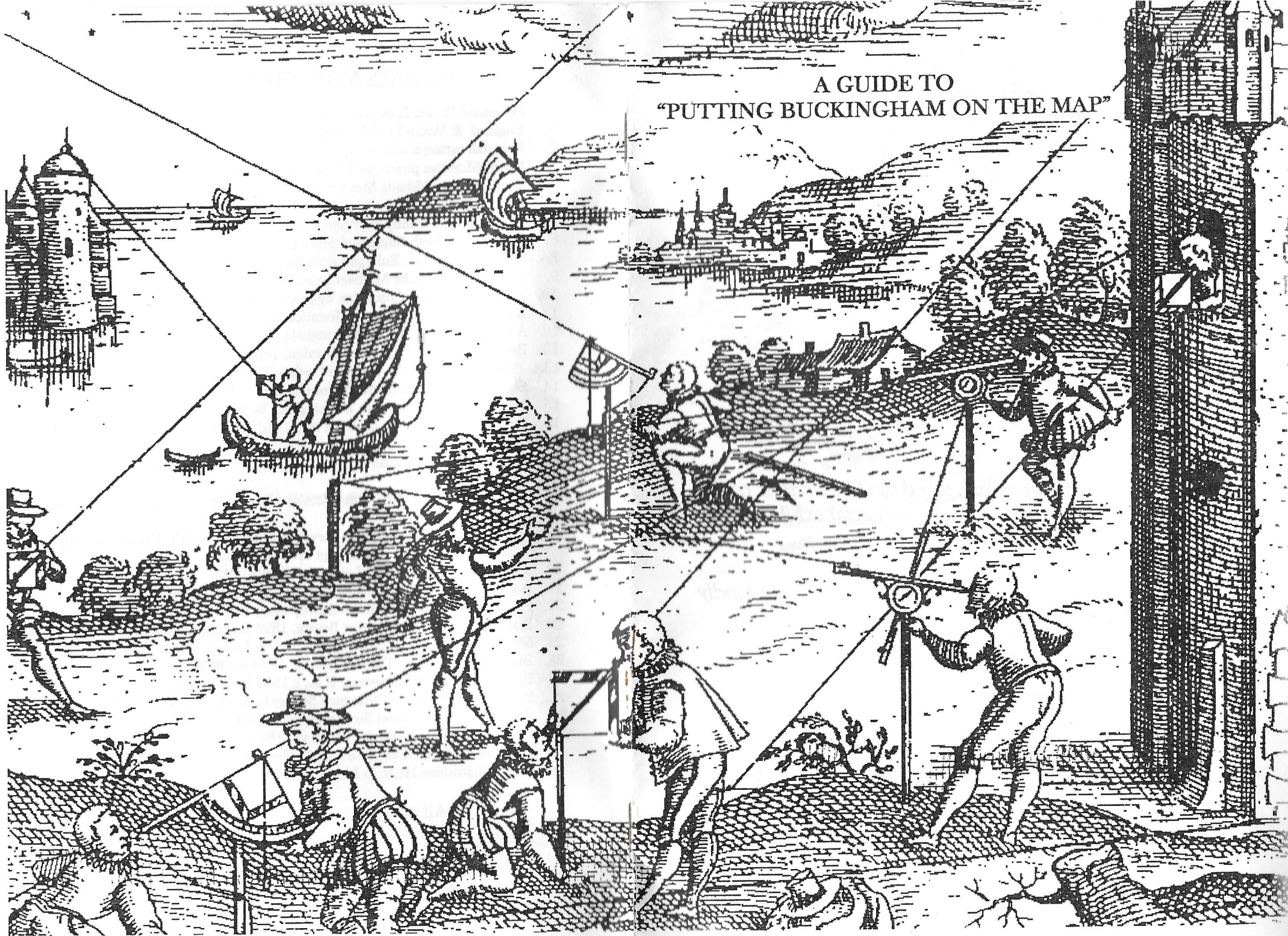
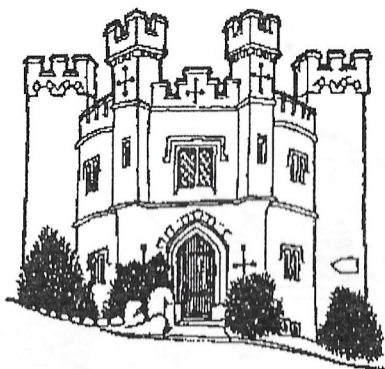


