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“Ordnance Survey ‘Record Maps’”

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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.

Ordnance Survey ‘Record Maps’

Richard Oliver

Over the past decade access to older Ordnance Survey large-scale mapping has been revolutionised: the National Library of Scotland (NLS) has put online practically the whole of its out-of-copyright holdings. These are deficient in earlier 1:2500 first edition maps of England and Wales, for which NLS depends on its holdings of OS ‘Record Maps’. How this deficiency came about is the subject of this article.

Record Maps defined

In 1955 Record Maps were defined as superseded maps received into store and thereafter offered for sale at a ‘scarcity value’ price.¹ They represented the final states of the unrevised sheets. Piecemeal revision, notably of railways, on the one-inch Old Series is now well-known, but there were also changes at other scales. It was certainly the practice from the early 1890s, if not earlier, to ‘modernise’ first edition 1:2500 and 1:500 zincographed sheets when they were reprinted, both for marginalia and for the content of the body of the map: changes might be merely a matter of style, such as the marking of spot-heights along roads by a cross rather than a dot, or might involve actual topographic information, for example the removal of distances from railway mileposts. The extent to which such modernisation was carried out depended on sales: a great many rural 1:2500 sheets and many 1:500 sheets were never reprinted, whilst 1:2500 sheets of built-up areas might be reprinted several times. Also the great majority of 1:2500 sheets were available both uncoloured and handcoloured; stocks of the one but not the other might be exhausted when revised stock arrived, so that what remained might be discontinuous between adjoining sheets. All these characteristics can be seen in the NLS collection.

The Record Map service was not widely advertised; there is no mention of it in the 1924 OS *Catalogue* or in any of the pre-war or post-war *Descriptions* of small, medium and large-scale maps.

The Record Maps: when was the stock formed?

Were the Record Maps always deficient in earlier 1:2500s? Pretty certainly, yes.

There is a file in The National Archives at Kew, OS 1/175, ‘Record copies of maps: storage and sale – 1918-19; 1930; 1955-66’. It does not cover the decision after 1966 to abandon the sale of Record Maps, nor does it indicate whether, prior to the move into the new headquarters at Maybush in 1968-9, there was a separate Record Map Library, as there certainly was for some forty years afterwards. This point is of some interest, in that there is, on the one hand, a definite indication that by 1911 superseded stock was being priced for sale at ten shillings per sheet and, on the other, copy minutes of 1918-19 at the start of OS 1/175 indicating

¹ DMP to DEF, 21 September 1955, 5 in The National Archives (TNA) OS 1/175.

that a Record Map Library was started in about November 1917, at the initiative of the Director-General, Colonel Charles Close. On 9 February 1918 the Manuscript Store was requested to start collecting two copies each of the first and second edition 1:2500.² This suggests that the initial stock of the Record Map Library was supplied by drawing on the sales stock of Record Maps, and that the Library included more than superseded mapping, as the second edition six-inch and 1:2500 was still current for much of Britain.³ It seems to be generally accepted that this Record Map Library was a victim of the heavy bombing of the OS headquarters at Southampton on 30 November and 1 December 1940 – though the lists of material lost do not explicitly mention the *Record Map Library* – and that the post-war Record Map Library was reconstituted from the surviving Record Map sales stocks, which were housed in a supplementary store at Winchester Road, Southampton.⁴ Later the Record Maps were moved to the OS's new headquarters at Chessington in Surrey, opened in 1943, and they were then moved again, possibly around 1966, to a store at Burley in the New Forest.⁵

Colonel Close's decision in 1917 is probably a red herring as far as policy to retain superseded maps for sale is concerned: this had evidently been in operation from when revised mapping started to appear in quantity, around 1895. That it had not operated significantly earlier seems to be indicated by a lack of Record Map copies of those 1:500s which had been produced as out-of-course repayment surveys between the mid 1860s and early 1880s, and which were replaced by revised mapping when the surrounding 1:2500 came to be produced.⁶ However, the retention policy at first appears to have been confined to the engraved maps: thus stocks of the first edition 1:1056 and 1:2500 of London were retained. Then, a little after 1900, it was decided to retain Record Map stocks of the 1:2500 as well: the timing of the decision may be indicated by the case of Cumberland, which, for an 'early' 1:2500 county, has relatively extensive

² Copy minutes from C/C 676/18, 1A in TNA OS 1/175.

³ Or did 'second edition' denote the Second Editions for counties published by 1918 in a third edition?

