

The First Edition of the One Inch Ordnance Survey

A reprint covering England and Wales in 97 sheets edited by Dr J. B. Harley

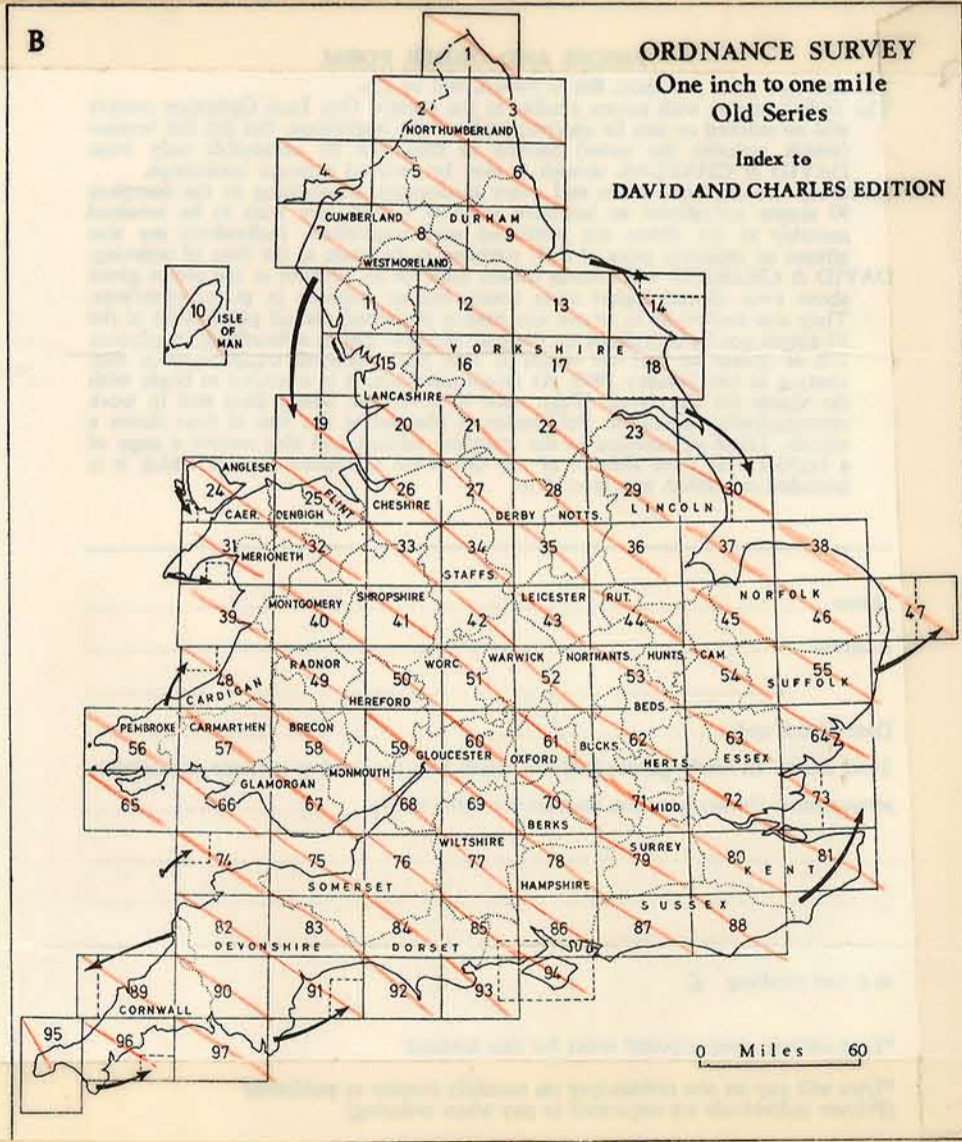
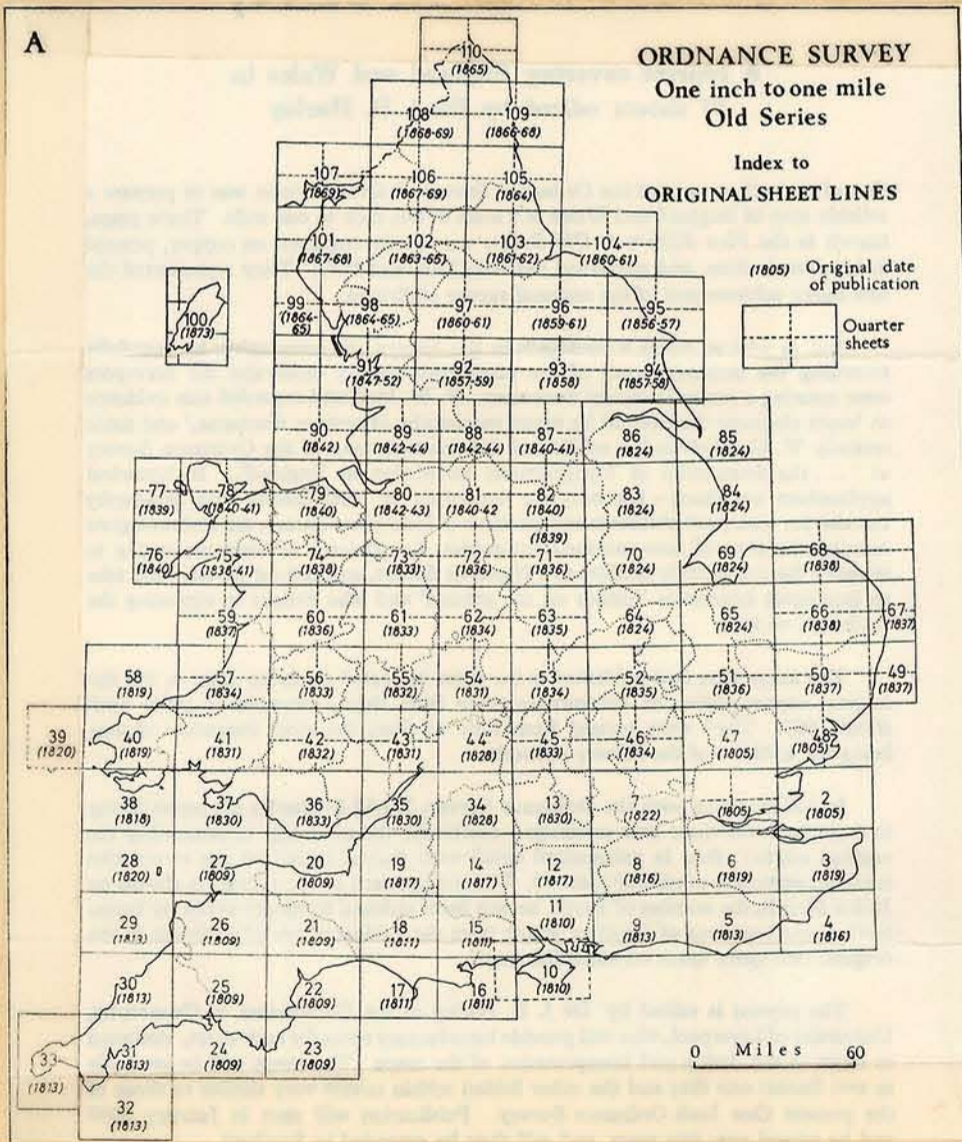
One of the earliest tasks of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain was to prepare a reliable map of England and Wales at a scale of one inch to one mile. These maps, known as the *First Edition* or *Old Series*, were finely engraved on copper, printed in black and white, and published between 1805 and 1873. They represented the first major achievement of the national survey of Britain.

