Finding Your Local Heritage

Today's online session devoted to 'Finding your Local Heritage' highlights some of the online resources that archaeologists regularly use to identify sites and learn more about them. Desk-based study forms an important part of our work and is a pre-requisite to any fieldwork. Before we set foot in the field, we need to be equipped with as much information as possible about what is already known about an area, what sites have previously been identified and recorded, what archaeological work has been done before and what the long-term history of land use has been. This will all be directly relevant to whether buried archaeology or upstanding features are likely to survive.

First of all, what is a heritage site? We automatically think of ancient monuments and buildings: sites such as prehistoric earthworks or cairns, historic churches, castles and stately homes. But the term 'heritage site' is actually much broader than might be first thought, and it's flexible, too. Originally, when the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland was established, 'ancient monuments' were considered to be those which pre-dated 1745, but the term is now much broader. Industrial buildings of the late 18th and 19th century are now included, along with any historic house or dwelling which is Listed or included in a conservation area. Farms and agricultural buildings are being increasingly recognised, and some outstanding 20th century buildings and industrial sites, too.

Now we've established what makes up a 'heritage site,' we can take the next step and look at the resources that can tell us more about them. Not too long ago, access to these resources required a trip to an archive and a lot of waiting about while reference material was shuffled to and fro, but now there's a huge amount of information that can be accessed online. This session will give you an insight into what's available, and hopefully give you the confidence to see what else is out there. You may have embarked on this workshop with your own idea of what constitutes a heritage site, and maybe you've already constructed a list of sites you're particularly interested in and which you want to find out more about.

This session will give you the expertise not only to learn more about the sites you know, but it will also hopefully give you the confidence to establish which sites are not yet recorded and how to properly identify those so they can be more widely known. I'll also give you some pointers about how to more widely disseminate information about previously unrecorded sites, so you can ensure they're recorded properly. Please bear in mind though, that next week's session will be talking in more detail about how to distil all the information you may come across into a form which is accessible to a wide range of audiences and which you can present on a public platform if you so wish.

Canmore and Pastmap

Useful links: Canmore   https://canmore.org.uk/content/about

Pastmap   https://pastmap.org.uk/

The first port of call which archaeologists always use when identifying known heritage sites in Scotland is Canmore. This is an online portal operated by Historic Environment Scotland which allows access to the National Monuments Record of Scotland, also known as the 'NMRS.' The NMRS collates information relating to known archaeological sites, historic buildings and industrial sites, as well as maritime sites across Scotland, and it now has 320,000 sites logged.

Screenshot Showing Introduction Canmore and the National Monuments Record of Scotland

Canmore provides an invaluable starting point for anyone exploring local heritage sites. Firstly, if you've spotted something interesting in your travels which is a known heritage site in your area, then it will almost invariably already have a Canmore entry. This will include a site description, which, for novice heritage detectives, can in most cases provide a reliable guide to what you're actually looking at in the field. It provides a perfect introduction to the terminology and the style expected of 'official' site descriptions (which have developed in order to convey the maximum amount of information and understanding using a minimum number of words). Because many of these site descriptions can be viewed as best practice, they provide a template on how best to lay out your own site descriptions when the time comes to try your hand at recording heritage sites for yourself.

There are two ways of accessing Canmore. Each has its advantages and drawbacks. Firstly, you can enter Canmore directly and search using specific terms.

You might, for example, type in a name like 'Glengarnock Castle' into the Site Name box and search on that and the site will pop up. Alternatively, you can choose a specific area defined by a certain map square in the Mapsheet box and search for all the sites or specific sites in that – for example, if I select NS35NW (same map square as Glengarnock Castle) and search for 'Cairn' in Classification, I discover that there are two cairns located in that map square, and I can find out more about them by clicking on the appropriate record.

Screenshot from Canmore Showing Site Search Form

Screenshot from Canmore Showing Results of Search

The drawback with using this method is that you have to be precise in your search terms. Sometimes a site may be known as a different name locally, or it will be listed under its official street address, and it won't show up when you search for it under the name you're more familiar with. If you search by mapsheet, you also have to have some knowledge or understanding of the numbering system used for the old 1:10000 mapsheets. These originally formed the basis of the original NMRS numbering system and they still survive as relict site numbers within the record. Using this site selection method also means that you'll only be granted a keyhole insight into your particular site(s) of interest, with no means of understanding the site in its wider landscape or historic context.

These days, we avoid searching via the online form and tend instead to interrogate the information in Canmore through Pastmap. This offers a map-based search facility, which can be a bit tricky to use for those unfamiliar with Geographical Information Systems, but to put it simply: if you can handle Google maps or similar online mapping services, you can handle this. Pastmap allows you to search your chosen area graphically. If you're interested in a specific site, it can be a more complex task finding what you want, because you're basically shown every single site which has been recorded in the NMRS, and you have to click on these individually in order to find out supporting information which tells you what site you're looking for.

