

## **Ordnance Survey maps for the Borough Of St.Helens**

The Ordnance Survey began in 1791, but various surveys of a military nature had already occurred in both Scotland and the South of England some years prior to this date. It took several more decades for the survey to reach the north of England. The first official maps of St.Helens appeared at the beginning of the 1840s.

Unfortunately many of these early 1-inch maps or 'Old Series' are characterised by heavy hachuring or shading in the form of lines denoting a hill or slope. This can make consultation quite difficult and most researchers are recommended to commence their study with the more accessible 6-inch (1:10560) maps. The early 6-inch series is also very useful in providing a location key to the earlier tithe maps (where the names of roads are invariably omitted and it is often only possible to identify a locality by the configuration of roads and field boundaries).

The 25-inch series (1:2500) is recommended for serious research. However the series of 1882 covers just the old borough of St.Helens (the centre of the present town) rather than the whole of the modern borough. It is not until the 25-inch series of 1893/94 that the whole of the modern borough (encompassing all the old Urban District Councils of Newton-le-Willows, Haydock, Rainford etc.) was effectively covered. This coverage continued at regular intervals into the mid-twentieth century. The 25-inch series provides a wealth of detail not always evident on the smaller maps (which in themselves are useful for providing an overview of a locality or for studying transport routes, field boundaries etc.)

The 60-inch series (1:1056) commenced in 1849 and can be used for detailed research of the centre of St.Helens. The 60 inches to 1-mile scale was produced only for towns over a population of 4,000 or smaller county towns. It has been observed that the published survey date of these maps may be incorrect and the data may have been compiled some years earlier. After the 60-inch edition the researcher can proceed to the previously mentioned 1882 edition for the centre of St.Helens and then the regular 25-inch series for the whole of the borough.

**Guide to hard copy Ordnance Survey Maps**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Sheet</b>	<b>Area</b>
c. 1840	Approx 2½ inches to 1 mile (photocopy enlargements)	1	St.Helens (north) to Orrell and Rainford
c. 1840	Approx 2½ inches to 1 mile (photocopy enlargements)	2	St.Helens (south) to Ditton and Widnes, Prescot (part) and Tarbock

**Old series – 1-inch sheets**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Sheet</b>	<b>Area</b>
1842	1 inch to 1 mile	LXXX 80	St.Helens south to Chester, Runcorn, Warrington, Sandbach, Chelford, Ringway, Altrincham and Stretford
1843	1 inch to 1 mile	LXXX1X 89	St.Helens (north) to Ormskirk, Preston, Blackburn, Accrington, Bolton, Bury, Salford and Wigan
<b>Also</b> 1842 With railways inserted 1892	1 inch to 1 mile (1: 63,360)	LXXX 80	St.Helens south to Chester, Runcorn, Warrington, Sandbach, Chelford, Ringway, Altrincham and Stretford
1843 With railways inserted 1890	1 inch to 1 mile	LXXX1X 89	St.Helens (north) to Ormskirk, Preston, Blackburn, Accrington, Bolton, Bury, Salford and Wigan

**County series – Lancashire – 6-inch sheets**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Sheet</b>	<b>Area</b>
1845	6 inches to 1 mile (1: 10560)	92	Ormskirk, Skelmersdale, Billinge, Upholland, Bickerstaffe
1845	6 inches to 1 mile (1: 10560)	93	Billinge, Orrell, Upholland, Roby Mill, Wigan, Ince

1845/7	6 inches to 1 mile (1: 10560)	100	Rainford, Dentons Green, Knowsley and Simonswood
1845	6 inches to 1 mile (1: 10560)	101	Billinge, Brynn, Ashton-in- Makerfield, Golborne, Haydock, Newton-in-Makerfield, Hardshaw (St.Helens), Garswood
1845	6 inches to 1 mile (1: 10560)	102	Leigh, Tyldesley, Culcheth, Lowton, Golborne, Abram
1845-47	6 inches to 1 mile (1: 10560)	107	Eccleston, Sutton, Rainhill, Prescot, Much Woolton, Croxteth Park, Knowsley, Huyton
1846-47	6 inches to 1 mile (1: 10560)	108	St.Helens (town centre), Newton-in- Makerfield, Winwick, Great Sankey, Bold, Sutton
1845-47	6 inches to 1 mile (1: 10560)	109	Winwick, Culcheth, Rixton, Woolston, Poulton-with-Fearnhead, Croft
1845	6 inches to 1 mile (1: 10560)	114	Childwall, Halewood, Tarbock, Cronton, Ditton, Much Woolton
1845	6 inches to 1 mile (1: 10560)	115	Farnworth, Appleton, Sankey Bridges, Warrington (part)

