



#ConnectMe – Resource Pack 3

Celebrate your street – together!



Unit 4 – “Digging” up the history Part I – Using Maps

We don’t mean “digging” as in archaeological excavation, that’s a whole other course! Rather we mean that you can reveal the hidden histories of your street, both of the current buildings and what was there before. There are many online resources to help you investigate and, in this Unit, we’re going to look at maps.

The National Library of Scotland map site

<https://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-england-and-wales/>

This is a great, free, resource if you live in Britain. Just by putting your street name in, you can see exactly what was right there 50 or even 100 years ago.

Select the second option “As a [seamless zoomable overlay layer \(1888-1913\)](#) on modern Google and OS maps”. This lets you zoom in and out until you’re sure that you are looking exactly at where you live.

Note: Under “Select a category” you can choose different maps from different periods. If you select “Great Britain” you’ll see lots of Ordnance Survey (OS) maps of different ages.

Type in your street name and then try each of these to pinpoint when your home first appears!

- OS Six Inch, 1888-1913
- OS 24 Inch, 1892-1914
- OS 1:25000, 1937-1961
- OS 1:10560, 1949-1969

If you switch to “England and Wales” under Select a Category, you’ll find a different set of maps which might give you more information but it is the OS maps that will be most useful in pin-pointing exactly where your home is and what was there before.

Devon County Council Historic Environment Viewer

If you live in Devon you can also access the Devon County Council Historic Environment Viewer (if you live elsewhere, there's likely to be a similar resource provided by your local authority) –

<http://map.devon.gov.uk/dccviewer/?bm=OSGreyscale&layers=Historic%20Environment;0;1&activeTab=Historic%20Environment&extent=210064;27188;338387;150088>

Again, you can find your specific address and it gives you oodles of basemap options. For our purposes start with “Historic Environment” and check the boxes for the Historic Environment Record, Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings. These should then show up around your address. Just click on them and this will take you directly to the Heritage Gateway giving you more information – more on this in the next Unit.

Tithe Maps (1840s)

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/historicenvironment/tithe-map/> (For Exeter - click the “select a parish” dropdown and scroll to “Exeter” – all the available Exeter parishes are listed together there.)

Most areas in Britain have now also digitised their early Victorian Tithe Maps. These are big, cumbersome maps and finding your way around them can be tricky because there's no transparency layer on this site to let you see the modern landscape. Also the original maps are often patchily preserved but it can be great fun finding where your home was in the 1840s. Even if it was then just a field, it can give you lots of information.

Top tip

If you're struggling to navigate around your chosen Tithe Map you might like to use the Tithe basemap in the DCC Historic Environment Viewer (see above) instead.



The Tithe Maps tend to be easier to navigate on the DCC Historical Viewer site and, in fact, it loads all of the Devonian Tithe Maps at once so you can move from one to the other without reloading.

Once you've located your street in its early Victorian landscape, make a note of the Apportionment number. You can see fields marked with the numbers "1347" and "1346" here. These codes are linked to a record of who owned the field, who "occupied" or worked it and the plot name, type and size.

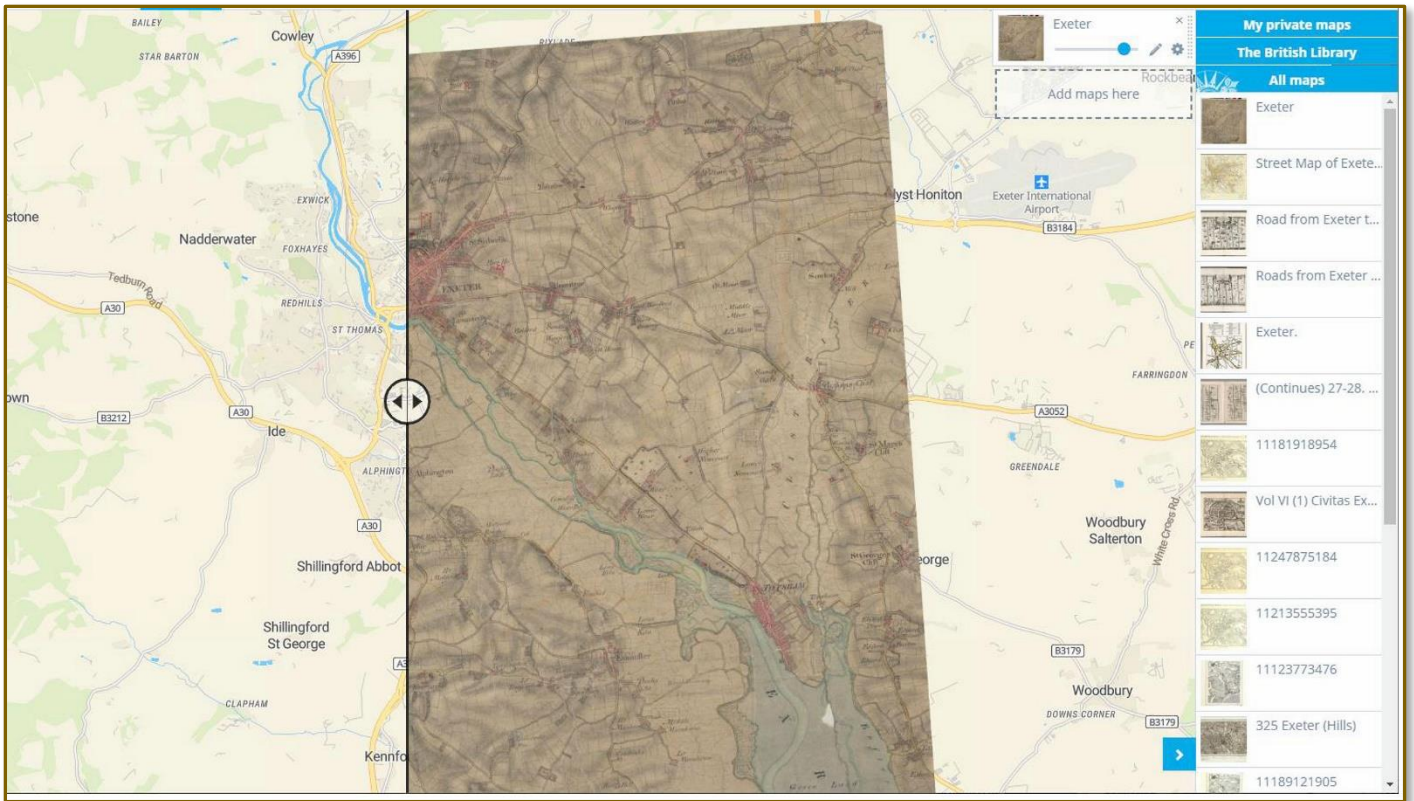
In fact lots of really useful information that you can follow up on and use to get your neighbours interested in their place – even if your buildings are brand new! We'll return to how to look up the Apportionment details the next Unit.

British Library Georeferencer

<http://britishlibrary.georeferencer.com/compare#>

This is a great, free site that allows you to overlay your place with a large range of old maps of all kinds.

You can then choose the mode of comparison, i.e. whether to have them side by side or view as if through a spy glass or to swipe your overlay back and forth, as shown below.



It's definitely worth checking out the wide range of British Library maps available. Once you choose a map you can then click on the "Identifier Number" – this will then give you the data on the map, including the date.

www.old-maps.co.uk

<https://www.old-maps.co.uk/#/Map/294259/92784/12/100687>

This site has a good range of all sorts of old maps that you can check your street against. It is free to access but if you want to zoom in to the detail, you will need to subscribe and there is a charge.