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Sites of Performance: Mapping/Theatre/History,
University of Nottingham, 2-4 April 2009

“Don’t you think I’m a jolly old man?”

A Folk Play Scripts Explorer Case Study

<http://www.mastermummers.org/scripts/explorer.htm>

Investigating a line from Beelzebub's speech

In comes our old Belzebub

Over my shoulder I carry a club

In my hand a dripping pan

Don't you think I'm a jolly old man?

If you don't, I do.

Guysers' play from Underwood, Notts.


Folk Play Scripts Explorer - Search Results




[Master Home](#) [Scripts Intro](#) [County Index](#) [Class Index](#) [Characters](#) [Explorer](#)

[Master Home](#) >> [Scripts Explorer](#) >> Search Results

Result 1 of 1 for lines containing 'don t you think i m a jolly old man'.

Results Page: << Previous **1** Next >>

Click on an Std.ID to view related line types, on a count number to see the corresponding lines, or on 'Map' to plot their outline distribution or on the  symbols for the Google Maps equivalent.

Std.ID	Sample Result	Plays with Fragment		Plays Without		All Variants
2490	don t you think i m a jolly old man	12 (Map) 	+	34 (Map) 	=	46 (Map) 

Results Page: << Previous **1** Next >>

Map - No lines currently mapped

Search for Lines

Line don t you think i m a jolly old man
Do not use abbreviations or punctuation, and give

Searching for a whole line tends to find relatively few or no matches, because of variations in wording.

Standard Line ID: 2490 [where the line does not contain "don t you think i m a jolly old man"] [View All Variants of this Line](#)

Click on number of Previous or Next Std.ID to view adjacent lines, on a play title to view the full script, or number of Line in Play to see it in context.

Previous Std.ID	Next Std.ID	Line	Play Title	Character	Line in Play
2480	1970	ham not i a hansam good loocking ould man	Truro [Formerly Mylor]: "A Play for Christmas", 1780s	j roe 12 [belzey bob] [note 2]	330
2480	[End]	don t you think me a jolly old man	Mummers' Play from Kirtlington[?] - 1815-1816	beelzebub	840
2480	38020	don t you think i m a jolly young man	Galation from the Abbotsford (1812-1832		130
2480	1310	sae don t ye think i m a jolly auld man	Christmas, Yule-Boys play from Galloway - 1824	beelzebub	40
2480	3350	so am not i a valiant man	Cornish Christmas Play - 1827	hub bub	500
2480	1910	don t i look a nice young man	Tenby Guisers' Play - 1857	no 2	640
2480	1310	don t you think i m jolly old man	Mummers' Play from Upper & Lower Howsell, Worcs. - 1856-1857	beelzbub	960
2480	37840	don t you think he s a funny old man	Mumming [Ther...		40
2480	17620	dwant ye think he s a jolly old mon	Northamptonshir... 1851		40
2480	[End]	now don t you think i a handsome man	Chiswick Mummers' play, 1860	[lord grubb]	340
2480	136	and don t you think i am a handsome young man	Ovingdean...		20
2480	29800	don t you think me a merry old lady	Mummers' 1884		20
2480	27780	don t you think i m a jolly good man	King George Notts. - 18...		20
33890	17190	don t you think me a good old dummun	The Mumm... 1885		20
2480	17620	bent e now a jolly awld man	Mid-Berks...		20
2480	12460	don t you think me a funny old man	Lincolnshire Plough Jags play - 1890	beelzebub	180
2480	12460	don t you think i m a funny old man	Cropwell, Notts. Ploughboys' Play - 1890	beelzebub	1030

Near misses

Significant variations

Displaying non-matching variants of the line type shows many near misses as well as some radically different variations.

