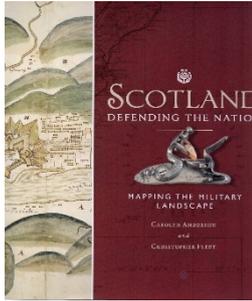
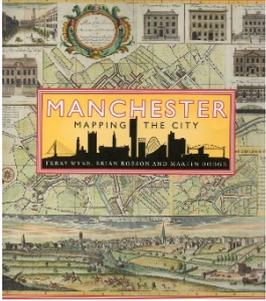


Book reviews



Manchester: Mapping the City, Terry Wyke, Brian Robson & Martin Dodge, Birlinn, 2018, 978-1-78027-530-7, £30, hardback, 256pp

Scotland: Defending the Nation, Carolyn Anderson & Christopher Fleet, Birlinn, 2018, 978-1-78027-493-5, £30, hardback, 232pp

These two volumes, published towards the end of last year, are proof that Birlinn is a publisher at the top of its game. Both are magnificent large-format, full-colour productions, amply illustrated, with map extracts on almost every page and informative narrative written by experts in their field.

Manchester is organised as 54 chapters, named chronologically from 1728 to 2016. Each chapter features a specific map of that year, introducing a topic which is generally followed by other maps illustrating the same topic. 1780, for example, starts with a plan of Castlefield canal basin and goes on to include maps and discussion of the Bridgewater canal, the Rochdale canal and Bradshaw's 1834 map of the canal network in north-west England. The narrative describes the engineering problems and the economic importance of the region's canals.

Other chapters cover a wide range of topics relating to the city's political, municipal, social, industrial, leisure and sporting history, including Peterloo (1819), railways (1824), Cottonopolis (1831), parks (1851), water supply (1881), slums (1904), trams (1916), football (1923), Belle Vue zoo (1958), parking meters (1960), the building of Arndale Centre in 1978 and its destruction by IRA bombers in 1996.

Few OS maps are included, which may at first seem to CCS readers to be an omission, but actually goes to show the vast range of other mapping and innovative ways of portraying geo-information that have been produced over the years. Just three of the many examples are the cab-fare calculator of 1868, the bird's-eye view of Coronation Street and the 2014 map of facilities available for rough sleepers.

Altogether, this book is a treasure trove, fascinating to those with little knowledge of the city (and its often-overlooked Siamese twin Salford), essential for those who are familiar with it.

Scotland, sub-titled *Mapping the military landscape*, comprises an introduction describing the history, types and purposes of military maps of Scotland, followed by six chapters, arranged chronologically covering topics from the 'Rough Wooing' of the 1540s through the Jacobite rebellion and the two world wars to 'Mapping for nuclear war' of 2018.

Christopher Fleet is well known to *Sheetlines* readers as the mastermind behind the National Library of Scotland's online maps and this volume, published in association with NLS, is testament to his deep knowledge of the library's collection. The illustrations include not only maps, but many contemporary sketches, plans of battlefields and fortifications, and annotated descriptions of terrain, itineraries and allegiances of landowners.

Two particularly beautiful reproductions of topographic maps, out of many in the book, are General Roy's Military Survey of 1747-52 and George Morrison's 1750 survey of the road between Blairgowrie and Braemar. By contrast, the plain simplicity of the street plan showing the devastation of housing in Clydebank in two air raids shows how powerful maps can be at portraying catastrophic events.

Ordnance Survey maps play a relatively small role in the story, not surprisingly given the almost 500 years covered here, but some examples include extracts of 25-inch plans of barracks of the 1860s, early 20th century one-inch maps overprinted with coastal defences, security deletions during World War 2 and post-war air photo mosaics, whilst the German Army 1:50,000 map of Dundee and St Andrews is actually a photo-enlarged version the OS Popular Edition one-inch map. Both volumes include extracts and descriptions of Cold War era Soviet maps and both have an extensive bibliography and list of sources for further research. Together with Birlinn's other recent publications, *Scotland: Mapping the Nation* and *Scotland: Mapping the Islands*, they represent significant and welcome contributions to the canon and richly deserve a place on the shelves of everyone interested in cartographic history.

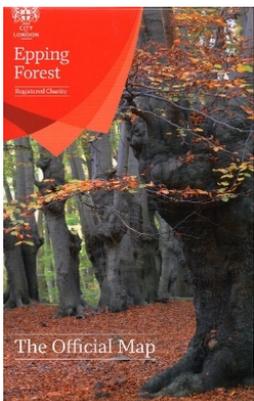
John Davies

The Ordnance Survey Puzzle Book, Ordnance Survey and Gareth Moore, Trapeze, 2018. £14.99

This is an attractive coloured picture book, with forty extracts from OS maps from the General Survey of 1801, through the County Series, *Explorer* and *Landranger*, to the Vector Map Local of 2012. Each extract takes up the whole of the recto of an opening, bled to the edges, with a series of questions graded by difficulty on the verso of the same opening. The difficulty is more about how long it takes to study the extract and fall upon the answer, rather than anything to do with the mapmaking itself. The text is interspersed with snippets of information about what the OS is and what sort of things it does. Some items are very interesting, like 'Where was the world's first tarmac road', and some are less so, like 'Solve these anagrams'. Altogether the book would make a good present for a nine-year-old beginning to show an interest in maps.

Michael Spencer

Epping Forest The Official Map, City of London Corporation, 978-0-85203-089-9, £4.95



This 2018 issue is a revised edition of the 2010 map previously reviewed.¹ It covers the fifteen miles between Ilford and Lower Nazeing and the eight from the Lea Valley to Hainault Forest at a scale of 3½ inches to the mile (approx 1:18,100 – larger than the 1:20,000 of the earlier edition), based on Collins mapping. Forest land is colour-coded in six categories, according to status or vegetation type; buildings are coded in 16 categories of use, whilst walking and cycling routes are coded in six categories. The new edition has side panels with detailed maps of nine waymarked trails. One thing unchanged is the price – remarkable value for under a fiver.

John Davies

¹ *Sheetlines* 90, 47

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