

Finding local maps of Wheathampstead

There are many sources where you can find local maps and other research material such as aerial photography and LIDAR.

Local library

The Harpenden branch of the County library has a local history collection that contains many useful local Ordnance Survey maps. The collection is not complete because it is based on donations.

Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS)

HALS has many maps and other resources in its collection. The catalogue can be explored online at <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/hertfordshire-archives-and-local-studies>

Early County maps of Hertfordshire

'Four county maps of Hertfordshire' by Donald Hodson, Hertfordshire Publications, 1985. This book is now out of print but available from local libraries. It contains reproductions of the John Seller 1676 map, John Oliver 1695 map, John Warburton 1749 and Andrew Bryant 1822. Copies of the Bryant map are for sale at HALS (see above for hyperlink).

'County maps and histories' by Valerie Scott and Tony Rook, Quiller Press, 1989 (paperback 2001), contains reproductions of the maps of Christopher Saxton 1577, Joan Blaeu 1645, John Speed 1676, John Oliver 1695, Robert Morden 1701, Thomas Kitchin 1748, Andrew Bryant 1822 and Thomas Moule 1842. It is out of print but copies are for sale online.

Dury and Andrews 1766

'A topographical map of Hertfordshire' 1766. Copies of this map are for sale at HALS (see above for hyperlink).

See also *'Dury and Andrews' map of Hertfordshire - society and landscape in the eighteenth century* by Macnair, Rowe and Williamson, Oxbow Books, 2016. This book is still in print and is available from local libraries. It includes a DVD containing Dury and Andrews' map in its original form, digitally redrawn, and more than 20 maps, based on the digital version, that analyse particular features such as churches, parks, woodland, windmills etc.

Thomas Yeoman 1758

The earliest detailed map of Wheathampstead, commissioned by Westminster Abbey to show its holdings in the parish, it shows the fields and buildings that made up Bury Farm, the Mill Grounds, Martials Wood and Butlers Close.

This map is part of the Westminster Muniments collection.

<https://www.westminster-abbey.org/about-the-abbey/library-research/muniment-collection>

A paper copy is kept in the Wheathampstead History Society collection.

Mumford 1799

This is a highly detailed and accurate tithe map commissioned by Westminster Abbey. It is the largest map in the Westminster Muniments collection (see above for hyperlink). A paper copy is kept in the Wheathampstead History Society collection.

The WHS has a copy of the index to this map in poor condition and plans to obtain a better copy in the near future.

Tithe map 1844

Tithe maps were surveyed nationally in the 1840s following the 1836 Tithe Commutation Act which required tithes in kind to be converted to more convenient monetary payments called tithe rentcharge. The Wheathampstead and the Harpenden tithe maps are available to buy as a digital copy from HALS (see above for hyperlink). A paper copy of the 1844 Wheathampstead tithe map (redrawn by a WEA research project in the 1970s) is kept in the Wheathampstead History Society collection. An index that names each plot and identifies owners, occupiers and land use (grass, arable, wood) is also available.

Ordnance Survey

The National Library of Scotland website provides access to a wide range of OS maps from the First Series in 1830s until the 1970s. This collection includes the highly detailed 25" to the mile series that was surveyed between the 1870s and the early twentieth century.

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore>

Aerial photographs

'*Britain from above*' is an online resource based on the *Aerofilms* collection. *Aerofilms* was a company set up in 1919 to take aerial photos and operated into the 1980s. The collection is now owned by English Heritage.

<https://www.britainfromabove.org.uk>

LIDAR

LIDAR is 'light detection and ranging' using lasers. A laser in a light aircraft scans the ground surface and provides data that can produce a topographic map. LIDAR is capable of penetrating through trees and undergrowth, giving an accurate 3D representation of the terrain underneath.

To view LIDAR, go to www.lidarfinder.com