

# Maps and Plans

## PLANS AVAILABLE ELSEWHERE

SCOTLANDSPACES: selected maps and plans from the RHP series, with other topographical, archaeological and local history resources, from the NRS, and also Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and the National Library of Scotland [www.scotlandspaces.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspaces.gov.uk).

ARCHITECTURAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL PLANS: collections include HES, [www.rcahms.gov.uk](http://www.rcahms.gov.uk); National Library of Scotland, [www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk); university and local archives.

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS: contact the Map Library of the National Library of Scotland at Causewayside, Edinburgh, or see its online resources at [www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk).

COUNTY AND TOWN PLANS: see the NLS online resources of plans at [www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk).

SHIPBUILDING: many plans relating to west of Scotland shipbuilders are in the custody of Glasgow City Archives and Glasgow University Archives. For details, see NRS online catalogue and their websites. *The Shipbuilding Industry: a Guide to Historical Records*, ed. L A Ritchie (1992) is still useful.

## FURTHER READING

*Descriptive List of Plans in the Scottish Record Office* (4 vols, HMSO 1966 -1988). All the descriptions of topographical plans within the range RHP1-4999 have been incorporated into the online catalogue, but the introductions are still useful.

Rosemary Gibson, *The Scottish Countryside: Its Changing Face, 1700-2000* (2007). Traces the development of the Scottish landscape, based on NRS records.

## NRS OPENING HOURS

The Historical Search Room, General Register House, is open to the public Monday to Friday, 9am-4.30pm, except for certain public holidays.

The search facility at Thomas Thomson House, 99 Bankhead Crossway North, Edinburgh EH11 4DX, is open to the public, **strictly by appointment**, on Wednesdays, 9.30am-12.30pm and 1.30-4.00pm, except for certain public holidays. To make an appointment, please contact the **Historical Search Room**.

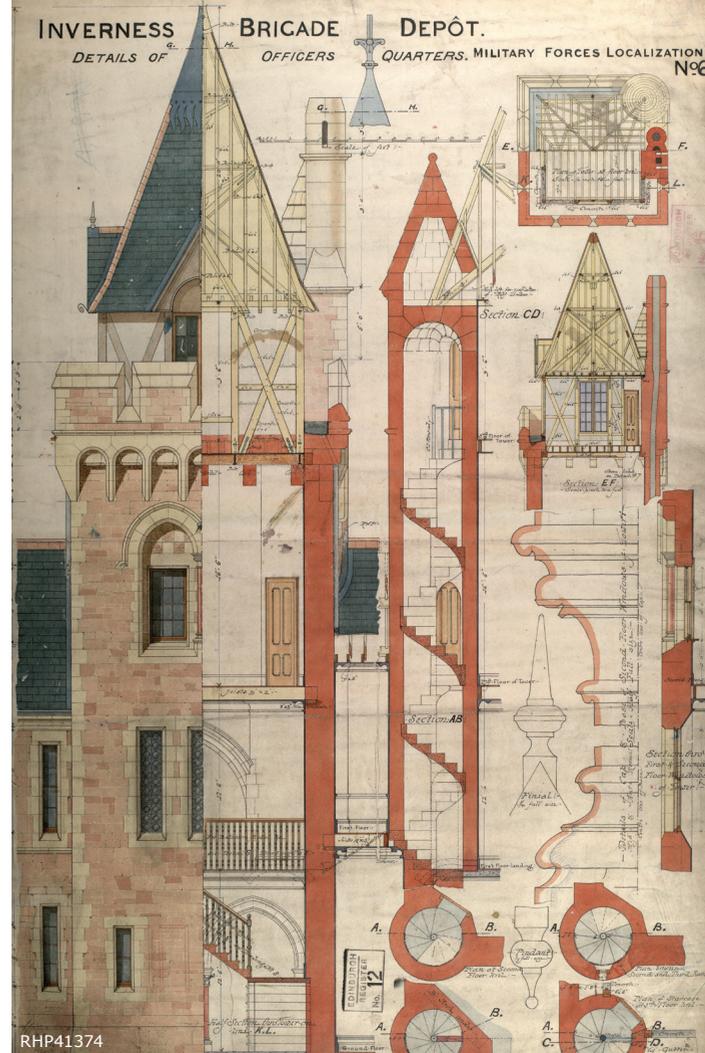
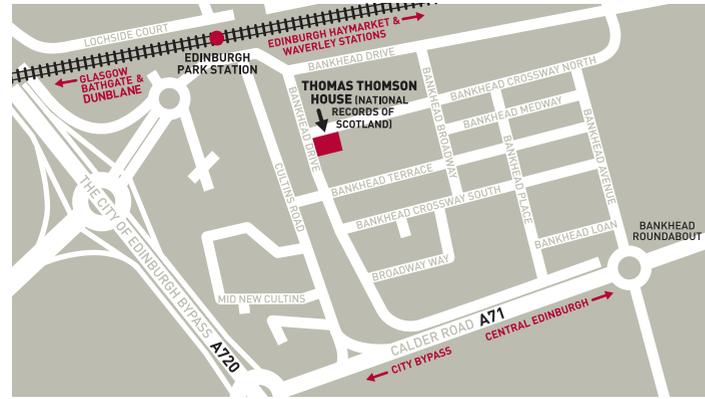
For further details of our services and facilities, please visit our website or see our leaflet *Using Our Archives*.

