

## Ordnance Survey covers: the extended list

by Roger Hellyer

I stated in the introduction to my list of covers in John Paddy Browne's *Map Cover Art* (Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1991) that it was not definitive. I meant that in two senses: first that I was in no position to assume I had recorded every cover design, even those which had achieved publication, never mind the unpublished ones which have a nasty habit of creeping out of PRO files the week after a deadline is reached, and secondly that I would have ordered a definitive list differently. For his book, John asked me to provide descriptions of the various pictorial covers, and order a list of the maps to which they had been applied. In spite of later developments, such as the decision to include the very inartistic 1950's stuff, and in particular the very late inclusion of the earliest covers of all (H.1-7), that is essentially what it remained. The use of a serial number and the 'minipics' has given the list an undoubted value which my epigrammatic descriptions alone could never have achieved. Thus, though in some ways a compromise, I hope it proves a successful if uneven means of distinguishing one cover design from another, and a springboard for those who wish to investigate cover development further.

I would have started a definitive list from the other end, not from the illustrations, but from the various map series. Thus, for instance, I would have given one collective number to the Harry Titcombe bird drawings, since the Outdoor Leisure maps are a family and should be viewed as such. The 21 individual drawings would have been a subset of this. One could seek, and find, other classes. It would still have led to irregularities, however, because so many covers draw features from more than one design, and could thus easily fall into more than one category. But a list like this demands a focal point. The Places Paper map covers are a case in point. I decided in the end to treat the Places logo as a primary cover feature, and so create a new category, and within it effectively repeat entries for covers which had appeared elsewhere that were now doctored with the new logo, probably at the expense of the coat of arms. With a system of cross-reference symbols, this seemed a relatively clear solution. But in turn it led to other problems, because as we all know Places maps are not exactly thick on the ground, and although we know that the *Birmingham* and *Skye* half-inch maps, *Guernsey* and *Jersey* were all published on Places, to this day I have never seen one, never mind in covers, so I may well be disagreeably surprised when I do to discover that my guesses about them are wrong.

Richard Oliver has now asked me to complete the job, by adding numbers to all the covers which have appeared since my cut-off point of 1978 (when photograph covers started, a certain 1948 collection of sheep alone excepted). The thought of listing a few hundred photographs did not appeal, even if I had been able to identify what they were all photographs of. Furthermore to continue my original practice of giving sheet titles, followed, if different, by cover titles, would have got wholly out of control, especially with Landrangers, many of which have been given district titles on their covers, at variance to their sheet titles. But I quickly saw that all this was unnecessary, and with generous applications of 'local view', the list could more sensibly be compiled by identifying the development of the cover features peripheral to the photograph. Furthermore, not all covers, even now, are photographic. I have thus decided to continue my number sequence in three sections. From 201 I have reserved numbers for covers which would have gone into the original list, had they turned up in time. (I will reserve H.200 for the de luxe *Kew* 1935, should a copy ever be located and it prove to be something unique). From 301 I have numbered the modern OS non-photographic covers, and from 401, since they are obviously the thing of the future and thus more sensibly the most open ended list, the photographic covers. There are, of course, design patterns common to both the latter sections, and indeed to maps in my earlier list, not least in section 132, and these, where important, are noted.

Between 1982 and 1985 many covers were issued with the words 'Ordnance Survey' printed at the bottom. This was only abandoned, I believe, when a mass of Landranger covers were so printed, and it was noticed, in the sales racks in shops, that 'Ordnance Survey' could not be seen. I thought it important to isolate this feature, but it did not prove easy to do it as separate numbered entries, since other features of cover development overlapped. Thus these covers have been awarded a distinguishing symbol (OOO), and whenever they appear, they have a separate line of their own within an entry. It will thus be possible to refer to them individually.

