

Uncovering Research Online Have a Go!

Wigan Local History and Heritage Society



TDR Heritage
Regeneration | Placemaking | People

Hi! WIGAN

Welcome!



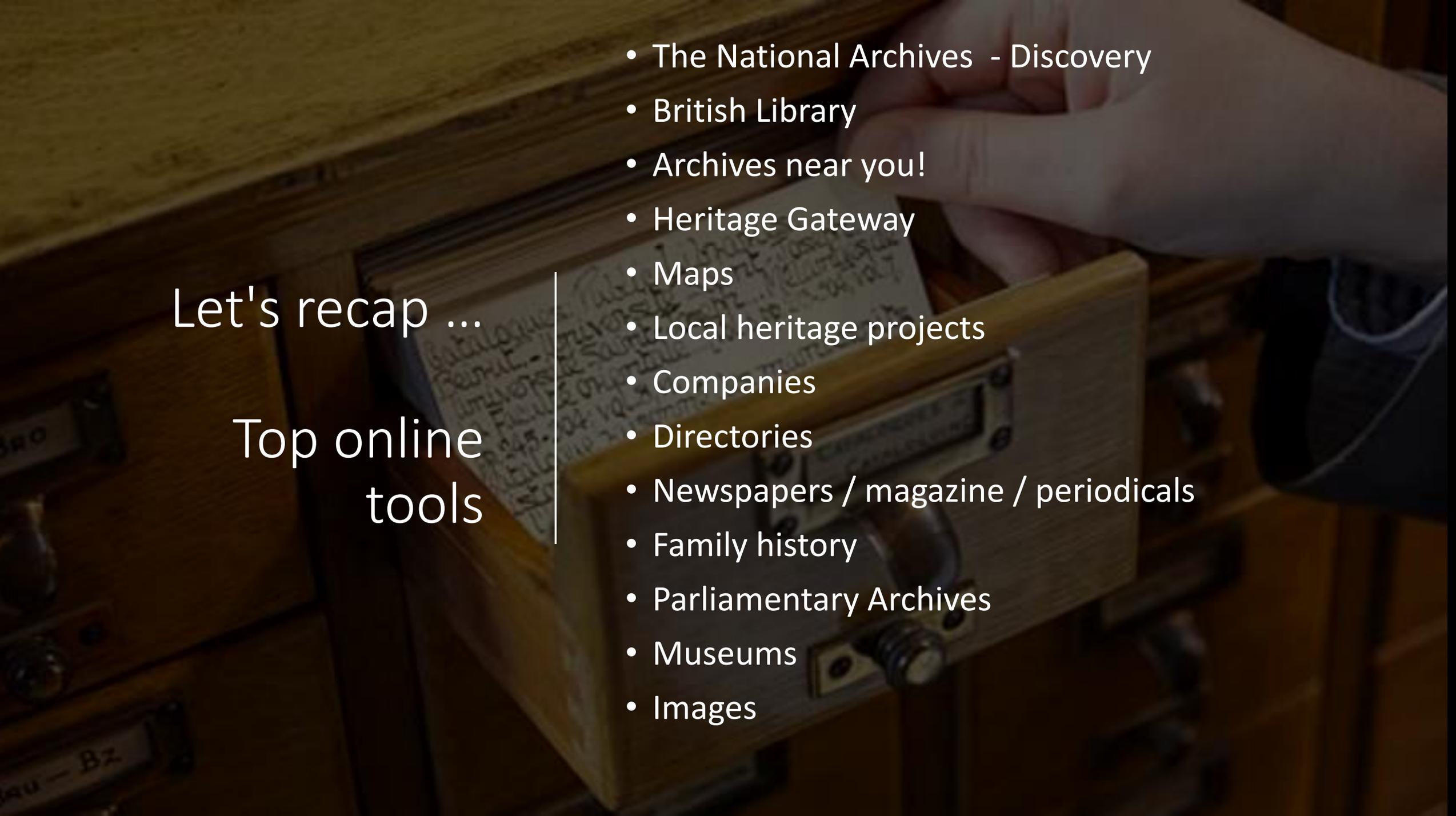
ABOUT THE SESSION

What you will take away

Extend your understanding the range of online research tools and how to use them

Extend your awareness of local research sources and resources

Increase your confidence in recording and organizing research data

A hand is shown holding a card with handwritten text, likely a name or address, in front of an open archival cabinet. The cabinet contains many other cards, and the scene is dimly lit, emphasizing the historical nature of the documents.