⁴ Lists in TNA OS 1/196, which include groups of maps housed at Winchester Road. 'All copies of maps in the Map Library' were recorded as destroyed, but this included specimens supplied by overseas mapping agencies, and it is unclear whether this was the record collection: ODR to DDG, 21 January 1941, 20B in OS 1/175. The Winchester Road store also held overflow stocks of some small-scale maps, which no doubt explains why, for example, paper-flat copies of some of the one-inch tourist sheets of Scotland of the early 1920s continued to be available in the late 1940s: OS to Wykes, 10 June 1947, 133A in TNA OS 1/111.

⁵ I have not found anything at TNA indicating when the Record Maps were moved from Chessington to Burley, but if it had been earlier than 1966 there might have been some mention in TNA OS 1/175.

⁶ These include Hanley in Staffordshire, and Barrow-in-Furness, Oldham and Wythenshaw [Manchester] in Lancashire.

Record Map first edition cover. It is possible that the original retention policy included the post-1882 six-inch quarter-sheets, but these only began to be superseded after 1900, so offer no evidence either way. The extent of cover of Record Maps for England and Wales in the NLS online collection is indicated in the Appendix.

That there was an established policy at Southampton of retaining 'record maps' at this time might be inferred from what was happening in Ireland. Lieutenant-Colonel G.H. Sim, who had assumed charge of the OS's Irish division in June 1902, requested in February 1903 to have bound a set of the (unrevised) one-inch hill map of Ireland and of the revised outline one-inch and certain six-inch maps. Unrevised one-inch outline impressions had been disposed of. Lieutenant-Colonel Hellard, the Executive Officer at Southampton, replied that some of the unrevised outlines should have been kept, but as the plates were retained it would be possible to print copies to meet any demand that might arise.⁷ This was perhaps symptomatic of past practice in the Irish Division of tending not to retain maps: John Andrews has written of the records of the Irish Survey 'its weakest point, curiously enough, being the older published maps themselves'.⁸

Not all superseded stock was retained for sale: how many copies were judged needful is not recorded, but from 1904 surplus maps were being cut up and used to stiffen the hinged card covers of folded small-scale maps, a practice which continued until about 1913-14.

Why at first was it decided to retain only stocks of engraved sheets? This might be explained by a combination of the nature of OS reproduction processes, and of accommodation considerations.

The one-inch, earlier six-inch and unrevised 1:1056, and some earlier 1:500s, were printed from copper plates which were usually stored when no longer needed for printing current sales stock. The only significant use of engraving for the 1:2500 was for London. By the early 1900s there was an overall serious shortage of space at Southampton, but the plates were housed in a special store, and after the early 1880s the annual increase in the number to be stored slowed somewhat with the phasing out of the engraved six-inch. There were eventually about 11,000 plates: in the mid 1960s there were disposed of for scrap. The fundamental point about the retention of the copper plates is that it was possible to reprint sheets readily in order to replenish stocks; all that was necessary was to remove the protective covering of wax applied for storage, and, once printing was complete, to apply fresh wax and put the plate back into store. Indeed, in the summer of 1909 a considerable number of superseded one-inch sheets, mainly though not all Old Series of England and Wales, were reprinted for

⁷ J.H. Andrews, 'A record copy of the one-inch Irish hill map', *Sheetlines* 30 (1991), 4-5.

⁸ J.H. Andrews, *History in the Ordnance map. An introduction for Irish readers* [1974], Kerry: David Archer, 1993, 5.

Record Map stocks. It is unclear whether the gaps in national cover of these stocks by the 1960s represented demand, and a lack of copperplate-printing capability, or the 1909 programme not having been a comprehensive one. Anyway, by 1967, when Messrs David & Charles were taking an interest for their Old Series reissue project, there were considerable gaps in Old Series stocks.⁹

Two methods were used for producing the majority of post-1881 six-inch and of 1:2500 and larger-scale sheets: zincography, and photo- or heliozincography.¹⁰ Zincography involved tracing the manuscript map in greasy ink, and then laying the tracing down on a zincographic printing plate. Once the requisite number of copies were printed, the plate was usually cleaned off, except for some 1:2500s of more developed areas. These last excepted, any reprints had to be supplied by retracing and rezincographing, though this did give the opportunity to 'modernise' content, referred to above. Photo- and heliozincography both entailed photographing the manuscript drawing: in photozincography a carbon print from the negative was laid down on a zinc plate, whereas in heliozincography the negative was 'contacted' direct to the plate. Either way, although the zinc plate would still be cleaned off and reused, it was possible to produce reprints quickly by making a new plate using the negative. Though the OS had developed photozincography in 1859, for the next thirty years camera and negative sizes meant that, whilst the process could be used from 1882 to produce six-inch quarter-sheets by photo-reduction, it was only from 1888-9 that it was possible to use it for the double-elephant sized 1:2500, 1:1056 and 1:500.