At present this list is provisional, though I hope I have made the numbering such that it need not be revised. I hope it includes all OS maps published in covers: I have omitted three dimensional OS publications of the book and atlas types. I have at present ignored detail additions to covers like advertising flashes - 'Now with Tourist Guide', or 'With clearer footpaths'. In the end, I would like to be able to add which specific Tourist and Outdoor Leisure maps were published in any particular cover variant, especially when they appeared in new (change of letter) editions. I have not had the time or resources to do this yet, but their titles can be added, when identified, to the general 'reprint' references. I have decided to describe photographic content only a) when it is not a picture postcard view, b) when a single entry makes 'local view' a trifle dull, and c) when I know there to be more than one view in existence for one title within one entry on the list, and thus necessary for identification. Individual Routemasters or Landrangers can easily be identified by adding the sheet number after my serial number, thus 407.1b.151. The addition of a/b/c to that should cope with any new photographs the OS in time choose to use, though by then other features of the cover design will probably also have moved on. If anyone has kept note of the various changes in photographs for specific sheets, or has positive evidence for dates given which remain 'circa', I would be very grateful for the information that will help make any final listing as accurate as possible.

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*(And Richard Oliver's cordial thanks go to Roger and to John Paddy Browne for having supplied this 'extended list' at such short notice! It is intended to publish what might be called the 'regular edition' of this extended list in a future issue of Sheetlines.)*

#### List of symbols:

- \* added to a date is that of the introduction of the design. Dates without \* are those on the map. If they are the same thing, or the date is unknown, no \* is used.
- % covers exists in laminated and unlaminated form
- + integral cover
- ^ waterproof cover
- "Ordnance Survey" at the foot of the cover

#### Supplementary list and appendix

201 Crown and garter

Unused design for 1:500,000 Aviation Map of Great Britain, 1937. Under consideration as the new Ordnance Survey trade mark (PRO OS 1/456)

202 Crown and chamfered panel

Unused experimental standard cover design, 1937 (PRO OS 1/460)

203 Great Britain index diagram, mauve

- 1 Both sheets highlighted
- 2 Relevant sheet highlighted

Geological Survey Ten Mile Map [1:625,000]. Cover titles:  
First Edition (Quaternary), 1977  
Third Edition (Solid), 1979  
Both published by IGS (now BGS)

204 Arms of Islwyn

Borough of Islwyn Street Map [1:10,000], 1984+. A repayment service map, unusually carrying the OS logo

## Ordnance Survey non-photographic covers since 1978

NB See also 129-131, 146, 149, 159-174 in the original list

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 301 Series title panel and main-land silhouette   | These features derived from 401.1; the location or extract map frame from 132.   |
| 1 White on magenta                                | 1:50,000 Landranger Series. A straightforward addition to 132.7  |
| a Location diagram                                | Series sheets, 1979*   |
| b 1:625,000 map extract                           | Sheet 103 (First Series, 1980*/Second Series, 1981 [published 1982])+  |
|   | Second Series sheets 40, 103, 119, 132, 150, 186, 197, 204 (A/, A//), 1984 [all +]   |
| 2 White on green                                  | 1:25,000 Pathfinder Series   |
| a 1:625,000 map extract                           | Series sheets, c.1979*+  |
| b Location dots on silhouette                     | Series sheets, c.1980*+  |
| c Pathfinder number added                         | Series sheets, c.1985*+  |
| 302 Titles on red bands                           | <i>Southampton City Map</i> [1:10,000], 1982*+   |
| 303 National Grid over Great Britain              | Index to Pathfinder and 1:10,000 Map Series [1:1,000,000], 1987/1988/1989+   |
| 304 Upper case series title                       | The non-photographic equivalent of 407   |
| 1 White title on green                            | 1:25,000 Pathfinder Series   |
| a Pathfinder sheet index                          | Series sheets, 1986*+/1987*+   |
| b No Great Britain diagram                        | Series sheets, 1986-1987*+   |
| c Hiking couple by stile                          | Index to 1:25,000 Pathfinder Maps and Outdoor Leisure Maps [1:625,000], 1990+/1991+. Drawn by Steve Abbott   |
| 2 Yellow title on blue, and extract of map inside | <i>City Link Maps</i> [1:126,720]: <i>Manchester, Sheffield, Leeds &amp; York</i> , 1987; <i>Birmingham and the Midlands</i> , 1988; <i>Edinburgh and Glasgow</i> , 1989 [all +] |