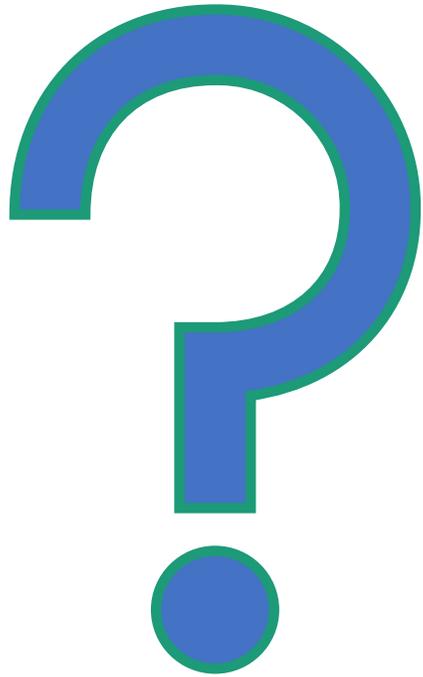
Let's recap ...

Top online
tools

- The National Archives - Discovery
- British Library
- Archives near you!
- Heritage Gateway
- Maps
- Local heritage projects
- Companies
- Directories
- Newspapers / magazine / periodicals
- Family history
- Parliamentary Archives
- Museums
- Images

A pair of black-rimmed glasses is resting on a stack of books. A red bookmark is visible in the foreground. The background is blurred, showing more books and a wooden surface.

