

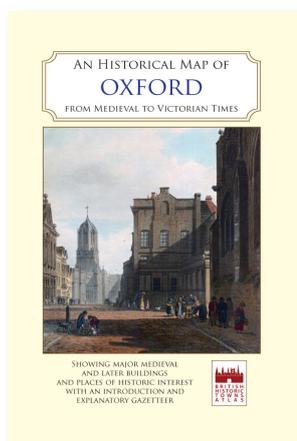


British Historic Towns Atlas VOL. VII OXFORD

NEWSLETTER NO.1 AUGUST 2016

An occasional series for supporters and donors to the Oxford Atlas project

Welcome to our first newsletter! The idea of the newsletters is to let you know what progress has been made on the British Historic Towns Atlas volume on Oxford, and is for those who have generously supported it, either financially or in kind. The Historic Towns Trust is very grateful for your support, without which the project would not be able to proceed at all.



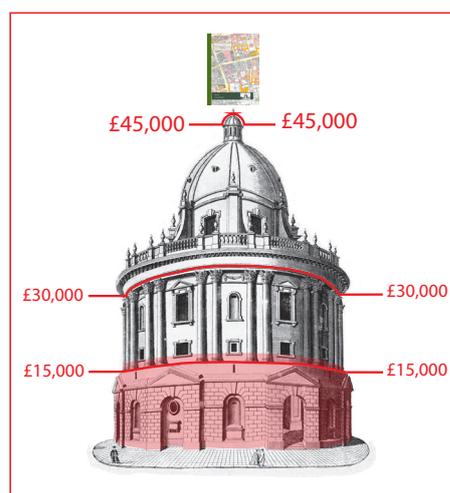
HISTORICAL MAP OF OXFORD

Following January's successful launch of *An Historical Map of Oxford* (which is derived from the principal map to appear in the atlas volume) we are delighted to report that steady sales have necessitated a reprint, and a further 1,000 copies have been produced and are now on sale. The map has been well received and the HTT has received encouraging feedback on it.

FUNDS RAISED SO FAR

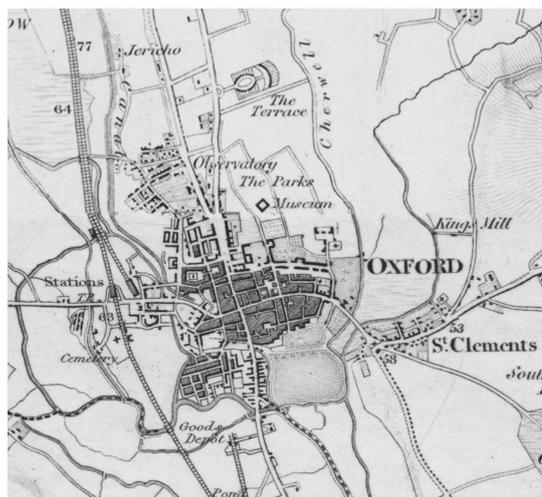
Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we're delighted to report that we have so far raised £16,150. This represents more than one third of the way to our target of £45,000.

The money raised so far means that we have been able to proceed with production of some of the maps created specially for the atlas, and also to begin to acquire illustrations. It also means that we can commission further work, including map production from our cartographers, Lovell Johns. We're about to commission the maps of Oxford in its modern regional setting as well a local map to show Oxford's situation and its topography.



THANK YOU!

As well as a growing list of individuals, we would like to thank the Doris Field Charitable Trust, the Oxford Antiquaries Dining Club, Oxford Civic Society, Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society, Oxfordshire Family History Society, Scholarship and Christianity at Oxford, and the William Delafield Charitable Trust for their recent support towards the completion of the atlas. Your contributions are very much valued.



COMPLETED WORK...

