The following bibliography is substantially an expanded version of that in Richard Oliver, *Ordnance Survey maps: a concise guide for historians*, second edition, London: Charles Close Society, 2005. More extensive bibliographies will be found in Harley (1975), Hellyer (1999), Hodson (1999) and Mumford (1999). It has intentionally been confined to published material that ought to present no great problem of access: ‘grey’ literature such as unpublished conference papers and others with limited circulation have been intentionally excluded.

It should be noted that Oliver (2005), like Harley & Phillips (1964), is aimed at those wishing to use OS maps as a source for the history of the landscape, rather than as descriptions of map series per se.

**QUICK GUIDE TO PUBLISHED WRITING**

**General history**
The standard ‘semi-official’ history is Seymour (1980), and the standard ‘popular’ history is Owen & Pilbeam (1992). Unfortunately there is nothing for the period from 1990 to date, when the OS has been politically more controversial than at any time since the mid-19th century. Older and much more incomplete accounts are Close (1932), Harley (1975), Harley & Phillips (1964) and Winterbotham (1936).

For 18th century studies see Close (1926/69), O’Donoghue (1977), Roy (2007), Skelton (1962, 1967), and Whittington & Gibson (1986).


For a mid-20th century view see Cheetham (1945, 1946).

**Geodesy, map construction and sheet lines**
The best introduction to OS geodesy is in Adams (2006). More limited aspects, but with some additional bibliographic references, will be found in Fielden (2007), Harley (1975), and Winterbotham (1938a).

Small-scale (1:50,000 and smaller) sheet line layouts are given in Hellyer (1999). Aspects of them are discussed by Higley (2006) and Winterbotham (1932b).

**Grids and reference systems**
There is a comprehensive, if slightly inaccurate, history in Oliver (1995b). The introduction of various systems is covered in MacLeod *et al* (1936, 1939), Winterbotham (1933) and Winterbotham *et al* (1924). Interesting alternatives are described in Nolan (2007, 2008).

**Land valuation mapping**
The ‘Lloyd George Domesday’ mapping is described fully in Short (1997): a more popular account is included in Beech & Mitchell (2004). A later exercise is briefly noted in Armitage (1993); see also Winterbotham (1934a).

**Printing and edition codes**
There is an up-to-date account in Oliver (2008c).

**Ireland**


**Directorate of Overseas Surveys/OS International**

**OS map series, in ascending order of scale**

**Small-scale (to 1:20,000) mapping**
- *Physical maps (1:1,000,000 and 1:625,000)*: Hellyer (1992a)
- *‘Ten mile’ maps (1:633,600, 1:625,000)*: Hellyer (1992b)

‘Half-inch’ (1:126,720): This is at present the most poorly served in print of any OS map family, and the following do not provide a coherent account: Batchelor (1986), ‘D141414’ (1984), Hellyer (1997b), Oliver (1986c).

‘One-inch’ (1:63,360) and 1:50,000.
Strange to relate, there is no comprehensive history of this, the most familiar OS map family: the best substitute at present is Hodson (1991b). The only serious gap is a comprehensive account of the development of the 1:50,000.

Old Series (England & Wales)

Scotland (old engraved map, 1856-1913)
The engraved forms are covered in Hellyer & Oliver (2009), and the coloured Third Edition in Hellyer & Oliver (2004a). Oliver (2008a) expands on some points of detail.

New Series (England & Wales)
The engraved forms are covered in Hellyer & Oliver (2009), the coloured form of the revised map in Nicholson (2002) and the coloured Third Edition in Hellyer & Oliver (2004a). For contemporary views of aspects of the mapping see Close (1905) and Farquharson (1900).

Ireland (engraved map, to 1922)
The engraved forms are covered in Hellyer & Oliver (2009) and the coloured forms in Hellyer (2002) and Hellyer & Oliver (2004a).

Popular Edition (England & Wales)
Hodson (1999b) is the most comprehensive account to date of a 20th century OS map series; it is based on a doctoral thesis (Hodson (1995)). Johnston (1920) provides a contemporary view; Hellyer (1997a) and Hellyer & Oliver (2004b) expand on points of detail.

Popular Edition (Scotland)

Fifth Edition
Oliver (2000b) provides a detailed, but by no means exhaustive, introduction. For detailed aspects see De la Mare (2009), Hellyer (1997a) and Oliver (2004b). For contemporary views see Close (1932) and Winterbotham (1932a).

New Popular Edition

Seventh Series

1:50,000
There is no satisfactory introduction to the series as a whole: Dear & Reid (1975) and Price (1975) are useful for early technical developments, whilst Regnauld & Revell (2007) and Revell et al (2007) go to the other extreme and describe experimental work which has not as yet appeared on a published map. Henwood (2002, 2005) and Oliver (1996b) address details.

District and tourist maps
There is an outline list in Cook & McIntosh (1991). For more detailed aspects of various sheets see McGrath (1967), and Nicholson (1991, 1994).

1:25,000, also 1:20,000, 1:21,120 and 1:25,344

Channel Islands
A summary list, not quite complete, is Oliver (1993).
1:10,560 and larger scale mapping
Oliver (2005) is on the whole the most comprehensive concise account from the point of view of the map user who is not concerned with surveying methods. These latter have been treated from the surveyor’s point of view in numerous articles by Cole (1997a,b,c, 1998a,b,c, 1999a,b, 2000b, 2001a,b, 2002, 2003a,b, 2004a, 2005a,b, 2007, 2008a,b,c, 2009a,b,c), and see also Budd (2001), Foster (2002), Lord (2003). Contributions from ‘management’ include Seymour & Irwin (1965), R.P. Wheeler (1948), Williams (1973), Willis (1932), Winterbotham (1934a,b, 1938b). Some points of detail are covered in Cruickshank (1997), Oliver (1989, 1991a) and Wheeler (2003, 2004). Aspects of the ‘town scales’ (1:1056, 1:528, 1:500) of the 19th century are described in Harley (1982), Cole (2001b) and Moore (1995).

