



Two foot (horizontal circle) theodolite by Troughton and Sims, Ltd., 1828 – 1862, used in triangulation of Great Britain

(London Science Museum)

Temporary label

Two-foot theodolite

Large precise theodolites like this one were used by pioneering surveyors to measure angles accurately over long distances. This theodolite, made by Troughton and Simms Ltd, was first used in Ireland in 1828 to confirm measurements taken the previous year of the base-line near Lough Foyle. It was then used until 1862 to measure the main angles in the Principal Triangulation of Great Britain, the network of reference points needed for smaller, more local surveys. Triangulation is now less important for surveyors because of developments during the 1980s in satellite technology.

Inv: 1876-1204

Source: Ordnance Survey

