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Millington, Peter (2009) Mapping the uncharted territory of folk drama. In: Sites of Performance: Mapping/Theatre/History, 2-4 April 2009, University of Nottingham. (Unpublished)

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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




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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
<a href="#">2490</a>	don t you think i m a jolly old man	<a href="#">12 (Map)</a> 	+	<a href="#">34 (Map)</a> 	=	<a href="#">46 (Map)</a> 

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

Near misses

Significant variations

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

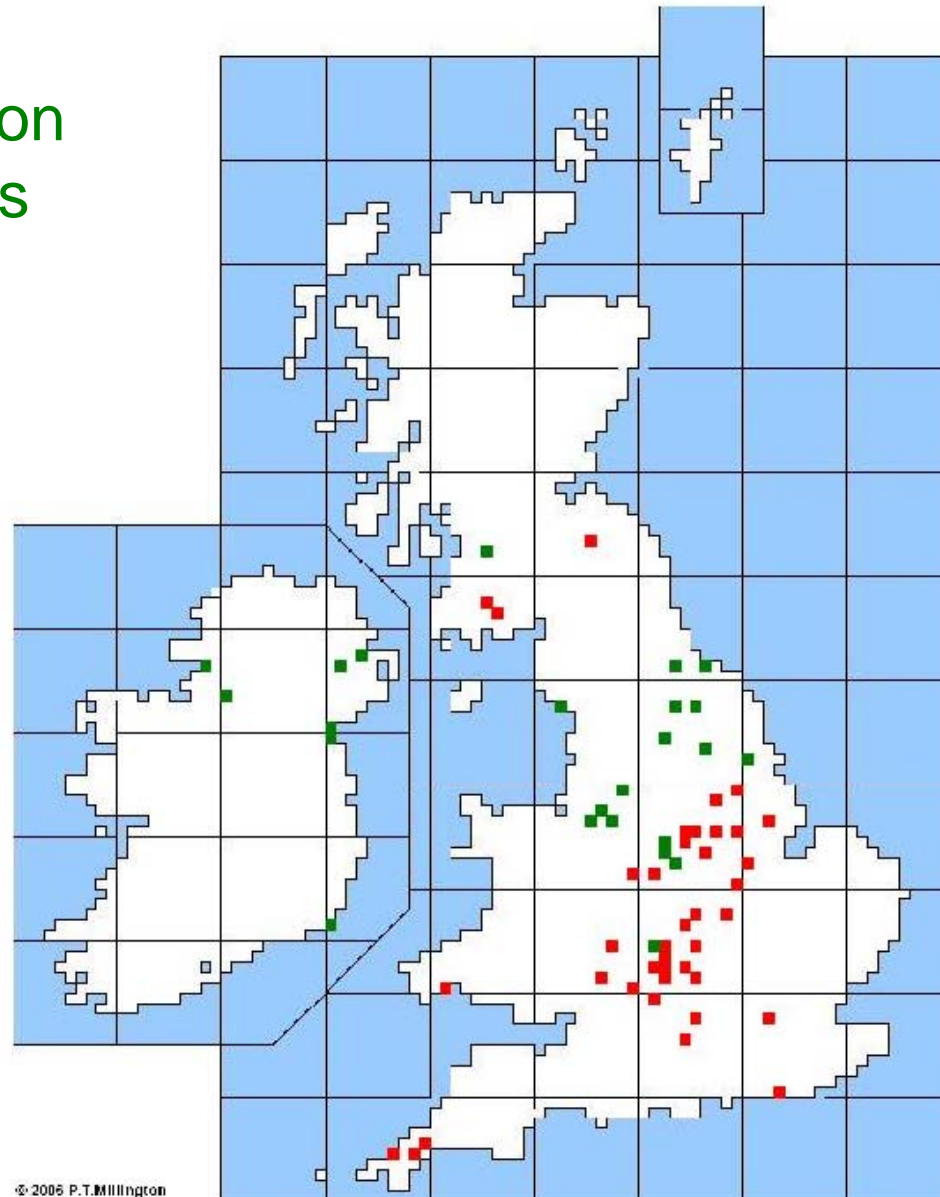
It is generally more helpful to search using single words, short phrases, or strings of characters.