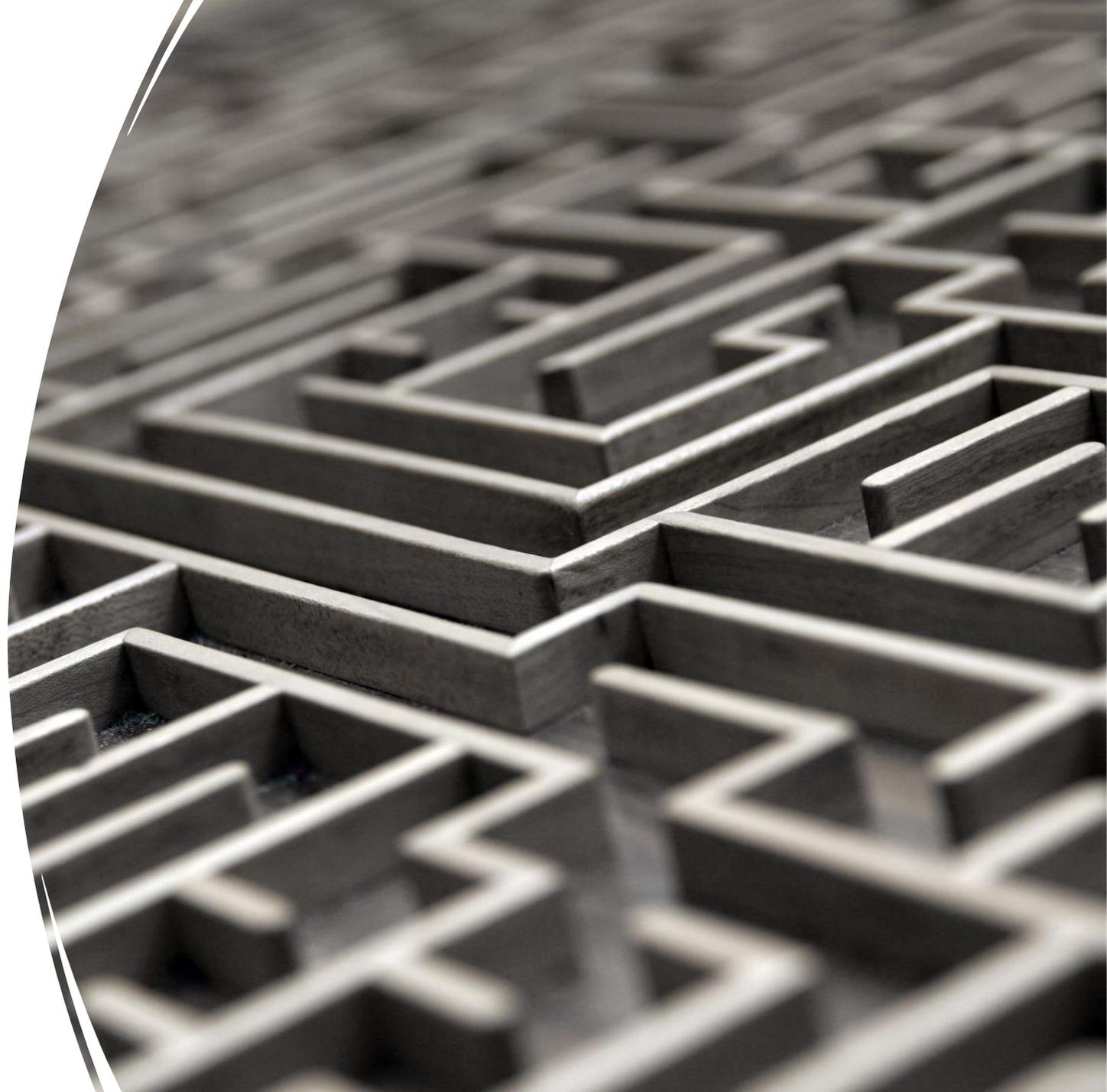
Using the Task-Master



Any questions?

Task 1

Demystifying searches



Explore the catalogue

Access records held by The National Archives and more than 2,500 other archives.

Search for

Between

and

Held by



[Advanced search](#) or [browse](#)

The National Archives Discovery

Let's take a tour

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

Setting up an account, why bother?



Let's register

- 
- You will find the link in your Task-Master
 - <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

Constructing a key word Boolean search

Use:

- OR between words to increase your results – so Smith OR Smyth
- “quotation marks” to find exact phrases
- brackets for complex searches – so Inn AND (Southwark OR Lambeth)
- NOT to exclude results – so Austen NOT Jane
- an asterisk – * – to pick up variant spellings: Rob*n will find Robin or Robyn. Rob*n* will find Robbins, Robyns and Robinson
- a question mark -? – to replace single characters eg Rob?n will find Robin, Robyn, Roben and Robon

Improving your results

- check your spelling and try variations or wildcards
- try different keywords
- use fewer terms – start with a broad search and increase or change words used



Let's explore ...



Grade L

Wigan Brewery

Corner of Chapel Lane & King

Street, Wigan, Wigan

Listed Date: 00/00/0000

Part of Group:

At Risk: No

What do we know?

- The brewery was founded in the 1780's.
- 1791 Thomas Higson owned the brewery and subsequently sold the brewery to George Bainbridge & Co.
- [1792 Auction](#)
- In 1814, Henry Robinson having previously been at the adjacent Brewers Arms took control of the brewery in partnership with the Bevan family. The partnership with the Bevan family was dissolved and Henry became the sole owner,
- In 1839 the premises and equipment were leased to Thomas Morris until his death in 1871, the business was continued by his sons. The Morris family continued to grow the business with the acquisition of public houses.
- In the 1890's legal action was started against the owner, Ellen Ann Robinson Morris, a spinster, involving lunacy as she had been committed to an asylum. The result was on 24th September 1894 an auction of the business took place at the [Wigan Public Hall](#).
- Included in the auction were the brewery, 86 public houses, and an extensive wine and spirit store located in Rodney Street under the name of Henry Robinson & Co. The assets at the auction were to be sold as one lot.
- Magee, Marshall & Co bought the business for £150,000. (£14m today).

Over to you!

1

Construct different searches

2

Bookmark your finds

3

Capture reference details in your Task-Master

What did we
discover?



Magee Marshall & Co Ltd

[Back to search results](#)

Details

[Browse by Hierarchy](#)

[Research and Copying Services](#)

[User Comments](#)

Reference Number: BAH/MAG

Object Name: Magee Marshall & Co Ltd

Level: Subfonds

Admin History: David Magee (or McGee) was born in Bolton about 1829. In 1858, he was proprietor of the "Good Samaritan" beerhouse and brewery at 73, Derby Street in Bradford Ward. About 1866, he moved to the Crown Hotel at 217, Derby Street, and established the first Crown Brewery on adjacent land near the junction of Derby Street and Cricket Street. The brewery was extended in 1875, and again in 1893. David Magee died in 1875, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Thomas, and his other sons, John and Joseph. In 1885, the family took over Daniel Marshall's brewery in Brown Street, Bolton, and the limited company Magee, Marshall was established in 1888. The brewery was in the "traditional brewery style" with a five-storey section for gravity processing and an ornamental tower. Up to the 1950s the company transported water, high in dissolved calcium carbonate content, in tankers by rail from Burton on Trent for the brewing process. In September 1894, Magee Marshall & Co., Ltd, purchased Wigan Brewery in King Street, Wigan, which was sold by order of the High Court as a result of a ruling in the case of *Morris v. Morris* (1872). The company also bought and erected a large number of public houses in the Lancashire coast holiday resorts, including Blackpool and Southport. A further extension of the business took place in December 1910, with the acquisition of the Alexandra Brewery, Mount Street, Bolton, from Messrs John Halliwell & Son. Magee, Marshall & Co., Ltd were taken over by Greenall Whitley & Co., Ltd, of Warrington in 1958, but brewing at the Crown Brewery continued until 1970. The building was demolished in 1984.

