

## Useful Local Maps in Reading Central Library

Most of these maps are in the Local Studies Collection, on the top floor

### **Ordnance Survey 25" : 1 mile**

The earliest survey of Berkshire was 1866-1883. There were later revisions of all Berkshire sheets in 1897-1899, and again 1909-1912; and an incomplete revision in the 1930s. Our most complete collection is of the Second Revision, i.e. the 1912-ish maps. They are held in Cabinets 2, 3 & 4. (For maps of the 1870s and 1890s, try the British Library [www.bl.uk/collections/maps.html](http://www.bl.uk/collections/maps.html) or the Bodleian Library [www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/guides/maps](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/guides/maps))

Central Reading is Berkshire Sheet 37.3, we have all four editions. Lower Caversham is Sheet 29.15, Tilehurst 37.1, Newbury 43.1, Maidenhead 24.4.

All the editions of a particular sheet are kept together in date order. There is an index map at the front of Cabinet 2, but perhaps the easiest way to use them is by the parish list in the lid of each cabinet. If you are slightly out, you will see that each map indicates, at top, bottom and on both sides, the number of the adjoining map. A complete series of OS Reading Maps can also be accessed via the computer **GIS system** see page 4.

### **Maps of the County of Berkshire**

#### **Rocque 1761**

*A Topographical Survey of the County of Berks.* in 18 sheets..... This is kept in the Miscellaneous Map Cabinet (No 6). It is the earliest large-ish scale (c2" : 1 mile) survey of the whole of Berkshire. Reading is on Sheet 3, which also covers south Oxfordshire.

#### **Pride 1790**

*A Topographical map of the Town of Reading and of the country adjacent to an extent of 10 miles.....* Also kept in the Miscellaneous Map Cabinet (No 6). Of course, this does not show areas further than 10 miles from Reading, but this does include a lot of south Oxfordshire. The scale is about 1" : 1 mile.

#### **Greenwood 1824**

*A map of the County of Berks.* All of the county on one large sheet, scale c1" : 1 mile.

#### **Snare 1846**

*Snare's map of the country 10 miles round Reading.* Same general area as Pride, but 56 years later. Again scale about 1" : 1 mile

## **Maps of Towns in Berkshire**

### **Dawson 1831 & 1837**

Maps of various towns (Abingdon, Maidenhead, Newbury, Reading, Wallingford, Windsor) were produced as part of the Report of the Municipal Corporation Boundaries Commission. The book is in the glass case at qB/EE, for the loose maps please ask staff.

## **Maps of Reading**

### **[(1552)]**

A reconstruction, from 1919, of Reading in 1552, using records from Amyce's survey which is in the Public Record Office. Kept in the Miscellaneous Map Cabinet (No 6).

### **[(1642)]**

[Plan of Reading's Civil War Defences]. This is conjectural view. It's upside-down - north is at the bottom. Kept in the Miscellaneous Map Cabinet (No 6)

### **Man 1798**

[Plan of Reading]. This is earlier than the more famous Tomkins map of 1802, but it is a smaller scale and not as detailed. It is kept in the Miscellaneous Map Cabinet (No 6)

### **Tomkins 1802**

[Plan of Reading]. From Rev. Coates' *History of Reading*. Kept in the Miscellaneous Map Cabinet (No 6). A lovely, detailed map of Reading, showing for instance a tollbar across the top of Castle Hill, and a field called "Mrs Zinzan's" along Pangbourne Lane.

### **Kemp & Nichols 1834**

*Reading - from the Ordnance Survey*. Kept in the Miscellaneous Map Cabinet (No 6). Very useful as a picture of Reading just before the railway. Will just about photocopy onto A3 paper.

### **Simmons 1861/2**

*Plan of the Town of Reading and the village of Caversham*. Kept in the Miscellaneous cabinet (No 6). 20 years after the railway, and Caversham is now shown on the same map as Reading.

### **Slade, 1969**

Maps of Reading in Volume 1 of *Historic Towns*. They show: the site c 1800 with major features in late medieval times; the civil war defences; parishes & wards in the 18<sup>th</sup> century; and medieval street names.