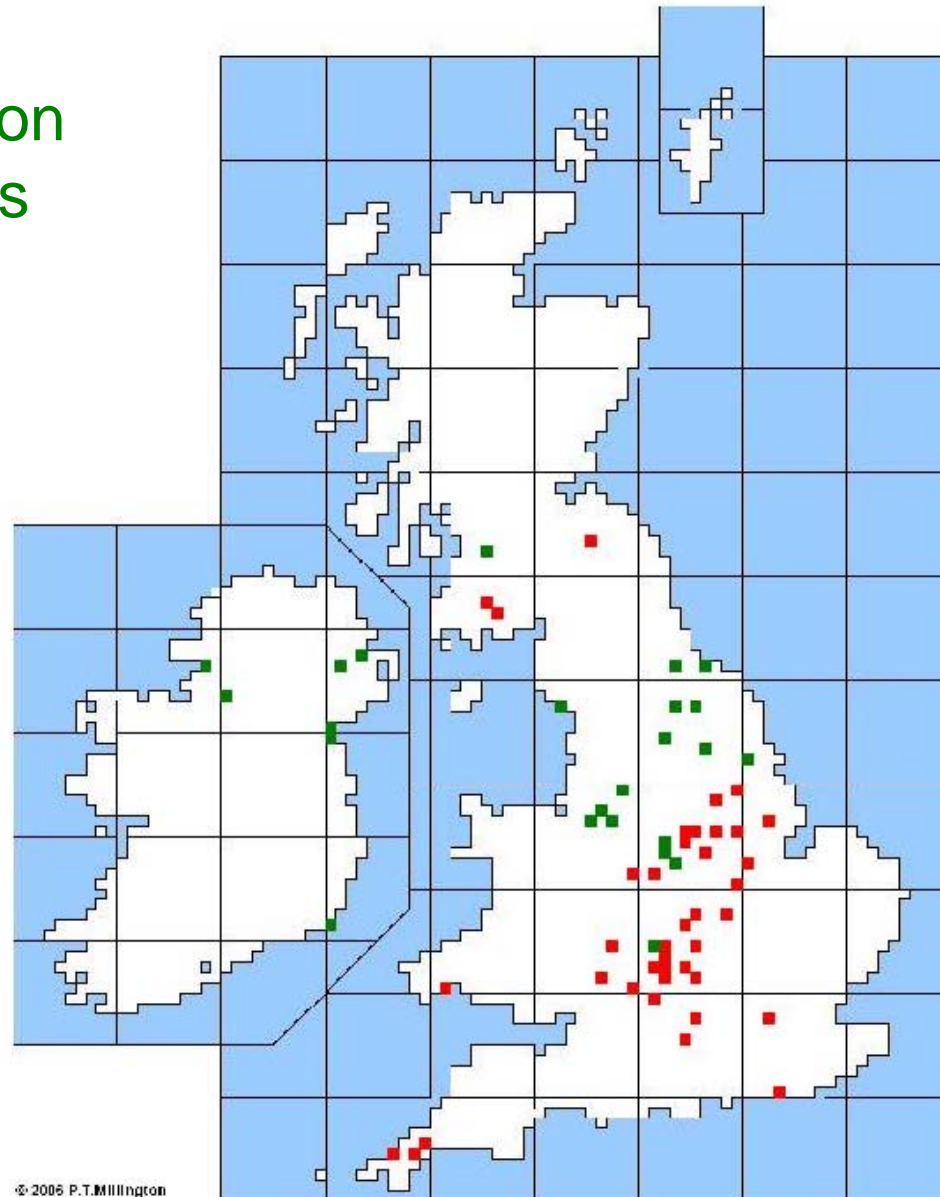
It is generally more helpful to search using single words, short phrases, or strings of characters.

Std.ID	Sample Result	Plays with Fragment		Plays Without		All Variants
164	and tis a jolly old christmas time	1 (Map)	+	35 (Map)	=	36 (Map)
1310	as jolly as i am christmas comes but once a year	1 (Map)	+	32 (Map)	=	33 (Map)
2440	an i beat the jolly dutchman till i made their hearts to ache	5 (Map) 	+	4 (Map) 	=	9 (Map)
2490	<u>don t you think me a jolly old man</u>	28 (Map)	+	18 (Map)	=	46 (Map)
2495	<u>and i think myself a jolly old man</u>	26 (Map)	+	2 (Map)	=	28 (Map)
4920	come all you jolly mummers	2 (Map)	+	-	=	2 (Map)

Here, searching for “jolly” reveals two related line types with subtly different meanings.

