

Welcome to Forage Friday: Layers of Haringey (part 1) – sharing our heritage from Bruce Castle Museum & Archive.

Friday 27 March 2020

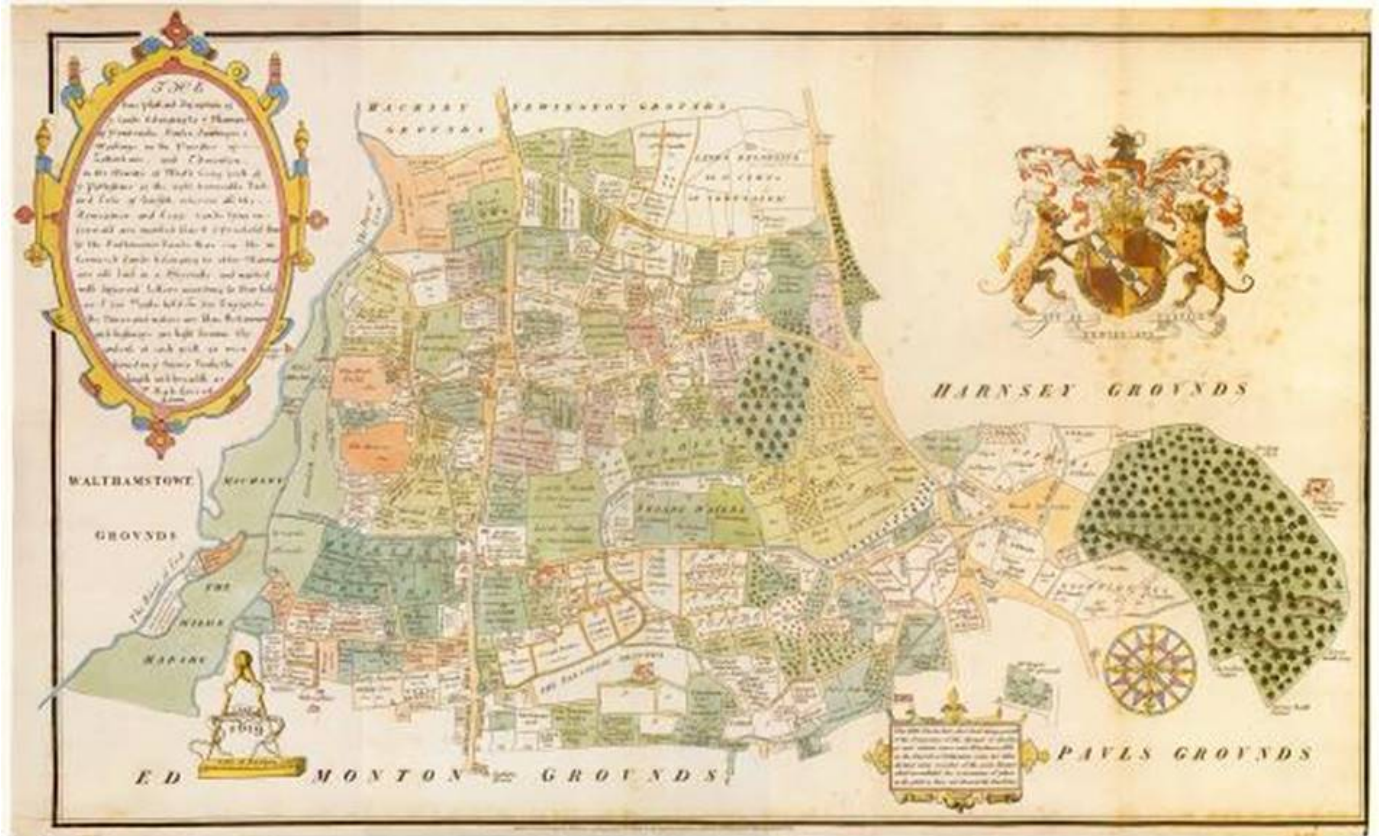
Today we thought we'd forage through the collections and talk about maps as well as update you on our contribution from Haringey Archive and Museum Service to the wonderful [Layers of London](#) project.

At Bruce Castle we hold some amazing and unique maps of the historic parishes of Hornsey, Tottenham and Wood Green, alongside various estate plans and bomb damage maps. Maps are always one of the most accessed research tools in our Search Room, and show the early parishes' and later boroughs' development over time.

