Map Collections in Cambridge

For details of map collections outside Cambridge see Information Sheet 2B.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

Within Cambridge University and its affiliated institutions there are over 100 libraries. A full list can be found in the Libraries Directory at www.libraries.cam.ac.uk/libraries-directory/libraries-a-z and many libraries also have LibGuides at https://libguides.cam.ac.uk/home. Only those libraries with significant map collections are listed below. Remember to contact all libraries in advance of a visit to check on entry restrictions, availability of material, delivery times, etc.

University Library (West Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DR)

The Map Department of Cambridge University Library (Tel: 01223 333041; email: maps@lib.cam.ac.uk) contains the primary collection of cartographic material within Cambridge University Library. It holds over 1.3 million maps and several thousand atlases of all parts of the world and for all periods.

However, maps and atlases can also be found in other University Library departments such as: Rare Books; Manuscripts & University Archives; East Asian Collections, especially the Chinese Collection.

Further information about the Library and its departments can be found at: www.lib.cam.ac.uk/ (click on Collections and Collections & Departments).

Only a very small proportion of the Library's cartographic holdings can be identified via iDiscover the Library's online catalogue (https://idiscover.lib.cam.ac.uk/) or via Janus, the University's Archive catalogue (https://janus.lib.cam.ac.uk/; click on Participating Institutions and Cambridge University Map Department). Further information on the Map Department’s catalogues can be found at www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/finding-maps.

Colleges

Maps and atlases can be found in the library and archive collections of most of the Colleges. Holdings – manuscript and printed – may relate specifically to the history of the College and College lands but may also be more general in scope. Few of the College collections are strong in more modern materials although St John’s College has an extensive collection of older Ordnance Survey maps. Some Colleges have transferred their archive material to the University Archives which are held in Cambridge University Library. Each College should be approached directly to check on access restrictions, etc.

It is possible to identify some, but by no means all, of the University’s cartographic holdings via iDiscover the online catalogue (https://idiscover.lib.cam.ac.uk/) and via Janus the University’s Archive catalogue (https://janus.lib.cam.ac.uk/com) for more information.

Departmental and Associated Libraries

British Antarctic Survey
High Cross, Madingley Road, Cambridge, CB3 0ET
Tel: 01223 221400
E-mail: basmagic@bas.ac.uk
www.bas.ac.uk/team/business-teams/mapping-and-geographic-information/

Good collection of printed and manuscript maps of the Antarctic. Also collections of aerial photographs and satellite images.

Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs (CUCAP)
Department of Geography, University of Cambridge, Downing Place, Cambridge CB2 3EN
Tel: 01223 333391
E-mail: cucap@geog.cam.ac.uk
www.cambridgeairphotos.com/

An important collection of nearly 500,000 aerial photographs taken since 1945 mostly covering Britain but also including Ireland and some European countries.

PTO for more information
➢ July 2020: The CUCAP collection is not available for consultation whilst arrangements for its ongoing status are put in place. However, some of the images can be viewed on Cambridge Digital Library (CUDL) at https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/landscapehistories/. Using the CUCAP catalogue at www.cambridgeairphotos.com/map/ will help you identify useful images - a pale dot in the centre of the marker pin indicates that there is a thumb nail image, some of which will also be viewable in CUDL.
➢ Also try: Britain from Above www.britainfromabove.org.uk/ (run jointly by Historic Environment Scotland (HES), Historic England (HE) and The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)) ; Ordnance Survey Air Photo Mosaics of Scotland, 1944-1950 https://maps.nls.uk/os/air-photos/
➢ Alternative sources of photos might be locatable in NAPLIB directory of aerial photographic collections in the United Kingdom, 2nd ed. 1999. [L695.b.1 plus copy at Map Room enquiry desk].

Department of Geography
Map Library
Downing Site, Downing Place,
Cambridge CB2 3EN
Tel: 01223 333391
E-mail: library@geog.cam.ac.uk
www.geog.cam.ac.uk/facilities/maplibrary/
Open to visitors by prior appointment only. Access is only permissible during the main Geography Library’s opening hours. Please note that the Map Library closes 30 minutes before the main Library.

Earth Sciences
Downing Site,
Downing Street,
Cambridge, CB2 3EQ
Tel: 01223 333429
E-mail: libraryhelp@esc.cam.ac.uk
www.esc.cam.ac.uk/library
Large collection of geological and related mapping. Also some OS County Series 6” maps.

Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI)
Lensfield Road, Cambridge,
CB2 1ER
Tel: 01223 336552
E-mail: library@spri.cam.ac.uk
www.spri.cam.ac.uk/library/
Historical and current topographic and earth science mapping – especially glaciological maps and oceanographic charts – for the polar regions.

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Cambridgeshire Collection
Cambridge Central Library,
Lion Yard, Cambridge,
CB2 3QD
Tel: 0345 0455225
Email: Cambridgeshire.collection@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/local-studies/cambridgeshire-collection
A strong local collection that is easily accessible. Includes OS mapping and GOAD plans as well as photographs and other Cambridgeshire material. Located on the 3rd floor of the Public Library.

Cambridgeshire Archives
The Dock, Ely
CB7 4GS
Opened in Ely 10 December 2019
Tel: 01223 699399
E-mail: cambms.archives@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/archives
Holdes official/government mapping, a good range of OS maps plus manuscript items of Cambridgeshire. Date range = 17th century to present.

On-line catalogue for the Cambridgeshire Collection is at: https://cambridgeshire.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/OPAC/HOME?HOMEPRMS--GENPARAMS (go to Advanced Search and select Location Cambridgeshire Collection and Collection Map or Illustration, etc). Remember that not everything is catalogued!

This Information Sheet is available online at http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/information-sheets

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