

Maps 1900: Displaying Historical Ordnance Survey Mapping (MBTiles) on a GPS Enabled Smart Phone or Tablet – A Quick Guide

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Detailed guides for using custom maps with the recommended app, Locus Map, is available to download from coaley.net/maps1900.

Part 1. Overview

1. Install either Locus Map 4 app from the Android Play Store (iOS users see [Tips and Updates](#) on the Maps 1900 website).
2. Obtain mapping in the form of MBTiles file(s) for the area of interest and transfer them to your device. A detailed guide to creating MBTiles files using the Mobile Atlas Creator (MOBAC) software is available to download from coaley.net/maps1900.
3. Ensure GPS is enabled on the device and open whichever app you will be using.
4. Go into the app settings and install the map you wish to use from the location it was stored on your device.
5. Select the map from the maps available to display (use the map centre option, if necessary).

Part 2. Further Details

Locus Map

The two main controls (icons) are available from the map screen. Tap the "**Map Menu**" icon [≡] to go to "**Map Manager**". Tap the "**Location**" icon [📍] to centre the map at any time at your present location.

Custom Map Installation

Tap the "**Map Menu**" icon [≡] and then tap "**Map Manager**" to display the "**Maps**" screen and then tap on the "**OFFLINE**" tab.

To install a custom map already stored somewhere on your device tap the large plus (+) icon and tap the red "**Import Map**" icon to display the "**Select Source**" dialog.

Tap the "**Local**" icon and locate and tap on the MBTiles file you wish to install.

The Import dialog box will appear with the file name and target directory preloaded.

Tap on "**IMPORT**" and if asked to "centre map" tap "**YES**". The map will now be listed in the "**OFFLINE**" tab.

Custom Map Selection

Tap the "**Map Menu**" icon [≡] to then tap "**Map Manager**" to display the "**Maps**" screen and then tap the "**OFFLINE**" tab and tap on the required map to open it.

Part 3. Obtaining Custom Maps

At present, users will probably need to create their own custom maps. Full details of how to produce custom maps using mapping from the National Library of Scotland and Mobile Atlas Creator software (MOBAC) are available to download [coaley.net/maps1900]

In time, it is hoped that organisations with an interest in field work might build up a library of custom map files, for areas of particular interest.

Disclaimer

Please take suitable care if you use these apps in the field for the purposes described in these notes, as clearly, we accept no liability for any loss or damage, that might occur.