**Town Maps – St.Helens – 60-inch series**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Sheet</b>	<b>Area</b>
1849	60 inches to 1 mile (1: 1056)	1	Crab Street to College Street and Gerards Bridge
1849	60 inches to 1 mile (1: 1056)	2	Hardshaw Mill to Gerards Bridge, St.Helens Canal to Islands Brow and Merton Bank and Parr Mill Dam
1849	60 inches to 1 mile (1: 1056)	3	Boundary Road, Eccleston Road, Liverpool Road (part), Sprays Bridge
1849	60 inches to 1 mile (1: 1056)	4	Liverpool Road to Duke Street, Hardshaw Hall, Church Street and St.Helens Parish Church (St. Mary's) graveyard, Tontine Street

1849	60 inches to 1 mile (1: 1056)	5	Raven Street, Hall Lane, St.Helens Canal, Pocket Nook, Parr Street, Warrington Street
1849	60 inches to 1 mile (1: 1056)	6	Croppers Hill, Liverpool Road, Ravenhead (part)
1849	60 inches to 1 mile (1: 1056)	7	Green Bank, St.Helens Canal, Ravenhead (part) to Hardshaw Brook
1851	60 inches to 1 mile (1: 1056)	8	Hardshaw Brook, Peasley Cross Lane to Sutton Colliery
1849	60 inches to 1 mile (1: 1056)	9	Ravenhead (part), Factory Row and Ravenhead Road

**County series – St.Helens only – 25-inch sheets**

Date	Scale	Sheet	Area
1882	25.344 inches to 1 mile	C.16, Cl.13, 14, CVII.4, 8, CVIII.1, 2, 5, 6	Whole of the old borough of St.Helens as it was constituted in 1882 (Does <u>not</u> cover the surrounding Urban District Councils of Haydock, Newton-le-Willows etc).

**New series – 1-inch sheets (with later additions)**

Date	Scale	Sheet	Area
1896	1 inch to 1 mile (1: 63,360)	74	Southport, Lytham
1896 (1901 railways)	(1: 63,360)	75	Preston, Rufford, Chorley, Mawdsley, Blackburn (part)
1896 (1898 boundaries)	(1: 63,360)	76	Blackburn (part), Accrington, Burnley (part), Todmorden, Rochdale (part), Turton
1896 (Railways 1899)	(1: 63,360)	83	Formby, Bootle, Maghull, Scarisbrick
1896	(1: 63,360)	84	Burscough, Horwich, Leigh, St.Helens, Rainford, Billinge, Upholland

1896 (Boundaries 1898)	(1: 63,360)	85	Bolton, Heywood, Oldham, Manchester, Tyldesley
1896	(1: 63,360)	96	Liverpool, Birkenhead, Great Sutton, Llanasa
1897 (Boundaries revised 1898)	(1: 63,360)	97	Prescot, Thatto Heath, Rainhill, Bold, Burtonwood, Winwick, Warrington, Great Budworth, Frodsham, Ellesmere Port
1896 (Boundaries revised 1898)	(1: 63,360)	98	Sale, Withington, Stockport, Altrincham, Knutsford, Nether Alderley, Prestbury, Bollington, Marple
1898 (Railways inserted 1899)	(1: 63,360)	108	Burton, Hawarden, Ruthin, Mold, Caerwys
1898	(1: 63,360)	109	Chester, Kingsley, Weaverham, Northwich, Church Minshull, Burwardsley, Alford, Little Budworth
1897 (Boundaries revised 1898)	1 inches to 1 mile (1: 63,360)	110	Lostock Green, Capesthorne, Macclesfield, Biddulph, Congleton, Rude Heath, Crewe (part), Sandbach, Middlewich, Peover

