



# *Sheetlines*

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“Epping Forest – the official map”

*John Davies*

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The Charles Close Society was founded in 1980 to bring together all those with an interest in the maps and history of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and its counterparts in the island of Ireland. The Society takes its name from Colonel Sir Charles Arden-Close, OS Director General from 1911 to 1922, and initiator of many of the maps now sought after by collectors.

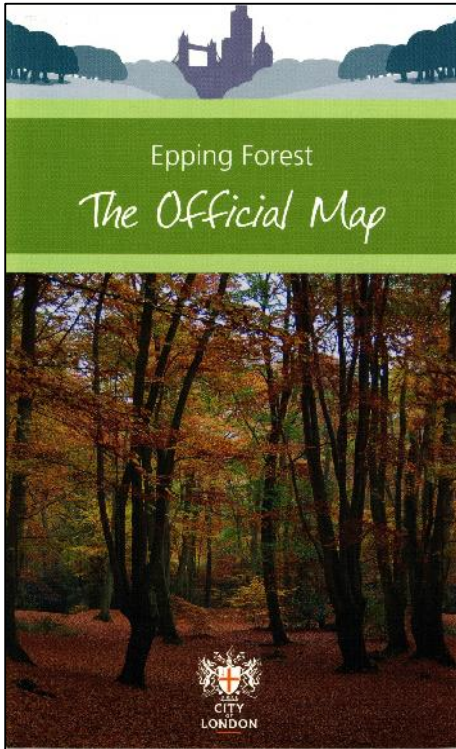
The Society publishes a wide range of books and booklets on historic OS map series and its journal, *Sheetlines*, is recognised internationally for its specialist articles on Ordnance Survey-related topics.



*Extract from Epping Forest The official map, reduced by about 10% (see opposite)*



***Epping Forest The official map, City of London, 2010,  
ISBN 978-0-85203-089-0, £4.95***



Epping Forest, London's largest public open space, covering almost 8000 acres, stretches some 13 miles, north from the east end of London to beyond Epping, with several detached outliers. It is nowhere more than two or three miles in width and the shape of this map reflects this, opening out to two and half flaps, over a metre in height and about 650mm wide. The map, at a scale of 1:20,000, has been produced by Collins to City of London requirements and is based on the popular Collins London street atlas.

Colour coding differentiates wood pasture / woodland from grasslands / heath-lands. So-called buffer lands are indicated in yellow. The status of buffer land is not defined on the map, but it is in fact land that has been acquired by the City of London to protect the forest from encroaching development and to maintain links between the forest and the wider countryside.

Within the forest proper there is an open right of access (not the case with buffer land) with many paths and tracks. These are indicated on the map, differentiated as byway, bridleway, footpath, shared-use trail, easy access trail, informal walks and cycle paths. Car parks are differentiated as to whether or not they are suitable for horseboxes. Leisure facilities indicated include football, building of historic interest, public house, horse riding, boating, fishing, playground and easy access path.

Overall, the appearance of the map is very attractive and a model of clarity. This is largely due to the soft colouration of the surrounding built-up areas and the use of colour-coding within the forest. The reverse side has an index of about 250 names of features within the forest and a comprehensive street index for the surrounding urban area.

This is an entirely new production and a huge improvement on previous editions. Previously, the Epping Forest map at the same scale has been based on OS 1:25,000 mapping with harsher colouring, no street names and no index.

The map may be obtained by writing or telephoning the Epping Forest visitor centre, High Beach, Loughton, Essex, IG10 4AE (020 8508 0028) for £5.95 inclusive of post and packing.

*John Davies*