

Short report on Conservation work undertaken on the 18th century map of the Manor of Claines by John Doharty Junior, December 2009

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Conservation work was undertaken on the 18th century map of the Manor of Claines between 16th and 25th November, utilising the smaller reading room at Worcestershire Record Office.

The two smaller, sewn on (later) additions of thin parchment were removed from the right side. These had some tears and a little loss, a little cleaning was undertaken. They were humidified and repaired with Ino shi tissue, parchment and collagen. These two items then each had four strips of Aero-cotton stuck on the back and were mounted on prepared boards 40.5 x 70cm or 16" x 27 ½".



Map before Conservation work



After Conservation



Water damaged portion, now stabilised

The boards are an archival paper honeycomb which is very stable and light being 12mm (1/2") thick. These are now stored in their own packaging and can be kept near the main map. Put beside the large parchment map the original sense of continuity is retained. Many photographs of the work in progress were made. The sewing threads have been kept. It is hoped that the Reprographic Section at the Record Office can supply digital images of the now uncovered 'seams' in due course.

The large parchment map (approximately 163 x 133cm or 64" x 52 1/2"), made from four skins sewn together, was now able to be treated separately. New Aero-linen was sewn onto the right side only, using the original sewing holes. Linen thread was used. Tyvek, a smooth synthetic material used in conservation, was sewn to this. This right side, that takes so much wear and tear in opening the map up, now has a protective wrap, especially useful when rolling up.



It was important that the rolled up map had some inner-core support. To allow the map to be stored as before, a 5cm (2 1/4") cardboard tube was utilised. It was wrapped round with 2 metres of a soft synthetic padding and then retained in another panel of Aero-linen. A second line of sewing was made so that a larger diameter tube could easily be put in later, in order that the tension on the map can be gradually eased out. This linen panel was stuck to the back of the parchment on its left side and can be removed easily if required. A few repairs to small tears at the top and bottom edge was made.

A separate sheet of Tyvek was put on the top of the map so that when rolled it helps to avoid abrasion of the pigments. When rolled the Tyvek used helps to protect the map from going in and out of its cotton bag. Work carried out supports and makes handling easier and is 'reversible', an important aspect of conservation. In time the map should become less uneven. The conservation work has greatly helped the long term survival of this important map.



View of map showing core support in foreground



The most damaged portion - Before and After