



Manx National Heritage
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**Library &
Archive Service**

MAPS AND PLANS OF THE ISLE OF MAN

Public Information Sheet No. 6 (revised February 2010)

Maps and Plans are an invaluable source for the study of the history and the development of the Island, providing information on place names, settlements, development, coastal erosion, land divisions and estates, mines, railways etc.

The following is a brief guide to the collections held in the Library, including a list of sources.

N.B. Manx National Heritage's Library & Archive Service only holds historical mapping.

Early mapping

Prior to the Ordnance Survey a number of cartographers surveyed the Island at a variety of scales and these are recorded in Early Maps of the Isle of Man by A.M. Cubbon, available from the Museum shop). Some of these are also illustrated in a book of facsimile maps published by Shearwater Press. In addition a carto-bibliography of printed maps covering the Island prepared by Frances Coakley is available in draft form for consultation in the Reading Room and also in abbreviated form on her Manx Notebook web site at:

<http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/maps/index.htm>

Ordnance Survey

The Ordnance Survey was commissioned by the British Government to survey the Island and they produced a series of maps between 1866 and 1871 at the following scales:

- 1:500 Douglas and Ramsey only
- 1:2500 Whole Island by Parish (25 inch = 1 mile)
- 1:10560 Whole Island (6 inch = 1 mile)
- 1:63360 Whole Island (1 inch = 1 mile)

There is a reference book for the 25 inch plans arranged by parish which gives the acreage and land use for each plot of land - whether arable, wood, house and garden, rough pasture etc. For an account of the survey see Neely in the Selected Reading List section at the end of this information sheet.

Unfortunately the large scale mapping was *not* revised until the 1950s and so there is no equivalent of the County Series for England with its frequent revisions. This may cause problems when charting the development of places like Douglas as the plans predate the various promenade extensions and harbour developments.

One inch scale maps were revised at intervals but at such a small scale they don't show a great deal of detail.

Isle of Man Survey Current Mapping

In the 1990s the Isle of Man took on the task of maintaining its own mapping and the Department of Local Government and the Environment was given responsibility for this role. The **Isle of Man Survey** was the name given to this project and the current Government Cartographer oversees the work. The first task was to digitise the large scale mapping and this was done under contract by the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain. An annual revision process was then set up and the technical aspects of the work such as the capture of aerial photography & photogrammetry are put out to tender on a regular basis. As of 2009 the current contractors are Fugro-BKS Ltd of Northern Ireland. The mapping is often referred to as "DOLGE" mapping, "CLARE Plans" (after the maps provided by the Land Registry) or "OS", but the correct term is IoM Survey mapping.

The Isle of Man Survey's main task is to act as custodians of the large scale mapping of the Island, and is charged with developing, licensing and promoting this mapping and derived small scale products. As well as undertaking survey management, data development, licensing and commercial activities, the Survey also act as technical advisors to the Island's government mapping and GIS user group; MANNGIS.

Since 1996, the Island's large scale mapping has been provided to customers electronically or as hard copy plots and mapping is offered at the following scales:

- Large scale vector @ 1:1250 for the main towns and 1:2500 for the rest of the Island
- Medium Scale vector @1:10,000 scale
- Small scale Raster 1:50,000 basic topographic map
- Terrain modelling and aerial ortho-photography are also available
- Tourist mapping: 1:25,000 scale Outdoor Leisure Map and 1:100,000 scale Road Map are available from retailers around the Island. The Ordnance Survey also produce the 1:50,000 scale Landranger map of the Isle of Man (LR95) with the help of the mapping service.

The Isle of Man Survey has an extensive archive of mapping and aerial photography and offers a site specific historical facility. For any given site the following data can be provided either electronically or in hard copy.

Mapping:

- 1868/70 1st Series mapping – 1:2500 scale approx (geo-referenced TIFF format or hard copy reproduction)
- 1950s six inch scale mapping – 1:10,000 scale approx (non geo-referenced PDF or hard copy reproduction)

1970s six inch scale mapping – 1:10,000 scale approx (non geo-referenced PDF or hard copy reproduction)
1980s 1:1250 or 1:2500 scale mapping for the main towns (non geo-referenced PDF or hard copy reproduction)

Aerial photography:

1964 monochrome (PDF scan or hard copy reproduction/enlargement)
1972 monochrome (PDF scan or hard copy reproduction/enlargement)
2001 colour - 20cm resolution (geo-referenced MRSID or TIFF formats)
2006 colour – 10 & 20cm resolution (geo-referenced MRSID or TIFF formats)
2009 colour - 18cm resolution (geo-referenced MRSID or TIFF formats)

Contact details for the mapping service:

By Post: The Senior Cartographer, Department of Local Government and the Environment

Murray House, Mount Havelock, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 2SF

By Phone: +44 (0) 1624 685924

By e-mail: mapping@dlge.gov.im

The mapping service's website contains more information about current mapping activities and includes downloadable information sheets, price lists and educational maps.

<http://www.gov.im/dlge/planning/cartography.xml>

Geological Survey

This was conducted by G.W.Lamplugh between 1892 and 1897 and published at 1:10560 scale. Accompanying it is a volume of the Memoirs of the Geological Survey published in 1903.

Also available are copies of the Drift edition at 1:63360 for 1898, 1913 and 1966 and the current edition - Isle of Man Solid and Drift Geology (2001) at 1:50,000 as flat or folded maps

Library Ref O43

IOM Government, Department of Local Government and the Environment

Local Plans and Written Statements.

A series of published statements with accompanying maps have been produced in recent years by this Department.

Area Plans

Draft Area Plan for the South published October 2009

Local Plans

Arbory and East Rushen; Braddan Parish District; Castletown; Douglas; Foxdale; Kirk Michael; Laxey; Onchan; Peel; Port Erin; Port St Mary; Ramsey; St John's; Sulby.

