“Updating the update”  
John Cole  

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Updating the update

John Cole

If Richard Oliver’s investigation into the 1:1250 map and attempt to provide survey dates and sheet totals was heroic,\(^1\) then my 1999 update might fairly be described as brave but foolhardy.\(^2\)

The main objective had been to provide missing map numbers and to identify a few locations not available in 1989 by using the 1:50,000 map, later checked against a borrowed copy of the *Large scale National Grid index* (reviewed in some depth in *Sheetlines* 46). The result was rather better than expected and I cheerfully explained away discrepancies by suggesting that extensions to the 1:1250 area may have ensued. This may have been the case in a few instances but a better excuse was that the *Index* was not altogether user friendly.

Recent recourse to the OS website has produced a far more meaningful result showing that of the seventy five places I listed, twenty totals were correct; a further twenty adrift by just one to three maps (and indeed by this point in time, probably extensions) whilst the rest have errors ranging from ten to 110 maps.

Clarification or correction respecting all of the smaller locations has appeared in *Sheetlines* 57, 65 and 73 and whilst mention will be made of the more outrageous map number discrepancies, my main intention is to clarify or correct certain other assertions in *Sheetlines* 56.

There are a few survey date corrections available: Chelmsford, 1948-51; Corringham and Stanford le Hope, 1949-50; Glossop and Hadfield, 1973; Orrell and Skelmersdale, 1973. Queries are removable from the dates for Bridgnorth, Cockenzie, and Olney. Caerphilly (and Bedwas), Egglescliffe (and Yarm), Formby and Wickford were surveyed during the years 1974-9.

Adding further place names to existing locations is rather a thankless task. I listed fifteen,\(^3\) now know of at least a dozen more and can doubtless find further examples.

Map totals for extensions are also rather nebulous but attempts to supply figures for four out of five listed in 1989 were fairly accurate. Moreover East Calder (Livingston), Burntwood (Brownhills), Conwy (Llandudno) and Havant (Portsmouth) are all extensions. To add to the complications Brownhills was an earlier extension of Walsall whilst Cannock, Burntwood and Norton Canes all but join up.

The figures given for the two rather curious amalgamations Aberdare/Merthyr Tydfil and Alloa/Stirling were probably close to being correct except for Merthyr, where the 2006 figure is only 63. There is some doubt whether the village of Abercynon was included with Aberdare and Mountain Ash, or Pontypridd and the Rhondda. If with the former, the map total of 172\(^4\) is -24, and if the latter -43. (The figure for Pontypridd/Rhondda also being below that officially quoted.)

Two names should be removed. First, Bishopton, which is still only at 1:2500 according to the OS website. So it might well be queried where the 24 maps claimed in *Sheetlines* 56

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2 *Sheetlines* 56, 13.
3 Exning and Harpenden wrongly!
4 *Sheetlines* 24 and confirmed by the 1962-3 Annual Report.
came from, since the built up area is not large. But just on the other side of the M8 lies Erskine and a closer inspection of the locality led to a suspicion that this may have been the intended area. I have not in fact been able to trace either Bishopton or Burghead (both in Scotland)\(^5\) in any OS records I have. When the National Library of Scotland large scale index was consulted it was found that Erskine 1:1250 maps ranged in date from 1958 to 1991. This index also agreed that Bishopton was not a 1:1250 survey.

The other casualty is Exning, where the Newmarket 1:1250 survey does not quite reach the village. It was surveyed at 1:500 scale in 1901 and there is a note about this in Richard Oliver’s *Concise Guide*.

A name which possibly should be removed is Ranfurley, which is shown as a district of Bridge of Weir on the latest 1:50,000 map. But Houston, a village just to the north east, can be fairly substituted as a further batch of sixteen 1:1250 maps exist here. There is a degree of doubt about Pontymister (originally Pont-y-mister) at Risca, judging by type size of the name on past and present small scale maps. Risca now links with the Newport 1:1250 area to the east and to that of Abercarn in the north. A similar situation exists at Hindley\(^6\) which links with Wigan to the west and Atherton and Westhoughton to the east.

Note 2 at the conclusion of the *Sheetlines 56* article should be discounted. A straggling north to south line of 1:2500 mapping, just 1km wide in places, still separates (in February 2006) Titchfield from Lock’s Heath and thus the Southampton 1:1250 area from that of Fareham and Gosport. Moreover a similar gap exists between Hedge End, Netley and Hamble, and that of Warsash, Lock’s Heath and Sarisbury. The former comprises 88 1:1250s; the latter 62.

The worst of the *Sheetlines 56* map total errors were as follows (incorrect figure in brackets): Milton Keynes 357 (245) still excluding Bletchley; Pembroke and Pembroke Dock 49 (60), Romsey and North Baddesley 53 (40) and Consett 60 (40).\(^7\) Romsey and Consett figures agree with the 1995 OS *Index*, at which time Milton Keynes was indicating 300+. A far more detailed inspection of continuous revision extensions (apart from London, Manchester, Liverpool, Glasgow and Leeds/Bradford) indicated that those of Gateshead and Sunderland do not quite merge though Gateshead’s NZ3154SE touches Sunderland’s NZ3253NW! A large extension which could be added is Crowthorne and Sandhurst, 91 (Camberley and Frimley).

All that is needed now is for someone to list the 58,000 or so 1:1250 maps and their states …

**Testing the enhancement**

In the first article I wrote under this title (*Sheetlines 72*) I gave a figure of 2252 km\(^2\) of 1:2500 scale mapping enhanced to 1:1250 standards of accuracy. This figure was obtained from the OS news release of January 2001. In point of fact the present figure is considerably in advance of this as visits to the OS website have revealed numerous such maps in and around 1:1250 areas.

By way of example some twenty were spotted in the Cannock - Brownhills locality. Moreover SK0307 and 0308 are surrounded on all sides by 1:1250 maps.

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\(^5\) Listed in *Sheetlines 24* with dates but not map totals.

\(^6\) Not listed in either *Sheetlines 24* or *56*.

\(^7\) Totals as at February 2006.