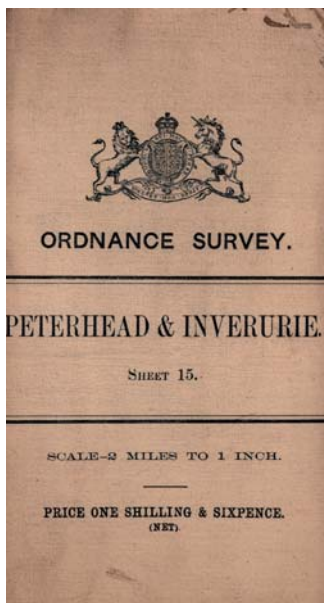


In this final part of my three part guide to Ordnance Survey I shall be examining smaller scale maps. Principally these embrace the half inch, (two miles to the inch) quarter inch, (four miles to the inch) and ten mile maps.(ten miles to the inch) These cover the country with fewer maps making collecting complete 'sets' more practical and, on the whole, the editions are fewer and more easily recognisable.

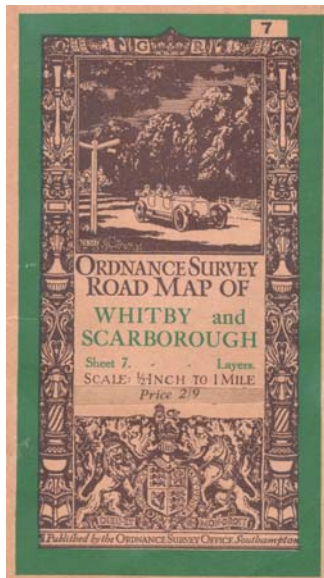
Half inch to one mile

By 1900, there was an increasing demand for maps on this scale, not only from the general public, but more significantly from the military, largely as a result of finding the half inch scale much more practical in the Boer War. The pressure on the Ordnance Survey, whose duty it was, after all, to be 'The supplier of Munitions and Equipment to the Army and Navy', became irresistible when the military started buying their maps from Bartholomew!

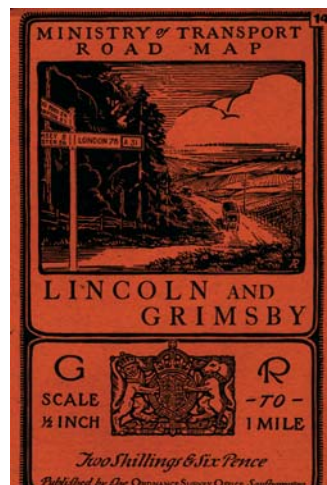
As a result the first half inch maps appeared in 1903. These measured 18" x 12" (later called the Small Sheet Series or SSS), with 104 sheets planned to cover E & W, though sheets 1-8 and 10-16 were never published. The original covers were the standard O.S. in maroon, but this was later change to ivory. (Map 1) The story has it that the army complained that the red dye 'ran' and spoiled their uniforms!



Map 1. The half inch map i.e. two miles to one inch. £9.



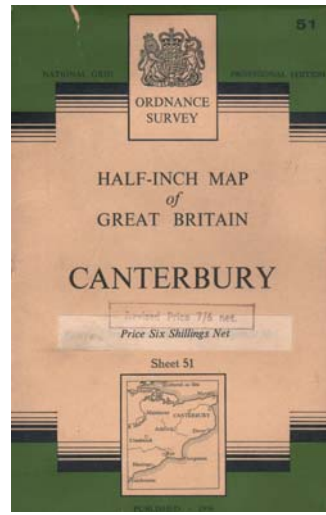
Map 2. Half inch, 1912-30. £5-£6.



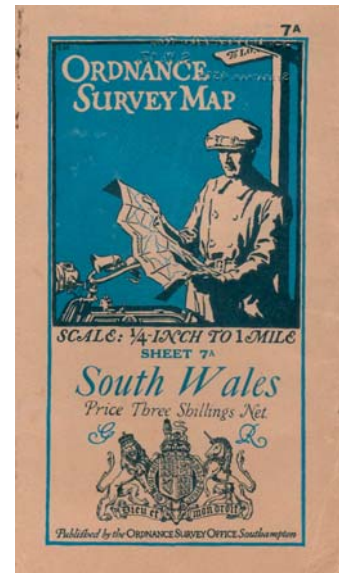
Map 3. Half inch to one mile. £6.