Hierarchy



[BAH: Bass Holdings Ltd Collection \(\)](#)

[BAH/MAG: Magee Marshall & Co Ltd \(\)](#)

The National Brewery Centre Archives

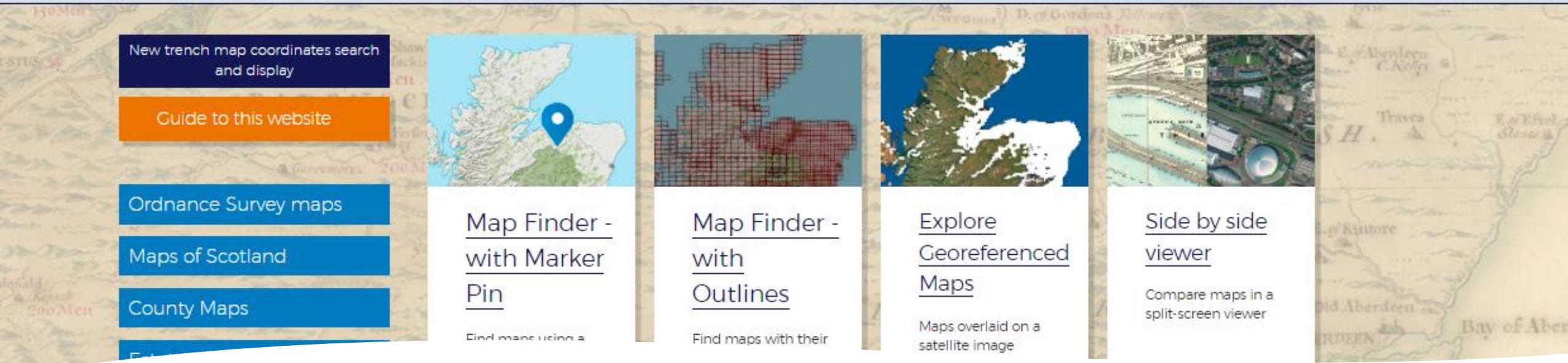
Comfort
break!



A close-up photograph of a red pushpin stuck into a map. The map shows various colored lines representing roads and geographical features. In the background, several other pushpins in blue, yellow, and purple are visible, but they are out of focus. The overall scene is dimly lit, with a soft, muted color palette.

Task 2

Map reading



National Library of Scotland

Let's take a tour!

<https://maps.nls.uk/>

Over to you!
You will find the
link in your
Task-Master

- Can you find where you live?

TIP

Try filtering by date. What is the earliest map featuring your location? What is the more recent map featuring your location?

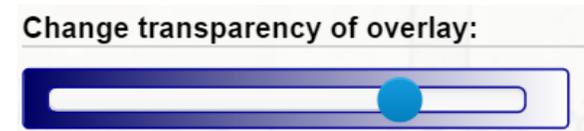
- Can you locate King Street?

TIP

Explore georeferenced maps.

Choose an OS 25 inch version and Background map Bing Hybrid.

Change the view with



What has changed? What has stayed the same?

What did we
discover?





