

Using re-photography to investigate change

Re-photography is the act of taking a photograph in the same location as the one used for a historic image, as a qualitative measure of change over time.

Find an old photograph or postcard of the high street using the following sources:

- Your local museum, if you have one
- Historic England; <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/photos/>
 - The most extensive historic database but images cannot be downloaded
 - Share or view image using the weblink (ignore the 'embed' option unless you are a web editor – does not embed easily into social media)
- National Archives; <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/advanced-search>
 - Enter the words 'photograph' and town/district under 'search for records'
 - Select 'search the National Archives' under 'Held By'
 - Select 'Only show records available for download'
 - Images can be downloaded if you [register](#) first
- Science Museum Group; <https://collection.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/>
 - Images can be downloaded
- British Museum; <https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection>
 - Images can be downloaded
- Flickr <https://flickr.com/>
 - Images can be downloaded

Visit the high street and try to position yourself in the exact same location as the one used in the old image. Present the two images adjacent to each other and annotate to highlight the economic, environmental and social changes that have occurred over time.

Preparatory activity

This activity will help to familiarise you with the task, before you embark on your own fieldwork. The photographs overleaf show the high street in Totnes, past and present.

- Can you see any high order or low order shops, in the 2020 photograph?
- The 2020 photograph was taken during the first COVID-19 lockdown. Suggest the economic, environmental and social impacts of the lockdown on this high street.
- Using the four photographs, describe the physical changes in street design and layout that have occurred since the last century. Why were these changes instigated?
- Why has the street design changed so much but the buildings look mostly the same?

East Gate, Totnes



1968

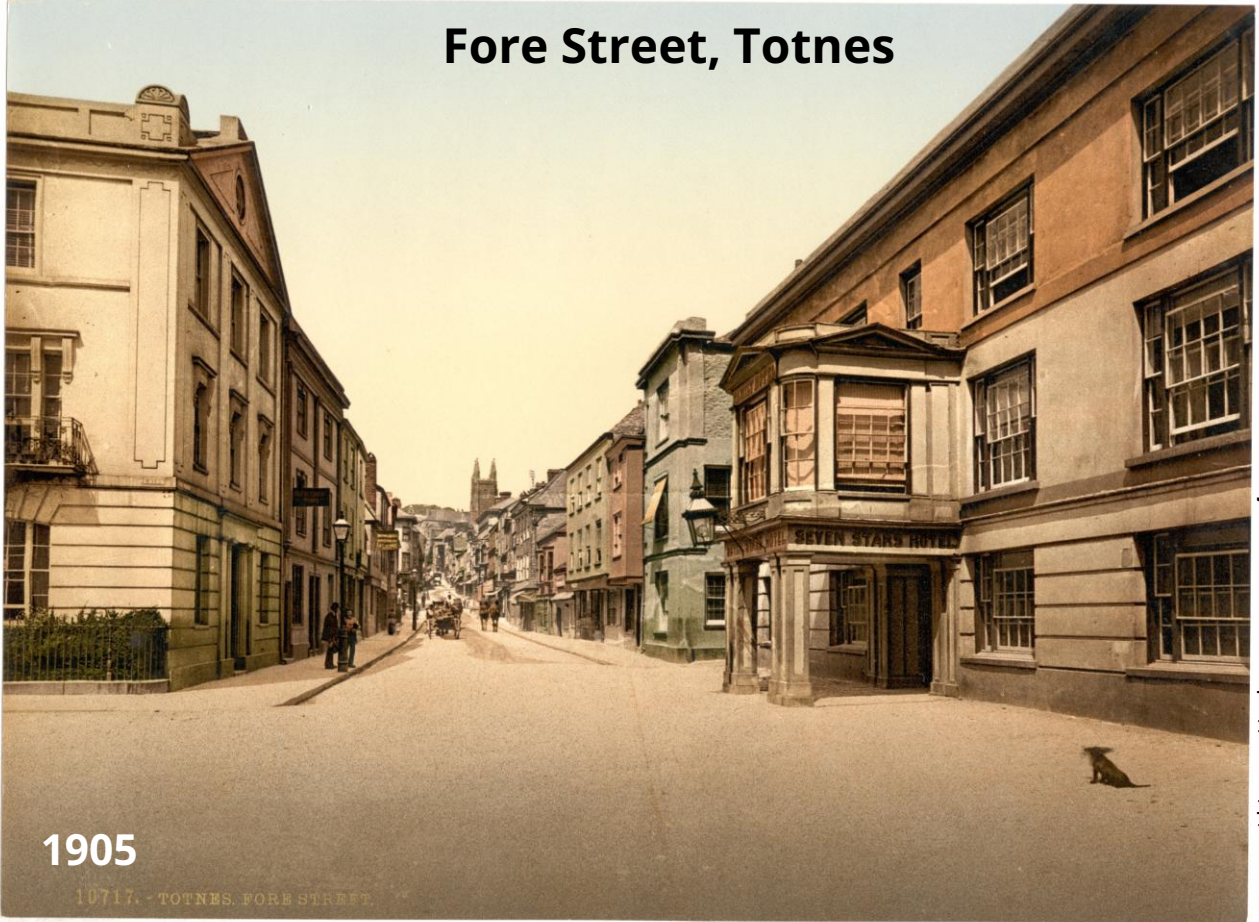
daves_archived <https://flic.kr/p/216UJNu>



2020

Phil Gayton <https://flic.kr/p/2iZ4gq4>

Fore Street, Totnes



1905

10717. - TOTNES, FORE STREET.

Ashley Van Haeften <https://flic.kr/p/8J3cck>



2011

Reading Tom, 2011 <https://flic.kr/p/aDXNQP>