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

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

Some non-matching variants still remain

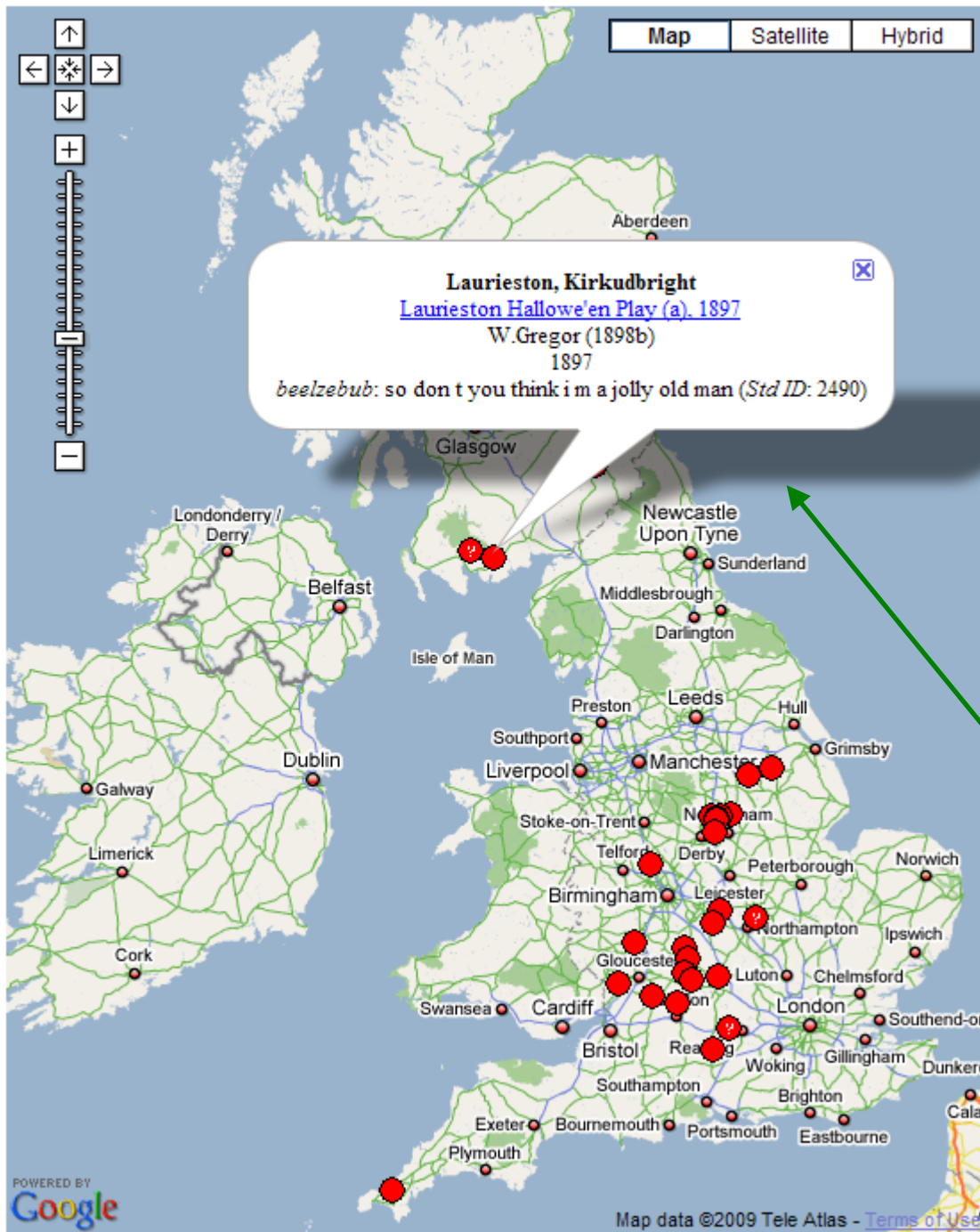
A quick outline distribution map of the two line types shows discrete zoning which suggests that the variation is significant.