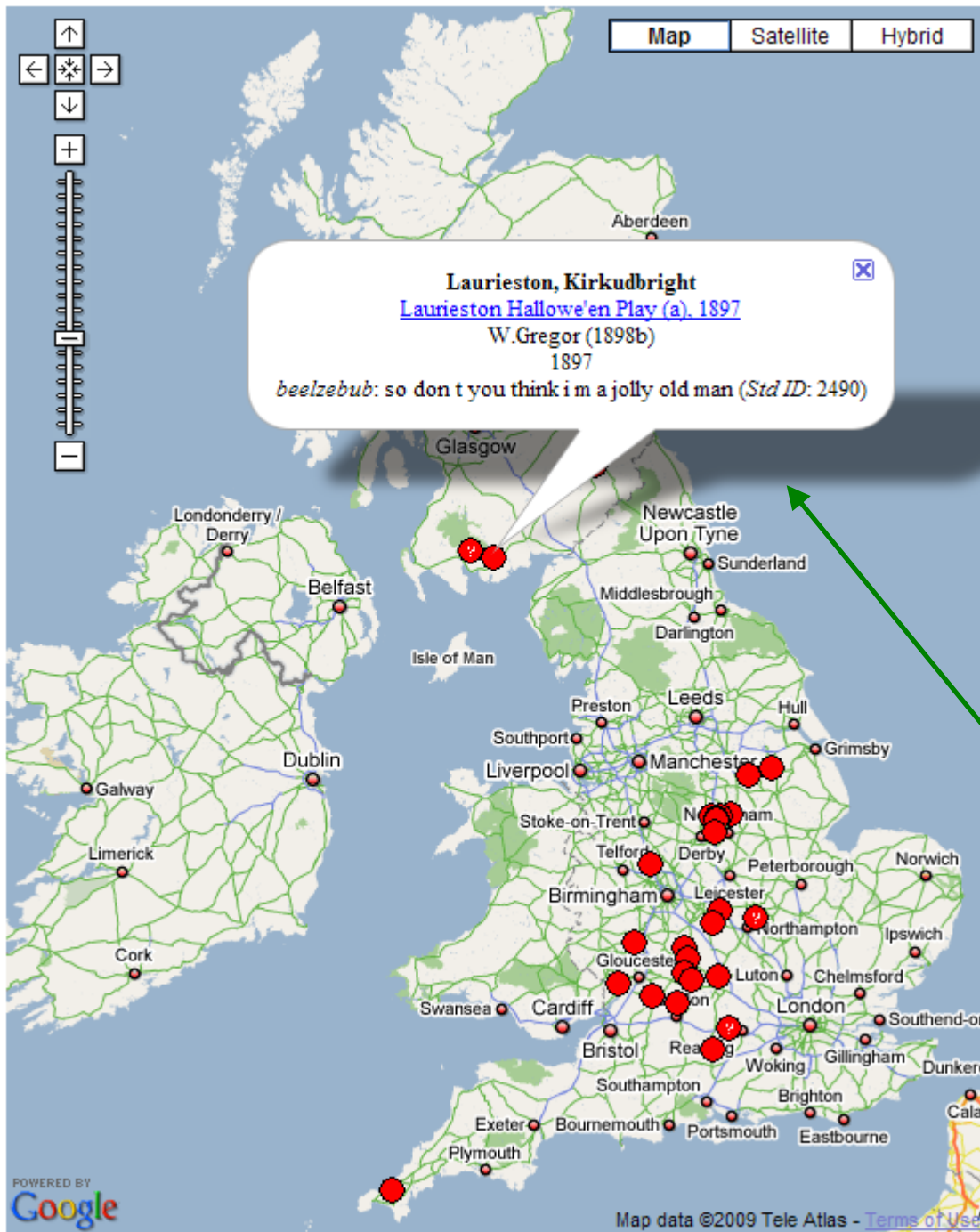
Some non-matching variants still remain

A quick outline distribution map of the two line types shows discrete zoning which suggests that the variation is significant.



Key	Std.ID	Earliest Example of Variant
■	2490	ham not i a hansam good loocking ould man
■	2495	and i think myself a jolly old man

Building the map more
carefully...



