**“Mapping Monuments” Project**

**Surveying the Surveyors—Recording Field-Monuments of the OS**

**Selected Resources**

This file will have resources and links added periodically. This version: 23-2-2021

**Background**

‘Mapping Monuments: a landscape archaeology of the Ordnance Survey’ Recording of talk given by Keith Lilley to ARCH 15-12-2020 is on the [ARCH YouTube channel](https://youtu.be/GTWN7C0sTWQ), or a [PDF version of the powerpoint](https://mappingmonuments.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/Mapping+Monuments+lecture+by+K.+Lilley+15-12-20+powerpoint-compressed.pdf) can be downloaded.

Lilley, Keith D 2017 ‘Mapping the Nation: Landscapes of survey and the material cultures of the early Ordnance Survey in Britain and Ireland, *Landscapes* 18:2., pp 178-199. [Download PDF](https://mappingmonuments.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/Lilley+2017+Mapping+the+Nation%2C++Landscapes+v.18.pdf).

Lilley, Keith D 2018 ‘Surveying the surveyors’, [Sheetlines](https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/sheetlines-articles/Issue113page6.pdf) 113, 6-12

Owen, Tim and Pilbeam, Elaine 1992 [*Ordnance Survey. Map Makers to Britain since 1791*](https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/documents/resources/map-makers-britain-history.pdf)

'Account of the observations and calculations, of the principal triangulation; and of the figure, dimensions and mean specific gravity, of the earth as derived therefrom': Drawn up by Alex. Ross Clarke, 1858.   
Read on line at <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uiug.30112065074673&view=1up&seq=7>  
Download [Descriptions of Highland Trig stations](https://mappingmonuments.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/Clarke+1858/Clarke+1858++Principal+trig+station+descriptions+-+Highland.pdf) (PDF)  
Download [Descriptions of equipment and triangulation logistics](https://mappingmonuments.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/Clarke+1858/Clarke+1858+Equipment+and+triangulation+extract.pdf) (PDF)  
Download [Tables of observations from Highland stations](https://mappingmonuments.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/Clarke+1858/Clarke+1858+Highland+Observation+Tables.pdf) (PDF)  
Download [misc other pages relating to Highland stations](https://mappingmonuments.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/Clarke+1858/Misc+pages+from+Clarke+1858+relating+to+Highland+stations.pdf) (PDF)

Portlock, J E 1869 *Memoir of the life of Major-General Colby: together with a sketch of the origin progress of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and Ireland*   
Read on line at <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015031074423&view=1up&seq=13>  
or Download [PDF of full text](https://mappingmonuments.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/Portlock+Colby+Memoir+FULL.pdf)   
or Download [extract of pages relating to Highland sites](https://mappingmonuments.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/Portlock+extracts+relating+to+the+Highlands.pdf) (PDF)

Seymour, W A (ed) 1980 [A History of the Ordnance Survey](https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/documents/resources/os-history.pdf)  [warning: large file!] https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/documents/resources/os-history.pdf

Sheetlines – publication of the Charles Close Society for the Study of Ordnance Survey Maps. [Many are available on line](https://sheetlines-articles.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/Index69on.htm), including:

* Walker, David L 2013 ‘The initial triangulation of Scotland from 1809 until 1822’, Sheetlines 98, pp 5-15.
* Walker, David L 2015 ‘The troubled history of the Scottish triangulation 1823-1858’, Sheetlines 104, pp 5-18.
* Thornber, Iain and Oliver, Richard 2011 ‘Colby’s camps’, Sheetlines 90, pp 18-22.
* Walker,David L 2014 ‘James Gardner – surveyor, computer, publisher’, Sheetlines 101, pp 31-38.

**Benchmarks**

OS Blog describing [different types of benchmarks](https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/blog/2017/09/benchmark-trig-pillar-whats-name/)

OS Benchmark [locator database](https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/benchmarks/), with links to downloading complete list (47 MB file!). An extract with just the Highland information is on the ARCH website library.

OS Benchmark archive [interactive map](https://parallel.co.uk/os-benchmark-archive/#7/57.603/-4.445)

[Bench-marks.org.uk](https://www.bench-marks.org.uk/) database. Public logging of benchmarks

Useful [summary of types of benchmarks with images](https://www.walklakes.co.uk/benchmarks.html) from walklakes.co.uk website

**Trig points**

<https://trigbagging.co.uk/> provides locations by interactive map. For photos and advice on how to find them, see <http://trigpointing.uk/>

Types of Trigpoints – [glossary from trigpointing.uk](http://trigpointing.uk/wiki/Types) with pictures

*Trig Point Walks on the Isle of Skye and Raasay*, by Alistair Christie and Ian Stewart (2014, Strupag Publishing) – book with detailed routes to all 56 trig points on Skye and Raasay. This appears to be out of print, but perhaps someone has tracked it down?

**OS Name Books** – info on place-names and buildings for 1st ed OS. Available on [ScotlandsPlaces website](https://scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/digital-volumes/ordnance-survey-name-books)

[**Grid reference finder**](https://gridreferencefinder.com/)**:** handy website for converting British National Grid to/from latitude/longitude <https://gridreferencefinder.com/>

**Project Forms and guides**

Mapping Monuments Site Recording Form – [on the ARCH website Library, OS Mapping Monuments Folder](http://www.archhighland.org.uk/library.asp).

Recording Benchmarks Form - [on the ARCH website Library, OS Mapping Monuments Folder](http://www.archhighland.org.uk/library.asp).

An easy guide to using the NLS for OS research - – [on the ARCH website Library, OS Mapping Monuments Folder](http://www.archhighland.org.uk/library.asp).

[A field guide to the OS in GB and Ireland](https://mappingmonuments.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/A+field+guide+to+the+OS+in+GB+and+Ireland.pdf)

**Links**

[Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands](http://www.archhighland.org.uk/)

[Heritage Hub](https://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/HeritageHub/) (Queens University Belfast)

[Geograph.org.uk](https://m.geograph.org.uk/) – site where people add photos, with aim to get at least one photo for every square km of the country