



Shropshire Archives

12. A short guide to early maps

- ◇ When using maps, it is always best to start with the most recent map and work backwards.
- ◇ The *short guide to maps (general)* gives details of Ordnance Survey maps, Tithe Apportionments and printed town and county maps.
- ◇ Most of the maps described in this leaflet are originals. To see them you will need one of our **Readers' Tickets**.

- ◇ Original maps at Shropshire Archives include:
 - ◆ **Estate Maps**
 - ◇ Early maps can often be found in the **Estate Collections**. The major land-holders often commissioned surveys of their land.
 - ◇ To find out who owned the land you can look at the following sources:
 - Kelly's Directories
 - Tithe Maps and apportionments of 1836-c1850
 - The Returns of Owners of Land, 1873 [on the shelves in the Search room]
 - Victoria County History of Shropshire

- ◆ **Enclosures**
- ◇ Open fields and common land have been enclosed from medieval times onwards. The enclosure maps show the division of land and the award tells you the names of the person who gained land.
- ◇ A few enclosure maps have survived for Shropshire, mostly from 1773-1891. To find them, check the subject index cards for Enclosures and the Quarter Sessions list (Q/E).

◆ Deposited Plans

- ◇ These are plans of public undertakings such as railways or canals and show the surrounding land and houses.
- ◇ The plans were deposited with the Clerk of the Peace and a list is in the Quarter Sessions Records (DP).

- ◆ To find out if we hold maps of your area, look at:
 - ⇒ **Index card drawers:** the drawers in the Search Room contain a section for maps (arranged by parish), surveyors and enclosure awards. The index cards do not contain details of maps which have been deposited or given to us recently. For these, you will need to look at the Archive Database.
 - ⇒ **Archive Database:** this contains information about several other maps. You can combine a search for the place with the categories 'maps' or 'plans - buildings'.
- ◇ To prevent damage to the originals, many maps have been copied onto **Aperture Card**. These are in the fiche cabinets at the back of the Reading Room. If there is an aperture card, we ask you to look at this before deciding whether or not to request the original.
- ◇ Some maps are extremely large and/or fragile and we cannot always produce them in the Search Room. In this case you may have to rely on the aperture card or make a special appointment with our conservator (for which there is a charge).

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Gateway to the history of Shropshire and Telford

Short guide to sources no. 12 (01/07)

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