Key	Earliest Example of Variant	Lookup
Red	don t you think i m a jolly young man [where line contains "jolly"]	Lines

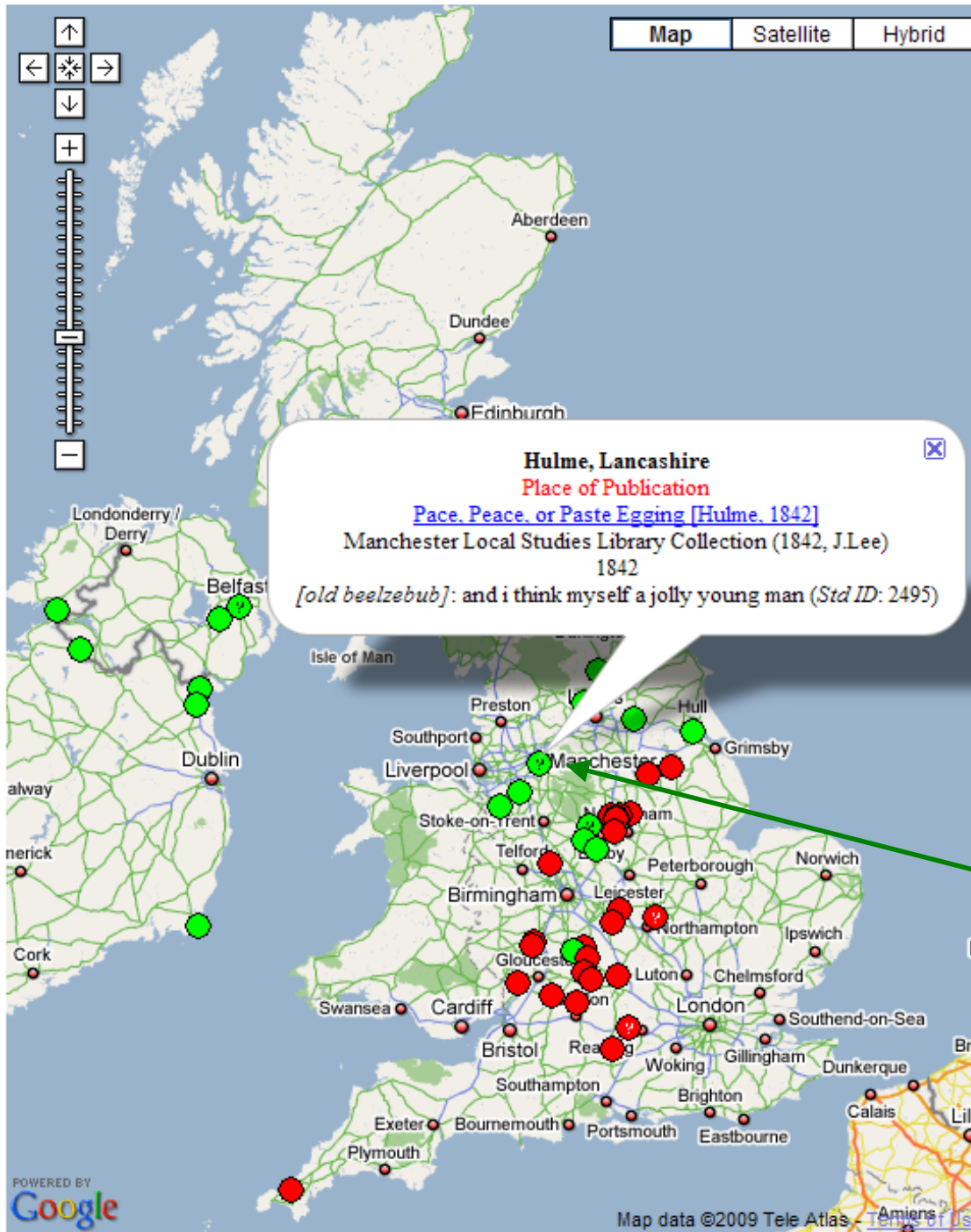
Map Title:

Show Std.IDs Show Dates

Clear Map Add a Line Replot Map Print View

Line type Std ID 2490 containing "jolly".
 Colour key selected

In the Google Maps view, clicking on a marker shows the local variant of the line and its context



Key	Earliest Example of Variant	Lookup
Red	don t you think i m a jolly young man [<i>where line contains "jolly"</i>]	Lines
Red	dond you think i am a golly old man [<i>where line contains "golly"</i>]	Lines
Lime	and i think myself a jolly old man [<i>where line contains "jolly"</i>]	Lines

Map Title:

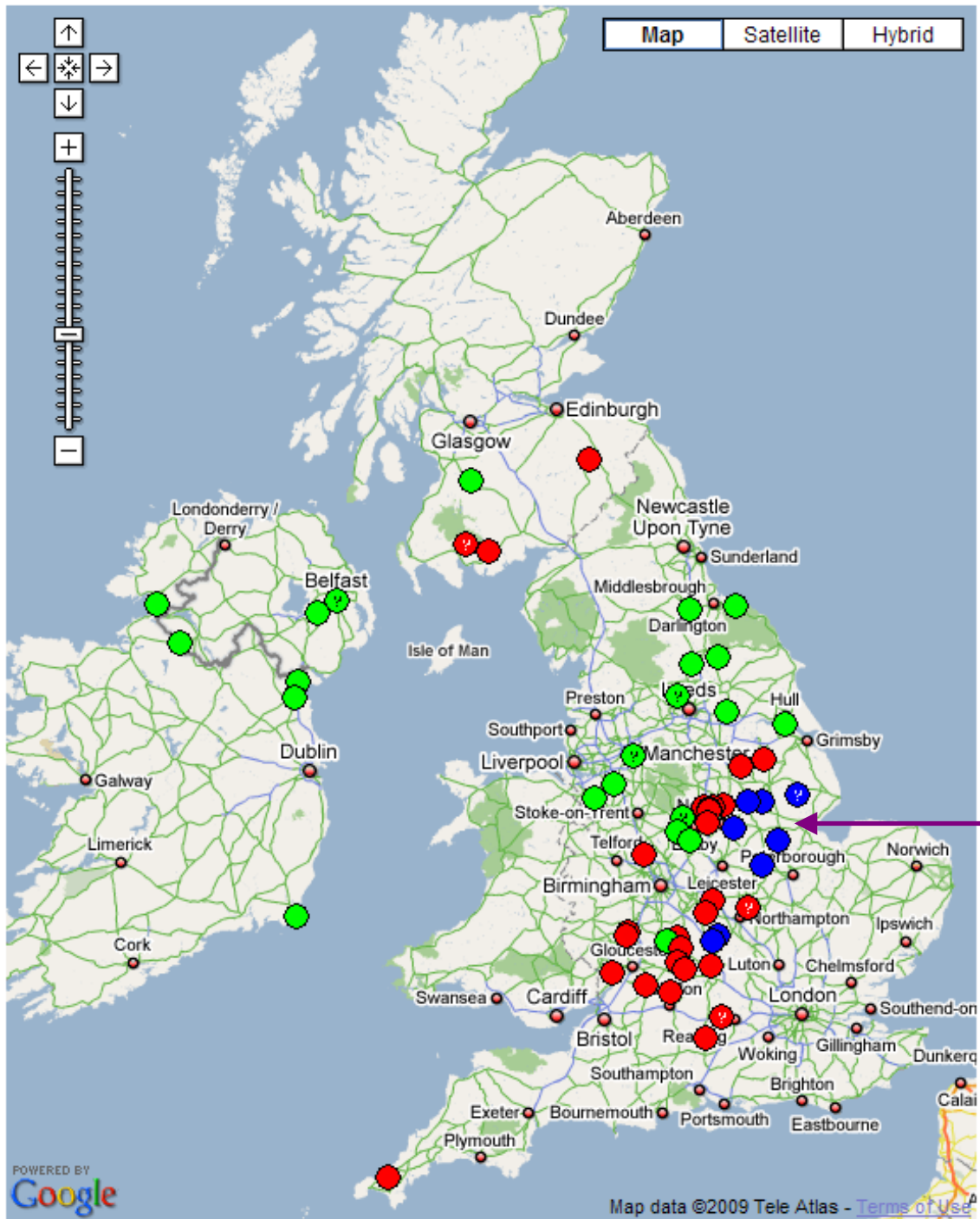
Show Std.IDs Show Dates

Clear Map Add a Line Replot Map Print View

Line type Std ID 2495 containing "jolly".