Screenshot Showing Search Facility on Pastmap
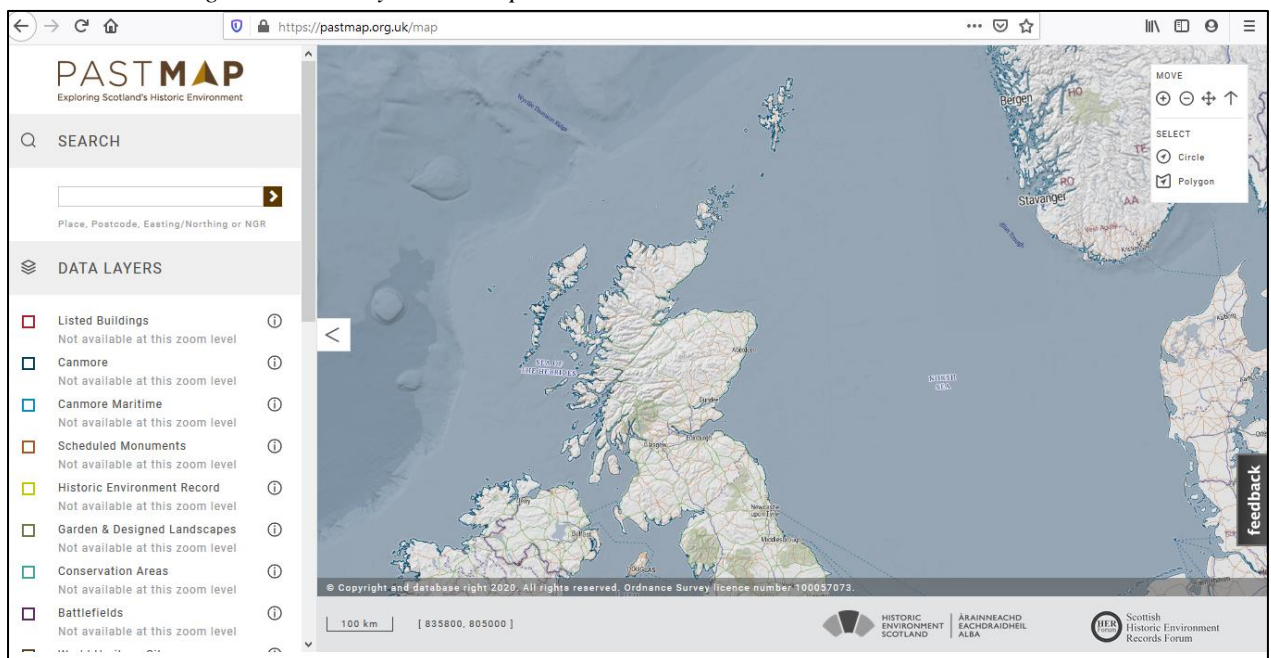
One of Pastmap's primary attractions for archaeologists is that it offers a much more detailed insight into the landscape as a whole, so it puts all known sites into their wider landscape context. But it also has the added benefit of allowing access to more online databases. These include the local historic environment record and datasets managed by Historic Environment Scotland. The latter include Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, and Gardens and Designed Landscapes. These records don't just allow you to find out more about the legal status of a building or site, they also enable you to access a different set of site descriptions compiled by Listed Building or Ancient Monument Inspectors and caseworkers who are employed by Historic Environment Scotland.

These descriptions can be particularly useful in the case of standing buildings and other Listed historic structures, which are often provided with minimal descriptions in Canmore. The terminology can however be very specialised and this can make these entries difficult to understand by those who aren't well-versed in architectural history. Once again, though, if you have online access to the record in the field or if you make sure you carry a printed copy of the record when you're visiting a site, you can soon learn the jargon by comparing the descriptions with the building as it stands on site.

