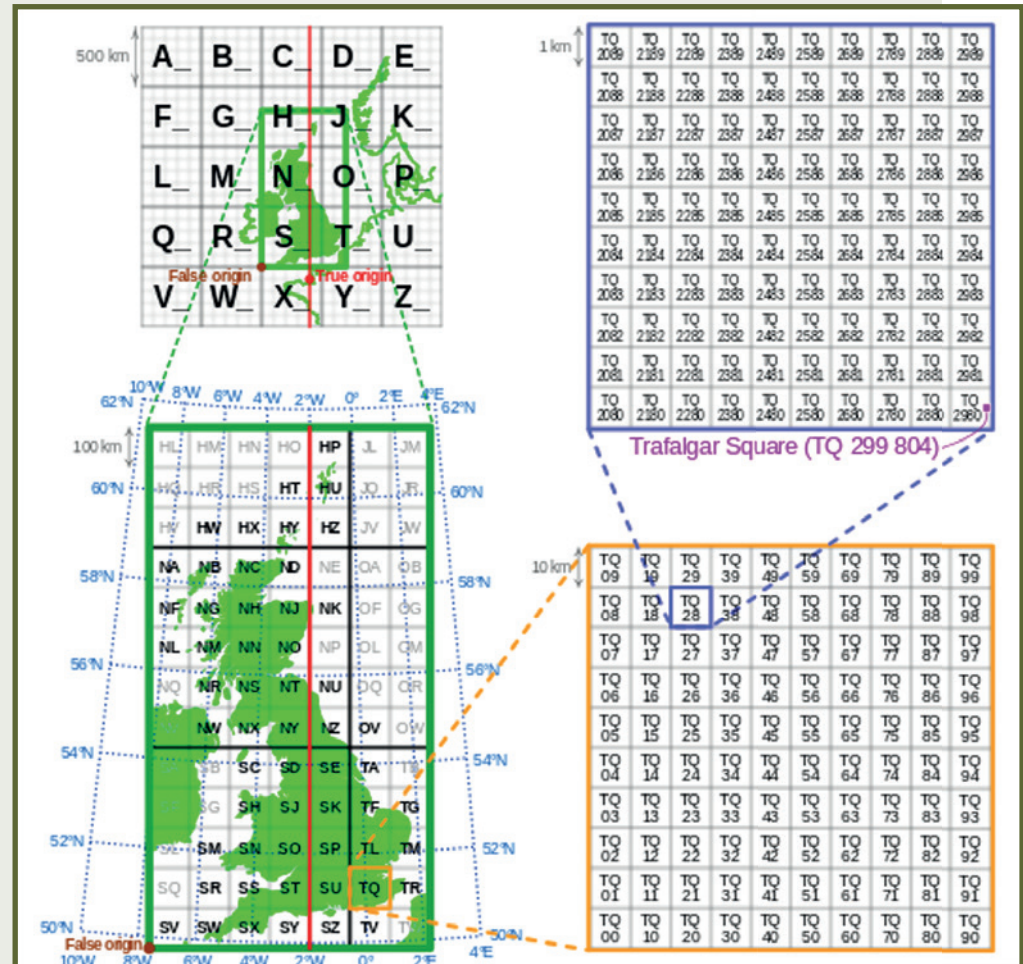


Above: Ordnance Survey map showing the Mill Waters site with the reservoir in the middle (dated 1888).

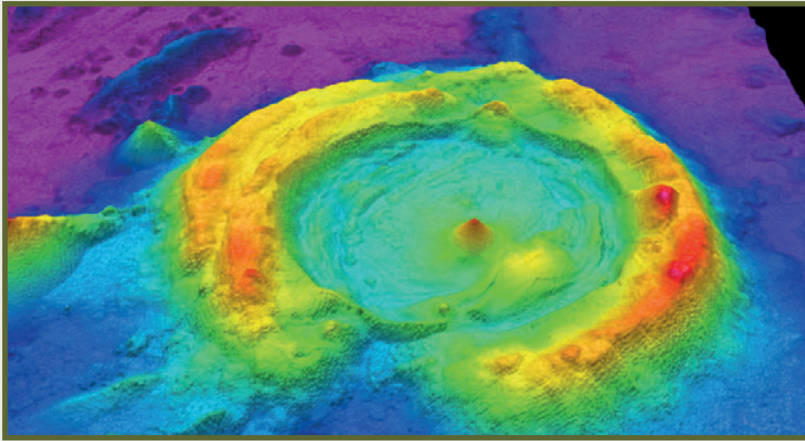
The British National Grid

The National Grid was devised in 1938 and uses a grid system to map co-ordinates on the OS map. Each Grid square is 100km across.