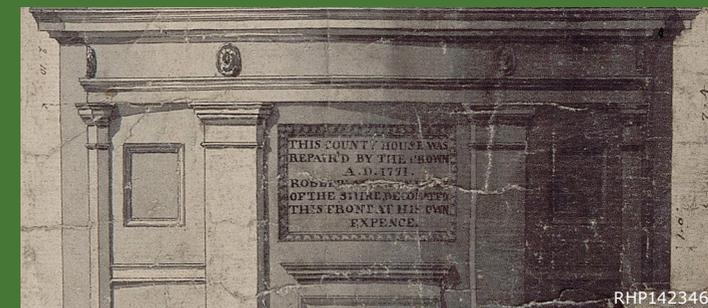
All correspondence and enquiries should be sent to:

Historical Search Room  
National Records of Scotland  
HM General Register House  
2 Princes Street  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3YY

[www.nrscotland.gov.uk](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk)  
[historical\\_enquiries@nrscotland.gov.uk](mailto:historical_enquiries@nrscotland.gov.uk)  
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## THE PLANS COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL RECORDS OF SCOTLAND

The 'Register House Plans' series (RHP) is an artificial collection containing over 170,000 maps and plans, and architectural and engineering drawings. Owing to their size and varied formats, plans require special storage conditions. Since the 1960s most plans have been removed from their parent collections and added to the RHP series, with a cross-reference to the parent collection. However, some smaller plans can still be found in their original files or bundles.

The plans collection is very varied, including plans from government departments, non-departmental government bodies, the UK Parliament, nationalised industries and the courts, as well as churches and private organisations, landed estates and families. Most of the manuscript plans are unique, and many of the engraved and lithographed plans are rare. The collection also includes a number of photoreproductions of original plans which are either held privately or in another institution.

The vast majority of plans are topographical, and NRS holds the largest collection of original maps and plans of Scotland. Most date from 1750 or later, as cartography in Scotland only began to flourish during the 18th century under the influence of agricultural improvement, when landowners employed surveyors to map their estates.

These are some of the types of plan that can be found in the RHP series:

### ESTATE PLANS

Farms, runrigs, improved estates, feuing plans, quarries, saltpans and commonties

### TRANSPORT

Railways, roads, bridges, canals, harbours and tramways

### ARCHITECTURAL

Churches, schools, public buildings, private houses, railway stations, farms and mills

### PUBLIC UTILITIES

Electricity, gas and water

### ENGINEERING

Technical plans of mining, shipbuilding and machinery

### LOCUS OF CRIME PLANS

Scenes of crime, often with information on the setting, buildings, and their use

### VIGNETTES

Showing agricultural scenes, people at work, buildings and ships

## OTHER MAPS AND PLANS IN NRS

Most plans in NRS collections are part of the RHP series, except for two important series:

- Sasine plans, which were recorded as 'preservation writs' from 1868 onwards (RD16). From 1925 duplicate plans could be also recorded along with the sasines or, from 1934, recorded with the deeds themselves.
- Ordnance Survey maps marked up for a survey by the Inland Revenue to determine the value of all land in the UK, 1909-1915. They provide the key to the Inland Revenue field books (IRS).

## FINDING PLANS

Maps and plans may be searched on the online catalogue. Catalogue descriptions include location, surveyor, engineer or architect, as well as the subject, date and origin of the plan.

The 'maps and plans' search option allows searches to be restricted to a civil parish or county. Scottish plans are located by parish or county according to the boundaries in existence immediately before the reorganisation of local government in 1975. Cities and towns may fall within several civil parishes, all of which will require to be searched independently.

Other plans of the British Isles are located by county and country. Foreign plans are initially located by country and continent. Cross-references to related records in NRS can help further research.

## USING PLANS

For preservation reasons you will normally be given access to digital images in the Historical Search Room, rather than to original plans.

If we are unable to make a plan available in this way for preservation, technical, ownership or copyright reasons, it may be possible to inspect the original plan at Thomas Thomson House, one day per week, by appointment.

It may not be possible to obtain copies of plans which are physically unsuitable, e.g. in poor condition or too large. We will advise you whether copies may be made, and about copying restrictions, such as the need to obtain the permission of the owner and copyright holder.

On your first visit please bring photographic identification (e.g. driving licence or passport) and proof of address, plus two passport-sized colour photographs, in order for NRS staff to issue you with a reader's ticket (valid for up to three years).