Screenshot showing Extract from Listed Building Register for Stonyholm Mills

After this brief diversion into the realms of the Historic Environment Scotland datasets, we'll return to Canmore now, and look in detail at a Canmore entry and what information is included there. My chosen site is Glengarnock Castle; I've taken four different screen shots from the Canmore site record which give you some idea of the amount of detail that can be involved in an entry.
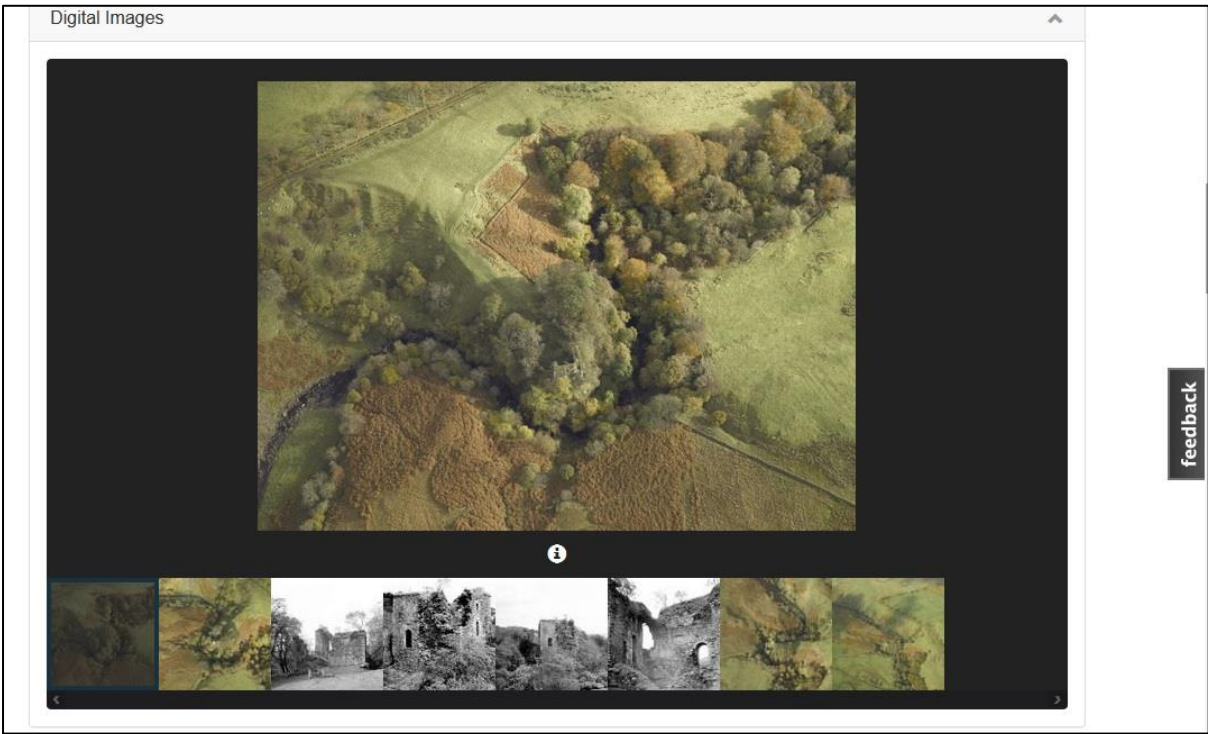
We start with the Site Name and locational data, which also includes a zoomed-in view of a map showing the site location (see *1* below). A series of images, sometimes aerial, comes later (*2*). After that, we have information relating to administrative areas: local authority, parish, etc. Following on from that comes a site summary (*3*). This can vary greatly in the amount of detail included from one site to the next. A 'classic' site like Glengarnock Castle will have been visited frequently by a variety of individuals who range from 19th century antiquarians to modern professional archaeologists. It is by the careful study of sites like this that examples of best practice can often be learned with regards to creating site descriptions, and it can be helpful to either access the database during site visits or take along a print-out and compare what is written there with what is visible in the field. Remember – ruined buildings are not unchanging, and what you see might not exactly match what was described a hundred or even twenty years ago. In some cases the Description field allows us to track the changing condition of a site from one decade to the next. It should also be mentioned that one

of the valuable tasks the interested visitor can undertake is observing and recording the deterioration of a site and alerting the relevant authorities (almost invariably Historic Environment Scotland) of any dramatic changes.

Screenshot of Canmore Site Record (1)
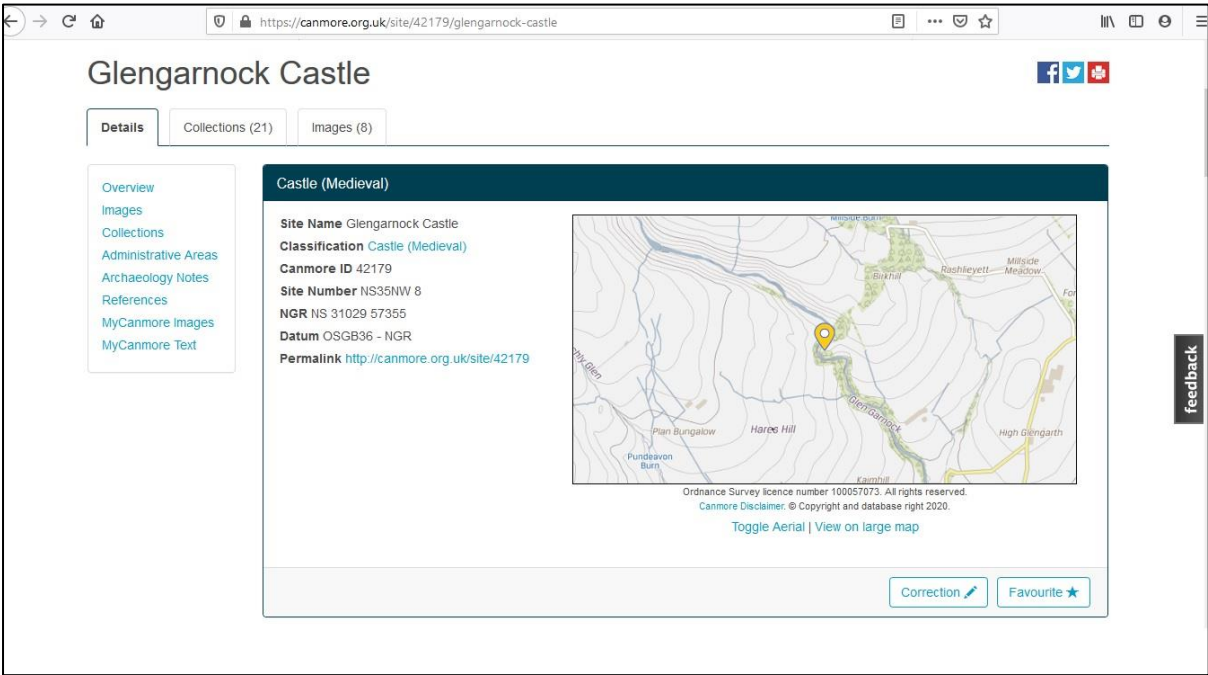
Screenshot of Canmore Site Record (2)

Screenshot of Canmore Site Record (3)

By contrast, some sites are given minimal descriptions. Often 18th or 19th century ruined farmsteadings are described merely as 'shown as roofless on 1st edition map of 18 whatever', and there is no way of knowing whether they even survive now as upstanding features in the landscape without undertaking a physical visit to the site. Again, this is where the interested amateur can play an important role in assessing the condition of these sites, and it's in situations like these that an ability to create concise and accurate site descriptions can at times prove truly invaluable.