Different colour key

Points with question marks indicate the location is imprecise, or may not represent a place of performance

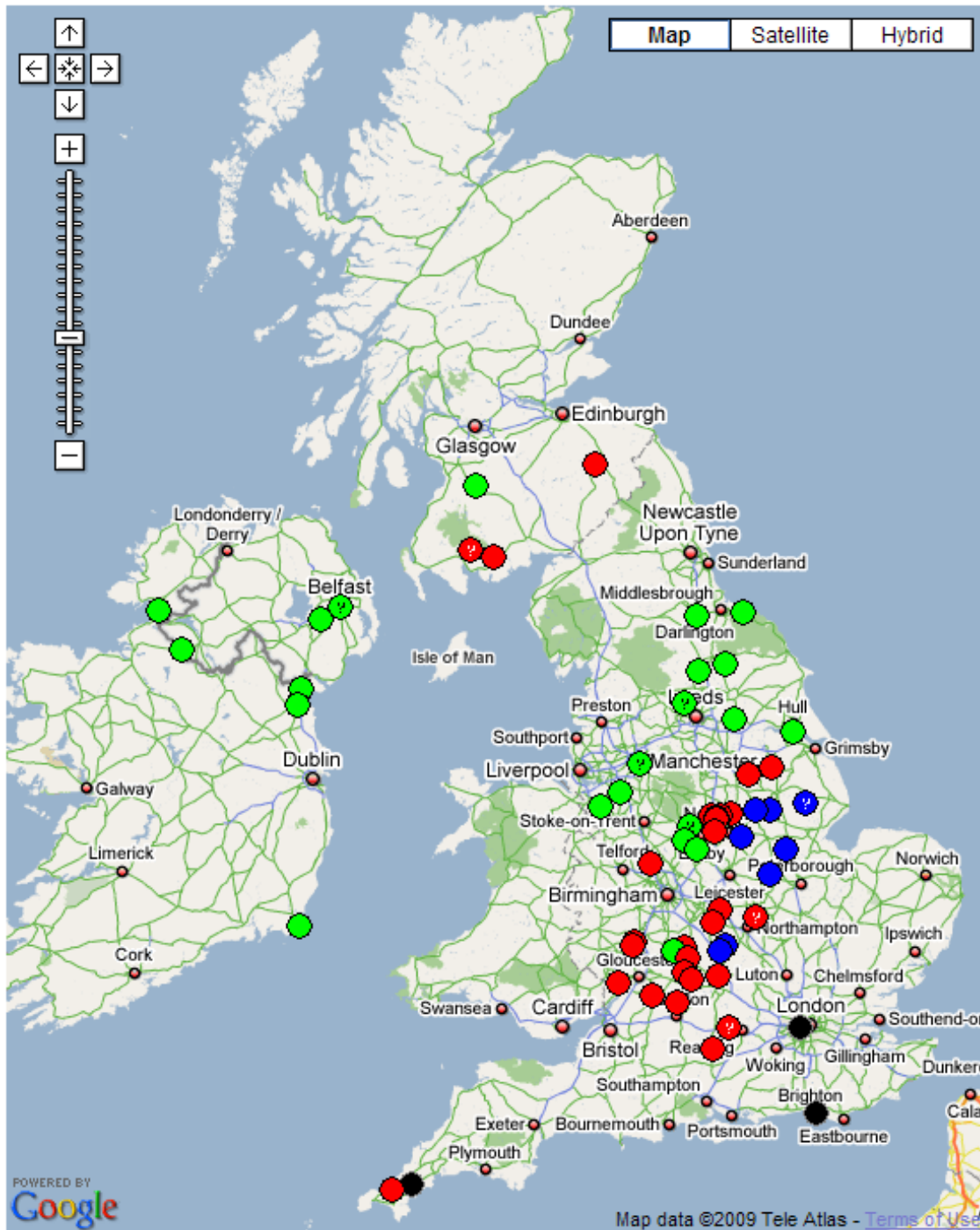


Key	Earliest Example of Variant	Lookup
Red	don t you think i m a jolly young man [where line contains "jolly"]	Lines
Red	dond you think i am a golly old man [where line contains "golly"]	Lines
Lime	and i think myself a jolly old man [where line contains "jolly"]	Lines
Blue	don t you think he s a funny old man [where line contains "funny"]	Lines

Map Title:

Show Std.IDs Show Dates

Substituting “funny” for ‘jolly’ reveals another Std ID 2490 variant cluster.