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"]	<a href="#">Lines</a>

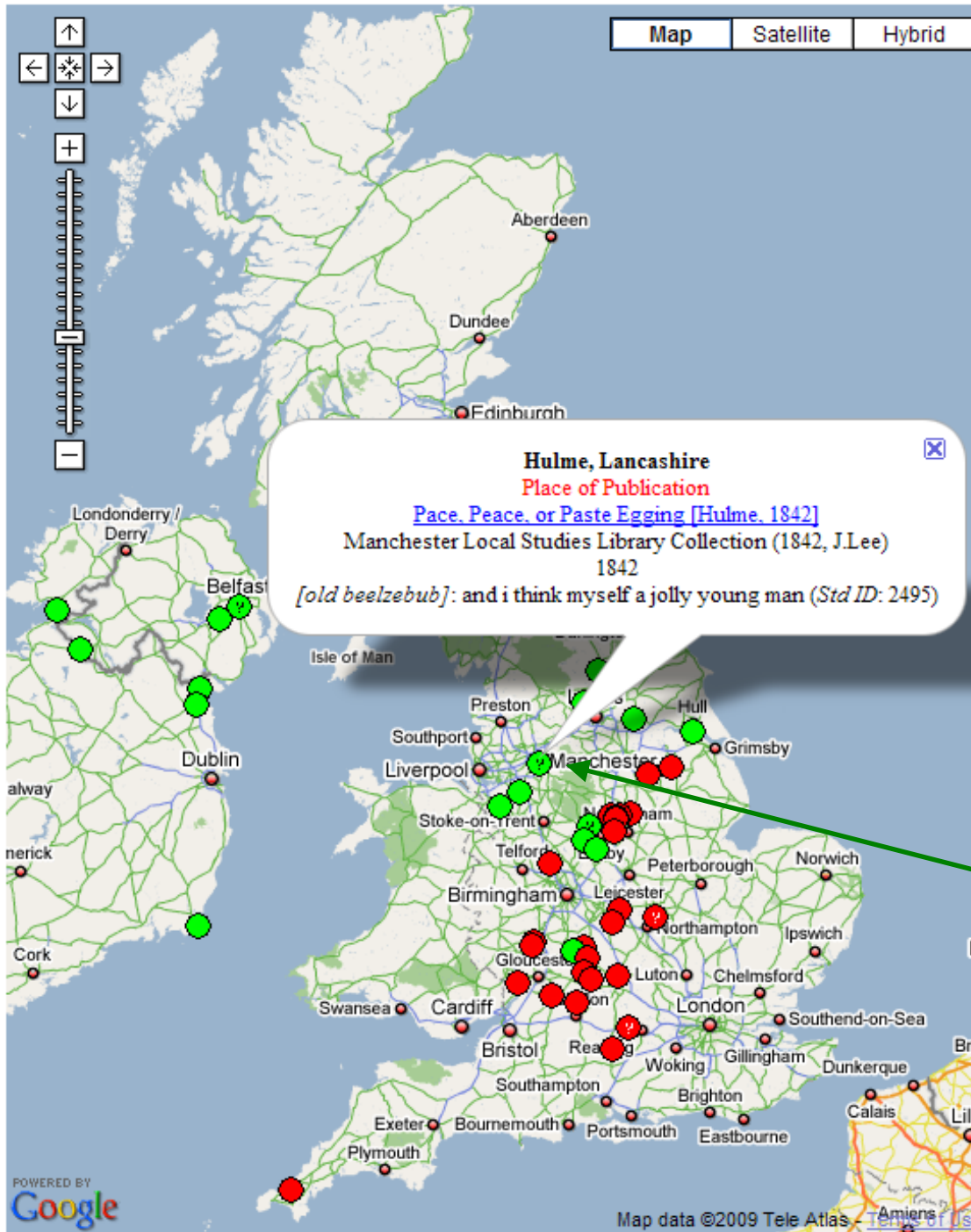
Map Title:

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



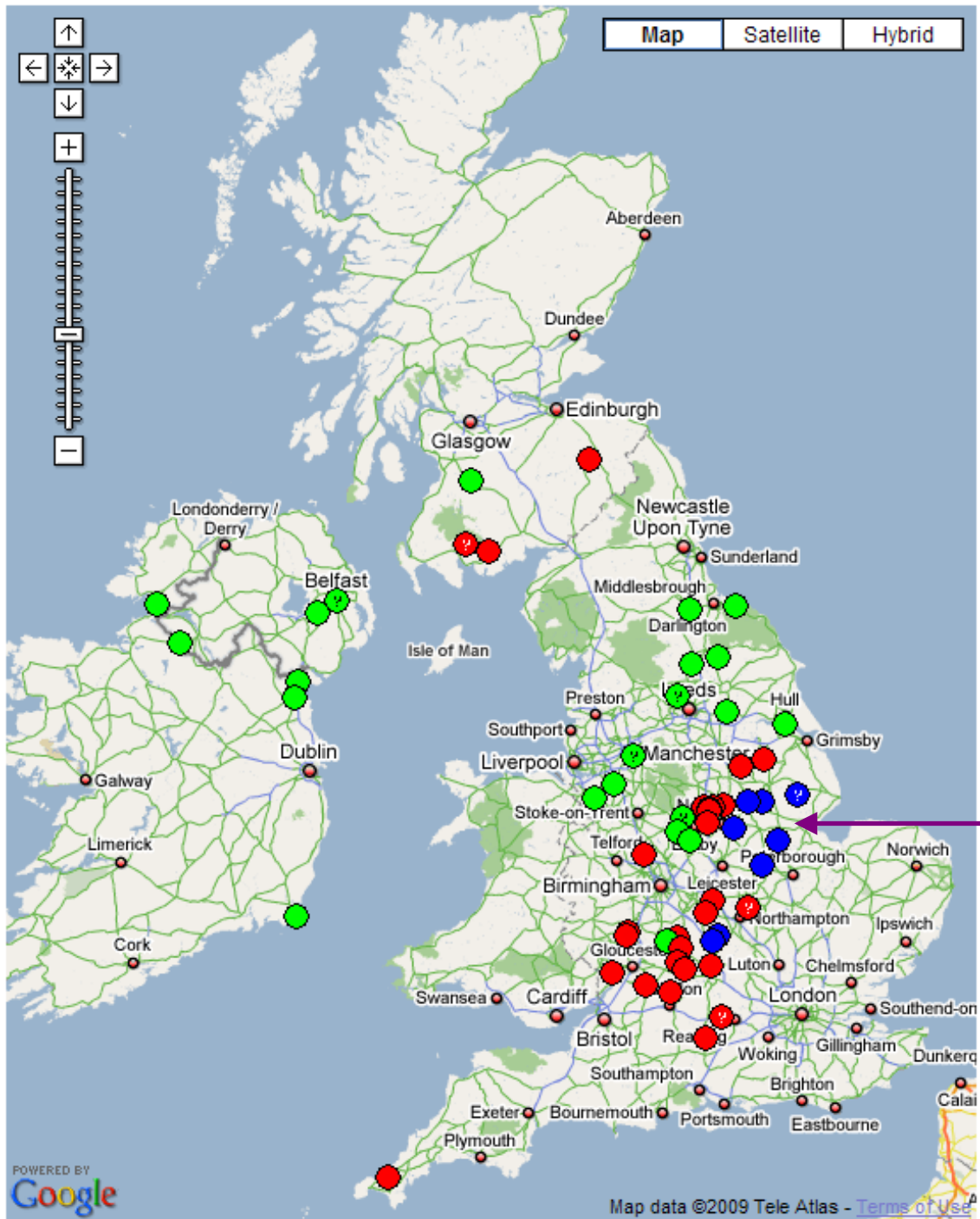
Key	Earliest Example of Variant	Lookup
Red	don t you think i m a <b>jolly</b> young man [where line contains "jolly"]	<a href="#">Lines</a>
Red	dond you think i am a <b>golly</b> old man [where line contains "golly"]	<a href="#">Lines</a>
Lime	and i think myself a <b>jolly</b> old man [where line contains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

Map Title:

