

## *Ordnance Survey County Series plans – origins and sheet line data*

### *Ireland*

Ordnance Survey six-inch scale mapping started in Ireland, before the completion of and well before the adjustment of the Principal Triangulation. Consequently the geographical positions of the county origins, as well as the directions of sheet line north therefrom, were provisional and not consistent. Later, the preparation of the one-inch map required the county plans to be brought into line as far as possible, and an adjustment was carried out at Southampton of which only the results have survived. These are a set of ‘county twists’ each of which has to be applied to the relevant county series en bloc and has to be utilised in all computations concerning sheet lines.

On completion of the adjustment of the Principal Triangulation geographical positions became available for some of the county origins, in total less than half, leaving the remaining county series rather floating. However, sufficient data is available to enable the present compiler to perform an adjustment correct to about ten feet for the remaining county origins, and the results are included in the listing below, it should be noted that the names in use are those which were current in the mid-nineteenth century.

The defining elements of the Irish county series plans are the same as those for the plans subsequently drawn for Great Britain, although the sheet sizes are different but not obviously different, and some sheets are displaced from the general sheet line blocks.

**County twist:** when positive, sheet line is *east* of true north at the county origin; when negative is *west*.  
**Sheet Dimensions:** 6-inch sheet 32,000 × 21,000 feet  
 1:2500 sheet 8,000 × 5,250 feet

<i>county</i>	<i>origin</i>	<i>latitude N</i>		<i>longitude W</i>		<i>county twist</i>	<i>home sheet with its neat line co-ordinates</i>				
		<i>provisional</i>	<i>adj *</i>	<i>provisional</i>	<i>adj *</i>		<i>west</i>	<i>east</i>	<i>north</i>	<i>south</i>	
2 Antrim	Knocklayd	55° 09' 42"69	43.575	6° 15' 00"71	00"168	-11"90	8	-31,400	+600	+15,840	-5,160
							¶ 1	-11,082	+20,918	+55,540	+34,540
4 Armagh	Armagh Observatory Transit	54 21 10.53	10.507	6 38 55.82	55.825	-18.76	12	-17,000	+15,000	+11,000	-10,000
24 Carlow	Mount Leinster	52 37 03.47	04.3	6 46 46.96	46.1	+16.41	23	-14,600	+17,400	+200	-20,800
8 Cavan	Cavan Church Spire	53 59 37.21	37.2	7 21 35.31	35.3	-13.27	20	-24,400	+7,600	+17,700	-3,300
27 Clare	Ennis Church Tower	52 50 44.07	44.7	8 58 51.44	50.8	-10.19	33	-27,200	+4,800	+11,800	-9,200
31 Cork	Mount Hillary	52 06 34.72	35.350	8 50 20.50	19.844	-4.69	31	-28,000	+4,000	+17,700	-3,300
7 Donegal	Letterkenny Church Sp.	54 57 02.84	03.590	7 44 18.53	17.937	-14.48	53	-13,000	+19,000	+15,400	-5,600
5 Down	Slieve Donard	54 10 48.28	48.3	5 55 12.05	12.1	-18.10	49	-18,200	+13,800	+16,700	-4,300
19 Dublin	Dublin Observatory Transit	53 23 13.00	13.0	6 20 17.51	17.5	-28.80	14	-4,300	+27,700	+17,400	-3,600
							¶ 9	+59,700	+91,700	+48,900	+27,900
							¶ 16	+59,700	+91,700	+9,600	-11,400

