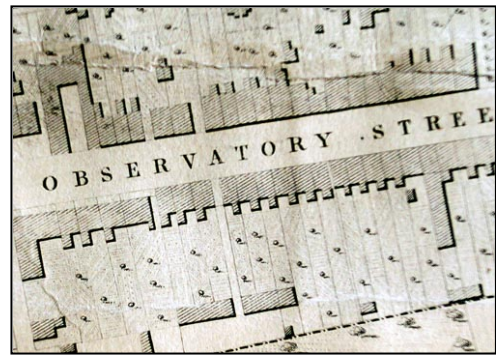


Town Plans

Town plans formed another important area of map-making and the City of Oxford has been surveyed at regular intervals since the late 16th century.

You can see copies of early bird's eye view maps of Oxford by:



- Ralph Agas (1578), and another version reworked by Whittlesey (1728)
- Wenceslas Hollar (1643)
- David Loggan (1675)

These have been reproduced in an Oxford Historical Society portfolio, *Old plans of Oxford* (1884) [ref: Enquiry Desk], which is also available online <http://nla.gov.au/nla.map-rm1939>>

You will also find small inset plans of the historic core of the City of Oxford featuring on some early county maps of Oxfordshire – for example, Speed (1605).

The best later maps are:

- William Williams (1731) [ref: MPC 140]
- Isaac Taylor (1750) [ref: MPC 526]
- William Faden (1789) [ref: MPC 527]
- Richard Davis (1793-4) [ref: reprint at Enquiry Desk]
- Robert Hoggar (1850) [ref: MPC 185]

The Davis map of 1793-4 captures the City of Oxford in exceptional detail, before the extension of modern suburbs into the surrounding countryside.

The Hoggar map of 1850 intriguingly captures the early years of the expansion of Jericho and the Oxford University Press to the north-west of the city centre which began in the 1830s.

How do I know which Town Plans you hold?

You can consult the full paper catalogue of Printed Historic Maps in a series of binders in the Catalogues area of the Searchroom, giving access to over 500 historic printed maps by cartographer, publisher or other given name, by title, by subject and by date.

And how do I go about viewing them?

Working copies of most Town Plans have been made for regular consultation in the Searchroom, and we will ask you to use these unless you have a special need to examine the original. Maps can be ordered up on a document request slip, citing the MP or MPC number from the paper catalogue.

Where else can I go?

Websites

- **Bodleian Library** (Oxford University) online catalogue
<http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk>. Searches can be limited to cartographer, format, scale, date, etc.
- **British Library** map collections
<http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelprestype/maps/index.html>.
- **British Library** online catalogue <link to: <http://explore.bl.uk> >.
- A selection of Oxford town plans can be seen through the **Oxford Digital Library** (Oxford University) - <http://www2.odl.ox.ac.uk/gsd/cgi-bin/library?e=d-000-00---0mapsxx03--00-0-0-0prompt-10---4-----0-1|--1-en-50---20-about---00001-001-1-1isoZz-8859Zz-1-0&a=d&cl=CL2.4.9.pr> Click on any entries for “Oxford (England) Maps”.

[Visiting and contacting the Oxfordshire History Centre](#)