

# Marvellous Maps at Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies



## Did you know...?

We have been making maps for thousands of years. The **oldest** known maps date from 2300 BC and are on clay tablets. The first **world maps** began to be made by Europeans in the 1550s.

**English county maps** were first developed in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century. We have the earliest county map for Hertfordshire (1577) and over 170 other county maps up to 1764. Over this time, accuracy and standardisation improved.

**Estate maps** (custom-made maps of one person or organisations's property) became more common following the Dissolution of Monasteries (1536) when former monastic land was sold. Our oldest estate map for Digswell and was made in 1599.

**Ordnance Survey maps** were first made in the 1740s. The aim was to create detailed maps to enable more precise military campaigns. We have OS maps dating back the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Tithe maps** were introduced from the 1830s when a tax which used to be paid in produce/livestock was changed to a cash payment. These maps came with valuation books, so that the new tax could be calculated fairly. We have 120 tithe maps for Hertfordshire.

**Inland Revenue maps** were created in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to enable the government to charge a new land tax. Rather than creating new maps, the government re-used existing OS maps.

Find out more at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hals](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hals)