We are delighted to report that a number of parts of the atlas are now ready for publication:

- The first edition Ordnance Survey 1-inch map, re-scaled to 1:50,000
- The base map for our town development maps – nine of these maps will be included: Early 11th century; c.1100; 1279; c.1400; c.1500; 1578; Civil War Oxford; 1675; and 1800
- Two of the four chapters have completed first drafts, which await revision; the other two chapters are complete in detailed outline. The team is very keen that, as this is an historical atlas, its maps and texts must be very closely linked
- The 445-entry gazetteer is finished, subject to final revision and cross-checking with the maps.

... AND WORK IN PROGRESS

Work continues steadily on the atlas.

- The 'Main' Map, which forms the principal map in the atlas, based on the digitised OS map of Oxford in 1876 – following on from the publication of the *Historical Map of Oxford*, we have identified further refinements which will enhance the map. As further research reveals more knowledge about the city, so we are able to add more information to the map.
- We are developing a base map for in-text thematic maps which will be used to depict items such as parish and administrative boundaries, and field names.
- Modern Regional (approximately 1:500,000) and Site (1:40,000) maps have now been commissioned from our cartographers, Long Hanborough-based Lovell Johns.

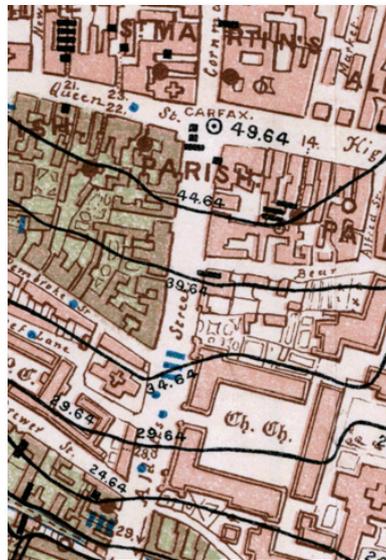
OUR PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS

Within the next six months, we are aiming to see:

- Final texts completed by November
- Supplementary maps for early C11, 1100, 1279, 1400, and the Civil War, completed by Oxford Archaeology
- Supplementary maps for 1500, 1578, 1675, and 1800, completed by Alan Crossley
- Completion of the in-text maps
- All illustrations acquired and captions written
- All aerial photographs selected and acquired
- Additional funds raised to the £40,000 milestone.



Right: An extract from the base map of Oxford which will be used to compile the town-development (period) maps of Oxford. It is derived from the principal map of the atlas. This extract shows the parish boundaries as they appeared on the OS map of 1876. It will be used to assist in the compilation of a map of Oxford parish and administrative boundaries. Determining where they were is often challenging.



An extract from Acland's map of the incidence of cholera in Oxford, 1856.

PROBLEMS IN MAPPING

As part of the compilation of the atlas, we are trying to map the micro-topography of central Oxford, but sourcing contours at one-metre intervals is proving challenging. There are a number of historical sources that attempt to map the subtle changes in Oxford's undulations, including contours. Henry Acland's cholera map from the 1850s features five-foot contours, but the datum from which they are measured (a point at Carfax marked as 49.64 feet) does not bear any similarity to other map sources, or to OS data.

OXFORD AND THE HISTORIC TOWNS ATLASES

The Historic Towns Trust has strong links with Oxford, not only through its current production of the Oxford Atlas volume. The original committee which set up the charity behind the project first met in Oxford and had many Oxford people on it. Professor Caroline Barron, past Chair of the HTT, has written a very good summary of the project's Oxford connections for the university's History Faculty publication, *Oxford Historian*. The article appears on our website and can be found at www.historictownsatlas.org.uk/content/history-project.

CONTACT US

We are always happy to give information on any aspect of the Oxford atlas project, and to receive your comments and feedback.

The HTT's website carries up-to-date information on progress (www.historictownsatlas.org.uk)

or contact Nick Millea at the Map Room, Bodleian Library, Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3BG tel. 01865 287119

Email: nick.millea@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

TOWN & CITY
HISTORICAL
MAPS

THE
HISTORIC TOWNS TRUST
Charitable Incorporated Organisation