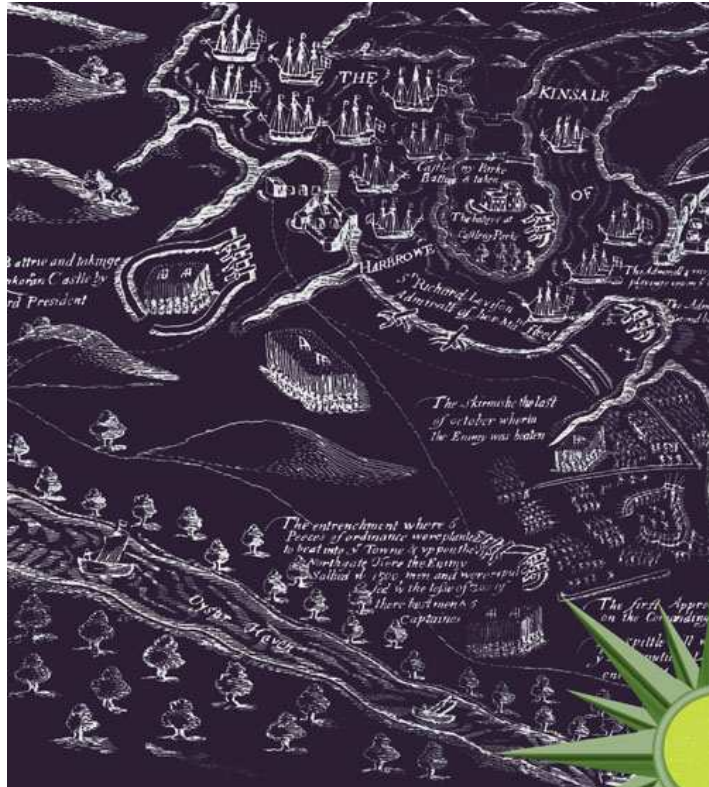


MAPPING
URBAN
IRELAND

ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY LIBRARY IRISH HISTORIC TOWNS ATLAS





A

N EXHIBITION OF HISTORIC
MAPS OF IRISH CITIES
AND TOWNS



Maps of Irish towns were produced for a variety of purposes over the last four centuries. Some had a military or propaganda function while others were drawn to assist in planning the future development of towns. While the accuracy of early maps varies, they are always a fascinating resource for the study of the development of Irish towns over time.

The earliest maps of Irish towns were produced by English cartographers. These include picture maps of Cork, Limerick, and Youghal, dated to c. 1587, and published in revised form in Thomas Stafford, *Pacata Hibernia: or a history of the wars in Ireland* (1633). The dual context from which these maps emerged was that of the wars of the late sixteenth century coupled with a Renaissance interest in geographical discovery. Stafford's map of the battle of Kinsale is a pictorial narrative of the event.

Top: Pictorial narrative of Battle of Kinsale (1601), from Stafford, *Pacata Hibernia*, 1633 (original map is black and white).
Left: Detail from pictorial map of Cork, c. 1587, redrawn for Stafford, *Pacata Hibernia*, 1633.



Wicklow

THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

John Speed's plans of Cork, Dublin, Galway and Limerick were published in a lavish propagandist work: *Theatre of the empire of Great Britaine* (London, 1611[1612]). Speed's maps were derived from the research of others, and his maps of Irish towns are not always accurate. Thus, his map of Limerick misrepresents the street pattern of the Irishtown. Speed's maps of Irish cities were extraordinarily influential, and continued to be copied down to the eighteenth century.

The Ulster Plantation also created opportunities for early seventeenth-century cartographers, including Josias Bodley (d. 1617), Nicholas Pynnar and Thomas Raven.