Map 4. Half inch England training map. £5.



Map 5. Half inch map of Great Britain. Canterbury. £5.



Map 6. Quarter inch, 1920s. £5-£6.

Ordnance Survey Part 3

Half inch, quarter inch and ten mile maps

by Forbes Robertson.

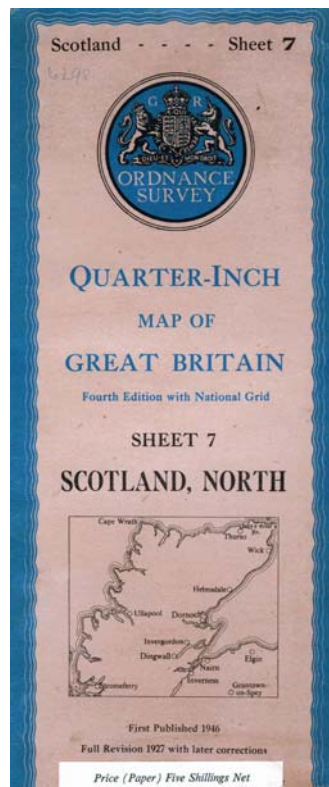
It became obvious that the sheets were too small in practice and from 1906 onwards the Large Sheet Series, which covered E&W in 40 sheets and Scotland in 34 sheets was issued. It seems that this scale did not merit a revision of its own and the legend usually states that they are 'Reduced from the one inch map...' and 'Published' in a date between 1903 and 1912. Finally, in 1912 it was accepted that separate 'hill shaded' and 'layers' editions were the only answer. The O.S. now seems more aware of having to reach a wider public and these were issued in the more commercial Ellis Martin green cover with the chauffeur driven limousine, (Map 2) now entitled the 'Ordnance Survey Road Map of ...'. These attractive easily recognised covers present a nice challenge to collecting a set, and copies in good condition can usually be found.

The same commercial influence is shown in the half inch 'Ministry of Transport Road Map', issued 1922-23 in orange covers. (Map 3) Here is a much more motoring oriented map with the only colours being roads in red (Class 1) and green (Class 2) plus blue for water. This edition has a more flimsy cover but has interesting information on roads 'in accordance with the classification for the year 1922-23' and some examples of early road signs. Another interesting form produced during the First World War was the '1/2" Training Map', with the same 40 sheets, priced 6d. each, on pretty flimsy paper. The only colours were black print, brown contours and blue for water. (Map 4)

An attempt to revive the half inch maps was made in 1956 with the issue of the 'Second Series'. This was issued in a green and buff cover similar to the one inch Seventh Series of the time. (Map 5) This series never found a niche in the market, perhaps because the quarter inch was now a more practical scale for the motorist of the day. Of the 51 sheets planned for Great Britain, the only ones published were 28,36,39,43 (as Greater London) and 51. (in 'Provisional' form) The lack of popularity was accepted by the O.S. and the series was abandoned in 1961, conversely making good copies comparatively collectable.



Map 7. Quarter inch, 1930s.. £5-£6.



Map 8. Quarter inch, 1940s. £4-£5.

Ten mile to the inch

Although parts of an edition of a 'Ten Mile Map' were issued in the 1890s, the first full edition seems to be that of 1903 in 12 Sheets. An edition of 1904 was reduced to 8 sheets, with further reductions to 3 sheets in 1925 (Map 11) and finally 2 sheets in 1932. As in other scales, the marketing shows changing times and later revisions became 'The Ten-mile Road Map' (Map 12) and most recently 'Route Planning Map of Great Britain 1:625,000'.

Another branch of O.S. maps worth looking for are the Historical Maps. The appointment of the first Archaeology Officer in 1920 was 'seen by the resident military establishment as an intrusion by a lone and unwanted civilian'. Sales of his first title 'Map of Roman Britain' far exceeded expectations, however, and further titles now also include, Ancient Britain, Monastic Britain, Dark Ages, Hadrian's Wall and Antonine Wall. These have appeared in various scales and revisions- worth studying as well as fun to collect.

