Useful Websites
- www.maps.nls.uk. National Library of Scotland website, providing digital access to 6" OS maps from 1850 to the 1930s
- www.oldmapsonline.org. Digitized maps, including OS and Goad
- www.tracksintime.wyjs.org.uk. West Yorkshire Archive Service project to digitize Tithe maps, which can be viewed along with 25” OS maps

Useful Books
- Kenneth J. Bonser & Harold Nichols. Printed Maps and Plans of Leeds, 1711-1900 (1960; Thoresby Society: Vol.47). Core text that “list[s] all the known printed plans and maps of Leeds up to and including the year 1900, together with certain points of view.” L 906 THO
- Thoresby Society and Leeds City Libraries. ‘Leeds in Maps’. Booklet to accompany set of 10 maps representing “aspects of the growth and development of Leeds through two centuries.” Please ask staff
- David Thornton. Leeds: A Historical Dictionary of People, Places and Events (2013). Essential guide to the history of Leeds – includes an entry briefly detailing the development of Leeds cartography, while the appendix lists fourteen of the most important maps of the area LE 914.2 THO

Scale Guide (see also the pictorial examples in this guide)
- 10ft to 1 mile. Approximately 120” to 1 mile
- 5ft to 1 mile. Approximately 60” to 1 mile
- 1:1250 (50” to 1 mile). Street names and house numbers can be read
- 25” to 1 mile (1:2500). Most street names and features can be seen
- 6” to 1 mile (1:10000). Shows a whole city or area on one map
- 1:25000 (2.5” to 1 mile): Good for paths and tourist information
- 1:50000 (1” to 1 mile): Useful for seeing topography

Copyright Note
One A4 copy is permissible from maps under 50-years old
Maps older than 50-years are copyright free

Local and Family History Research Guides
Maps of Leeds and Yorkshire

Our Research Guides list some of the most useful, interesting and unique items in Local and Family History at Leeds Central Library. Many others are listed in our online and card catalogues.

Contact us for more information:
Visit: www.leeds.gov.uk/localandfamilyhistory
Email: localandfamilyhistory@leeds.gov.uk
Tel. (0113) 247 8290

Please note:
Items marked * require ID to view.
We have a wide range of maps in our collection:

- Search under Maps in our Leeds card catalogue (listed in chronological order)
- For suburbs or townships, look in the card catalogue under District: [place name] for items marked ML[year]
- Ordnance Survey (OS) maps are available after 1850

**Pre-1850**

For copies of the best pre-1850 maps ask to see the Leeds in Maps folder.

Contents include:

- The Prospect of Leeds From the Knostrop Road (1715) – Francis Place
- A New and Exact Plan of the Town of Leedes (1725) – John Cossins
- A Plan of Leeds (1770) – Thomas Jefferys
- Plan of the Town of Leeds and its Environs (1815) – Netlam & Francis Giles
- View of Leeds (c.1826) – Charles Cope
- Plan of the Town of Leeds and the Environs (1831) – Charles Fowler
- Map of the Borough of Leeds (1834) – Baines & Newsome

Other interesting pre-1850 maps include:

- A Map of Rothwell, Oulton & Lofthouse, Made in the Reign of Henry VIII ML15— (numbers after ‘ML’ give the map year; unknown in this case)
- Facsimile of the Earliest Known Map of Leeds ML1560
- The Manor of Harewood ML1698
- A General Map of the Grand-Canal From Liverpool to Leeds ML177-
- Tuke’s Map of the Parish or Borough of Leeds ML1781
- Departure Times and Destinations of Coaches From Hotels in Leeds (about 1830) SR388.32 SI13*
- Cholera Plan of Leeds (1833) L614.514 L517
- Plan of an Estate Purchased For the Proposed Leeds Zoological and Botanical Gardens SR ML1837*
- Sanitary Map of Leeds ML1842

**1850**

Start of OS maps. Coverage:

- 5ft to 1 mile: Old Leeds Township
- 6” to 1 mile: all of Yorkshire

1:1250 (50" to 1 mile) showing same area of Leeds Bridge, this time stretching as far as the Corn Exchange and Boar Lane. These maps are detailed enough to show individual building numbers.