## Ordnance Survey photographic covers

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 401 Photograph inside frame  | The frame derived from that on 132  |
| 1a Bridges. [With series title in black on yellow panel and mainland silhouette] | 1:250,000 Routemaster Series, 1978  |
| b Tourist symbols added  | 1:250,000 Routemaster Series, c.1980*   |
| 2 "The Boyhood of Raleigh"   | <i>Maritime England</i> [1:625,000], 1982+. A photo-pastiche of Millais' painting |
| 402 Solarised photograph   | 1:10,000 Town and City Maps   |
| 1 King's College Chapel  | <i>Cambridge</i> , 1979*/1980 [published 1981]                                    |
| 2 Civic Centre   | <i>Ipswich</i> , 1979   |
| 3 Western Docks  | <i>Southampton</i> , 1979   |
| 4 Unidentified building  | <i>Doncaster</i> , 1982+•   |
| 403 Photograph/artwork composite   |   |
| 1 Austin Metro photograph  | 1:625,000 Routeplanner 1983• [published 1982]                                     |

- 404 Full cover photograph
- 1a Tombstone of a soldier
  - b With London Wall Walk seal
  - 2 Trafalgar Square
  - 3 Local views
- 4 Stonehenge at sunset
- 5 Local views
- 6 With mainland silhouette
- a On motorway bridge
  - b Model "Y" Ford in lay-by
- 7 The Wall near Vindolanda
- 405 Full cover photograph with upper case series title
- 1 Local views
  - 2 Local views
  - 3a Trinity College
  - b Cathedral skyline
  - 4 City Hall
- 406 Horizontal photographic band
- 1 Red MG "B"
  - 2 M25/M23 Intersection
- 407 Horizontal photographic band with upper case series title
- 1 Black title on yellow
    - a Local views
    - b Local views
  - 2 White title on magenta
    - a Local views
    - b Local views
    - c Local views
    - d Blackwell's in monochrome
  - 3 Blue title on white
  - 4 Yellow title on red
- NB These have no upper case series title
- Londonium* [1:2,500], 1981+
- Londonium* [1:2,500], 1983+
- Central London* [1:10,000], 1981+
- 1:10,000 City, Town and District Maps:
- London Central*, 1982; *Bath*, 1982;
- Inverness*, 1982/1983/1986; *Oxford*, 1982; *Eastbourne*, 1983; *Falkirk*, 1984/1986 (all +)
- Ancient Britain* [1:625,000], 1982
- Tourist Map reprints, c.1983\*\*.
- New title: *Cotswold* [1:63,360], 1983
- 1:625,000 Routeplanner
- 1984 [published 1983]
- 1985 [published 1984]
- Hadrian's Wall* [1:31,680], 1984\*
- Tourist Map & Guide reprints, 1984\*\*.
- New title: *The Broads* [1:50,000], 1984
- Tourist Map & Guide reprints, 1985\*
- Cambridge City Map* [1:10,000], 1984\*\*
- Newcastle upon Tyne City Map* [1:10,000], 1984\*\*
- Cardiff City Map* [1:10,000], 1985+
- NB These have no upper case series title
- 1:625,000 Routeplanner 1986 [published 1985]
- M25 & London* [1:126,720], 1986+. NB The yellow title on blue returns as 407.7
- The photographic equivalent of 304
- 1:25,000 Outdoor Leisure Maps
- Reprints, 1984\*\*.
- New title: *Dartmoor*, 1984
- Reprints, 1985\* (OLM 25 +).
- New titles:
- Isle of Wight*, 1985; *Swaledale/ Wensleydale* [Cover title: *Yorkshire Dales Northern & Central areas*], 1985; *Teesdale*, 1987; *Ben Nevis*, 1989+^
- 1:50,000 Landranger Series [With tourist information symbols]
- Second Series sheets 65,125,142+\*, 1984
- [Sheet 65 published 1985]
- Series sheets, 1985\*\*
- Series sheets, 1985\*
- Sheet 164, 1991 [OS bicentenary cover]
- 1:250,000 Routemaster Series, 1985\*
- Holiday Map & Guide: *The West Country* [1:200,000], 1986

