

Manse Road History

There may be authoritative accounts of the development of Manse Road, Caputh, in the Perth and Kinross archives but it is interesting to look at a few old maps.

<http://www.scottish-places.info/counties/countymaps22.html#TMaps> is particularly useful. It and its links show us various maps:

The key shows:



Map Layers

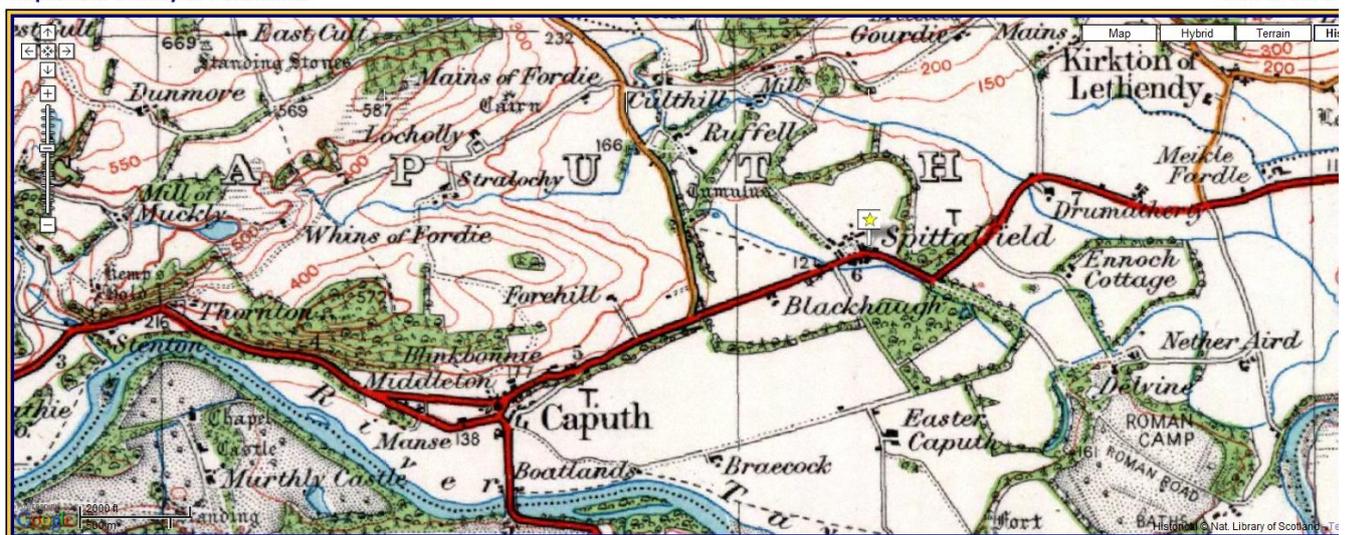
Four different map layers are provided (Map, Satellite, Hybrid and Terrain) and are accessed via buttons at the top-right hand side of the map. The 'Map' layer is a road map, with limited features outside urban areas. This is set as the default layer for any of our settlement entries. The 'Satellite' layer provides a satellite image (or air photo image) which is of high resolution in some areas but low resolution for much of the country. The 'View Other Maps' 'Photo' option (see below) provides a much greater coverage of high-resolution imagery, so even if what you see on the map is poor, try that option. The 'Hybrid' layer is a combination of both of the previous. The 'Terrain' layer includes hill-shading and contours, providing more detail in rural area. This is the default layer for our geofeatures and tourist attractions.

We have added a further layer, labelled **'Historical'**, which is the default for Old Counties. This layer is provided with the kind permission of the **National Library of Scotland (NLS)** and includes various historical maps increasing in detail as you zoom in. In turn, these layers are:

- Ordnance Survey, Physical Map of Scotland (1928)
- Ordnance Survey, Quarter-inch to the mile, 3rd Edition (1921-23)
- J.G. Bartholomew & Son, Half-inch to the mile (1926-1935)
- Ordnance Survey, One-inch to the mile, Popular Edition (1921-1930)
- Ordnance Survey, Six-inch to the mile, 1st Edition (1843-1882)

