

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. 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. (Web pages: <https://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps> ; LibGuide: https://libguides.cam.ac.uk/cartographic_resources)

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 *ArchiveSearch*, the University's Archive catalogue (<https://archivesearch.lib.cam.ac.uk/>). 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 *ArchiveSearch* the University's Archive catalogue (<https://archivesearch.lib.cam.ac.uk/>).

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

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 2021 : 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/1>. 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.

Holdings include some early and current OS mapping plus some aerial photographs and foreign mapping. Large scale OS mapping mostly of Cambridgeshire.

Department of 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: 01223 728519 / 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.

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!

Cambridgeshire Archives
The Dock, Ely
CB7 4GS

Tel: 01223 699399
E-mail:
cambs.archives@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/archives

Holds official/government mapping, a good range of OS maps plus manuscript items of Cambridgeshire. Date range = 17th century to present.

Opened in Ely on 10 December 2019

On-line catalogue <https://calm.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>. 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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