The Robinson Library has an extensive collection of Ordnance Survey and Geological Survey maps, located in ten map cabinets on Level 4.

Most of the maps held are flat, but the OS Landranger maps (Scale 1:50,000) are folded maps and are kept in metal drawers on top of the cabinet labelled Map Cabinet 2. Explorer Maps and Outdoor Leisure maps (Scale 1:25,000) are also held as folded maps and are kept in drawers on top of Map Cabinet 3.

Indexes to maps are kept on top of the map cabinets. Gazetteers and atlases are located on the shelves near the map cabinets. The following series of maps are held in the Library, the area covered being the whole of Great Britain unless otherwise stated:

**Ordnance Survey Maps**
- 1:63,360 One inch to the mile. No longer published.
- 1:50,000 Metric equivalent to one inch maps. Latest series called Landranger maps.
- 1:25,000 Two and a half inches to the mile. Pathfinder maps, no longer published. Replaced by Outdoor Leisure Maps and Explorer Maps.
- 1:25,000 Explorer maps. Replace Pathfinder maps.
- 1:25,000 Outdoor Leisure maps. Leisure maps with public rights of way and tourist information. Replace Pathfinder maps.
- 1:10,560 Six inches to the mile. Maps for the Northern area only held. Not currently taken.
- 1:10,000 Metric equivalent to six inch maps. Maps for Northern area only held. Not currently taken.

**Geological Survey Maps**
- 1:63,360 One inch to the mile. No longer published.
- 1:50,000 Metric equivalent to one inch maps.

**Administrative Maps**
- 1:625,000 One inch to ten miles. 2 sheets cover Great Britain.
- 1:250,000 Quarter inch to the mile. Sheets for Scotland only.
- 1:100,000 Metric equivalent to half inch to the mile. Sheets for England and Wales only.

**Other Maps**
- 1:10,000 Town and city maps. No longer published.
- 1:250,000 Travel maps.
Useful hints on finding maps in the Robinson Library

Small Scale Maps

Small scale maps, such as Ordnance Survey and Geological Survey One inch and 1:50,000 maps are shelved in number order in the appropriate map cabinets or metal drawers. Printed lists and index sheets on top of the map cabinets should be used to find the sheet number of the map required.

Larger Scale Maps

Two and a half inch to the mile maps (scale 1:25,000) and six inch to the mile maps (scale 1:10,000 and 1:10,560) are shelved by National Grid Number. In order to find the sheet number, you should use one of the gazetteers located on the nearby Atlas shelves e.g. Ordnance Survey Gazetteer of Great Britain to find the Grid Reference of the place you are looking for. You should be able to work out the sheet number from this.

Examples

Finding a map in the two and a half inch to the mile series
To find a map of Morpeth at 1:25,000 scale:

- Look up Morpeth in a gazetteer and note the 4 figure Grid Reference - in this case NZ 19 86
- The National Grid finding letters and the first and third numbers of the Grid Reference make up the sheet number - in this case NZ 18
- NB Most sheets in the series of 1:25,000 maps (Pathfinder series) are double sheets so the sheet covering Morpeth is actually numbered NZ 08/18.
- Find the sheet in the relevant map cabinet.
- You will see that the sheet is divided by Grid lines running up and across the map. Morpeth can be found on the map at the point where Grid Line 19 (Easting 19) meets Grid Line 86 (Northing 86)

Finding a map in the six inch to the mile series
To find a map of Morpeth at 1:10,000 or 1:10,560 scale:

- Follow the above instructions for finding the sheet number of the map from the Grid Reference - in this case NZ18.
- In the case of six inch maps, four sheets are the equivalent of sheet NZ 18 in the 1:25,000 series, i.e. NZ 18 NE, NZ 18 NW, NZ 18 SE and NZ 18 SW. You may therefore need to check more than one of the relevant sheets until you find the required Grid Lines.
- As a general rule when using a four figure grid reference e.g. NZ 19 86, you can work out which of the four sheets you require from the second and fourth numbers of the Grid Reference.
- If the second number is 1, 2, 3 or 4 the sheet will be a Western Sheet, either SW or NW. If the second number is 6, 7, 8 or 9 the sheet will be an Eastern Sheet, either SE or NE. A second number 0 or 5 will be on the edge of the sheets so you will need to check Eastern and Western sheets.
- If the fourth number of the Grid reference is 1, 2, 3 or 4 the sheet will be a Southern sheet, either SW or SE and if the fourth figure is 6, 7, 8 or 9 the sheet will be a Northern Sheet, either NW or NE.
- Again a fourth number 5 could be on either sheet and 0 is not used as a final digit in a Grid reference.