

MANUSCRIPT MAPS IN DERBYSHIRE RECORD OFFICE 1600-2000

Introduction

Before the end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth I in 1603, maps of any kind were rare. In the four hundred years since then, maps of all types have become so commonplace that they are now often the starting point for a wide variety of historical enquiries. Village surveys, histories of buildings, landscape studies, investigations of urban or industrial development, agriculture, defence, transport and communications, land drainage, mineral extraction, and public utilities: these are just a few types of enquiry for which map evidence may be useful – if it survives.

This guide is to *unpublished* archival maps in the collections in Derbyshire Record Office. It is not a list of every map in the Record Office, nor does inclusion in this guide mean that maps are in the public domain: many are copyright. However, manuscript maps, particularly those found in family, parish and estate collections, form the largest group of cartographic material, especially for the 18th-20th centuries, available to the historical researcher.

This list is a reference tool to be used in conjunction with the detailed finding aids to archive series available in the Search Room in Derbyshire Record Office, New St., Matlock, Derbyshire. To find out how to consult them, see the record office website

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/record.office or email record.office@derbyshire.gov.uk or write for our leaflet *Information for Users* to Derbyshire Record Office, postal address: Libraries and Heritage Dept., County Hall, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3AG.

Many manuscript maps are both large and fragile. Like all archives, they must be handled with care because they are unique, irreplaceable originals. Consequently, even where copyright is not an issue, few are suitable for photocopying. It is always advisable to view a map before asking how best, it can be copied. There are usually a number of options and the Duty Archivist will advise you of the options.

Estate maps

This is the generic term for manuscript maps produced for individual landowners to document their property. Examples in the Record Office date from the 16th to the 20th centuries, may be on paper or parchment, and may vary in size from small sketch maps to extremely large items, several feet both in length and width. Larger maps have often suffered damage from poor storage in the past. Just as the format of estate maps is very diverse, so the scale, sophistication and detail of the cartography may vary greatly. Because they were produced for private or institutional owners, estate maps often include elaborate cartouches, borders and other decoration such as compasses. The map title may include the owner's name as well as that of the surveyor and some, but not all, maps are dated.

It was expensive to produce a manuscript map and so, even for large and prosperous estates, they were commissioned at infrequent intervals. For some estates, no maps at all have been created or have survived. Moreover, estate maps often omit any information not of direct relevance to the owner in the management of his property. Surrounding areas, even if contiguous, may not be recorded and buildings in other ownership in the area of the map may not be included. Dispersed fields may be shown only in relation to one another, not to the landscape in general. Not only agricultural use is shown on estate maps. Early mills, forges, mines and other industrial enterprises may also be noted if these were of significance to the owner.

Many estate maps were drawn to accompany a contemporaneous survey, typically with names of farms, fields, tenants, acreages, cultivation and rent payable. These surveys may be in a separate document or, in some instances, form part of the map itself.

Enclosure Maps

The height of the period of Parliamentary enclosure from the late eighteenth to the mid nineteenth century reflected increased pressure to bring land into cultivation. In Derbyshire, though, many areas had already been enclosed and so parliamentary enclosure map and awards relate only to about 30%-40% of the county. Commons and waste land were enclosed by Parliamentary Bill, Act and

Award. Villages and towns may not be noted on an enclosure map.

Commissioners were appointed to survey and then oversee the distribution of allotted lands. Minutes of their meetings and objections to proposed allotments may survive. The main documents are the award, with details of allotment ownership and acreage, and the accompanying map in which each plot was numbered. The status of field boundaries, roads and footpaths were also noted in the award. Finally, the map and award were enrolled in the records of County Quarter Sessions and it is these copies which may be consulted in the Record Office.

Tithe Maps

The passing of the Tithe Commutation Act in 1836 led to the drawing up for each parish with land subject to tithe a large-scale map and accompanying award. By these, tithe liabilities were commuted into money payments, also noted in the award. Other details include landowner, occupier, field and/or farm name, acreage, and cultivation. A very large series of Tithe Maps and Awards survives for Derbyshire parishes, dating mostly from the 1840s. Village centres may be shown and roads, rivers and, where appropriate, railways are also recorded. Three identical copies of each Tithe Map and Award were produced: one for the Tithe Commission, one for the parish and one for the diocese. It is the diocesan copies which you can

consult in the Record Office, together with those for some individual parishes.

Poor Rate maps

With the transfer of responsibility for the poor from ecclesiastical parishes to local authorities after 1834 maps were sometimes drawn up to show how properties were rated for poor law purposes. These maps could be based on printed Ordnance Survey maps, but could also be manuscript.

Quarter Sessions Deposited Plans

Before the creation of County Councils in 1889, county administration was the responsibility of County Quarter Sessions and their chief officer, the Clerk of the Peace. From the late 18th century, plans of proposed roads, canals, and similar works, promoted by Act of Parliament, had to be lodged with the Clerk of the Peace. Over time, these came to include routes of proposed railways and tramways and public utilities such as gas, electricity and water works.

Not all planned developments were implemented: this is particularly true of the 'railway mania' period when all sorts of ambitious schemes were devised. Consequently, the series of deposited plans now available for consultation in the Record Office includes maps of railways which were never built. Because of the specific purpose for which deposited plans were drawn up, many are simply route maps with details of riparian features and landowners, but no other information

Mining maps

In a county such as Derbyshire where extraction of minerals has taken place since Roman times, maps of underground resources and workings are important. Unfortunately, mining plans were often so heavily used that many show evidence of substantial wear and tear. It is not until the later 19th century that series are likely to be found. These vary from delineations of surface features to maps showing underground workings. Large industrial concerns such as the Butterley Company are often the source of mineral rights maps

Manorial maps

Plans showing manorial estates in Derbyshire are relatively few, but where they exist they are often the earliest examples of local maps. As with estate maps, accompanying surveys may provide useful information about tenants.

Other manuscript maps

Architectural drawings of houses fall outside the scope of this list, but garden plans are included. One of the largest of these is a design for the grounds at Foremark Hall in the 1730s. Other 18th century plans include examples of the work of the prolific Midlands landscape designer William Emes.

Printed maps

There are many printed maps you can consult in Derbyshire Record Office. These include: engraved views of country houses and grounds; county-wide

maps; Ordnance Survey maps, especially 1st and 2nd edition 25in:1 mile editions; printed maps to be found with sale catalogues; Land Values maps - and many others