

DLYW in Hertfordshire - Resources you will need and where to find them

This is a list of the types of documents available to DLYW researchers in Hertfordshire and our London Boroughs, and where to find them. Many of them are in the Dobbin Evidence Library.

The resources are listed roughly in order of ease of use/access.

Where they are in the Dobbin Evidence Library, the folder number is given. The folder numbers match the subheadings in the Documentary Evidence chapter of the Bucks and Wadey book. Photos of archive records for Hertfordshire and Barnet were collected by BHS and Ramblers volunteers from the Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies centre (HALS) and The National Archive at Kew (TNA).

In each Evidence Folder, there is generally a copy of any available index at the start, and a loose document at the end of the folder explaining the contents. Look at these first.

Old OS Editions – these are available from the National Library of Scotland (NLS) via Dobbin. They have a complete set of 1900 second edition and later editions (NOT current).

OS 1st Edition – the maps produced around 1880 are particularly useful. They do not have a disclaimer to say a route shown doesn't prove a right of way. Also, the maps were accompanied by an Area Book, which listed all the reference numbers shown on the map. Where that said "Road" you have strong supporting evidence. Unfortunately, the NLS does not have a complete set of first edition maps. Where they are missing, you may need to go to a local archive or the British Library.

OS Area Books (to go with 1st Edition OS maps) – full set for Herts (Dobbin Evidence Library 10)

Other Old Maps – National maps are available via links from the Dobbin site. Photos of some local walking maps are available (Dobbin Evidence Library 03).

Inland Revenue 1910 maps were prepared as a result of a Finance Act of 1910 which required every property to be valued. Maps show public/untaxed land uncoloured, including public roads. We have photos of all of the maps for our Area (Dobbin Evidence Library 17).

Railway Plans - When railways were built, the plans were required to show all the plots of land that would be affected, and the rights of way across them. We have photos of all the Railway plans which could support claims (Dobbin Evidence Library 09). The records have been checked for possible path claims, so if there is a railway near the route you are interested in, contact the DLYW Coordinator.

Enclosure Awards and Maps from the early 1800s provide a good source of evidence, though not all areas were enclosed. When land was enclosed, existing paths were often stopped up and new ones were legally created which were specified in detail and shown on a map. The records are hard to handle. They are very verbose hand-written legal documents which assign different bits of land to current occupiers. Fortunately, they list the provision of highways together in an early section. We have copies of over half of the 80 or so Enclosure Awards and Maps across our Area (Dobbin Evidence Library 05).

Tithe maps – there are very bad copies (photos of a display screen) (Dobbin Evidence Library 06) – possibly suitable for a quick check. The full tithe maps are held on CD in HALS (original maps not available). More usefully, Ramblers have a subscription for the Genealogist, which provides on line access to Tithe maps. The number of simultaneous users is restricted, so you will need to book this facility via the DLYW Coordinator. Although given quite a high rating in Bucks and Wadey, roads shown in sepia on a tithe map do not necessarily show public access. They merely show that this was not productive land because it was surfaced. It could be a private drive.

Other resources in the Dobbin Evidence Library:

Some archive material has been gathered under each of these headings, so it is worth checking for useful material before going to the physical Archive – either The National Archive at Kew (TNA) or the Hertfordshire Archive and Local Studies centre (HALS)

(12) Some Main Road Orders (TNA) and the 1927 List of Streets

(13) Some Quarter sessions Records (HALS) and the Herts CC index to QS Highways Orders

(14) Some OS Boundary records (TNA):

OS26 are the boundary books, with sketch maps spread over pages

OS27 are the boundary maps, with the whole picture on one large sheet

(17) Inland Revenue Finance Act 1910:

From TNA: IR refs 126/4, 126/8 and 126/10 cover Hertfordshire maps. 121/3 and 121/10 are Middsx
Where no map sheet was available in TNA, draft maps were copied from HALS. These are in HALS-ir1
There is an almost complete set of photos of map sheets for the Area. Where there are gaps, no map could be found in archives.

There is a spreadsheet in the folder with a "plan" of the Area, showing the reference number of each IR map available for each map square which will help you to find the map you need.

Tax deductions were also given for bridleways and footpaths crossing the land. To find evidence of this, there are Field Books used by the tax inspector with a page for each hereditament. IR58 records are the Field Books listing taxation for each plot identified on the map. We have a few photos. Originals at TNA.

(19) HCC footpath survey Hitchin and St Albans areas 1932
1950 map of HCC county roads

(20) A few Stopping up and Highway extinguishment orders

(21) Ministry of Agriculture Farm Survey records