Whilst photo- and heliozincography were used to produce the 1:2500 and larger-scale mapping of the 'replotted counties', including the revised 1:1056 of London, the creation of the negatives also created a storage problem and, similarly to the sheer numbers of 1:500s needing to be produced in Lancashire and Yorkshire contributing to the eclipse of the scale in 1894, so the storage implications of the negatives led to a reversion to publication by tracing for zincography for most of the revised 1:2500s which started to appear in 1895. Revision was on 'cards', one-sixth sections of 1:2500 sheets, and these had to be traced for the published map; unlike for the first edition, there was no single-sheet manuscript map. In 1900 there came the Vandyke process, which was effectively a photographic process involving neither camera nor negative, though it did depend on having a clean original, either manuscript or printed. Almost immediately

⁹ List of available maps, 13A in TNA OS 1/1436.

¹⁰ The last new six-inch engraved sheets to be published were a group of five in Wiltshire, in 1890, engraving was retained for two blocks of revised sheets of the early 1890s, of north Lancashire and north-west Yorkshire, and in the mid 1900s most of the revised six-inch cover of Sutherland was produced by revising the copper plates, rather than by redrawing for heliozincography.

afterwards there appeared much lighter zinc plates, weighing about 7 pounds rather than 35 pounds or more for double-elephant size.

A third development was an increase in accommodation at Southampton.¹¹ By the mid 1900s it was possible to print the 1:2500 and 1:500 from zinc plates which could then be stored. There was also more accommodation for the stock of Record Maps: perhaps as well, if 1:2500s were going to be coming in in quantity. Most of the 1:500s, though not revised after 1894, continued to be treated as current editions and stock: only after World War II, with the advent of the 1:1250, do they seem to have been treated as obsolete in sales as well as revision terms. Indeed, individual sheets were being reprinted as late as 1946, possibly later.¹²

Whereas Vandyke was used for the 1:2500, the six-inch continued to be based on negatives; though the plates might be cleaned off after a printing, fresh plates could always be generated from the negatives. There is no reason to suppose that, once a sheet was revised, the superseded negative would be kept. Indeed, a policy hitherto of destruction of superseded reproduction material is implicit in the Davidson Committee's recommendation in 1938 that plates of the County Series six-inch be retained after the National Grid replacement had been published, for printing as required, for as long as there was a demand.¹³

The later history of the Record Map stock

Whilst whatever reference collection formed after 1917 was presumably destroyed in 1940, it is unclear what happened thereafter up to the mid 1960s: whether a second Record Map Library was created at Chessington from one copy each of the Record Map stocks that had been housed at Winchester Road, or whether there was just one stock, available for sale. Supporting the 'sales stock' concept is a minute of September 1955 by the Director of Map Production, Brigadier M.O. Collins, that sales in future might be less profitable in relation to stock held, and that enquirers for copies of superseded mapping might instead be referred to the British Museum, who could supply photocopies. Against this is a discussion paper of July 1956 which refers to transferring superseded mapping to 'Sales Record Copies Store'.¹⁴

¹¹ For the eclipse of the 1:500, for 1:2500 revision and reproduction methods and for accommodation problems see Richard Oliver, *The Ordnance Survey in the nineteenth century: maps, money and the growth of government*, London: Charles Close Society, 2014, 378-81, 384-5, 392-7.

¹² The writer has noted Plymouth sheets being reprinted in 1946: after 1946 no new print-codes were used on reprinted County Series mapping, and it remains to be investigated how many 'Edwardian' 'Record' 1:2500s actually date from the 1950s and 1960s.

¹³ *Final report of the Departmental Committee on the Ordnance Survey*, London: HMSO, 1938, 11, 28.

¹⁴ DMP to DEF, 21 September 1955, and Paper for DG's Conference, 19 July 1956, 5 and 32A in TNA OS 1/175.

