

Oxford city maps and plans

Introduction

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.

Principal maps and plans of Oxford

The principal historic maps and plans of Oxford City, from Oxfordshire History Centre collections, are listed [here](#).

Early bird's-eye views and city plans

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

- Ralph Agas, 1578 (ref: [MP:1202-1209](#)), and another version reworked by Whittlesey, 1728 (ref: [MP:1190](#))
- Wenceslas Hollar, 1643 (ref: [MP:1187](#) or [MP:139](#))
- David Loggan, 1675 (ref: [MP:1191](#))

These maps by Agas, Hollar and Loggan have been reproduced in an Oxford Historical Society portfolio, *Old plans of Oxford* (1884), which is also [available online](#).

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 (ref: [MP:1185.city](#))

Later 18th-19th century maps

The best later maps are:

- William Williams, 1731 (ref: [MP:140](#))
- Isaac Taylor, 1750 (ref: [MP:1193](#))
- William Faden, 1789 (ref: [MP:1151](#))
- Richard Davis, 1793-4 (ref: [MP:1175.city](#))
- Robert Hoggar, 1850 (ref: [MP:185](#) or [CH/XXIV/39](#))

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 maps and plans you hold?

- [Principal Oxford city maps are listed here](#), with links to zoomable hi-res images on Picture Oxon.
- Our Picture Oxon printed historic maps catalogue lists 170 specifically [Oxford city maps](#). You can search the full catalogue of Printed Historic Maps, by selecting by selecting the [Historic Maps](#) collection on [Picture Oxon](#).
- The catalogue data contains details of map title, cartographer, publisher, subject, place and date.

And how do I go about viewing them?

Viewing online

- About 60% of Oxford city maps and plans in our Printed Historic Maps collection have been digitised and map images (some of them zoomable) can be viewed online by selecting the [Historic Maps](#) collection on [Picture Oxon](#).
- We are working to extend our coverage of high quality digital images of our most important printed historic maps online, but please bear in mind that this is a gradual task, and so only limited resolution copies may be available at this stage.

Visiting Oxfordshire History Centre

- Where high-resolution digital images are not available, visitors to Oxfordshire History Centre may consult the original map, by citing the MP or MPC number from the [Picture Oxon](#) catalogue.
- Where high resolution images are available, original maps will not be produced for personal visitors, for conservation reasons.

Where else can I go?

Websites

- [Bodleian Library Map Room](#) (Oxford University) guide to map collections and online catalogue. Searches can be limited to cartographer, format, scale, date, etc.
- [Bodleian Library Map Room card catalogue](#)
- [British Library map collections](#)
- [British Library online catalogue](#)
- A selection of Oxford town plans can be viewed online through Oxford University's [Digital Bodleian](#) site.

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COUNTY COUNCIL**

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshirehistory