

Lewes Maps – notes on sources

East Sussex Records Office (ESRO)

General comment; Index system is not integrated into one coherent system. Maps and plans are listed in various places!

- ❖ Check web archive
 - National Archive at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk. Go to Access to Archives (A2A).
 - Search under East Sussex Records Office, Lewes. Content is only text references. Search engine does not seem to be too subtle. Eg maps of Lewes brings up a large amount of apparently unrelated stuff! To return to the search profile you have entered using only the 'Back button' does not work. Use the drop down menu under the Back button and select A2A results.
- ❖ Catalogued under
 - AMS 6008 – printed maps of Sussex. Printed catalogue with ref numbers AMS 6008 3(townplans)/6(Lewes). 5 maps are listed.
 - SAS (Sussex Archeological Society) Index to properties. Covers conveyance documents, title deeds etc. including location maps and plot plans of properties.
 - SAS Index of Maps; two sections in same binder. Index includes by place, and also entries under waterways, roads and railways. Includes many references to property plans drawn up during building & property sales.
 - FAA binders contain SAS FIGG ACC3412/3, which lists many of Figg's maps and plans, and ACC 5611 which lists plans and maps of George Fuller. 5611 is mainly building plans of houses and similar including proposed modifications etc. Plans for building have not been included in the catalogue.
 - Card index; includes
 - AMS 3442, 3470, 3471, 3475
 - ABE - various
 - SHI 2856
 - Section on deposited plans for utilities, waterways railways and turnpikes. Maps and plans listed under a QDP number. Also described in a bound paper catalogue; ref QDP Part 1 and Part 2.
 - Old Ordnance Survey 54 9/10/13/14.
 - 1873, 1899, 1910, 1932, 1938 (simplified version of 1932), 1932(1949 revision)
 - All at 1:2500 scale or 25.344 inches to the mile.
 - A lot of detail is shown; property boundaries, schools, mills, churches, chalk pits and other industrial sites, etc.
 - An additional source, based on the 1931 OS map, is referred to as the 'Terrier' sheet. This includes an overview of some of the plans and maps covering the Lewes town. Catalogue references are written in pencil and the corresponding areas indicated by coloured lines. Several of the references are very difficult to decipher and it is not always clear what is the area covered.
- ❖ +/-25% are digitized. To be found under 'Estate Maps' on viewing terminal.

Lewes Town Library

- ❖ Library contact: Tessa
- ❖ Catalogued under
 - Maps stored in drawers and filing cabinets on 1st floor.
 - AMS 6008 – printed maps of Sussex. Printed catalogue with ref numbers AMS 6008 3(town plans)/6(Lewes). 5 maps are listed. The Library seems to have more than is evident from the catalogue.
 - Copies of large scale OS maps from 1873 onwards held in the filing cabinets.

Lewes District Council

- ❖ No archive apart from planning department. Some material that pre-dates 1980's but nothing earlier than 1948 – the year when Planning procedures were introduced.

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Lewes Town Hall

- ❖ No archive – responsibility passed on to the ESRO

Sussex Archeological Society

- ❖ Offices located at the Castle Museum
- ❖ Contact: Colin Jackson. Librarian is Esme Evans
- ❖ All Lewes Town Maps catalogued under LM (Local Maps) or DM (District Maps) if related to a portion of the town. Collection is limited. Most material has been passed onto the ESRO.

British Library

To make use of the collection on site a reader's ticket is required. The procedure for obtaining one can be simplified by completing the pre-reg. process on-line. Get to the BL early (opens at 09:30) to make the most of your visit. Picking up your readers ticket from the Reader Reg office. Takes some time but is reasonably painless. You need to have proof of identify and address with you. People do get turned down if they do not have the right documentation. See on-line for further details.

You can preorder items by using the on-line catalogue and forwarding the references to the BL before your visit. This can be done by email. It also makes much more efficient use of your time at the BL.

References

Harley J B
The Historians Guide to Ordnance Survey Maps

Kingsley, D 1982
Printed Maps of Sussex 1575 – 1900, Sussex Record Society, Vol 72,1982

Margary, Harry (ed), 1970
250 years of Map Making in the County of Sussex 1575 – 1825
Margary, H & Phillimore & Co Ltd, Chichester.
copies:

- in Lewes Town Library
- ESRO ref AMS 6008/1/1/29

Margary, Harry, (ed) 1975
The old series of Ordnance Survey Maps of England and Wales, Vol 1
Margary, H, Lympne Castle, Kent. Maps taken from OS published 1878.
(copy in Lewes Town Library)