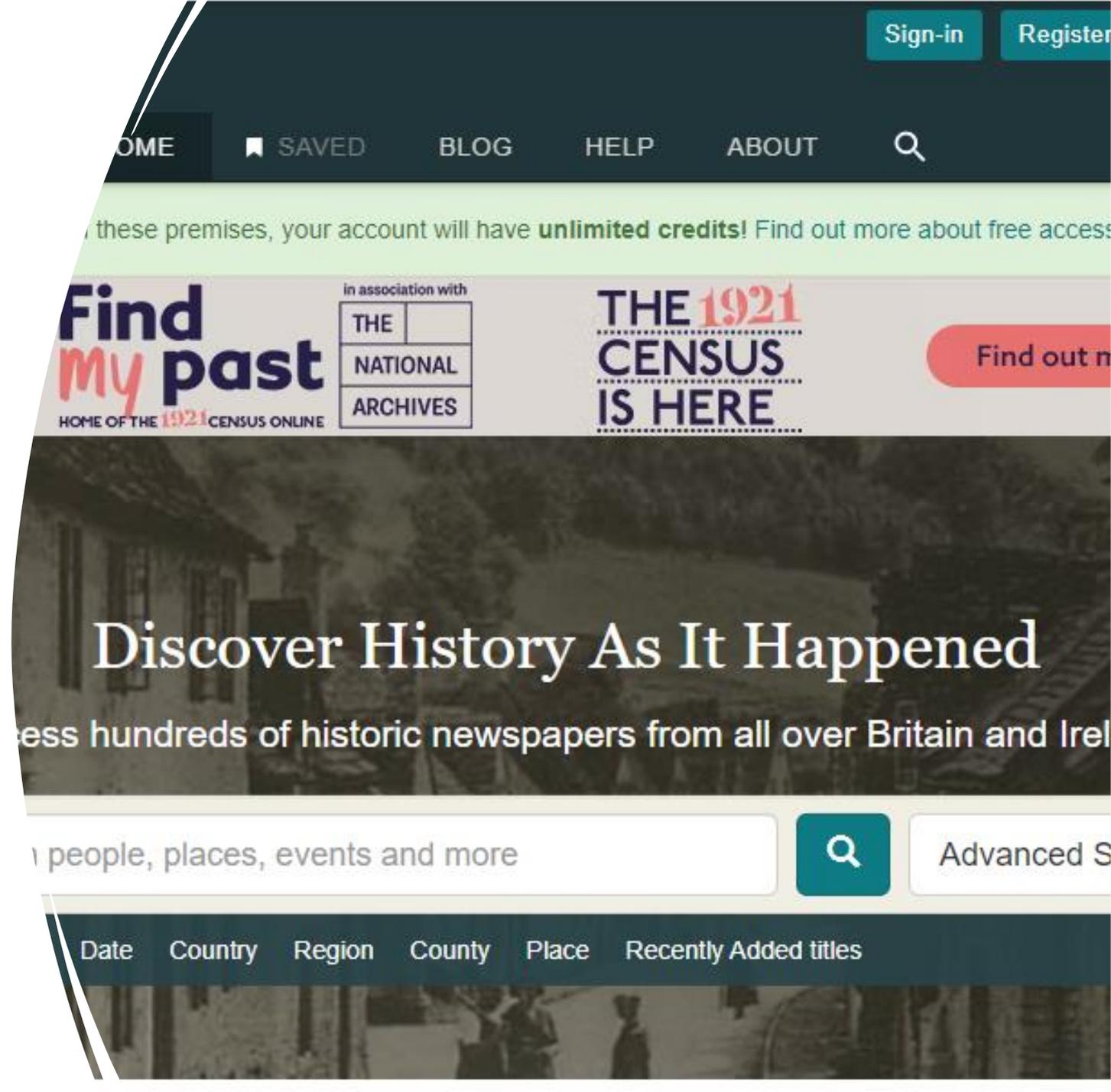
Task 3

Read all about it!

The British Newspaper Archive

Let's take a tour!

- Setting up an account, why bother?
- <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>





Over to you...

- Open your Task-Master and pick a King Street building
- Use simple search and the advanced search function
- What is the earliest newspaper reference for your building?
- What is the most recent reference for your building?
- What publications feature your building?
- What article themes/events can you identify?

Use spelling variations

Use " " to search for records which only contain the name of your building.

What did we
discover?