Show Std.IDs  Show Dates

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



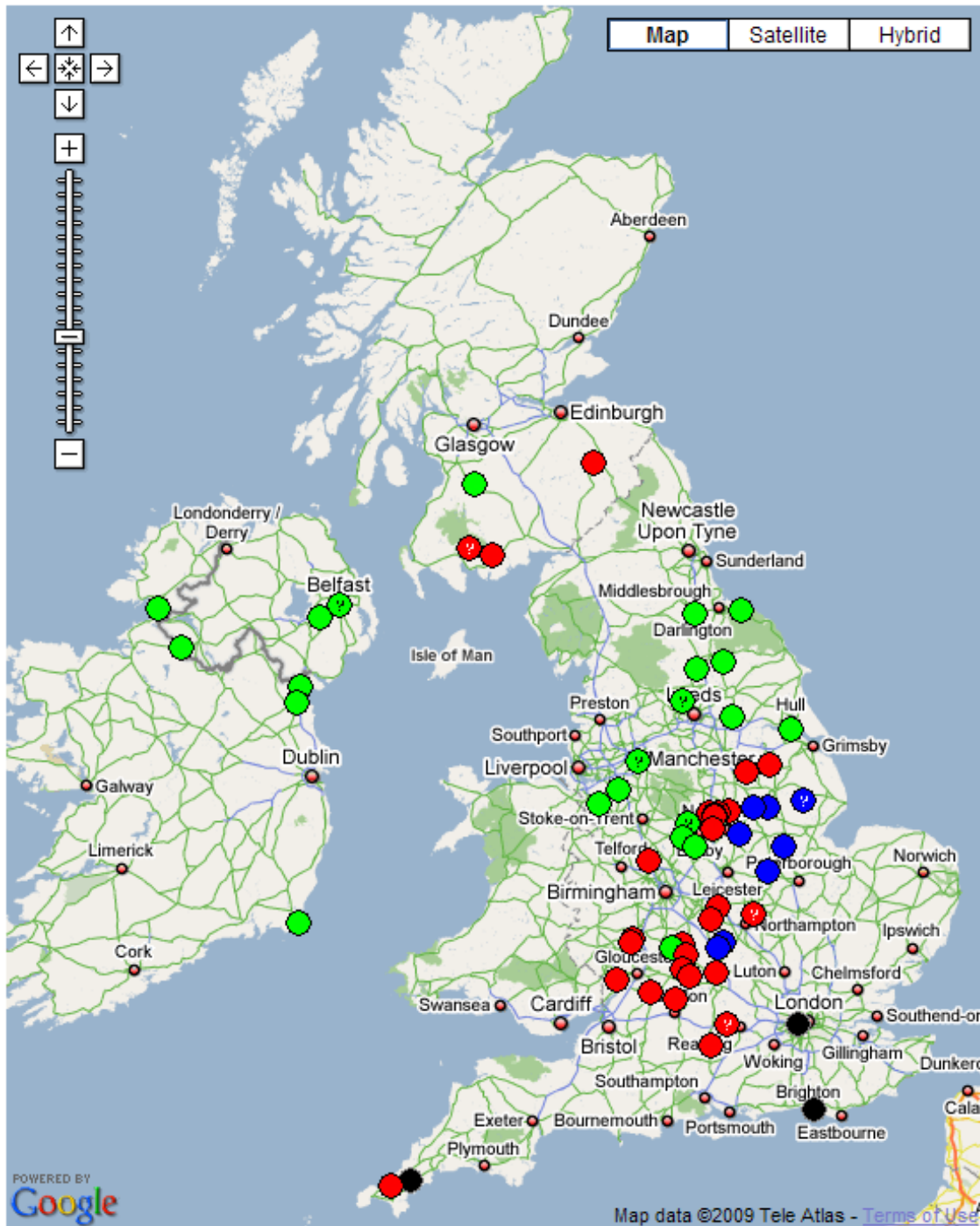
Key	Earliest Example of Variant	Lookup
Red	don t you think i m a <b>jolly</b> young man [where line contains "jolly"]	<a href="#">Lines</a>
Red	dond you think i am a <b>golly</b> old man [where line contains "golly"]	<a href="#">Lines</a>
Lime	and i think myself a <b>jolly</b> old man [where line contains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