Obviously there has not been space in these articles to include all possible variations you may come across and I can only repeat that you may find the answers on my website at:

<http://you.genie.co.uk/forbescr/>

I will try to help with any queries to forbescr@u.genie.co.uk

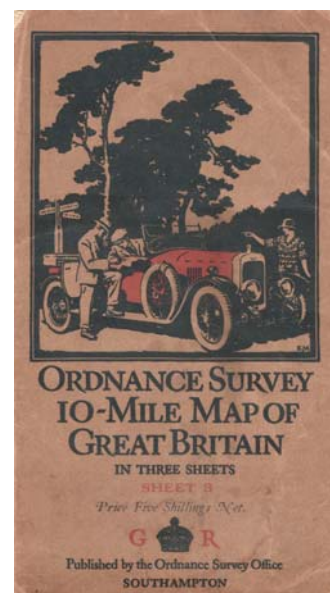
Quarter inch to one mile

The quarter inch map seems also to have been dogged by problems in its early days. Preparation for an issue on this scale was started in 1854 but soon lapsed. There was some revival of interest in the 1890s, largely due to pressure to produce a base for geology maps, and a few sheets of this 'Old Series' were produced around this time. A 'Revised Edition' of 1898-1901 had 25 sheets for E&W and 17 for Scotland and was produced in three forms as outline, coloured with hill shading and as counties where the only real colour was burnt sienna for roads. This slavish division of the country was soon shown to be impractical and a 'Second Edition' was issued in 1907-14 with 10 large sheets only. The 'Third Edition' of 1919-30, now easily recognised by its Ellis Martin cover (Map 6) still struggled with the problems of suitable sheet areas. It was originally issued in 12 sheets. Then three Special Sheets were published in Brown Covers, and finally an 'A' edition of 11 sheets was settled on. The editions can be distinguished by reference to the key on the back of the cover.

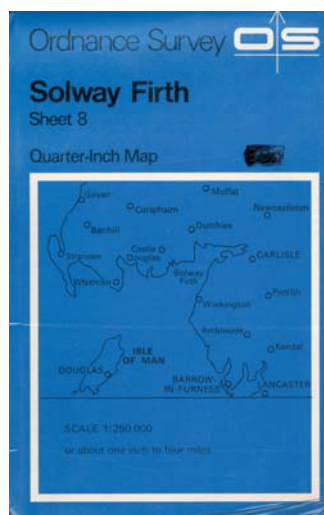
By the late 1930s it became obvious that the 1/4" was now the 'motorists map'. Despite the Director General of the Ordnance Surveys reluctance to alter the maps' details 'to suit specialist users', a long fold form (Map 7) was produced 'for slipping into the cord rack on the roof of a car'. E&W is covered by Sheets 1-4 and 6-12, so don't waste time looking for Sheet 5, and Scotland has 9 Sheets. A 'War Revision' of 1939-35 showed the original cover with red skies and in 1946 the edition was issued 'with National Grid' in a new long fold cover. (Map 8) The current Fifth Series was first issued in 1962 and was in fact the metric 1: 250,000 from the start. In keeping with other modern scales it undergoes continuous revision and the covers have changed from Map 9 to Map 10 over the years.



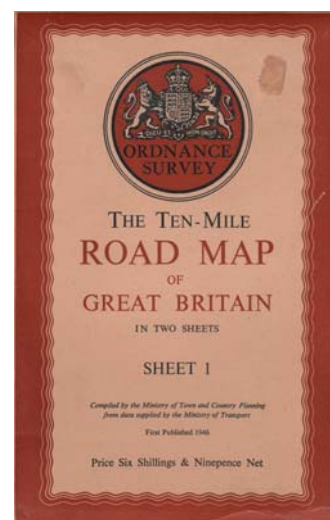
Map 9. Quarter inch map of Great Britain. Solway Firth. £3-5.



Map 11. Ordnance Survey. Ten mile map of Great Britain. £7.



Map 10. Ordnance Survey. Quarter inch map. Solway Firth. £3-5.



Map 12. Ordnance survey. Ten mile road map of Great Britain. £6.