A GUIDE TO
"PUTTING BUCKINGHAM ON THE MAP"





OLD GAOL MUSEUM BUCKINGHAM

This catalogue has been produced by The Friends of the Old Gaol Museum to accompany the special exhibition on local maps, text is by Rodney Shirley.

The museum is very grateful to all those who have kindly lent maps and other items for display.

*The exhibition has been arranged by:
Hélène Hill and Friends.*

(Numbered list of display items on inside back cover)

“PUTTING BUCKINGHAM ON THE MAP”

AN EXHIBITION OF HISTORIC LOCAL MAPS OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2000

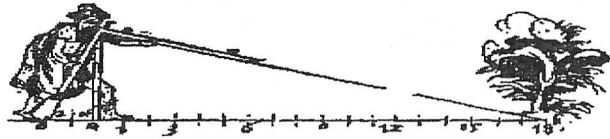
Buckingham is mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle as *Buccingahamme* and is cited in the Domesday Book, but no maps are extant for any of the places so described, or indeed were made for the country as a whole at that time. Much earlier, in about 150AD, the Greek geographer-astronomer Claudius Ptolemy is known to have recorded, as best he could, the latitudes and longitudes of places in the Graeco-Roman world. Manuscripts of his map of the British Isles circulated in Europe from the 13th century onwards, and in 1477 the first ever atlas to be printed was of Ptolemaic maps, including one of Britain. An early example of a Ptolemaic map is on display (1).



BUCKINGHAM AS IT WAS IN 1610 (8)

One of the earliest ‘modern’ maps to be printed — that is, according to contemporary information — is the map of England and Wales by Sebastian Münster from Basle (2). It first appeared in 1540 and gives a very generalised picture of the outline of the country and the main towns.

Since medieval times clerical and feudal landowners had demanded surveys of their properties. Because these were typically drawn by hand on paper or vellum relatively few have survived. But those which are still held in private or institutional hands give us an emotive picture of the local landscape. A unique manuscript map of the township of Boarstall (north-east of Thame) dates from 1444 (3). Sometimes little change took place in estate maps over the centuries. Compare, for instance, the field names on the 1595 estate of Maids Moreton (4) with the modern (1928) map of field names of the same locality (5).



Using the 'carpenter's squire'.

Saxton's work was so far-reaching that his surveys were copied with little improvement by nearly all successor map-makers for 200 years, until the Ordnance Survey was founded. It is baffling that we know so little how he accomplished his nation-wide task. We do not know how many people Saxton employed or for sure what techniques he employed. Almost certainly he used a form of triangulation, probably based on the systems of beacons throughout the country but he was unlikely to have been versed in trigonometrical calculations applied to surveying.

Saxton's maps are now scarce and, in the case of Buckinghamshire, this county was combined with those of Oxfordshire and Berkshire in one rather crowded ensemble (6). The first separate map of Buckinghamshire is the map based on Saxton, engraved in 1607 by William Hole for the history book *Britannia* by William Camden (7). A few years later, in 1612, the better-known map by John Speed dated 1610 was published and reprinted in his *Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine* for over 60 years. Speed's map is the first to give a town plan of Buckingham, (8A) even showing the site of St.Rumbold's Well to the south-west. The prosperity of Buckingham and its inns in the Middle Ages is believed to have rested on the tourist trade from pilgrims who came to this well and to St.Rumbold's shrine in the old church.