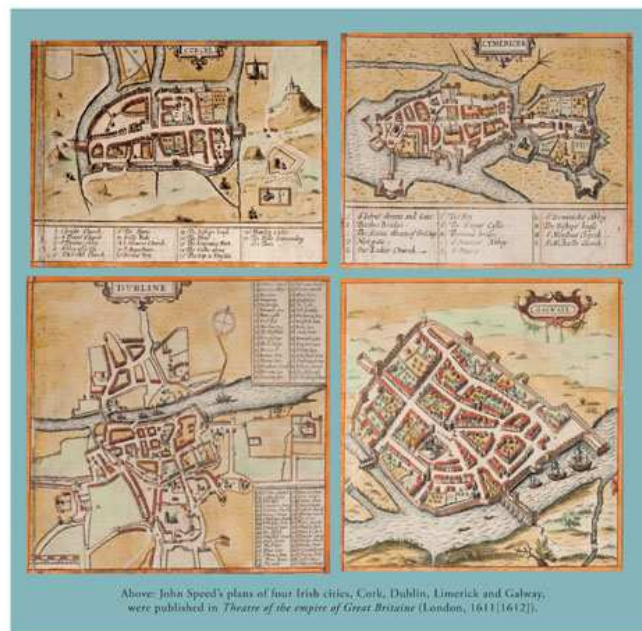
Sir William Petty (d. 1687) drew a series of maps to accompany the 'Down survey' which he commenced in 1654. The survey was intended

to record lands available for distribution to English soldiers having been confiscated from the Irish defeated in rebellion. Petty's maps of Irish counties were later redrawn and published in his *Hiberniae delineatio* (1685), and are detailed enough to include depictions of towns.



Sir William Petty

Above left: Detail from Sir William Petty's map of County Dublin in *Hiberniae delineatio*, 1685.



Above: John Speed's plans of four Irish cities, Cork, Dublin, Limerick and Galway, were published in *Theatre of the empire of Great Britaine* (London, 1611[1612]).

MAPPING URBAN IRELAND



THE EARLY EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Henry Pratt's *Tabula Hiberniae: Mapp of the kingdom of Ireland newly corrected and improv'd by actual observations* (1708) was acclaimed by his contemporaries as a significant achievement. Pratt's work was extensively used by later cartographers, including Herman Moll, John Rocque and Bernard Scellé.

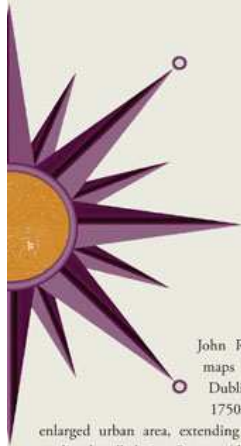
Pratt's map of Ireland was accompanied by a series of detailed plans of cities and fortified towns, including Athlone, Belfast, Catrickenfergus, Coleraine, Cork, Derry, Drogheda, Dublin, Dungannon, Galway, Kilkenny, Kinsale, Limerick and Waterford.



Amongst the eighteenth-century cartographers of Dublin, Charles Brooking's 1728 *Map of the city and suburbs of Dublin* was the earliest separate map of Dublin to be published. This map was on a much larger scale than its predecessors and is noteworthy for its depictions of architecturally significant buildings.

Above: Detail from *A map of the city and suburbs of Dublin* by Charles Brooking, 1728.
 Above right: Architectural detail (The front of St Warburghs Church) from *A map of the city and suburbs of Dublin* by Charles Brooking, 1728.
 Below left to right: Limerick and Londonderry, from Henry Pratt, *Map of the kingdom of Ireland*, 1708.





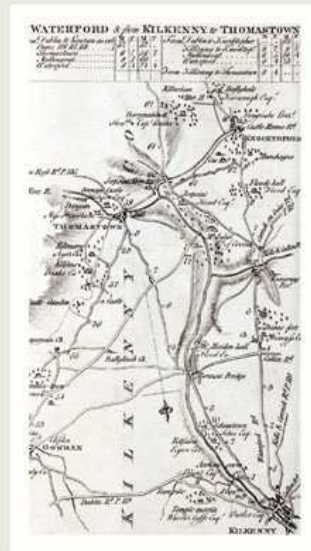
THE LATE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