Finally, I'm going to talk briefly about 'My Canmore.' This is a feature which allows users to input their own data into the Canmore database (*4*). Sometimes it can be a pretty photograph of the site in question, sometimes a personal anecdote, which can be particularly invaluable in terms of the social history of industrial or urban sites. But if, say, you found one of these 'shown as unroofed on 1st edition map' sites and discovered that it still survived as a ruin standing half a metre high, you could send a short description to 'My Canmore' along with your photograph and perhaps a sketch (something we'll be discussing in our follow-up session next week) and actually make a valuable contribution to our current levels of knowledge and understanding about a specific heritage site.

Screenshot of Canmore Site Record (4)

References

Coventry, M. (2008) *Castles of the Clans: the strongholds and seats of 750 Scottish families and clans.* Musselburgh. Page(s): 135,436,496 RCAHMS Shelf Number: F.5.21.COV

MacGibbon and Ross, D and T. (1887-92) *The castellated and domestic architecture of Scotland from the twelfth to the eighteenth centuries,* 5v. Edinburgh. Page(s): Vol.3, 293-6 RCAHMS Shelf Number: F.5.21.MAC

Robertson, G. (1820) *Topographical description of Ayrshire, more particularly of Cunninghame: together with a genealogical account of the principal families in that bailiwick.* Irvine. Page(s): 265 RCAHMS Shelf Number: D.11.22.CUN.R

MyCanmore Image Contributions

Contribute an Image

Historic Environment Record

Useful link: http://www.wosas.net/search.php

Before we move on from Pastmap, I'm going to mention the local Historic Environment Record (HER). This is a database of sites compiled and maintained by the local authority Archaeology Service, which in our case is the West of Scotland Archaeology Service. Often there is an overlap between Canmore and the HER, but there's often more detailed information relating to commercial archaeology projects in the HER. Detailed information relating to archaeological surveys, evaluations and excavations is often included, which can inform us of new sites and also on what, if anything, was found. This information will invariably find its way onto Canmore eventually, but because the HER obtains its information directly from the contractor on completion of the project, their records can be more up to date.

Perhaps more importantly, the HER is used as a tool for the planning process – if you find a new site, please consider providing information to the HER as it means that your site will be appropriately recorded or even protected during future developments.

Screenshot of WoSAS Search Page
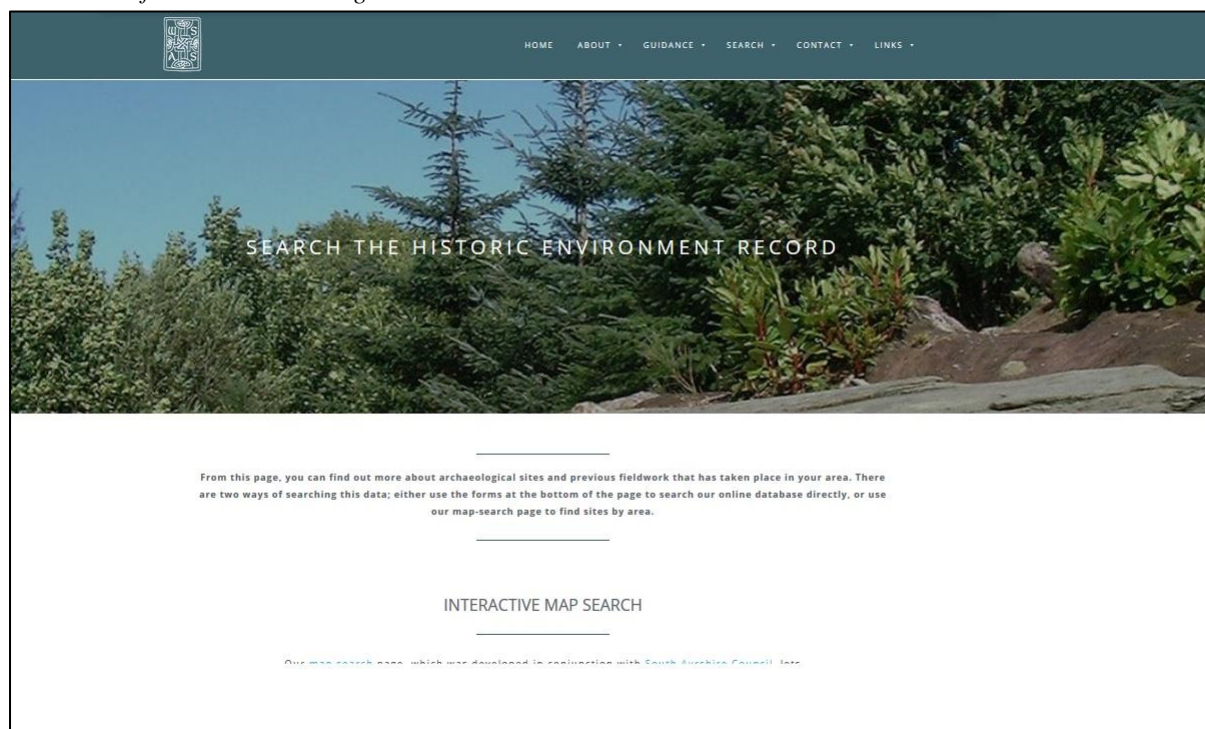
At the end of this first part of our session, we've dealt specifically with the main sources of information which can help us learn more about known sites. We've focussed on the National Monuments Record as the primary repository of data relating to heritage sites, but we've also referred to datasets held by curatorial bodies, in particular the Scheduled Monument, Historic Buildings and other historic environment data held by Historic Environment Scotland, as well as the local authority Historic Environment Record which is maintained by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service and which functions in part as a planning tool.