**County series – Revision – 25-inch sheets**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Sheet</b>	<b>Area</b>
1893-94	25.344 inches to 1 mile (1: 2500)	XC11.2, 11, 15, 16, XC111.13, 14 C.2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16 C11.13 CV11.3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16 CV111.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10,11,13, 14 C1X.1 CXV.1, 2	The whole of the modern borough of St.Helens including Bold, Billinge, Haydock, Newton-le-Willows, Rainford, and Rainhill. Also Burtonwood, Bryn, Collins Green, Farnworth, Kirkby Moss (part), Lowton, Prescot, Simonswood, Whiston and Winwick (part)

1907-08	25.344 inches to 1 mile (1: 2500)	XC11.11, 12, 15, 16, C.2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16 C1.1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 C11.13 CV11.3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16 CV111.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 C1X.1, 5 CXV.1, 2,	The whole of the modern borough of St.Helens including Bold, Billinge, Haydock, Newton-le-Willows, Rainford, and Rainhill. Also Burtonwood, Bryn, Collins Green, Farnworth, Kirkby Moss (part), Lowton, Prescot, Simonswood, Whiston and Winwick (part)
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**Popular Edition – 1-inch sheets**

Date	Scale	Sheet	Area
1924	1 inch to 1 mile	Liverpool district	Liverpool, St.Helens, Newton-le-Willows, Chorley, Southport, Flint, Chester, Widnes, Warrington (part)  Located in pamphlet sequence: B.14 LIV (P)

**County series – Second revision – 25-inch sheets**

Date	Scale	Sheet	Area
1927/28 edition	25.344 inches to 1 mile	XC11.2, 12, 15, 16 C.3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16 C1.1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 CVII.3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16 CVIII.1, 2, 3,	The whole of the modern borough of St.Helens including Bold, Billinge, Haydock, Newton-le-Willows, Rainford, and Rainhill. Also Burtonwood, Bryn, Collins Green, Farnworth, Kirkby Moss (part), Lowton, Prescot, Simonswood, Whiston and Winwick (part)

		4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 CIX.1, 5, CXV.1, 2	
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**County series – 6-inch sheets**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Sheet</b>	<b>Area</b>
1928 edition	6 inches to 1 mile (1: 10560)	C. NE	Rainford
1928 edition	6 inches to 1 mile (1: 10560)	CV11. NE	Prescot, Eccleston, Sutton Heath, Thatto Heath, Ravenhead, Rainhill Hospital
1928 edition	6 inches to 1 mile	CVII. SE	Rainhill, Whiston
1928 edition	6 inches to 1 mile	CV111.NW	St.Helens (south), Parr, Sutton Leach, Sutton Moss, Marshalls Cross
1928 edition	6 inches to 1 mile (1: 10560)	CV111. SW	Clock Face, Sutton Manor, Bold

**County series – Provisional Edition – 6-inch sheets**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Sheet</b>	<b>Area</b>
1938/9 Provisional edition Revision of 1925/6 (with additions 1938/9)	6 inches to 1 mile (1: 10560)	C. NE	Rainford
1938/9	6 inches to 1 mile (1: 10560)	C. SE (Revision of 1937)	Eccleston, Windle
1938/9	6 inches to 1 mile (1: 10560)	CI. NW	Billinge
1938/9	6 inches to 1 mile (1: 10560)	C1. SW	Moss Bank, Garswood, Blackbrook, Gerards Bridge, Broadoak
1938/9	6 inches to 1 mile	CV11. NE	Prescot,

	(1: 10560)		Sutton Heath, Ravenhead, Eccleston
1938/9	6 inches to 1 mile (1: 10560)	CV11. SE	Rainhill, Whiston, Halshead
1938/9	6 inches to 1 mile (1: 10560)	CV111. NE	Earlestown, Burtonwood
1938/39	6 inches to 1 mile (1: 10560)	CV111. NW	St.Helens (south), Parr, Sutton Moss, Sutton Leach
1938/39	6 inches to 1 mile (1: 10560)	CV111. SE	Great Sankey (part), Winwick (part)
1938/39	6 inches to 1 mile (1: 10560)	CV111. SW	Bold, Micklehead Green, Sutton Manor (excludes part of Newton-le- Willows, Haydock)

**County series – Third Revision (incomplete) – 25-inch sheets**

Date	Scale	Sheet	Area
Revision of 1939	25.344 inches to 1mile (1: 2500)	C. 10, 11, 12, 16 C. 1.1, 5, 9, CV11.4, 8, 12 CV111.9, 16 CXV.2, 3, 4	Very piecemeal coverage of only a few parts of the Borough of St.Helens.