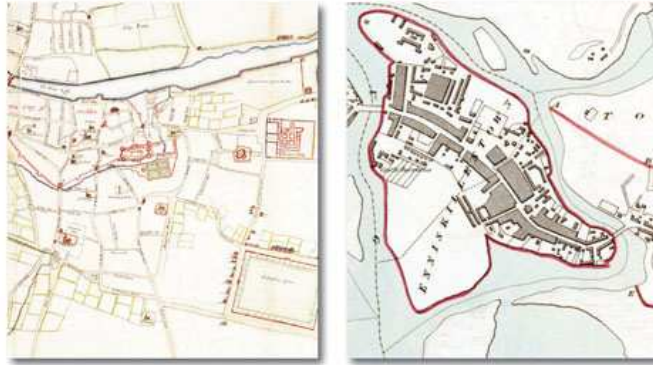
John Rocque's range of maps of the city of Dublin published in the 1750s depicted a greatly enlarged urban area, extending well beyond the medieval walled city. Rocque (d. 1762), a French Huguenot, was an experienced cartographer and surveyor when he visited Dublin in 1754, having already produced exceptional maps of Bristol and London. *An exact survey of the city and suburbs of Dublin* (1756) and *The city and suburbs of Dublin* (1757) were among Rocque's most important contributions to urban cartography in Ireland. He also mapped Cork, Kilkenny and Armagh. His other major achievements included his survey of the estates of the earl of Kildare (1755–60). Some of the decoration on Rocque's Irish maps is attributed to his assistant, Bernard Scalé, who later became a cartographer in his own right.

George Taylor and Andrew Skinner's *Maps of the roads of Ireland* was published in 1778 to cater for the demand among the gentry for road maps. Towns are depicted on the maps, together with the grand houses of the gentry, and a variety of other settlement features.

Below: 'Road from Dublin to Waterford ... to Thomastown', extract from George Taylor & Andrew Skinner, *Maps of the roads of Ireland*, 1778.

Right: Selection of details from John Rocque, *An exact survey of the city and suburbs of Dublin*, 1756 (with revisions to 1769). Reproduced courtesy Trinity College Dublin.





SURVEYORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Travel and commerce prompted the production of maps of town harbours. Bernard de Gomme's *An exact survey of the city of Dublin and part of the harbour anno: 1685* was reproduced regularly through the nineteenth century. Similarly, Murdoch Mackenzie's *A maritim survey of Ireland* (1776) was still of interest to those approaching Irish cities and towns from the sea long after Mackenzie's death in 1797.

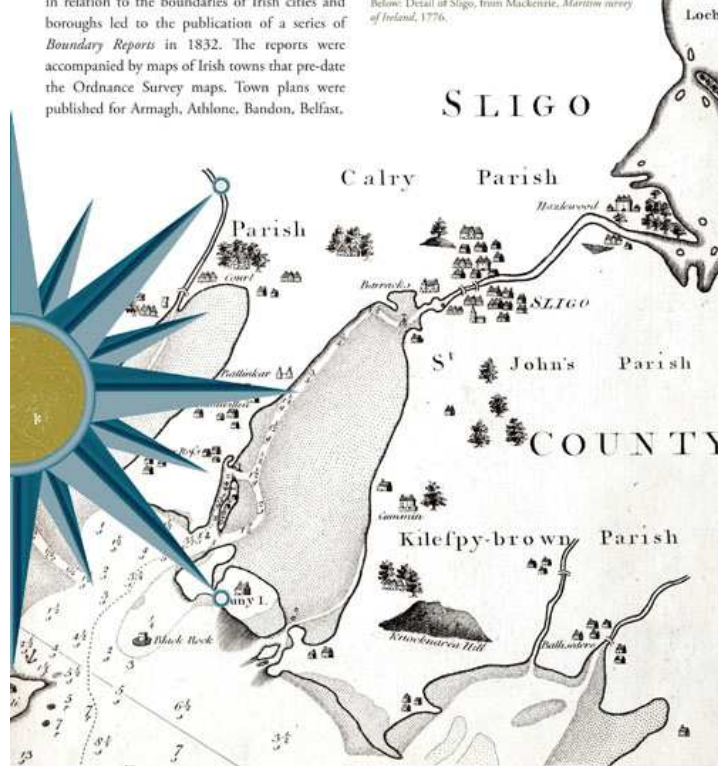
Carlow, Carrickfergus, Cashel, Clonmel, Coleraine, Cork, Downpatrick, Drogheda, Dublin, Dundalk, Dungannon, Dungarvan, Ennis, Enniskillen, Galway, Kilkenny, Kinsale, Limerick, Lisburn, Londonderry, Mallow, Newry, Portlargo, New Ross, Sligo, Tralee, Waterford, Wexford and Youghal. ☀