Air photo mosaics: Aspects of these are discussed in Board (1991, 2004).

Air survey
A comprehensive study of the use of air survey in OS work would be a huge contribution to the literature: Collier (2002) is a good start. For other aspects see Barber (2006) and Cole (2008c).

Sir Charles [Frederick Arden-] Close
Freeman (1985) offers a shortish biography and a nearly complete bibliography of published work; O’Brien (1992) gives a more contextual view.

Collecting
Different views are given by Parker (2009) and Perkins (2006).

Commercial mapping
An outline of commercial small-scale maps that were rivals in function to the OS is given in Oliver (1996c).

Digital mapping developments
This was known in its early days as ‘automated cartography’. Articles such as Bell (1978), Howard (1968) and Irwin (1971) are firmly historical. Those by Lilley (2007), Regnauld & Revell (2007), Revell et al (2007) and Wesson (2007) were included in a special OS issue of The Cartographic Journal.

Engraving
Contemporary and historical accounts are James (1875), Johnston (1902), Mumford (1968) and Mumford & Clark (1968). No first-hand account by an OS engraver is known, but Cooney (1987), drawing on Hydrographic Department experience, is a useful substitute.

Map packaging and covers
A general introduction is Board (1993); Cruickshank and Archer (1987) describe terminology; Browne (1991) illustrates almost all of the covers which have been used by OS on their published maps.

Map production and printing

Map selling
That in the 19th century is covered in Margary (1975-92, especially vols 4, 5 and 7); see also Aylward (1971); for the map market in the 1970s see Drewitt (1973, 1975).

Overseas comparisons:
The following is a selection of literature in English on overseas mapping organisations, mostly published by the Charles Close Society:
Germany (‘Democratic Republic’): Cruickshank (2007).
An example of *Ordnance Survey* overseas mapping (of Wei-hei-wei, China) is described by Nolan (2006).

**William Roy**
O'Donghue (1977); Roy (2007).

**Staffing and organisation**
This is little studied: Archer (2007, 2009) hint at what might be possible: see also Cole (1998a, 2009a).

**SPECIFIC POINTS OF DETAIL**
The following supplement and expand on the basic information in Oliver (2005):

- **Coastal mapping**: Carr (1962), Oliver (1996a).
- **Archaeology Officer**: Crawford (1955), Hauser (2008), Phillips (1987).
- **Land registration**: Sweeney & Simpson (1967).
- **Milestones**: Oliver (2002).
- **Trigonometrical points**: Wheeler (1996).

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Armitage, Geoff, 1993. *Ordnance Survey Land Valuation plans*, *Sheetlines* 35, 8-9. (This is a useful summary of the subject.)

Aylward, J., 1971. Retail distribution of Ordnance Survey maps and plans in the latter half of the nineteenth century, *Cartographic Journal* 8, 55-8. (This is really about Stanford’s.)

Barber, Martyn, 2006. Aerial photography and the Ordnance Survey: an episode from the 1880s, *Sheetlines* 76, 6-13. (This describes proposals rather than practice.)


Close, Sir Charles, 1926/1969. *The early years of the Ordnance Survey*, reprinted with an introduction by J.B. Harley and Newton Abbott: David and Charles. (Although largely superseded by Margary (1975-92) and Seymour (1980), this retains some value in that it prints documents of which the originals were destroyed during World War II.)


Cole, John, 2001b. An introduction to the old ‘Town Series’ maps, *Sheetlines* 61, 20-23. (This is a useful commentary on some 1:1056 and 1:500 sheets reissued in the Godfrey Edition.)
Cole, John, 2007. The early years of the National Grid twenty-five inch map (continued), *Sheetlines* 80, 58-60.
Cole, John, 2008a. The early years of the National Grid fifty-inch map (continued), *Sheetlines* 81, 36-9.
Cole, John, 2008c. Air wars, *Sheetlines* 82, 50-56. (This describes some aspects of OS air survey, from the 1950s to the 1980s.)
Cole, John, 2009a. Chain of events, *Sheetlines* 84, 29-32. (This follows on from Foster (2008)).
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Cruickshank, John L., 1997. The maps of the Ordnance Survey as they are and as they ought to be, *Sheetlines* 50, 3-8.
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Instructions for computation and examination of areas (provisional), 1907 (PRO OS 45/5)

Instructions for plotting and tracing for examination, 1907 (PRO OS 45/6)

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Instructions to surveyors, 1908 (PRO OS 45/8), 1935 (PRO OS 45/25), 1937 (PRO OS 45/29)

Instructions for the revision of the 1-inch map, 1909 (PRO OS 45/9)

Notes on County, Borough, Parish and other boundaries, 2nd edition, 1911 (PRO OS 45/10), 3rd edition 1914 (PRO OS 45/13), 4th edition, 1934 (BLML Maps 207.d.10; Maps 207.b.33; PRO OS 45/22)

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This bibliography has been compiled by Richard Oliver, who is alone responsible for all opinions expressed therein.