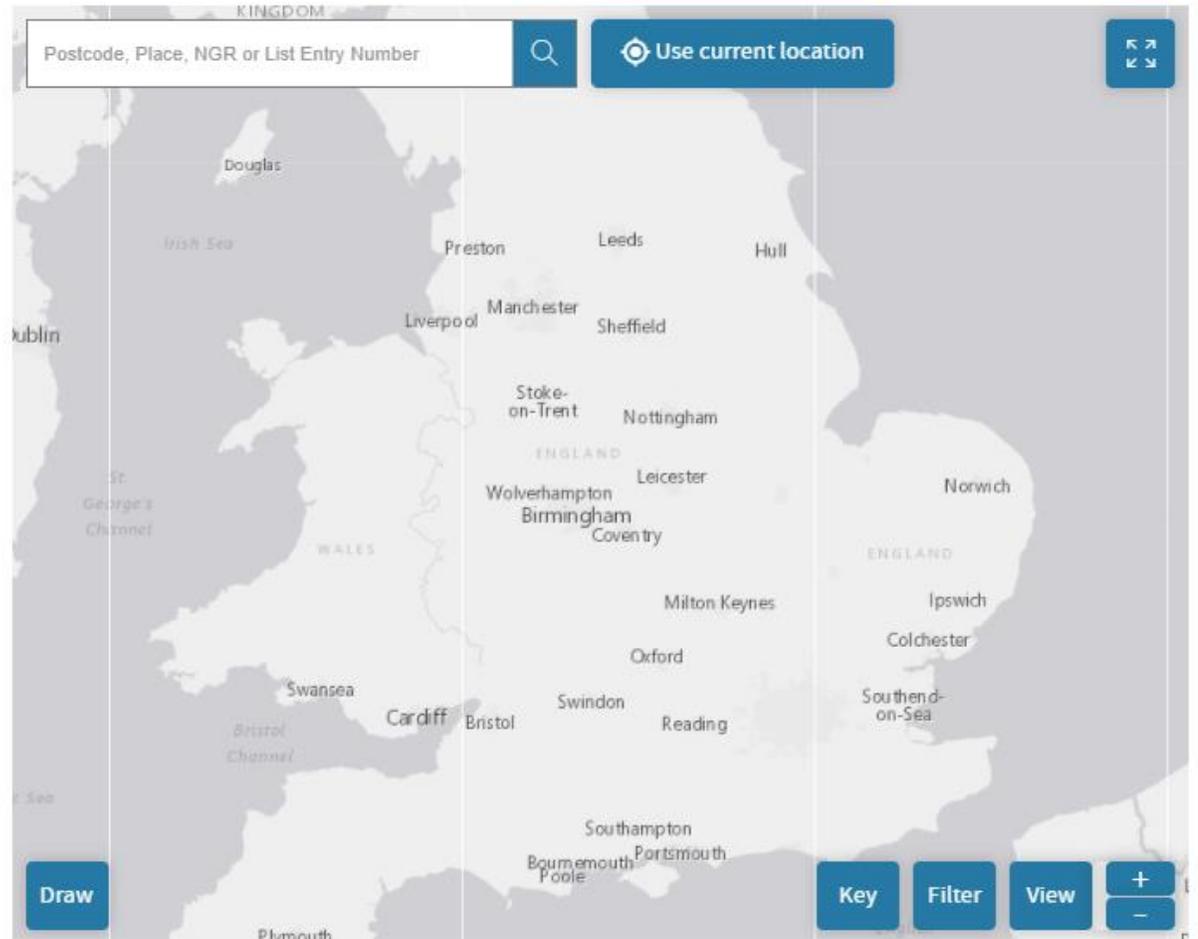
Extension Task!

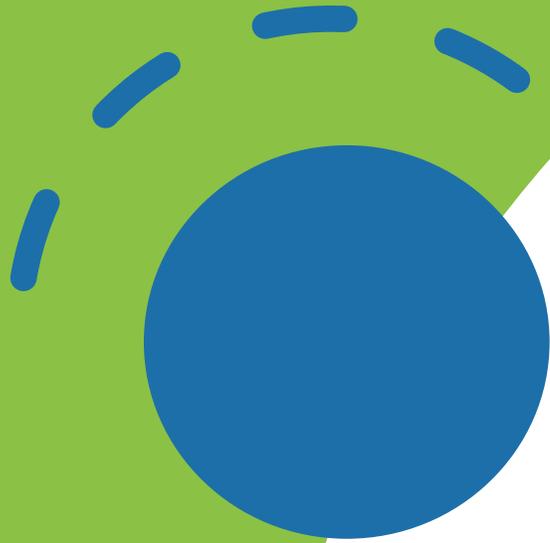
- What can we discover about King Street from using Heritage Gateway?
- What records are available from Historic England resources?

www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/

historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/map-search

Search the List - Map Search





Summing Up

How to make the best use of key online portals.

Nothing is ever a one-stop shop!

Setting up online accounts can provide extra functions.

Search smart.

Keep track of where you have been and what you have discovered.

Never underestimate the wild card approach.

You may need to move from your armchair!