- 5 Light yellow title on plum  
Touring Map & Guide reprints, 1988\*.  
New titles: *Scotland* [1:500,000], 1988; *Northumbria* [1:158,400], 1989; *Wessex* [1:158,400], 1990; *Snowdonia and North Wales* [1:158,400], 1990; *Devon and Cornwall* [1:207,070], 1992; *Yorkshire Dales* [1:63,360], 1992
- 6 Red title on blue  
1:625,000 Routeplanner, 1986 [2 Edition]
- 7 Yellow title on blue  
Routeplanner Maps and City Link Map 1  
1:625,000 Routeplanner, 1988  
M25 & London [1:126,720], 1989  
1:625,000 Routeplanner, 1991
- a Hingley's Renault lorry  
Historical Map & Guide series: *Viking and Medieval York* [1:2,500], 1988; *Roman and Anglian York* [1:2,500], 1988; *Roman and Medieval Bath* [1:1,250], 1989; *Georgian Bath* [1:2,500], 1989; *Hadrian's Wall* [1:50,000 and 1:25,000], 1989; *Roman and Medieval Canterbury* [1:2,500], 1990; *Ancient Britain* [1:625,000], 1990; *Roman Britain* [1:625,000], 1991
- b M25/M1 Intersection  
1:625,000 Routeplanner, 1991
- c Dunkerley's Foden truck  
Historical Map & Guide series: *Viking and Medieval York* [1:2,500], 1988; *Roman and Anglian York* [1:2,500], 1988; *Roman and Medieval Bath* [1:1,250], 1989; *Georgian Bath* [1:2,500], 1989; *Hadrian's Wall* [1:50,000 and 1:25,000], 1989; *Roman and Medieval Canterbury* [1:2,500], 1990; *Ancient Britain* [1:625,000], 1990; *Roman Britain* [1:625,000], 1991
- 8 Red title on vignettied orange  
Historical Map & Guide series: *Viking and Medieval York* [1:2,500], 1988; *Roman and Anglian York* [1:2,500], 1988; *Roman and Medieval Bath* [1:1,250], 1989; *Georgian Bath* [1:2,500], 1989; *Hadrian's Wall* [1:50,000 and 1:25,000], 1989; *Roman and Medieval Canterbury* [1:2,500], 1990; *Ancient Britain* [1:625,000], 1990; *Roman Britain* [1:625,000], 1991
- 9 Blue title on yellow  
Worldmap series [book-fold covers]:  
*Kilimanjaro* [1:100,000], 1989; *Mount Kenya* [1:25,000], 1989; *Barbados* [1:50,000], 1989; *Cayman Islands* [1:50,000], 1989; *Belize (Ambergris Cay)* [1:50,000], 1989; *Seychelles (Mahé)* [1:50,000], 1989; *Seychelles (Praslin)* [1:30,000], 1989; *Saint Lucia* [1:50,000], 1989 [published 1991]; *British Virgin Islands* [1:63,360], 1991; *Dominica* [1:50,000], 1991; *Saint Vincent and St Vincent Grenadines* [1:50,000], 1991
- 408 Diagonal photographic band  
1 Local views  
1:10,000 City and Town Maps: *East Kilbride*, 1985; *King's Lynn*, 1985; *Southampton*, 1986; *Durham*, 1986; *Harrogate*, 1986; *Clydebank*, 1986; *Cambridge*, 1987; *Lancaster and Morecambe*, 1987 (all +)
- 2 Sights of London, red  
1:7920 City Maps  
a "Big Ben"  
*London Central*, 1987+  
b Tower of London  
*London Central*, 1991. With "OS 200" logo
- 409 Nicholson/OS standard styling  
*Inland Waterways Map of Great Britain* [1:443,520], 1991^
- 410 Tudor House Museum/Ocean Village  
*Southampton City Map* [1:10,000], 1991+. B Edition, now a repayment service map