Strategic Plans:

Eastern Sector; North Eastern Sector; North Western Sector; Southern Sector; Western Sector.

Library Ref B60

Annotated/Antiquarian maps

A hand annotated version of the 1:10560 scale Ordnance Survey of the 1860s is available in the Library with notes from research by Cubbon, Kermode, Savage, Craine, Megaw and Lamplugh. This through field observation shows archaeological sites and place names around the Island which have not been recorded by the OS.

Goad plans

These are detailed street plans of the main shopping area of Douglas and currently cover the period from 1971 to 2007 at regular intervals. They name the occupier of each shop unit and chart the development of the retail centre which makes them an invaluable source for students.

Reference pDG 69-77M & pDG62-64L

Kay Plans

These were purchased by the Library in 1953 from an Architectural practice based in Athol Street, Douglas. They consist of a series of hand coloured maps with amendments up to the 1940/50s and are based on the first large scale ordnance survey. (1:500 or 1:1250). There are about forty sheets covering:

Castletown; Douglas; Laxey; Onchan; Peel; Port Erin and Ramsey

N.B. There is not a complete set for each area.

Land Utilisation Survey

At 1:63360 for 1932 and 1963, based on OS map. There is also a report of the survey for 1932 updated by Norman Pye to 1939 which was published in 1941.

Abandonment Plans / Non-Coal Mines

These vitally important plans dating from the mid 19th century to c.1914, record the position of individual mine shafts and plot the geographical location of underground workings in the Isle of Man. All Abandonment Plans are held by the Library on deposit from the Health and Safety Executive, HM Inspectorate of Mines.

Soil Survey

Mapped by B.S.Kear and drawn onto the 1969 1:63360 OS Map with accompanying book. Ref A224/37 & pXX.21.L
See also Soils of the Isle of Man by Fullen et al. Library Ref A224/78q

Woods Atlas

James Woods was a Surveyor for the Asylum Board who compiled a new Atlas and Gazetteer of the IOM, published in 1867. This consists of seventeen maps describing the Civil and Ecclesiastical boundaries of each Parish, and the boundaries of the several Baronies, freeholds and quarterlands, as well as the several farms as they were then held. It has reference tables showing proprietors of land with the manorial description and extent of land held.

Other Maps and Plans

As well as those mentioned above the Library has a collection which includes commercially published maps, archaeological site plans, nautical charts, building plans and drawings and estate maps. Mining, railway development and land divisions are some of the topics well covered in the collections. These are listed in card indexes which are arranged by subject/place or Cartographer /Publisher.

Each card describes a map or plan and gives its size and format together with a library reference which is explained as follows:

e.g. p.BN.1.L = printed map/plan. Braddan. number 1. large sequence.
or LO.2.M = map/plan. Lonan. number 2. medium sequence.

These plans are a useful source as an alternative to OS maps for example in showing the growth of Douglas.

N.B. When looking in this index under place, remember to check under Parish.
e.g. Cronkbourne see Braddan, Cronkbourne.

Copying of Maps and Plans

Normal copyright conditions apply to maps and plans. Single copies are permitted for study and research purposes with the exception of recent Ordnance Survey maps from which we are only allowed to make one actual size A4 copy. In addition we reserve the right to refuse copying should their condition mean this would be likely to cause damage.

NB: We are only able to copy up to A3 size as we do not have a plan copier.

Selected Reading List

Coakley, Frances

Printed Maps of the Isle of Man 1583-1900.

(Unpublished research manuscript).

Archive Ref 9318

Cubbon, A.M.

Early Maps of the Isle of Man. (4th edition).

Douglas: M.N.H. reprinted 1994.

Library Ref A365

Fullen, M.A., Harris, J., Kear, B.S.

Soils of the Isle of Man

Douglas: Centre for Manx Studies, 1996

ISBN 1 899 338 04 7

Library Ref A224/78q

Harley, J.B.

Ordnance Survey Maps: a descriptive manual.

Southampton: Ordnance Survey, 1975.

Library Ref 526.8HAR

Kear, B.S.

The Isle of Man: Its soils and their significance.

North of England Soil Discussion Group, c.1980.

Library Ref A224/37

Lamplugh, G.W.

The Geology of the Isle of Man.

London: HMSO, 1903.

Library Ref A224

Maps of the Isle of Man 1280-1760.

Douglas: Shearwater Press, 1975.

ISBN 0 904980 00 6

Library Ref 034f

Neely, G.J.H.

Maps and Archaeology

In IOM Natural History & Antiquarian Society
Proceedings, vol.3, Feb 1930, pp 388-404.
Library Ref L6

Oliver, Richard

Ordnance Survey Maps: a concise guide for historians.

London: Charles Close Society, 1993.
ISBN 1 870598 13 X
Library Ref 526OLI

Ordnance Survey

Book of Reference to the Plans of the IOM.

London: HMSO, 1868-70.
(published in 17 parts, one for each Parish)
Library Ref 0

Pye, Norman

The Land of Britain: The Report of the Land.

Utilisation Survey of Britain, Part 44 Isle of Man.
London: Geographical Publications, 1941.
Library Ref F68/15

Speed, John

**The Isle of Man and English Counties Anno
1610.**

Douglas: Shearwater Press, 1975.
Library Ref O35f

Woods, James

A New Atlas and Gazetteer of the IOM.

London: Day & Sons, 1867.
Library Ref Counter

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Website: <http://www.gov.im/mnh/heritage/library/nationalLibrary.xml>

Opening times:

Monday to Saturday – 10.00am to 5.00pm and all Bank Holidays (except Christmas and Boxing Day);
Tynwald Day – 2.00 to 5.00pm. Closed Sundays and for one week in late January.