It has already been mentioned that the levels of information relating to known sites can vary. Some sites which you might think were fairly obvious inclusions, in particular 19th century rural farmsteads and workers' dwellings or urban buildings, are often sparsely described. Sometimes what you might think of as obvious sites – more commonly falling within the category of historic rural settlement or urban and industrial sites – might not even be included as a known site at all.

In every instance, we can try and augment what we see in the field by accessing other resources, in particular historic mapping and documentary sources.

National Map Library of Scotland

Useful link: https://maps.nls.uk/

Screenshot showing Entry Page for National Map Library of Scotland Online Mapping
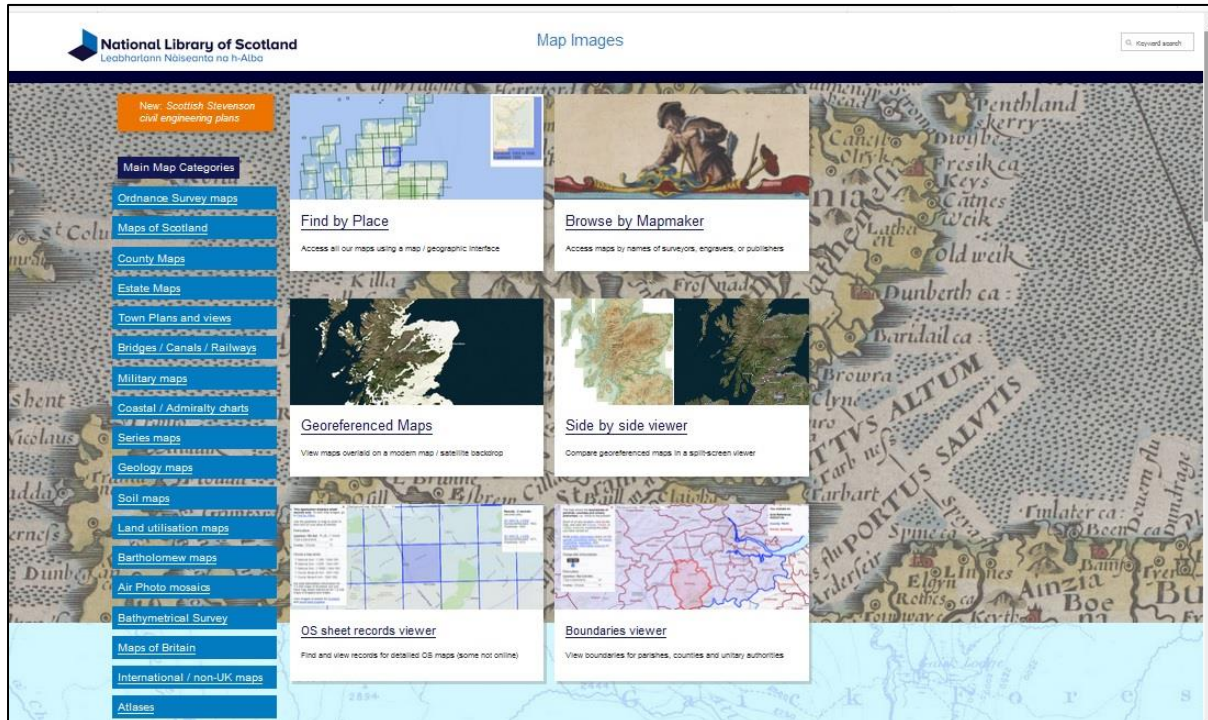
One of the most important resources amongst the wide range of material freely accessible online is historic mapping. A variety of historic maps and estate plans have now been web-mounted by the National Map Library of Scotland, which offers a wide range of categories for searching, including Ordnance Survey maps and County maps. When studying a limited area, often the best initial port of call for identifying what is available is to search on the 'County Maps' section. Clicking on 'Ayrshire' reveals a wide range of mapping spanning the 17th to 19th centuries.

Screenshot Showing the Earlier Historic Mapping Available Online for Ayrshire

County maps of Ayrshire

Maps of the whole county or region, providing an overview of the physical and human landscape. For more detailed maps of rural areas, see estate maps or Ordnance Survey maps from the 1840s.