	county	origin	latitude N		longitude W		county twist	home sheet with its neat line co-ordinates				
			provisional	adj *	provisional	adj *		west	east	north	south	
6	Fermanagh	Devenish Round Tower	54 22 12.97	13.7	7 39 19.45	18.9	-17.99	22	-4,200	+27,800	+5,820	-15,180
14	Galway	Galway Church Spire	53 16 20.49	21.070	9 03 11.60	10.981	+3.02	94	-11,500	+20,500	+3,400	-17,600
30	Kerry	Tralee Church Spire	52 16 13.61	14.200	9 42 11.99	11.296	-3.11	29	-13,200	+18,800	+15,200	-5,800
20	Kildare	Kildare Round Tower	53 09 27.68	28.493	6 54 41.86	40.871	-17.73	22	-23,600	+8,400	+15,600	-5,400
25	Kilkenny	St Mary's Church Spire, Kilkenny	52 39 04.41	05.1	7 15 07.00	06.4	-17.59	19	-20,400	+11,600	+9,500	-11,500
21	King's Co.†	Tullamore Church	53 16 17.64	18.298	7 28 50.91	50.339	-24.49	17	-9,000	+23,000	+11,500	-9,500
12	Leitrim	Carrick-on-Shannon Church Spire	53 56 48.43	48.4	8 05 37.74	37.7	-26.82	31	-11,000	+21,000	+5,000	-16,000
28	Limerick	Rice's Monument	52 39 27.61	28.2	8 37 40.72	40.1	-4.34	5	-15,500	+16,500	+16,400	-4,600
1	Londonderry	Benevenagh	55 06 49.03	49.862	6 54 56.53	56.054	-15.62	6	-1,700	+30,300	+12,300	-8,700
15	Longford	Longford Church Spire	53 43 51.35	52.0	7 47 57.85	57.3	-14.03	13	-28,000	+4,000	+6,200	-14,800
								¶ 1	+20,000	+52,000	+90,200	+69,200
18	Louth	Dundalk Church Spire	54 00 29.73	29.7	6 24 03.43	03.4	-24.00	7	-12,100	+19,900	+9,100	-11,900
10	Mayo	Castlebar Church Tower	53 51 15.07	15.120	9 17 58.72	58.698	-48.34	78	-22,900	+9,100	+6,200	-14,800
17	Meath	Wellington Testimonial	53 33 06.13	06.9	6 47 35.17	34.3	+32.82	36	-22,100	+9,900	+7,900	-13,100
9	Monaghan	Monaghan Church Twr	54 14 53.06	53.1	6 58 07.38	07.4	-26.81	9	-22,000	+10,000	+14,000	-7,000
22	Queen's Co.‡	Maryborough New Ch	53 02 01.31	02.0	7 18 10.24	09.5	-4.69	13	-8,000	+24,000	+14,000	-7,000
13	Roscommon	Roscommon Church	53 37 43.73	43.7	8 11 24.87	24.9	-30.27	39	-26,800	+5,200	+12,000	-9,000
11	Sligo	Cooper's Observatory Transit	54 10 30.17	30.131	8 27 24.93	24.581	-30.48	26	-29,000	+3,000	+3,800	-17,200
29	Tipperary	Cashel Church Spire	52 30 53.48	54.144	7 53 06.71	06.045	-9.47	61	-3,000	+29,000	+10,500	-10,500
3	Tyrone	Mullaghcarn	54 40 26.38	27.2	7 12 31.47	31.0	-19.63	26	-23,900	+8,100	+6,600	-14,400
32	Waterford	Knockanaffrin	52 17 18.46	19.135	7 34 53.71	52.941	-15.85	6	-17,100	+14,900	+5,200	-15,800
16	Westmeath	Mullingar Church	53 31 27.91	28.6	7 20 20.88	20.1	-7.22	19	-11,000	+21,000	+14,700	-6,300
26	Wexford	Forth Mountain	52 18 56.00	56.829	6 33 42.37	41.461	-5.19	42	-6,200	+25,800	3,200	-17,800
23	Wicklow	Lugnaquilla	52 57 59.94	00.710 <sup>+</sup>	6 27 50.23	49.370	-16.40	28	-23,400	+8,600	+50	-20,950

† now Offaly;

‡ now Laois

+ i.e. 52° 58' 00"710

¶ sheet displaced from the regular sheet pattern for the county

\* adjusted: if position of origin is given to three places, adjusted by OS; if to one place, adjusted by Brian Adams, 2004