After the huge success of our exhibition celebrating the 400th anniversary in 2019 of the gloriously-illustrated 1619 Dorset Survey, we know that people are as interested in maps as we are. If you missed out on visiting the exhibition, which ran from July 2019-Feb 2020, you can take a look at the PDF attachment. We will be adding the panels and description about the 1619 map exhibition [here](#) on the council's website soon.

This will also share images from the community art contributions, all inspired by the map – curated by the Education Team at Bruce Castle and local historian Christine Protz, new interpretations of the map were created by local schools and the [Friends of Bruce Castle](#), (who, with kind support from Haringey Ward Budget funding and the Community Lottery Fund, also very generously helped the Museum and Archive in making this project happen).

We will also add images from the fun workshops making personal and memory maps about Haringey with local illustrator and map artist [Siân Pattenden](#).

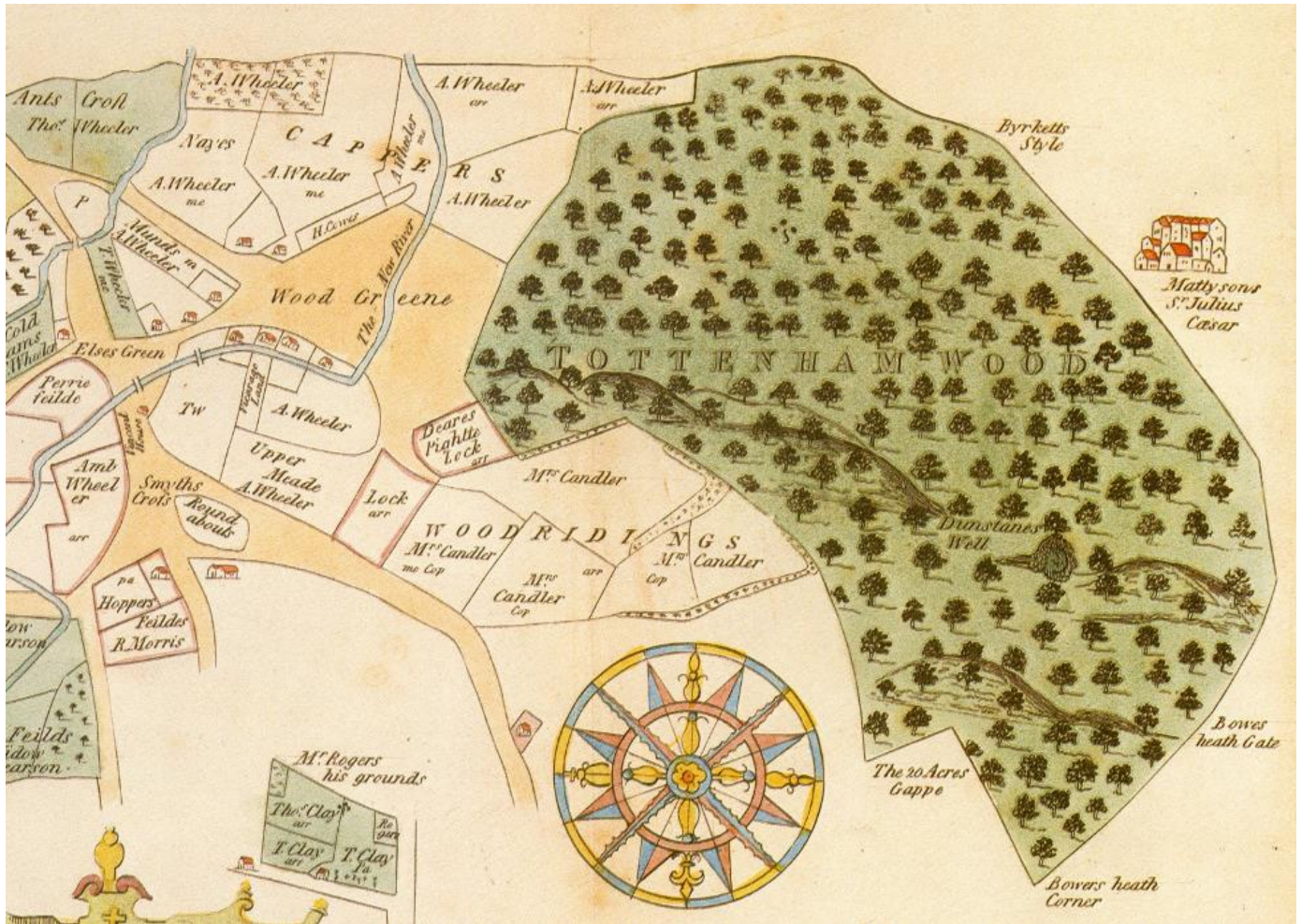


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This is the **1619 Dorset Survey**, showing what is now Tottenham and Wood Green (as reproduced in William Robinson's *The History and Antiquities of Tottenham*, 1840). The map is unusual in that the south is at the top of the map and the north is at the bottom.

Far below is a delightful detail of the 1619 map showing the west side of Tottenham (remembering that Wood Green was once part of Tottenham, and that south is north, and north is south on this map!). This detail shows Tottenham Wood – which is where Alexandra Palace is today.

You can also pick out 'Wood Greene' and see one of the loops of the New River (picked out in blue). You will hear more in future posts about the New River and also Sir Julius Caesar (his mansion 'Mattysons' can just be seen to the right/ west of Tottenham Wood in this image).



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For those who are not familiar with the National Lottery Heritage Fund project, Layers of London has created a website layering historic maps, photos, people, places and events over a contemporary map of London. For us, and other London archive repositories, it has been a wonderful opportunity to showcase some of our larger, and rarer, historic maps and plans.

In Bruce Castle's Search Room we allow public access to as much archival and local history material as possible, including the map collection. Unfortunately, some of these maps are fragile and, for conservation and preservation reasons, we are not always able to give researchers access to the originals. Where at all possible we have had surrogates (copies) made for people to look at instead, but some of these copies were made many years ago and are not of great quality.