In 1955-6 the Record Map Store occupied half a spur at Chessington: scaling off the contemporary 1:1250 indicates an area of about 10 by 12.5 metres.¹⁵ At this time copies of everything, except for National Grid series at 1:25,000 and larger, was transferred as soon as superseded. (This would presumably have meant six-inch and 1:2500: the 'town scales' may already have been transferred, but they do not figure in discussions.) A whole spur would be needed once all the County Series sheets were superseded. Sales were modest: 1,317 sheets in 1954, yielding £658.10s.0d, against which were to be set £400 for storage and £138.10s.0d for labour. In 1955-6 1,561 maps were sold and 513 were supplied to government departments. (For loan, or permanent transfer, involving a credit to OS?) The main demand was for the last edition of the 1:2500, as parcel numbers differed from those on National Grid sheets, and there could be a desire for cover of an area in a consistent style. As at this time a 1:2500 County Series sheet was priced at 6s.8d, and a National Grid sheet of less than a third of the area at five shillings, the standard 'scarcity-value' price for a Record Map, irrespective of size and scale, of ten shillings was not a vast difference, though this price had remained unchanged since at least 1911, when a standard 1:2500 sheet was priced at three shillings. The price was raised to £1 in January 1964.¹⁶ No figures are available for actual numbers of maps, but a back-of-an-envelope calculation suggests there must have been at least 30,000-odd 'titles' at 1:2500 and 20,000 at 6-inch in multiple copies. At a conservative estimate this might have represented a quarter of a million maps. In April 1956 Brigadier Collins wished to discontinue the service; Mr Bentley, the Director of Establishments and Finance, thought that the public expected it of OS.¹⁷

The Record Maps were discussed at a Director-General's Conference on 1 August 1956, when it was decided that only the latest six-inch and 1:2500 editions were to be sold, and no more than this were to be kept at Chessington if demands on accommodation exceeded half a spur. It was decided subsequently that no action was to be taken on the older six-inch and 1:2500 until over half a spur was needed, when one county and scale at a time would be removed.¹⁸ It is unclear that in fact any such disposal action was taken; all that is known is that the maps were latterly at Burley.

¹⁵ The Chessington HQ was laid out on a common pattern for wartime buildings – supposedly designed as usable for hospitals and wheeling beds – of a central 'spine' with 'spurs' off: measurement of a complete spur on 1:1250 sheets TQ 1762 NE and TQ 1763 SE on the NLS website indicates dimensions of about 25 metres in length by about 10 metres in width, though no doubt the actual dimensions were devised in terms of Imperial units.

¹⁶ DMP to DEF, 21 September 1955, Paper for DG's Conference, 19 July 1956, ADP to DDFin, 6 January 1964, 5, 32A and 69 in TNA OS 1/175.

¹⁷ DMP to DEF, and DEF to DG, 24 and 26 April 1956, 28 and 29 in TNA OS 1/175.

¹⁸ Minutes of Conference 311 (extract), O.Maps minute, 34 and 35 in TNA OS 1/175. The Conferences varied between monthly and fortnightly: the participants were the DG and

The question arose in the late 1960s of whether to move the stock into the new OS headquarters at Maybush: if it had not been decided before, a decision was definitely taken then to have a Record Map Library, containing one copy of every Record Map: the surplus would be disposed of. Apart from what went to NLS, the fate of the remaining stock is uncertain, though part may have found its way to local collections.¹⁹

In place of sales of originals, enquirers were offered photographic copies. By 1981 the price was about £13 for a quarter-sheet and £15 for a full sheet, and the specimen sent to the writer when he enquired at this time proved over time not to be chemically stable.²⁰ The Record Map Library continued at Maybush until 2008-9, when it was closed and the contents dispersed: some to the British Library, some to Cambridge University Library, some to The National Archives, and some, it appears, to other collections.

Post-printing markings on Record Maps

The most common are the following:

Oval stamp: An oval stamp, 'RECORD MAP', will appear top right, in either a reddish or a purplish colour: the reason for the different colours is unknown.

Cancellation stamp: A stamp 'CANCELLED' may appear through the Record Map oval stamp: this may denote that the map had been withdrawn from Record Map stock after the dissolution of the 'sales stock' in 1969. It is noticeable that the NLS Record Map collection does *not* seem to have these stamps.

Price: A stamped price, either 10 shillings, or £1-0-0, may appear in the bottom margin: this is not typical of NLS Record Maps, and was probably added when a sheet was sold.