Top left: Bernard De Gomme, *City and suburbs of Dublin*, 1673. © National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London.

Top right: Enniskillen, from *Boundary reports ... cities and boroughs of Ireland*, 1832.

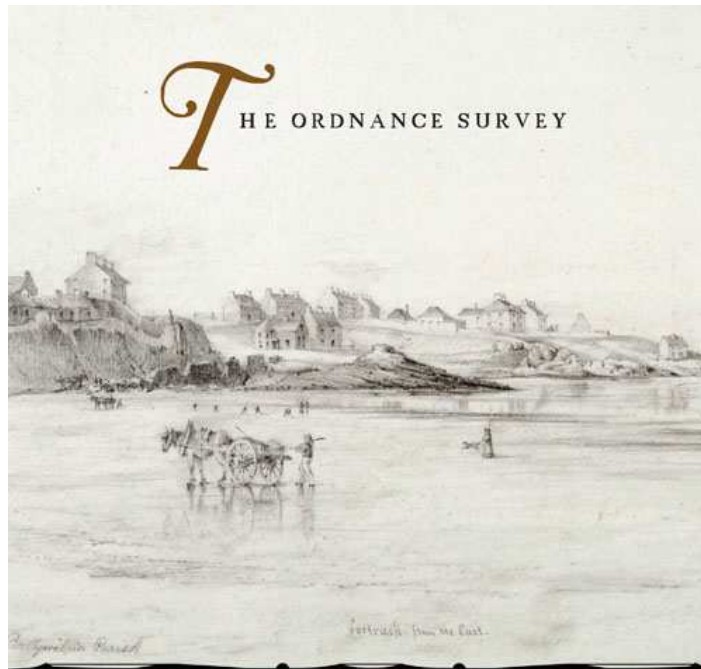
Below: Detail of Sligo, from Mackenzie, *Maritim survey of Ireland*, 1776.

Working from an administrative perspective, a parliamentary initiative by the House of Commons in relation to the boundaries of Irish cities and boroughs led to the publication of a series of *Boundary Reports* in 1832. The reports were accompanied by maps of Irish towns that pre-date the Ordnance Survey maps. Town plans were published for Armagh, Athlone, Bandon, Belfast,



