



Know Your Place West of England

General Information

1. What is Know Your Place West of England?

A digital heritage mapping project to help you to explore your neighbourhood online through historic maps, images and linked information.

Know Your Place – West of England project is an HLF-funded partnership project working across 7 counties and 25+ heritage partners from July 2015 to March 2017. The project is building a free online digital mapping research tool to map community heritage across the West of England.

Counties covered by the project are: Gloucestershire (inc. Forest of Dean), South Gloucestershire, Wiltshire (inc. Swindon), North Somerset, Bath & NE Somerset, and Somerset. You can read more about the project here: www.kypwest.org.uk.

The project will digitise and bring together a range of historic map series and collections data into a single online portal where users can explore a geographic area, how it has evolved over time and add their own heritage information about 'their place' to the site.

2. Who is involved?

This project is a collaboration with a wide range of organisations participating across the region, with more partners being added as we go along. The lead partner is South Gloucestershire Council, and other key partners include: The British Library, National Library Scotland, Bristol City Council, Gloucestershire Archives, South West Heritage Trust, Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre, Bath Records Office, Historic England's Heritage Schools, the South West Museums Development Partnership and a number of local specialist subject groups.

This project is an extension of the successful [Know Your Place – Bristol](#) mapping project which was established in 2011 and has been going strong since. The project will build on the Know Your Place website coverage of the city of Bristol, and extend it to the surrounding six counties listed above.

The *Know Your Place – West of England* project will provide unprecedented online access to maps of the historic landscape of the region, to which users will be able to contribute information – building a rich and diverse community map of local heritage for everyone.

3. What are the project's aims?

We are being funded to achieve the following for the Heritage Lottery Fund:

- To scan, digitise and geo-reference historic maps from Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Somerset, North Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset.

- To expand the existing 'Know Your Place' Bristol website to include historic maps from the West of England area.
- To recruit and train volunteers.
- To deliver basic conservation of fragile maps.
- To create a mobile app.
- To create an exhibition to be toured to venues.
- To deliver a range of heritage learning activities including talks and presentations, a blog, heritage walks, school resource packs and oral histories.
- To upload condition surveys of heritage assets to the website.

4. **What maps will be added?**

For the historic counties of Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Somerset we will be adding:

- Tithe maps (c.1840s);
- Enclosure maps (c.18th-19th C, excluding Wiltshire);
- OS maps (25" 1st, 2nd, 3rd / revised editions c.1880s – 1930s);
- OS Town Plans (1:500, c.1890s);
- Goad Fire Insurance plans for Bristol, Bath & Gloucester (late 19th C); and
- National Grid sheets (c.postwar-1965).

These have been carefully selected to ensure we provide as broad and comprehensive cover of the whole region we can over approx. 5-6 'layers' and c.120 years, and include the most popular map series that are used for research.

For the first time, these maps will be digitised and stitched together to provide a seamless 'layer' of coverage of the area that you can navigate around, zoom into and search within.

5. **My area doesn't appear on Know Your Place at the moment. When will I see this?**

The project will be adding information onto Know Your Place on a county-by-county basis through 2016, starting with South Gloucestershire in January 2016, followed by Wiltshire and Gloucestershire in summer 2016, and Bath & North East Somerset, Somerset and North Somerset in the autumn, with the aim to have the entire region 'live' and online before the end of 2016.

6. **The project runs until March 2017. What happens to Know Your Place after that?**

We want the project to leave a good legacy and are working to build a firm foundation for Know Your Place to continue to grow long after the project has ended.

The project is entering legacy agreements with all our key partners to ensure that all 'Know Your Place' digital resource and all the data on it will continue to be hosted and available for at least five years after the project until 2021. This means users can still access it for research and uploading records.

7. **I am interested in getting involved in the project. How do I get started?**

Drop us an email with your contact details to: KYPWestofEngland@southglos.gov.uk for an informal conversation and advice on getting started. Follow us on Twitter: [@KYPWestEngland](https://twitter.com/KYPWestEngland) and on Facebook at: [Know Your Place - West of England](https://www.facebook.com/KnowYourPlaceWestofEngland). Visit the project website at www.kypwest.org.uk.