We also have some maps which are far too large for us to be able to make copies of them, as we don't have the specialised scanning equipment required to digitise them. So, once things return to normality, and as part of the Layers of London project, the London Metropolitan Archives will be digitising them for us. They have the technical capacity to produce high resolution digital reproductions which capture the maps in full and can show the smallest of details. These maps will then be made available for people to access online through the Layers of London website and we will be able to print our own high quality surrogates for people to access in our Search Room.

One of the maps we'll be adding to the site will be the largest map we hold - the *Wyburd Survey: A Map of the Parish of Tottenham (1817)*. At a massive 270 x 177cm we are unable to allow easy public access in the Search Room as it too large to fit on our tables (we had to unroll it in the main gallery to measure it!).



A detail of the *Wyburd Survey (1817)* showing Tottenham's 'High Cross Green' at the top and 'The Hale' to the bottom right.

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Have a look at what [maps are already on the Layers of London site](#).

Some layers already partly cover areas of Haringey, such as *John Rocque's London 10 Miles Round London (1746)* and the *Hornsey Enclosure (1815)* maps



Screen grab from Layer of London's website showing Rocque's map *10 Miles Round London (1746)* with the Tottenham High Cross area at the very top of the map.

Another map we are digitising is a particular favourite of mine, a marvellous map of *Tottenham Marshes (1822)* which has this lovely lithograph print of people collecting hay in its bottom right hand corner. An artwork in itself, and it's quite unusual to see high quality prints on such maps and plans.



Detail taken from a map of *Tottenham Marshes (1822)* showing a watercolour painting by I N Walter, printed as a lithograph by Charles Joseph Hullmandel. The map was published by John N Walter, Kingsland on June 1, 1882.

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We are aware we've been a little focussed of Tottenham in this particular map post, but just to assuage those wanting more on other parts of the borough, we'll be looking at a very special map of Hornsey, and other maps from that part of Haringey, next week. So until then, enjoy looking at the maps and other collections on the Layers of London website. See what other layers there are to discover and we'll let you know when our maps and plans are on the site in (we hope) the summer.

It certainly is easy to lose yourself for a few hours in the layers - you have been warned!

By Julie Melrose, Archivist, Bruce Castle Museum & Archive

Have a good forage on the Layers of London website – and look out for more posts to come on this and other topics about Haringey. Keep well and explore whilst staying indoors.

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