**Date:** 1952
1850-1890
No detailed (OS) maps between 1850 and 1890. As with pre-1850 maps, consult the card catalogue under Maps or District for maps from this period.

Some of the most interesting maps between 1850 and 1890 include:

- Cavalry Barracks ML1850
- A Plan of the York Street-Marsh Lane-Shannon Street district Used by the Prosecution in the Trial of William Higgins for Murder ML1850
- Plan of Leeds Showing Her Majesty’s route at the Opening of Leeds Town Hall ML1858
- Isometrical View of the Royal Agricultural Show Ground ML1861
- New Tourist Map of Leeds ML1869
- Plan and Sections of the Leeds New Railway station ML1873
- Map of the Borough of Leeds Showing the Five Parliamentary Divisions According to the Redistribution Bill of 1885 ML1885
- Goad Insurance Plan (showing building usage, including company names: 1886 and then various dates to present) LF 368 G534

1890-1949
OS coverage:

- 10ft to 1 mile: Old Leeds Township (1889-1911)
- 25“ to 1 mile: Most of West Yorkshire with some gaps; patchy coverage for rest of Yorkshire (1893-1938)
- 6” to 1 mile: Whole of Yorkshire (1890s – 1950s)

Other interesting maps between 1890 and 1949 include:

- Leeds: A Map Coloured to Show the Size of the City in 1781, 1831 and 1890 (1900) L 942.75 H41L
- Positions of Branches of the Leeds Public Libraries ML1903
- Plan of the Leeds Union Workhouse Estate ML1908
- Leeds: Proposed City Extension ML1921
- City of Leeds: Net Population Density (1949) LF 312 L517
- Map of the Slum Clearance Areas and Housing Estates ML1934
- Map of Leeds Parishes Showing Boundaries, with Dates Assigned ML1939
- German Ordnance Survey Map of Leeds ML1940
- Plan of Car Parks in Connection with the Test Match versus Australia, July 1948 ML1948
1949-date

- 1:1250 (50” to 1 mile): Leeds Metropolitan District (1950s to date)
- 1:2500 (25” to 1 mile): Less built-up areas of Leeds Metropolitan District
  (1960s to date)
- 1:10000 (6” to 1 mile):
  - Whole of Yorkshire to the 1980s
  - Leeds (1950s to date)
- 1:25000 (2.5” to 1 mile):
  - Whole of Yorkshire (1949)
  - Leeds and surrounding area. Also known as ‘Leisure’, ‘Explorer’ or
    ‘Pathfinder’ maps (1970s to date)
- 1:50000 (1” to 1 mile): Leeds and surrounding area. Also known as
  ‘Landranger’ maps (1960s and 2004)

Examples of interesting maps after 1949 include:

- Map Showing the Age of Settlements: 1725-1950 ML1950
- Pictorial Map of Leeds ML1951
- Leeds Corporation Tramways ML1959
- Leeds Land Utilisation Map ML1967
- Cold War Soviet Map of Leeds ML1971
- Map of Leeds with Disconnection of Electricity Rotas Showing
  Times when Localities at Risk of Disconnection ML1977

Yorkshire Maps

In addition to those parts of Yorkshire covered by the OS maps detailed above,
one-off maps can be found in the Yorkshire card catalogue, in chronological order.

Some interesting examples include:

- 1936 reproduction of the Yorkshire section from Saxton’s Atlas of
  the Counties of England and Wales M4274 (1577)
- A Plan of the Town of Dewsbury (Saxton) MYD519 (1600)
- [A Map of] the West Ridinge of Yorkeshyre with the Most Famous
  and Fayre Citie Yorke Described SR M42743* (1610)
- An Accurate Map of the County of York, Divided into its Ridings
  and Subdivided into Wapontakes M4274 (1750)
- Edward Baines’ Table of the Reciprocal Distances of the Principle
  Towns of England and Wales M4274 (1823)
- Industries of West Yorkshire M42743 (1946)
- Map for Explorers of Little Hull Hole on Pen-Y-Ghent M42743
  (1961)