Revision note: A stamped note in red may appear in the bottom margin of one-inch Old Series and some engraved six-inch maps: wording varies, but '*Partial revisions inserted since date of Publication hereon*' is typical. The characteristics of this stamp (metal rather than rubber, and the style of lettering) suggest that it dates from the early twentieth century. The incidence of this stamp is very erratic, and bears no relationship whatever to the extent to which sheets were revised for, in particular, railways.

The National Library of Scotland

The putting online of the NLS out of-copyright OS holdings grew out of a project to make available over the web the Library's collection of 'Early Maps of Scotland', which then extended to include the OS first edition

the Directors of Map Production, Field Surveys, Small-scale Drawing, and Establishments & Finance.

¹⁹ Cheshire Record Office took multiple copies of Index to Tithe Survey sheets of the county: surely they did not pay for them?

²⁰ It was accordingly destroyed before he passed much of his OS correspondence the Charles Close Society Archive in the Map Department, Cambridge University Library, in 2021: so don't trouble to ask for CCSA.OS_630_3.

large-scale mapping of Scotland, and then all the other Scottish maps, and then England and Wales.²¹

The only limit was the extent of NLS holdings. The library in its present form was created by an Act of Parliament in 1925, and it took over the holdings and the legal deposit functions of the Advocates Library. The latter had taken its full entitlement under the Copyright Acts of OS large-scales material for Scotland, but seems to have confined its acquisitions for the rest of the United Kingdom to the six-inch and smaller scales. After the creation of NLS its collecting policy was expanded, and eventually ‘everything going’ was claimed. Whilst this ensured that cover of Britain by the National Grid series was fairly complete, it left a considerable gap in cover of southern Britain by earlier 1:2500 and ‘town scales’. The Advocates Library was not alone in foregoing its full entitlement: so did Cambridge University Library, which only took larger than six-inch for a limited area around the city, and the National Library of Wales (NLW), which also forwent much mapping outside Wales. NLW had the additional disadvantage that it was only established in 1907; it became a legal deposit library following the passing of the Copyright Act of 1911. The British Museum map library (from 1973 part of the British Library) and the Bodleian Library in Oxford seem to have claimed all that they were entitled to from the early days of OS.

Then in 1968 or 1969 there came an offer by OS to NLS: a copy of one each of all its sales stock of Record Maps. Several lorry-loads duly made their way from Burley to Edinburgh. In practice the collection was divided: large numbers of 1:2500 were sent on to the National Library of Wales to repair deficiencies in its collection. In the 1980s the NLS Record Maps were listed with the assistance of the Manpower Services Commission: these lists are the basis of those online, and occasional errors in dating accuracy are to be ascribed to this.²²

The main gaps in the NLS collection, apart from many pre-1914 Welsh 1:2500s, are the earlier 1:2500 first editions of England, corresponding approximately to those counties that were substantially complete by the late 1870s, and for which the first six-inch was published by engraved full sheets. For Kent and Surrey there are no 1:2500 first editions at all, and they are fragmentary for most of the other ‘earlier 1:2500’ counties.²³ A very few 1:2500 deficiencies have been supplied from various sources since the maps’ arrival at NLS in 1969, but for those for whom a missing map is

²¹ ‘Early Maps’ is a definition that appears to include maps only a few years older than some of us are: or does it just mean pre-digital?

²² Information from Margaret Wilkes, 1988 (see CCS.RRO_645(26) and by e-mail from Chris Fleet, August 2024.

²³ The NLS collection includes extensive sets of 1:2500 first editions of Devon, Gloucestershire, and Somerset which all seem to be ‘early’ printings, are not ‘Record Maps’ and were bound in volumes: where both these and a Record Map are held but represent different printings, often both have been scanned.

essential, there is at present no alternative to seeking a physical copy elsewhere, which in practice is likely to mean either the British Library (BL) or the Bodleian Library. It is at present no consolation either that there have been plans to digitise the BL collection, which appear to be as yet unfulfilled, or that there was extensive digitisation of the Bodley collection a couple of decades ago, but that commercial considerations have so far prevented the images being made available online.

The evident decision taken in the mid 1890s not to retain Record Map copies of superseded 1:2500 sheets casts a long shadow.

