

CHARTED TERRITORY

The Beauty of Maps

Maps were designed to be attractive as well as useful, so key information such as the compass and the scale can be surprisingly decorative. The title of the map was often written inside an elaborate 'cartouche'.



The patchwork of colourful designs seen on this detail from an 1829 Strutt estate map makes it easy to tell the difference between each numbered parcel of land. Every design was added by hand; the map even includes an explanation of what each pattern means.

This hand-coloured map of Willersley at Cromford from 1759 shows the lands owned by Edwin Lascelles. Notice the scale with drawing compass, the star-shaped rose compass (with north to the top left) and the cartouche around the Lascelles title. The land was bought by Sir Richard Arkwright in 1782, who had Willersley Castle built just to the north of Upper Holm and Far Holm.



Sometimes useful information is also shown in an artistic way. This 1792 map of land owned by Jedediah Strutt in Milford and Makeney shows a boat to represent the chain ferry near the weirs on the River Derwent. The chain ferry was replaced by a stone bridge the following year, in the same position as the wooden bridge that can be seen in the top right corner.

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