Don't you think I am/I think myself a handsome/jolly/funny old/young man

Key	Earliest Example of Variant	Lookup
Red	don t you think i m a jolly young man [<i>where line contains "jolly"</i>]	Lines
Red	dond you think i am a golly old man [<i>where line contains "golly"</i>]	Lines
Lime	and i think myself a jolly old man [<i>where line contains "jolly"</i>]	Lines
Blue	don t you think he s a funny old man [<i>where line contains "funny"</i>]	Lines
Black	ham not i a hansam good looking ould man [<i>where line contains "han"</i>]	Lines

Map Title:

Don't you think I am/I think myself a handsome/jolly/funny

Show Std.IDs

Show Dates

Clear Map

Add a Line

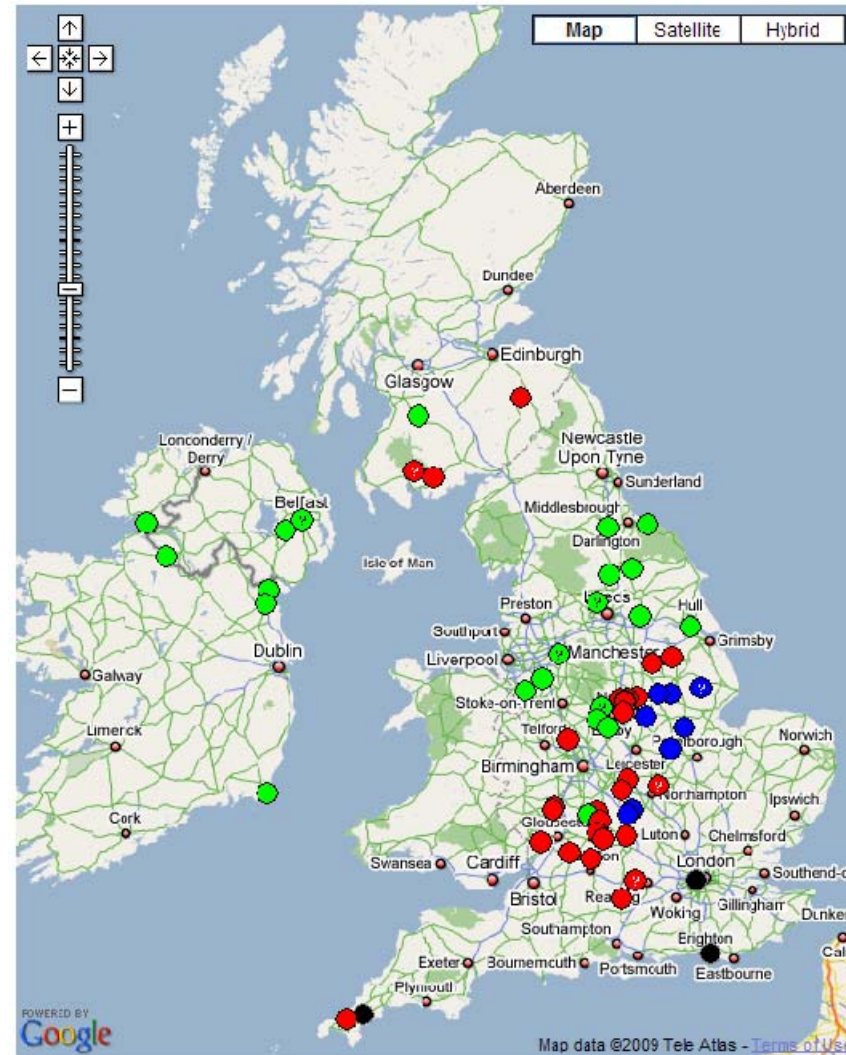
Replot Map

Print View

Lastly, there are a few
“handsome” men

The key to the final printable map includes dates for the earliest line in each result set.

The dates may help in determining the genealogical sequence and geographical transmission routes of the variants.



Don't you think I am/I think myself a handsome/jolly/funny old/young man

Key	Std.ID	Earliest Example of Variant	Approx.Date
■	2490	don t you think i m a jolly young man [<i>where line contains "jolly"</i>]	1812-1832
	2490	dond you think i am a golly old man [<i>where line contains "golly"</i>]	1913-1916
■	2495	and i think myself a jolly old man [<i>where line contains "jolly"</i>]	1803-1818
■	2490	don t you think he s a funny old man [<i>where line contains "funny"</i>]	1854
■	2490	ham nct i a hansam good looking ould man [<i>where line contains "han"</i>]	1785-1789