- Browse county maps using a graphic index

Select the county map you wish to view:

- ca.1636-1652 - Gordon 59: Cuningham [Cunningham. From the Clyde to Irvine]. (manuscript)
- ca.1636-1652 - Gordon 60: Cuningham [Cunningham. From Irvine to the head of the Solway]. (manuscript)
- 1654 - Joan BLAEU - CARRICTA MERIDIONALIS - Carrick.
- 1654 - Joan BLAEU - CARRICTA BOREALIS - Mid Ayrshire.
- 1654 - Joan BLAEU - COILA - Kyle.
- 1654 - Joan BLAEU - CVNINGHAMIA - Cunningham.
- 1662 - Joan BLAEU - CARRICTA MERIDIONALIS - Carrick.
- 1662 - Joan BLAEU - CARRICTA BOREALIS - Mid Ayrshire.
- 1662 - Joan BLAEU - COILA - Kyle.
- 1662 - Joan BLAEU - CVNINGHAMIA - Cunningham.
- 1686 - Adair 11: A mape of the west of Scotland containing Clydsdail, Nithsdail, Ranfrew, Shyre of Ayre, & Galloway authore Jo. Adair. (manuscript)
- 1745 - Herman MOLL - The South Part of the Shire of Air; Containing Kyle and Carrick.
- 1745 - Herman MOLL - The Shire of Renfrew, with Cuningham. The North Part of ye Shire of Air.
- 1747-55 - William ROY - Military Survey of Scotland
- 1774 - Alexander BAILLIE - A map of Ayr-shire. Reduced from captain Armstrong's six sheet map
- 1775 - Andrew ARMSTRONG - A new map of Ayrshire (on 6 sheets; uncoloured)
- 1775 - Andrew ARMSTRONG - A new map of Ayrshire (on 3 sheets; coloured)
- 1775 - Andrew ARMSTRONG - [A new map of Ayrshire, comprehending Kyle, Cunningham, & Carrick...]

I'll share a few examples of historic maps now, just to show you what to look out for, and for this exercise I'll be sticking with Glengarnock Castle. This is partly because I know it's a site with a long history which stretches right back into the medieval period, and as a result, it will be shown on the earliest available historic mapping for the area. Arguably the earliest available mapping for Scotland was surveyed by Timothy Pont in the mid-16th century, but this can be difficult to interpret at times, so it's often best to start with the maps of Blaeu, which basically comprised a revision of Pont's mapping carried out in the 1650s.

Extract from Blaeu's Map of 1654

The depiction of the landscape is very stylised in Blaeu's map, but it is possible to find a correlation with the modern landscape by matching large topographic features such as rivers or through consistency in place names. When the latter show a clear match between Blaeu's map and its modern equivalent, it may show that a particular site has been occupied since at least the post-medieval period.

If we move forward a century, we come to William Roy's 'Military Survey of Scotland,' surveyed between 1747 and 1755. This provides a much more detailed snapshot of the landscape, and it shows the topography in sufficient detail to allow closer comparison with modern mapping. It also provides us with insights into how much the land was enclosed at the time of the survey, and how much was under cultivation, but once again we can't describe this map as modern mapping in our understanding of the word.

It's only with the onset of Ordnance Survey mapping that we are provided with maps that allow close comparison with their modern counterparts.

The maps we've just covered are particularly important as they give us insights into how the landscape changed over a period of roughly three hundred years. But there are others, and it can be helpful to opt for a really detailed study of whatever mapping is available for your area of interest, as there can sometimes be quite dramatic changes evident, particularly in the period spanning 1750 to 1910 or thereabouts. It's also useful to keep checking for new additions to the online collection, too, as new maps or estate plans are scanned and uploaded on a regular basis.

Scotland's People

Useful link: https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/

So far we've looked at sites as places, but if you really want to create a good engaging narrative about your local heritage, then you need to add a magic missing ingredient, and that's people. The resource that first springs to mind is the census, particularly when dealing with the 19th or early 20th century occupation of a site. Access to census data is available free via local libraries – which makes things beyond difficult, in this time of Covid…. – but online private access has to take place through a website named 'Scotland's People,' which, although providing tremendous potential for detail, has costs involved so we won't be looking at it in depth here.

Screenshot showing Search Page of Scotland's People

Scotland's Places

Useful link: https://scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/

Leaving 'Scotland's People' aside, there is another website named 'Scotland's Places' which provides a diverse range of freely accessible resources.

Scotland's Places allows access to documents and images from a range of repositories, which include Historic Environment Scotland and also the National Records of Scotland, which we haven't talked about yet.

Screenshot showing Search Page of Scotland's Places

Particularly important resources on this site include a wide range of taxation rolls, which span a period between the late 1600s and the late 1800s. There's a wide variety of taxes, ranging from the 'Hearth Tax' which taxed the number of fireplaces in a property, right through to more obscure attempts at taxation such as the 'Dog Tax' and the 'Farm Servant Tax'. A detailed study of these records can enable specific named individuals to be linked with particular places.

Screenshot showing Search Results on Scotland's Places

Another really useful resource which can be accessed via 'Scotland's Places' is the Ordnance Survey Name Books. These were compiled by surveyors who were working on the creation of the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey mapping during the mid-19th century, and they include lots of detailed information pertaining to place names and named topographical features. As well as often including the earliest detailed information pertaining to historic buildings and antiquities, the Name Book Entries can often yield insights into 19th century farmsteads, some of which may now be completely removed from the modern landscape. These can include descriptions: a building may for instance be described as 'farmhouse and one-storey offices in good repair, slated.'

Extract from the Ordnance Survey Name Book

The National Register of Archives for Scotland

Useful link: http://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrasregister/search.aspx

Finally, we're going to take a look at the online portal into for the National Records of Scotland, and once again we're going to take 'Glengarnock Castle' as our example for demonstrating how far a short episode of documentary research of this kind can take you, in more ways than one!

