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“Let consistency be the goal!”

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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.

Let consistency be the goal!

My enlightened local library followed up last year's securing of complete 1:10,000 mapping coverage (updated to March 2000) for the whole of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly by obtaining 1:50,000 coverage for the whole country as at April 2003 (and not to mention the odd B edition *Explorer*).

This enabled me to conduct a far more leisurely examination of the principal station situation¹ in the course of which my eye was drawn to football stadia / grounds starting with the East London sheet 177 (Edition E1, published 2003). Here the football stadiums of Arsenal, Tottenham and West Ham are annotated and moreover undershaded in blue indicating them to be 'selected places of tourist interest'. But not found on the same sheet were Charlton, Crystal Palace and Millwall. The grounds of the first two may not be far from the places names which appear on the map. But Millwall moved south of the Thames in the 1930s.

I will not spoil the enjoyment of those who may like to conduct a search by listing what I found on thirty or so maps, but the following Scottish examples may shock or even offend

¹ There are a few more doubtfuls in the north.

some people. On sheet 64, (D 2003) Glasgow Rangers and Celtic's stadiums are annotated—but only that of Glasgow Celtic is underlined in blue (!) indicating that Rangers are not worth the tourist's attention—perhaps rightly, this season anyway. Seven other grounds on this map (only one a Premiership club) get no mention, but Hampden Park, the location for internationals and cup finals besides being the home ground of the lowly Queen's Park club, gets blue shading. No other Scottish club of those seen so far merits blue shading, apparently, but Aberdeen, Heart Of Midlothian, Hibernian and Livingston all have their stadium or ground annotated, and more remarkably on sheet 54 (B1, 2003), apart from Dundee and Dundee United, so do such lesser lights as Arbroath, Forfar and Montrose.

Rugby (Union or League) does not appear to be worth the tourist's time, at least in OS eyes. Only Murrayfield (Edinburgh) and Twickenham (London) are named or annotated and blue shaded. Cardiff's Millennium Stadium gets the blue treatment and I seem to remember noticing a cricket ground somewhere..

Is there scope for a few more tourist symbols?

John Cole