The vertical lines are called 'eastings', as they increase in value as you travel east on the map. The horizontal lines are called 'northings' as they go up as you go further north.



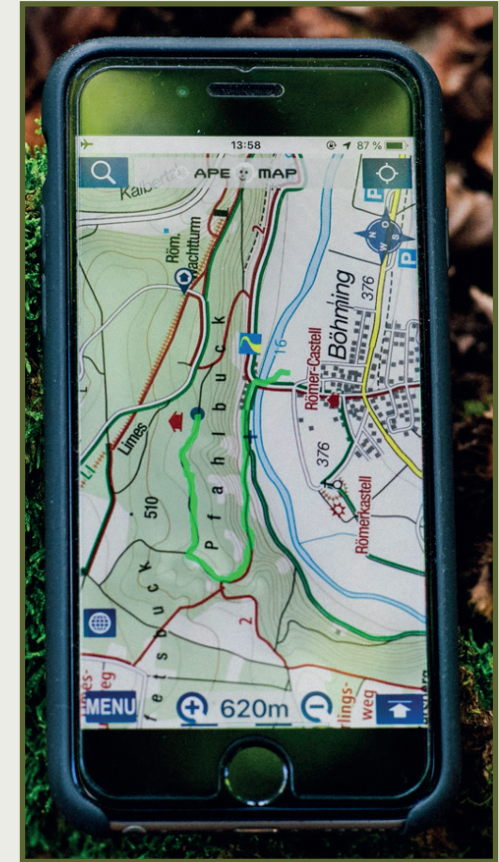
Different purposes for maps



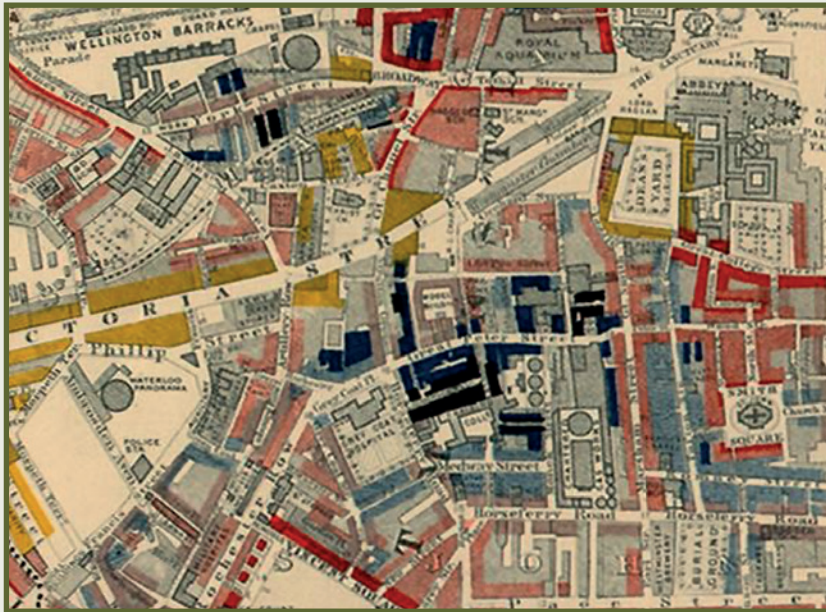
Lidar maps use light and radar to provide 3D pictures of objects and land (and under the sea, as shown above). It is used by astronauts, the military, as well as archaeologists, geologists and surveyors.

GPS maps tell us our geographic location and help us follow a route from one place to another.

GPS can also be used to help find people who are lost.



Other uses for maps



Charles Booth used maps to show areas of poverty in London in 1889. This is the Westminster section of the map.



The Botanical Society maps the population of native plants over the Ordnance Survey, such as bluebells.