Nearly all the local maps over the next 150 years are based on Saxton as their prime source, including those by Joan [John] Blaeu (10), Joannes Janssonius (11), Richard Blome (12), Robert Morden (13 & 13A), John Seller (14) and Emanuel Bowen (18). Their design, accuracy and decorative detail varies according to the style of their time. For instance, Blaeu and Janssonius provide heraldic shields; Morden includes some roads; Seller has a fine rustic cartouche; Bowen displays textual panels of practical historical and local information. Morden's map (in its first edition) mistakenly repeats the township of Winslow twice which must have confused travellers.



Using the 'topographicaal instrument'.

An odd fanciful map is the one engraved by William Hole from the poetical book *Poly-Olbion* by Michael Drayton (9). Groups of locals and nymphs are shown singing the songs of their favourite county.

For reasons not entirely clear, very few of the first county maps included roads. It was not until 1675, when John Ogilby published his innovative atlas of road maps in strip form (15) that roads were introduced on other maps. Small pocket books of road maps later became popular for people travelling by coach or on horseback (16 & 20). The new branch-line canal to Buckingham is shown on Andrew Bryant's map of 1825 (23) and railways make their appearance on other maps from the early 1840s (25).

In 1753 Earl Temple, the powerful owner of the grand estate of Stowe near Buckingham, had a map made of his landscape gardens (17), with a key which names 67 of the extensive walks, and the temples, follies and other structures recently constructed. The National Trust, the present owners of the gardens, are making very good use of the map (and others) in their long term programme to restore Stowe to its eighteenth-century prime.

Because of the generally poor standard of county maps at the time, in 1759 the Royal Society of Arts offered a prize for the better survey of one or more counties. Thomas Jefferys, leading cartographer and 'Geographer to the King' played a major part in surveying nine counties, among them Buckinghamshire. Jefferys' four-sheet map, at the scale of 1" to the mile first appeared in 1770 and was reprinted in 1788 and 1818. The inset plan of Buckingham (19) is the only known fresh depiction of the town since Speed's rendering of 1610.

It was not until the 1790s that General Roy, who had successfully mapped the Highlands of Scotland, persuaded George III to put money aside to carry out a proper triangulated survey of the whole country. The work of the Ordnance Survey (as it later became) was of far-reaching importance. Over the next 100 years it led to the accurate mapping of the whole of the British Isles at scales of 1", 6" and 25" to the mile, and established standards of technical and presentational excellence that were internationally acclaimed. For a while, in the early 19th century, private cartographers produced fine maps of the counties (see, for instance, those of Andrew Bryant (23) and the firm of C & J Greenwood (24)), but later maps became increasingly reliant on the basic work of the Ordnance Survey.

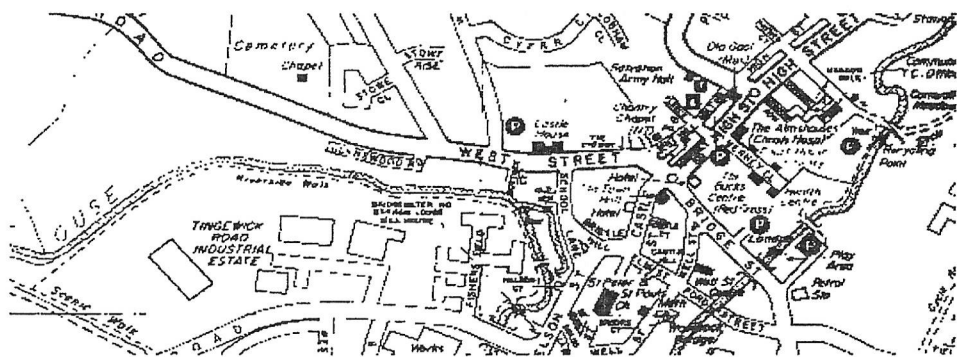
Wider uses were found for maps. As well as just topography — displaying the landscape and places by means of conventional signs— maps came to be used for thematic purposes. One example is William Smith's geological map of 1820 (21) and another is Walker's 'Hunting Map' showing the various hunts and the meeting places of the hounds (31). Such a map must have hung in countless corridors and farms around Buckingham.