## **Large scale maps of Reading**

### **Board of Health 1853**

Produced as part of an enquiry into health conditions in Reading. Kept in the Miscellaneous Map Cabinet (No 6). These are good to compare with the O.S. 1 : 500 sheets of the 1870s, they show details of properties long before the first large scale survey by O.S. They were used in the investigations into the Field Road collapse(s).

### **Ordnance Survey 1 : 500 1872-77**

During the 1870s various towns with a population of 4000+ were surveyed at 1 : 500, or 10 feet to the mile. We have all 23 sheets for Reading, in the Miscellaneous Maps Cabinet (No 6). The numbering system looks like Berkshire XXXVII.3.8. (i.e. 37.3.8)  
Other OS Reading Maps are also available on the computer **GIS system** see page 4.

### **Goad Maps/Insurance Plans 1895 onwards**

The old ones are in Blue Folders held behind the scenes - please ask staff. These were produced by Charles E. Goad. They are colour coded to show type of building. Updates were made by sticking extra paper on top of the original - old-fashioned cut & paste! The last in this format was 1958.

These maps cover the CBD - Central Business District. Since 1967 they have been produced as single sheets, and are now produced annually. Both current and superseded Goad Plans of Reading are in Cabinet 5. We also keep Goad Plans of Caversham and Woodley, again both current and superseded editions in Cabinet 5.

## **Other aspects of Cartography worth mentioning.**

### **The Definitive Map**

This is the map of public footpaths in Reading, it is kept on the first floor - please ask staff. It consists of a collection of 1 : 10000 maps with footpaths highlighted, plus explanations of the paths, plus modifications. We also have the last Definitive Map for Berkshire.

### **School Catchment Maps**

Two maps from Reading BC, catchment areas for both Primary Schools and Secondary Schools. Kept in Cabinet 5 because of their size and format.

### **Ward Maps and Consistency maps**

Electoral Ward boundaries of Reading Borough at June 2004 on one map in Cabinet 5. Also see <http://www.election-maps.co.uk/>

### **Geological maps**

Geological Information on a 1" map. The maps themselves are at the back of Cabinet 5. Most of them have an associated explanatory book known as a "Sheet Memoir", the hanging strip identifies where this is. We hold maps for Central Southern England.

## **Tithe Maps and Enclosure Maps**

WE DO NOT HOLD THESE. CONTACT BERKSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

Berkshire Enclosure maps & apportionment books have been digitised under a NOF funded project, and are available on the website [www.berkshireenclosure.org](http://www.berkshireenclosure.org)

## **Town Plans**

Maps of elsewhere in the country are kept on the First Floor. Every OS Street Atlas so far published, Red Books for other counties, Street plans of all cities and lots of towns, and all the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Landranger maps.

## **Postcode Maps**

The *Postcode Atlas* is on the First Floor. Postcode maps are also kept on the First Floor - please ask staff. There are rolled maps covering the whole of the UK; S.E. England; Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire; and Hampshire & Isle of Wight. Local Postcodes are also recorded in the *A-Z Premier Street Atlas of Berkshire*.

## **Open Spaces**

The Draft Map of Registered Common Land and Open Country for Central S. England, centred on Reading, is kept on the First Floor. Please ask staff.

## **G.I.S. (Geographic Information Systems)**

In 2003 Reading Libraries acquired the Borough Councils G.I.S system under licence. This includes both modern large scale mapping of the Borough Council area (i.e. not including Calcot or Woodley), aerial photographs of the same area, and Old Ordnance Survey sheets which can be superimposed on each other in layers. Caveat - legally prints cannot be used in planning applications. See Factsheet 4 for how to use this system.

## **BOOKS ABOUT MAPS OF BERKSHIRE**

### **Reading Borough Council Library**

*Local Collection Catalogue of Books and Maps relating to Berkshire. 1958*  
B/BZ (3rd floor)

Includes lists of our maps as at 1958, in order of their publication date.

### **Burden, Eugene**

*Printed Maps of Berkshire 1574 - 1900*

*Pt 1 County Maps*

*Pt 2 Town Plans*

*Pt 3 Environs & District Maps*

*Pt 4 Middle & Upper Thames Maps* qB/UY (3rd floor)

For information on lots of Berkshire maps, see these carto-bibliographies. Arranged by date with an index of cartographers.