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 <b>jolly</b> young man [ <i>where line contains "jolly"</i> ]	<a href="#">Lines</a>
Red	dond you think i am a <b>golly</b> old man [ <i>where line contains "golly"</i> ]	<a href="#">Lines</a>
Lime	and i think myself a <b>jolly</b> old man [ <i>where line contains "jolly"</i> ]	<a href="#">Lines</a>
Blue	don t you think he s a <b>funny</b> old man [ <i>where line contains "funny"</i> ]	<a href="#">Lines</a>
Black	ham not i a <b>hansam</b> good looking ould man [ <i>where line contains "han"</i> ]	<a href="#">Lines</a>

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

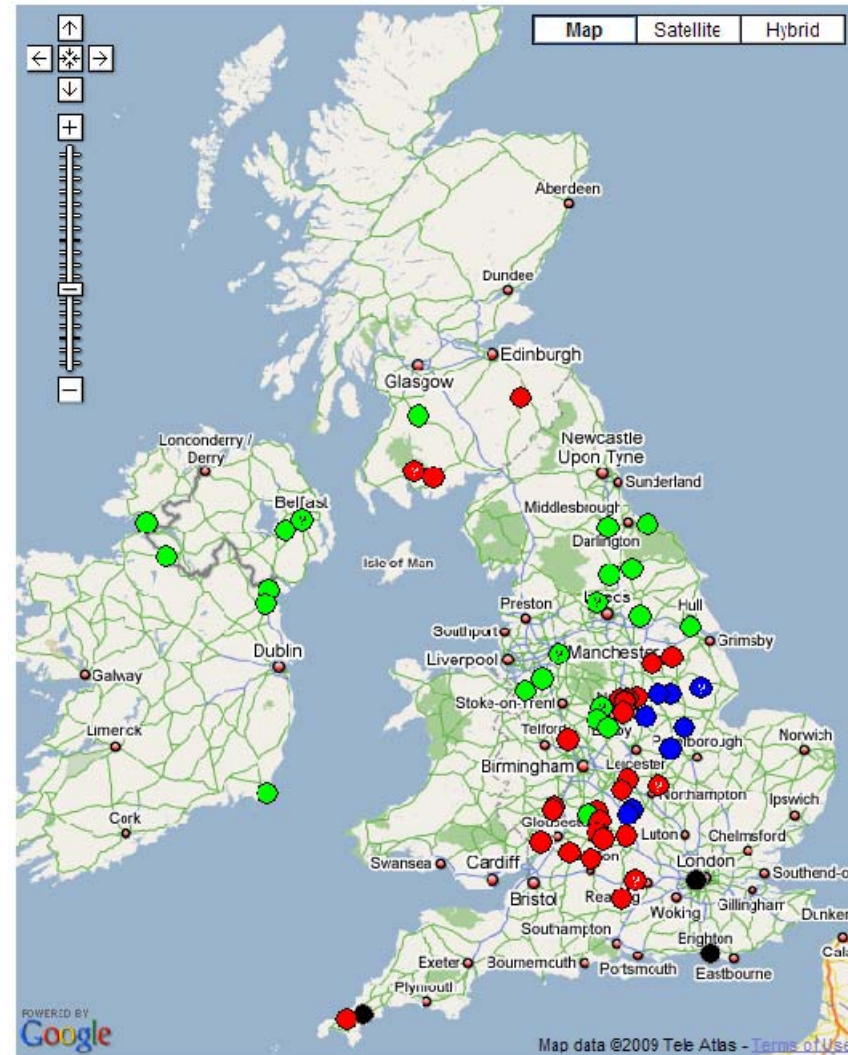
Replot Map

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 <b>jolly</b> young man [ <i>where line contains "jolly"</i> ]	1812-1832
	2490	dond you think i am a <b>golly</b> old man [ <i>where line contains "golly"</i> ]	1913-1916
■	2495	and i think myself a <b>jolly</b> old man [ <i>where line contains "jolly"</i> ]	1803-1818
■	2490	don t you think he s a <b>funny</b> old man [ <i>where line contains "funny"</i> ]	1854
■	2490	ham nct i a <b>hansam</b> good looking ould man [ <i>where line contains "han"</i> ]	1785-1789