Special maps underpinned the changes in parish boundaries as a result of the Reform Act of 1832 and the re-apportionment of tithes that followed the Tithe Acts of the 1830s. Three such maps are displayed: nos. 26, 27 & 28.

The larger-scale Ordnance Survey maps of Buckingham and its environs may not appear very exciting. But if looked at closely they reveal many details of historic interest: how the built-up areas have changed; the introduction (and disuse) of railways and industrial sites; and the remains of one-time features such as mills, public houses and schools.

With the spread of first, bicycling and then motoring, maps became much more widely used and read. From the early 1900s local town plans began to carry the advertisements of local traders or features extolling local attractions. Because they were amended every few years such plans had a limited life and were typically thrown away when a new one appeared. Few museums or libraries have a complete historical set and so individual examples are sometimes quite scarce.

In the last quarter of the twentieth century the Ordnance Survey adopted the metric system, made extensive use of satellite surveying, and computerised nearly all of its cartographic techniques. As well as the well-known folded maps available in the shops, individual sheets can be printed out on request at varying scales showing a very wide range of topographic and other features.



Maps of all sorts are widely produced today, as the selection on display shows.

Both local inhabitants and visiting tourists should have no difficulty in finding their way around the town or -

PUTTING BUCKINGHAM ON THE MAP"

LIST OF MAPS AND OTHER ITEMS ON DISPLAY

1. Ptolemaic British Isles map, 1482.
2. England & Wales by Sebastian Münster, 1540 [1550].
3. *Boarstall estate; a manuscript map, 1444.
4. *Maids Moreton parish by Thomas Langdon; a manuscript map, 1595.
5. *Field names of Maids Moreton parish, 1928.
6. *Bucks, Berks & Oxfordshire [Oxon] by Christopher Saxton, 1574. [1579].
7. Buckingha[m] county by William Hole, 1607.
8. Buckingham both Shyre and Shire towne by John Speed, 1610 [1627].
- 8A - *Buckingham town, Enlarged from Speed's county map.
9. Buckinghamshire by Michael Drayton, 1612.
10. Buckinghamiensis Comitatus by Joan [John] Blaeu, 1645 (or later).
11. Buckinghamiae Comitatus by Joannes Janssonius. 1646 (or later).
12. A mapp of ye County of Buckingha[m] by Richard Blome. 1681 [1715].
13. Buckinghamshire by Robert Morden, 1696.
- 13A Buckinghamshire by Robert Morden 17th century edition .
14. Buckinghamiae Comitatus by John Seller, c. 1680.
15. The road from London to Buckingham by John Ogilby, 1675.
16. Buckinghamshire (and untitled strip road map) by Emanuel Bowen, 1720 (or later).
17. The Most Noble House and Gardens of Earl Temple at Stowe by George Bickham, c.1760.
18. An Accurate Map of Buckinghamshire Divided into its Hundreds by Emanuel Bowen, c.1760.
19. *The County of Buckingham Surveyed in MDCCLXVI, VII and VIII by Thomas Jefferys, 1770 [town plan section].
20.Roads to Holyhead by Laurie & Whittle, 1815.
21. A Geological Map of Buckinghamshire by William Smith, 1820.
22. Untitled geological Ordnance Survey map, 1833 [1902].
23. *Buckinghamshire by Andrew Bryant, 1825 [northern section].
24. Map of the County of Buckingham by C & J Greenwood, 1834.
25. Buckinghamshire by Thomas Moule, 1838 [c.1850].
26. Buckingham by R.K.Dawson, R.E., c.1832 [twin maps].
27. Buckingham from the Ordnance Survey by Robt. K. Dawson. R.E., c.1840.
28. Buckingham by Colonel Sir Henry James, R.E. c. 1868.
29. *Buckinghamshire by Reuben Ramble, 1845.
30. Places of Meeting of the Duke of Grafton's Hunt by M A Pittman, c.1842.
31. Buckinghamshire Hunting Map by J & C Walker, c.1850.

All maps are original ones except those marked * which are reproductions

A further selection of more recent nineteenth and twentieth-century maps, together with some drawing and surveying instruments and books are also on display.