Appendix

County	1:2500 survey	1:2500 first revision	1:2500 in NLS online	Notes on survival in NLS collection
Anglesey	1886-7	1899	FFY	Only 3 1sts, and only two groups of 2nds
Bedfordshire	1876-82	1898-1900	YYy	
Berkshire	1866-83	1897-9	FYYy	
Brecknockshire	1874-88	1902-4	FPp	
Buckinghamshire	1867-81	1897-9	YYy	
Caernarvonshire	1873-88	1898-1900	FPP	1sts tend to be fragmentary, and none in south of county
Cambridgeshire	1876-86	1896-1901	YYy	[Most revision was 1900-1]
Cardiganshire	1885-8	1900-04	FPp	4 1sts; cover by 2nds somewhat patchy, with several full-sheet areas unrepresented
Carmarthenshire	1875-87	1903-6	FPy	About 21 1sts; gaps in 2nds; S of county tends only to have 3rds
Cheshire	1870-75	1896-8	FYYy	
Cornwall	1859-88	1905-7	PYy	
Cumberland	1859-65	1897-1900	YYy	
Denbighshire	1870-75	1897-9	FXy	
Derbyshire	1875-82	1896-1900	PYYy	
Devonshire	1854-88	1902-5	YYy	[Also revision around Plymouth in 1892-3]
Dorset	1860-88	1900-1	PYy	
Durham	1854-7	1894-7	FYYy	
Essex	1861-76	1893-6	FYYy	
Flintshire	1869-72	1897-9	FXy	Only two 1sts
Glamorgan	1867-78	1896-9	FFYy	1sts fragmentary,

				2nds even more so
Gloucestershire	1873-84	1898-1902	YYY	
Hampshire & Isle of Wight	1856-75	1894-7	FYYyy	
Herefordshire	1878-87	1901-4	FYy	
Hertfordshire	1865-81	1895-7	FYYy	
Huntingdonshire	1884-7	1899-1901	YYy	
Kent	1858-73	1893-7	XYy	
Lancashire	1884-93	1904-12	YYyy	1 st tends to be gappy towards the south
Leicestershire	1879-86	1898-1906	YYy	
Lincolnshire	1883-8	1963-82	YYy	
London	1862-72	1893-5	YYYy	1 st edition 1:2500 engraved
Merionethshire	1873-88	1899-1900	FPy	10 1sts
Middlesex	1862-71	1891-5	FYYy	
Monmouthshire	1875-85	1898-1900	FPYp	
Montgomeryshire	1874-87	1900-1	FP	5 1sts
Norfolk	1879-86	1900-6	YYy	
Northamptonshire	1882-6	1898-1900	YYy	
Northumberland	1855-64	1894-7	FYYy	
Nottinghamshire	1875-85	1897-9	PYYy	
Oxfordshire	1872-80	1897-1900	PFYy	
Pembrokeshire	1860-88	1904-6	XPf	
Radnorshire	1883-8	1901-4	XP	
Rutland	1883-4	1899-1903	YYy	
Shropshire	1873-84	1899-1902	YYy	
Somerset	1882-8	1900-03	YYy	
Staffordshire	1861-86	1897-1902	YYYy	
Suffolk	1861-85	1900-04	YYy	
Surrey	1861-71	1891-6	XYyy	
Sussex	1869-75	1895-8	FYYyy	
Warwickshire	1881-4	1898-1900	YYyy	
Westmoreland	1856-60	1896-8	FYYy	
Wiltshire	1871-85	1898-1900	FYYy	Record 1sts seem fragmentary
Worcestershire	1881-4	1898-1903	YYyy	
Yorkshire	1884-93	1901-14	YYyy	

Notes for fourth column

Editions are listed left to right: thus for Anglesey the 1st, 2nd and 3rd editions were all published for the whole county, but there was no significant later cover in the County Series; for Bedfordshire the first and second editions covered the whole county, whereas the third edition only covered part of the county.

F Fragmentary cover by edition

f Fragmentary cover by edition only published for part of the county

P Patchy coverage by edition

P Patchy coverage by edition only published for part of the county

Y Fairly complete cover by edition, though 1st edition will probably be rather less so

y Fairly complete cover by edition only published for part of the county

Counties lacking any 1:2500 first edition cover: Kent, Pembrokeshire, Radnorshire, Surrey

Counties with very poor 1:2500 first edition cover: Anglesey, Cardiganshire, Carmarthenshire, Flintshire, Merionethshire, Middlesex, Montgomeryshire

Counties with poor 1:2500 first edition cover: Berkshire, Brecknockshire, Caernarvonshire, Cheshire, Denbighshire, Durham, Essex, Glamorgan, Hampshire & IoW, Hertfordshire, Monmouthshire, Northumberland, Oxfordshire, Sussex, Westmoreland, Wiltshire