But as well as being a landmark in the history of cartography, by faithfully recording the intimate detail of the nineteenth-century landscape the surveyors were creating a major historical document. F. W. Maitland regarded this evidence as 'more eloquent than would be many paragraphs of written discourse,' and more recently W. G. Hoskins has reaffirmed the one inch map of the Ordnance Survey as '... the foundation of topographical knowledge in England'. Its historical applications are many - not only for specialists in local history and geography but also for transport historians and students of local place names, for archaeologists locating the sites of now-vanished antiquities, for students of literature trying to visualise the countryside familiar to a Hardy or Brontë, and indeed for any who take an intelligent interest in 'history on the ground' and who delight in exploring the landscape on foot.

The maps were first published at the dates indicated on Index Map A, but the original copper-plates, or electrotypes taken from them, remained in print until about 1890. They were revised from time to time, the most important change being the addition of the railway network.

In collaboration with the Ordnance Survey, David & Charles are republishing in exact facsimile these later printings - combining the advantage of presenting the original edition often in unimpaired detail with that of including the cumulative revision, especially of railway material. The arrangement of the reprint is shown on Index Map B, the number of sheets having been reduced to ninety-seven by transferring small sections of coastline which were the subject of complete sheets in the original into spare space on adjoining maps.

The reprint is edited by Dr J. B. Harley of the Department of Geography, University of Liverpool, who will provide introductory notes for each sheet, designed to assist in the dating and interpretation of the maps. The maps will be available in two forms: one flat; and the other folded within covers very similar to those of the present One Inch Ordnance Survey. Publication will start in January 1969 and be spread over two years, and will then be extended to Scotland.



INDEX MAP

GREAT BRITAIN (SERIES)

ONE INCH ORDNANCE SURVEY
(OLD SERIES, FACSIMILE OF FIRST EDITION)

1:63,360

annex

5820s

63

G6

FILE NUMERICALLY

BY HOOKED NUMBER