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T HE ORDNANCE SURVEY

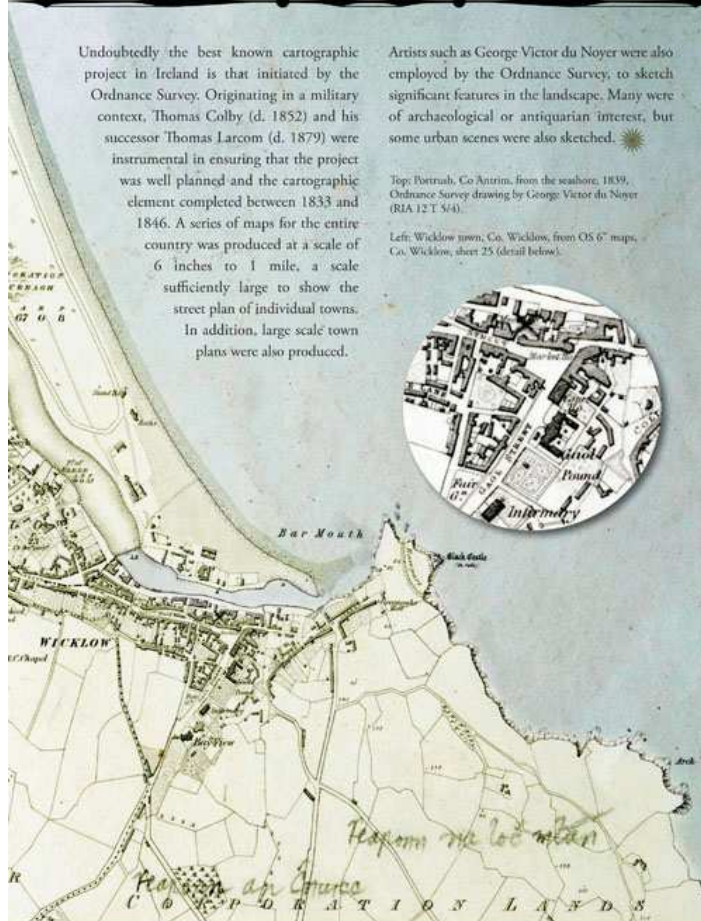


Undoubtedly the best known cartographic project in Ireland is that initiated by the Ordnance Survey. Originating in a military context, Thomas Colby (d. 1852) and his successor Thomas Larcom (d. 1879) were instrumental in ensuring that the project was well planned and the cartographic element completed between 1833 and 1846. A series of maps for the entire country was produced at a scale of 6 inches to 1 mile, a scale sufficiently large to show the street plan of individual towns. In addition, large scale town plans were also produced.

Artists such as George Victor du Noyer were also employed by the Ordnance Survey, to sketch significant features in the landscape. Many were of archaeological or antiquarian interest, but some urban scenes were also sketched.

Top: Potrush, Co. Antrim, from the seashore, 1839. Ordnance Survey drawing by George Victor du Noyer (RIA 12 T 5/4).

Left: Wicklow town, Co. Wicklow, from OS 6" maps, Co. Wicklow, sheet 25 (detail below).



MAPPING URBAN IRELAND

IRISH HISTORIC TOWNS ATLAS IN CONTEXT



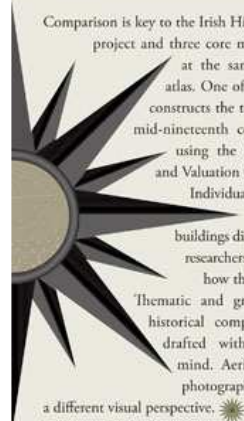
The Ordnance Survey produced larger scale town plans alongside the 6-inch maps that were produced in the nineteenth century. These town plans are a core source for the drafting of maps and text for the Irish Historic Towns Atlas as they were done for most Irish towns and include very detailed information. The earliest plans were manuscript and were compiled from 1830–48 at a scale of 5-foot to 1 mile (1:1056). From 1847, these maps were revised and printed, many at the larger scale of 1:500.

Comparison is key to the Irish Historic Towns Atlas project and three core maps are produced at the same scale for each atlas. One of these, Map 2, reconstructs the town or city in the mid-nineteenth century at 1:2500 using the Ordnance Survey and Valuation Office town plans.

Individual plots are depicted and public buildings distinguished to help researchers detect clues about how the town developed.

Thematic and growth maps, and historical compilations are also drafted with comparison in mind. Aerial views and old photographs are used to give

a different visual perspective.



Top left: Main Street, Longford, looking north, c. 1900 (© National Library of Ireland), in IHIA, no. 22, *Longford*.

Below: Growth map of Armagh, in IHIA, no. 18, *Armagh*.



Top: Extract from OS manuscript town plan, Tuam, 1836 (© National Archives of Ireland), in IHIA, no. 20, *Tuam*. The curvature of Church Lane reflects an earlier monastic enclosure.

Above: Extract from Map 2, Longford, 1836, in IHIA, no. 22. Main Street of 'Newtown Longford' was planned and laid out in the seventeenth century. The castle and market of the 'old town' were on the site of the cavalry barracks.