Type the word 'Glengarnock' into the search engine, and you find a total of 381 records, all of which contain the word 'Glengarnock' somewhere in the text. Only by scrolling through these records can you see what a diverse range of material is held in our national archives. I'm going to show you some examples, just to give you an idea of the range and time depth of what's available, and hopefully inspire you to explore your own chosen sites more fully. Because I've just used the general term 'Glengarnock,' I've turned up far more than records relating just to the castle.

Firstly, we have precognition statements from the police which date through the second half of the 19th century (see (*1*) below). These shed a stark and often cruel light into the more unpleasant aspects of history: here we have two examples of culpable homicide, an instance of indecent assault towards a young – potentially pre-pubescent – girl, and an episode of domestic violence in which a married woman is stabbed by her spouse. Lurid details aside, we are given insights into people and places, and an opportunity, too, to link specific people to specific places at a certain time.

Screenshot showing Search Results on the National Record of Scotland Website (1)

Moving on, we find documents and drawings relating to the construction of the railway at Glengarnock. These have the potential to enhance our understanding of aspects of the industrial heritage which may otherwise escape our notice because they remain in use in a modified form today, although not necessarily in the form of a railway…

Further searching takes us back in time by several centuries, and here at last we find named individuals linked with our site. Glengarnock Castle. In this case, we see two generations of the Cunninghames of Glengarnock, who have left their mark through the legal documents they either instigated or witnessed during their lifetimes. In one of the examples highlighted here *(2)*, we see William Cunninghame of Glengarnock named as a procurator, responsible for seizing goods and chattels from the Lockharts of Barr if they default on payments agreed with the parish church of Ardrossan regarding the celebration of masses yearly at the altar of Saint Peter in the church. This particular document provides us with a wealth of information, not only about who was head of the family in the lands of Glengarnock at the time, but also yielding insights into his wider roles and responsibilities throughout Ayrshire. It also gives us tangible information relating to the parish church of Ardrossan, and wider insights into the personalities who were active within the wider community at the time.

Screenshot showing Search Results on the National Record of Scotland Website (2)

Jump to: All A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

< previous	Records 131 to 140 of 381	next >	**Explain Access status**

Reference	Title	Date	Access status
ED52/455	School Meals Service	1951-1966	●
ED64/1252/1	School Inspections Reports: **Glengarnock** Primary School	1997	●
ED64/1252/2	School Inspections Reports: **Glengarnock** Primary School	1999	●
GD3/1/1/9/1	Charter granted by John Lokhart, Lord of Barr, with the consent and assent of Robert Lokhart, his son and heir, to a Chaplain to celebrate three masses weekly at the altar of St Peter in the parish church of Ardrossan for the health of his soul and that of his wife, and the souls of their ancestors and successors and of all Christians, of 5 merks of annualrent to be payable yearly from his lands of Barr and of Newtoun, lying within the bailliary of Walteris Kyle within the sheriffdom of Ayr; to hold to the said chaplain in pure and perpetual alms and if the said John should fail in payment of the said annualrent, he constituted Alexander of Mungumry, knight, his lord of Ardrossan and William of Cunynghame, Lord of **Glengarnock** and their heirs as procurators, to seize all his goods, both moveable and immoveable and to apply them in payment thereof	12 Mar 1438	●
GD3/1/3/10/1	Charter of confirmation granted by King James VI	1 July 1571	🟡 Not Held
GD3/1/3/21/4	Notarial publication of an agreement between William Cunninghame of **Glengarnock** and David Barclay	7 Feb 1544	🟡 Not Held
GD3/1/10/14	Bundle 14: Bolgaris (Balgair), Kilfassachis (Kilfasset) and Ballindalloch, in the Earldom of Lennox, Shire of Stirling	21 July 1467	●
GD3/1/10/20/3	Summons of improbation at the instance of Sir William Oliphant of Newtoune	18 Sep 1616	●
GD3/1/10/20/15	Disposition by Alexander, Earl of Eglinton, Lord Montgomery in favour of Hew, Lord Montgomery	7 Apr 1654	●
GD3/2/2/27	Notarial instrument narrating a judicial accusation made by servants and officers of late Hugh Campbell of Loudoun, sheriff of Ayr, about a sum of money taken from the laird of Skelmorlie	31 Oct 1511	●

< previous	next >

Click on a reference number to see details

My last example takes us much further afield, and it's particularly interesting because it provides a link between our area of interest – the Garnock Valley – and the further reaches of the world. This link is also very topical, and very relevant in our modern world, too. We see, included amongst these 381 records linked to Glengarnock, a series of documents which refer to 'Robert Cunyngham, sugar planter, St Christoper, Leger' *(3)*. Now, if you're keeping abreast of current affairs, the term 'sugar planter' and this reference to a Caribbean island should already be ringing alarm bells, and once again, further exploration of one of these records gives us insights into one of history's most sordid aspects: slavery, and the trafficking of human beings for commercial gain.

