“Dealing with awkward extrusions”

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Dealing with awkward extrusions

One of the cartographer’s bugbears is the feature that sits outside the neatline but which really needs to be shown. The normal solution – an extrusion – rarely adds to the appearance of the map.

One solution, which one hopes OS always eschewed, is to change the position of the offending feature so that it lies within the neatline. At first sight Bartholomew appears to have done this to the Eddystone lighthouse, which sits just outside the southern neatline of their 1950s half-inch (sheet 2) (upper) and just inside on their 1960s version (lower). This does not reflect a change in the neatline: measurement suggests a latitude of 50°10.43’ N on the 1950s map, 50°10.95’ on the 1960s map.

But one would be wrong to accuse them of so cynical an adjustment. According to Trinity House (who presumably can be relied upon) the actual latitude is 50° 10.843’. So actually Bartholomew were merely over-correcting an error.

The remaining error on the 1960s edition seems too great to be explained by a difference in the geoid used. Perhaps the Bartholomew archive might throw some light on the matter.

Rob Wheeler