**County series 1-inch sheets**

Date	Scale	Sheet	Area
Surveyed 1947/9 Pub. 1952	1 inches to 1 mile (1: 63360)	100	Birkenhead, Liverpool, Southport, St.Helens, Newton- le-Willows, Wigan, Warrington (part), Widnes, Ellesmere Port.  Located in Pamphlets: B.14 LIV (P)



### Ordnance Survey Maps and the National Grid system

The National Grid system was adopted in 1938, though it was not fully implemented until after World War Two. In theory this system dispenses with the old index diagram approach in favour of a simpler grid referencing system going down to ever-increasing detail. However the scales used vary within each period according to the amount of development within each square. Thus larger urban areas are shown at scale 1: 1250 (50 inches to 1 mile) e.g. centre of St.Helens, while cultivated rural or smaller urban areas are shown at scale 1: 2500 (25 inches to 1 mile) e.g. Bold and Rainford Moss.

The process of continuous revision can also pose problems for researchers in that maps for one large area e.g. the whole of the Borough of St.Helens were now not re-surveyed as an edition stretching over two or three years, but areas were updated depending on whether there had been substantial change within that square. Thus although the Local History and Archives Library arranges all its 1950s maps together in one map bin and the 1960s/70s together in another, these are arbitrary arrangements and not specific editions issued by the Ordnance Survey. Consequently, in any one of these periods map coverage may seem to be incomplete, but this may be the result of more rural areas not warranting a revision.

#### Arrangement of National Grid Ordnance Survey maps for St.Helens

Date	Scale	Sheet	Area
1950s, 1960s approx.	50.688 inches to 1 mile (1: 1250) or 25.344 inches to 1 mile (1: 2500) depending on extent of urban or rural development	Portions of SD4500-SD5401 SJ4598-SJ6195	All the old Borough of St.Helens as constituted pre- 1974. Thus some of the Urban District Council areas are <u>omitted</u> e.g. Haydock, Newton-le-Willows, Rainford etc.
1950s – 80s	25.344 inches to 1 mile	SD SJ Various	Rather eclectic collection of double sheets Parts of north Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, including parts of St.Helens Borough and parts of Lancashire (separate place name index available)

1960s – 80s approx.	6 inches to 1 mile (1: 10560) Regular edition and the metric successor of 1: 10,000	Portions of SD 20 NE to SD 72 NE, SJ 27 NE to SJ 99 NE	Mid and north Lancashire including St.Helens although missing part of the old UDC areas, also north Cheshire (Separate place name index available)
1970s and 1980s approx.	1: 2500 (25 inches) and 1: 1250 (50 inches)	Portions of SD4602 to SD5500 SJ4693 to SJ5393	All the modern Borough of St.Helens
1990s	1: 1250 (50 inches approx) or 1: 2500 (25 inches approx) Depending on extent of urban or rural development	Portions of: SD 4902 and SD 5500 SJ 4790 to 5995	All the modern Borough of St.Helens

Mapping at scale 1: 1250 began in 1943 onwards and the work has been subject to continuous revision over the years. In fact, the centres of some towns have been subject to 7 or 8 revisions since the 1950s (especially where extensive redevelopment has occurred). At the other end of the scale, the maps have never been fully revised where there has been little change (i.e. areas characterised by good quality property).

SIM updates (Survey Information on Microfiche), were issued after only 50 points of change. They recorded demolitions and building developments, but have not been fully checked across the whole sheet. Additionally they do not bear survey dates. By the mid-1990s the SIM were replaced by Superplan printouts directly from the Ordnance Survey database. These are produced after 20 points of change but can have the same limitations as the SIM.

Date	Scale	Sheet	Area
1998 (Plotted)  Updates from 1994/98	1: 1250	Portions of SD 4500 to SD 600 and SJ 4596 to SJ 6195	All the modern Borough of St.Helens