Screenshot showing Search Results on the National Record of Scotland Website (3)

Reference	Title	Date	Access status
CS96/3096/1	Robert Cunyngham, sugar planter, St Christopher's. Ledger	1715-1731	●
CS96/3096/2	Robert Cunyngham, sugar planter, St Christopher's. Ledger	1715-1731	●
CS96/3097	Robert Cunyngham, sugar planter, St Christopher's. Ledger	1717-1737	●
CS96/3098	Robert Cunyngham, sugar planter, St Christopher's. Ledger	1719-1741	●
CS96/3099	Robert Cunyngham, sugar planter, St Christopher's. Ledger	1728-1729	●
CS96/3100	Robert Cunyngham, sugar planter, St Christopher's. Ledger	1741-1742	●
CS96/3101	Robert Cunyngham, sugar planter, St Christopher's. Index to missing ledger	n.d.	●
CS96/3102	Robert Cunyngham, sugar planter, St Christopher's. Waste or day book	1729-1735	●
CS96/3103	Robert Cunyngham, sugar planter, St Christopher's. Waste or day book	1730-1731	●
CS96/3104	Robert Cunyngham, sugar planter, St Christopher's. Waste or day book	1731-1735	●

Further exploration of one of these records reveals that Robert Cunyngham was of the line of Glengarnock. Does this mean that he was born and raised in the castle? Well, quite probably not, because by the late 1600s it's quite likely that the castle had been abandoned as a residence and the Cunninghames were already residing elsewhere. Unfortunately, I haven't had an opportunity to explore this further, but the information is, I'm sure, out there somewhere.

Screenshot showing Record Entry on the National Record of Scotland Website

Reference	Title		Date
CS96	Court of Session: productions in processes		1495-1947

Country code	GB
Repository code	234
Repository	National Records of Scotland
Reference	CS96/3096/1
Title	Robert Cunyngham, sugar planter, St Christopher's. Ledger
Dates	1715-1731
Access status	Open
Location	On site
Description	Cunyngham, a son of Richard Cunyngham of **Glengarnock**, owned plantation of Cayon and lands at Basseterre in St Christopher's (St Kitt's). Purchased lands in island of Montserrat. Most of sugar produced at Cayon consigned to London, some to Glasgow and Philadelphia. Some dealing also in rum, cotton, old copper, madeira wine. Cunyngham visited London several times, exporting from there, apparently for own use, books (titles listed), furniture, domestic articles, food stuffs including tea, clothes, jewelry, silverware including collars for negroes. Provisions shipped from Cork. Agent in London: William Coleman, merchant there. Bills in favour of merchants in Amsterdam, the Hague, Rotterdam, Brussels. Cunyngham concerned with the affairs of Brigadier-General Robert Hunter, later Major-General and Governor of Jamaica. This volume includes: Executry account of Mme Elizabeth de Salenave. Rental of Brigadier General Hunter's manor of Crowland in county of Lincoln, and related accounts. Reversed at the back of the volume: Genealogy of Earls of Glencairn, lairds of Craigend and of Robert Cunynghan. Scheme of a lottery. Account of lands sold by the Commissioners for sale of His Majesty's lands in St Christopher's, listing the purchasers. Cunyngham travelled to Lille and shipped goods to Rouen and Ostend on behalf of General Walter Douglas.
Level	Item
Extent	145pp
Previous numbers	Process: CS230/C4/3. Ex CS230/Misc.15/7

Cunyngham's legers yield insight into his business transactions, and again this allows us to link people and places, and in this instance, things, too. And this is where our explorations get chilling, because of course some names are entirely unknown and unmentioned here: the slaves who would have been the recipients of the 'silver collars' which were purchased in London for export to his plantation. We can also surmise that these 'silver collars' were decorative items used for slaves who would have been employed as domestic servants and quite possibly front of house staff.

The wealth of detail which becomes available through this kind of exploration can be considerable, though I suppose I cheated in a way by using Glengarnock Castle, as it's a very high-status site with links to the movers and shakers of its day. Finding information relating to a modest little farmstead in the back of beyond can be more difficult, and in this case access to a library (in more favourable times) and census data would probably be a better option.

So in summary, we're learned from this session how to find out whether our site is already known and recorded as a heritage site, using Canmore and Pastmap, which also tells us where known sites are located and how they have been described by those who have visited them previously. This information provides us with an account of physical remains which we can compare with what we see in the field, an exercise which can improve our understanding as well as allow us to note any changes in condition. We can also learn about a site's legal status from Pastmap, and also potentially find out more information about it from the local Sites and Monuments record, maintained by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, which may include more information derived from archaeological excavations and surveys.

By studying historic map evidence, we gain insights into time-depth, something which is especially important when studying modest sites such as farmsteadings and other rural settlement. Maps also give us an understanding of the wider landscape, placing our site in context and once again allowing us to understand how this landscape changed over time. Accompanying documentary sources like the Ordnance Survey Name Book also allow us further insights into the condition of individual structures at the time of the 1st edition map survey, again providing detailed information into specific structures at a particular point in time and sometimes mentioning individuals who are linked with that structure or property.

Finally, I've given you more pointers on how to link names with places, and also how to link names with other places, and also, moving on from that, places with other places. Such information gives more detailed depth of narrative and understanding about how individuals operated in the past, how they interacted with others, and this in turn can help us understand what impact they had on their physical landscape and environment, both close to home and further afield. As I have illustrated today, these discoveries can yield a picture that's wide-ranging, both spatially and chronologically, and highly detailed, although in some cases, we have to be aware of those whose names and identities remain unknown.

I hope that today's session has given you some starters with regards to where to begin – our follow-up session will look at how you can gather together all this information, select its essential elements and weave these into a more compact and accessible form, and how you can then share your findings with a wider audience.