

Map Websites

There are lots of websites that provide online content. The list below isn't exhaustive - but the best resources are at the top of the list. Authors welcome any additions.

Main websites with wide ranges of online mapping content

Layers of London <https://www.layersoflondon.org/> has a very wide collection of London maps, including most of the major London wide maps, and also for Westminster a good collection of plans covering parts of Westminster (see Westminster & Southwark Development 17301846 overlay and the Westminster maps overlay)

National Library of Scotland <https://maps.nls.uk/> is a wonderful site, that includes old Ordnance Survey maps (including large scale maps) and a wide selection of other maps as well. Well worth spending time on the site - the georeferenced maps are easy to use, but as well as these there are many others that have not been georeferenced. Then there is the section on London Town Plans <https://maps.nls.uk/towns/london.html> which contains a very wide range of non Ordnance Survey London maps and plans.

The British Library <https://www.bl.uk/> has the originals of many London maps and plans, many of which were available online until the library was hacked. The library have scanning maps and plans on Flickr.com (starting with the King George III & IV Topographical collection <https://www.flickr.com/photos/britishlibrary/albums/72157716220271206/>). To see if an online copy exists use the catalogue to search for the map, and the entry will tell you if an image exists, and if so where to find it. Note that the catalogue currently excludes manuscripts. If it is not online, you can get a readers ticket, see and photograph the maps free (for your use only).

Mapco Map and plan collection online website <https://mapco.net/> has a very wide range of London maps. These include four editions of the Victorian Edward Stanford maps of London for 1864, 1872, 1878, 1897

Grub Street Project <https://www.grubstreetproject.net/london/maps/> contains a very broad range of London maps and plans - including links to the original institutions holding the maps, and where known their copyright status. The viewer also provides a place and people index - you can search for places, roads or people and get a very detailed description of the place/road/person and for places a list of maps that include that place.

The David Rumsey Map collection at Stamford <https://www.davidrumsey.com/> has a very wide collection of maps, including many London maps. It contains high resolution images. Although they are not public domain, they are happy that the maps can be used widely including commercially (but individual maps can't be offered directly for sale). It also has an interesting AI tool.

OldMapsOnline <https://www.oldmapsonline.org/> used to be one of the best places to search for local maps, and contains many links to maps that were at the British Library (see https://www.oldmapsonline.org/en/City_of_Westminster if you can make it work). The links back to the British Library catalogue don't however work. The new version of the site is harder to use, charges for an increased range of maps, and we have yet to work out if it is worthwhile paying for membership (currently either \$120 or \$30 a year - there are also very high monthly rates). Even the top membership level appears to have considerable restrictions on use.

The London Archives has The London Picture Archives <https://www.londonpicturearchive.org.uk/> which holds many maps and plans of London (including ones that are unique), Sadly the interface uses a rather large watermark that makes the maps or plans difficult to use. You can buy specific watermark free images.

The Underground Map <https://www.theundergroundmap.com/> has an odd interface (focusing on street histories) but also has a wide range of maps from 1750 to modern days that can be overlaid using their interface (and if you become a member of their substack service apparently they can be downloaded in some format)

Mappalondon.com <http://www.mappalondon.com/> has another collection of London Maps

The Dictionary of Victorian London <https://www.victorianlondon.org/frame-maps.htm> has an index page showing some maps from that period

The Maphouse <https://www.maps.thehunthouse.com/Maps.htm> has a small number high resolution maps that can be bought to download, but also has a really useful page https://www.maps.thehunthouse.com/London_Miscellany.htm which includes many old books on London, and lots of street finding aids (recommend Bruce's Lists of London Street Name Changes available for a small charge). Lockie's Topography of London from 1810 is also useful to guides.

Vision of Britain <https://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/maps/> has some maps, but they are not very detailed. Also more information on places, including data like population over time.

British History Online <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/catalogue/maps> has seven digitised London maps (quality of scans varies) and also hosts the Victoria County History volumes for some areas of London - these can also contain useful maps and plans

Websites that provide specific maps online

Map of Early Modern London (University of Victoria) <https://mapoflondon.uvic.ca/map.htm> takes the Civitas Londinium or Agas map (only covers fringes of Westminster).

Locating London's Past <https://www.locatinglondon.org/> based on Rocque's 1746 map (and the 1871-1880 OS maps), but contains a lot of other data including information from the Old Bailey Online project.

Romantic London <https://www.romanticlondon.org/> is a site that provides Horwoods map of London (1792-1799) and William Faden's 1813 later version, together with many other text and image resources. The mapping on this site is good, but I've had difficulties in displaying the map in the past.

The LSE <https://booth.lse.ac.uk/map> hosts the Charles Booth archive, and has a georeferenced Booth map (1898), and links to the notebooks that records many interesting details of each area. The information on this site are public domain marked so can be used widely.

The University of Michigan at <https://websites.umich.edu/~risotto/> hosts the Booth map (1889). Comparisons with the better researched LSE version can show social changes during the 1890s

John Strype's A Survey of the Cities of London and Westminster <https://www.dhi.ac.uk/strype/> contains some maps and plans, as well as the complete text of the Survey.

St Martin's in the Fields <https://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/historic-maps-of-the-parish-of-st-martin-in-the-fields/> has a page of historical maps of the parish.

The Genealogist <https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/> contains two specialised maps - the National Archives tithe surveys and the Lloyd George valuation surveys and associated source documents. It is a great resource for guides and historians who want to know more about specific buildings, but sadly is only available on a subscription basis.