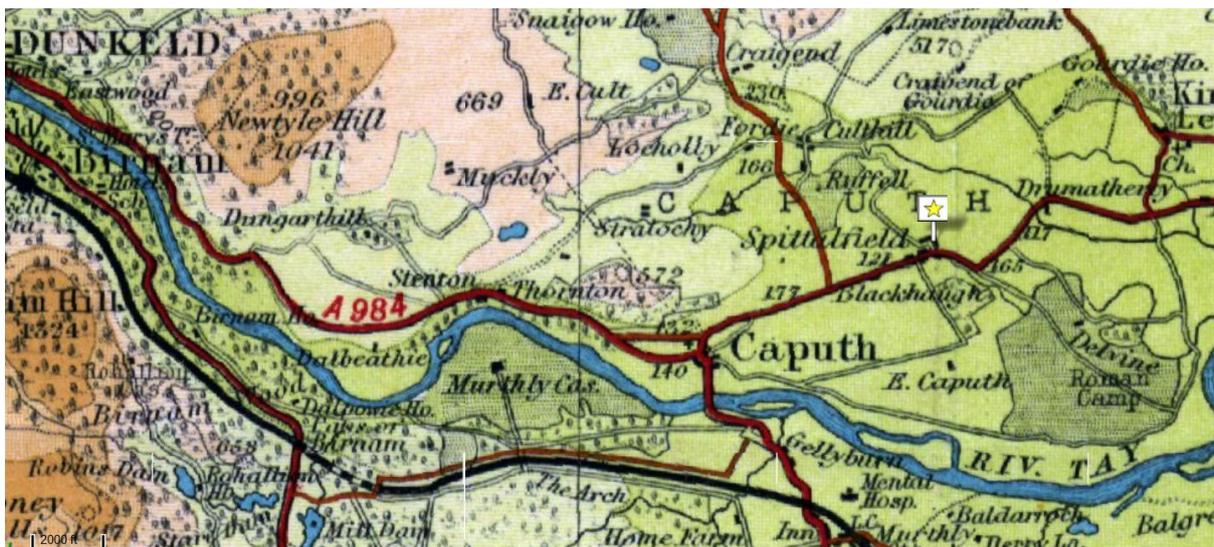
At one magnification we get:

Map of Old County of Perthshire



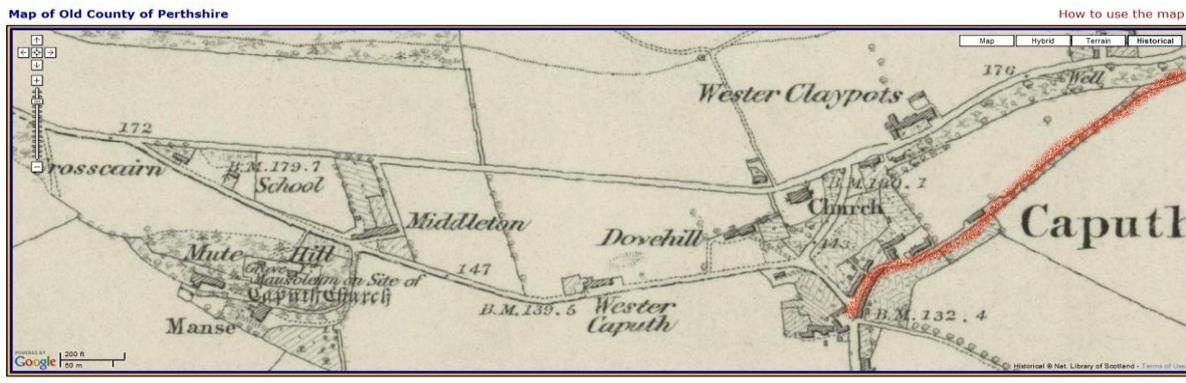
So, as far as we can understand the website, this is likely to be one of the OS 1920s maps. It is interesting because it shows Manse Road to have the same status (red) as the present A984, rather than the yellow status of the minor roads shown.

On the same site, at different magnification, we get:



This map looks like one of the old Bartholemew maps rather than OS. Surprisingly, it shows Manse Road in a main road colour whereas the present high road is shown as a minor road.

At even higher magnification, an older map is shown: the route from central Caputh to the present A984 is shaded in red.



We have no information as to when the road up the brae to the present church was built (the original mediaeval church having been on Manse Road on its present residual site in the graveyard).

All this is perhaps understandable once we realise that Manse Road and the old road along the north side of Fore Row (as marked in red) were the main routes west or east from the ferry at Caputh. It makes sense that horse-drawn transport would have taken these routes rather than a steep route such as that up the hill by the present church. The remains of the old Fore Row road junction are still visible up on the A984 near Blinkbonnie. Similarly, the old Manse Road junction with the A984 used to point straight to Dunkeld but was realigned at some time (before 1996, but within the memory of Sir Gavin Lyle) so as to make a more right angled approach to the present A984.

At least one local resident remembers Manse Road as being metalled throughout their lifetime – for almost forty years.

(Anton & Margaret Edwards, August 2011)

