

The Charles Close Society for the Study of Ordnance Survey Maps

List of Ordnance Survey Description booklets

Version 5.0

For office use	2
Before the first world war	2
Small scales	6
Medium scales	10
Large scales	11

Library abbreviations

BL: The British Library, London

BOD: Bodleian Library, Oxford

CUL: Cambridge University Library

NLS: National Library of Scotland

NLW: National Library of Wales

NYPL: New York Public Library

OSL: Ordnance Survey Library

RGS: Royal Geographical Society, London

Title	Publisher		date	Notes	Union list of copies
-------	-----------	--	------	-------	----------------------

FOR OFFICE USE

O.S. 404. Character of writing for Ordnance Survey plans. November, 1881			November 1881	4 pages, 32 cm; blue card covers, blue paper. Certain entries cross-refer to the 6-inch Characteristic Sheet. Sheetlines 15 (1986), 1.	NLS Map.X3.234
O.S. 404. Ordnance Survey maps of the United Kingdom. A description of their scales, characteristics, and character of writing; also diagrams & explanatory notes to facilitate reference whilst using them.	Colonel Sir C.W. Wilson, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., R.E., Director-General of the Ordnance Surveys		November 1891	Price Sixpence. 13 pages (including title). Print code 500-12/91. There are references to the 1888 characteristic sheet. Incorporating the section: Character of writing for Ordnance Survey plans. November, 1891. The cover title refers to this section alone: O.S. 404. Revised to November, 1891. Character of writing for Ordnance Survey plans	Private collection
O.S. 404. Ordnance Survey maps of the United Kingdom. A description of their characteristics and character of writing; also diagrams & explanatory notes to facilitate reference whilst using them.	Colonel C.F. Close, C.M.G., Director-General of the Ordnance Surveys		June 1914	For office use only. 14 pages (including title), 31 cm; thin brown paper covers. No print code. Incorporating the section: Character of writing for Ordnance Survey plans. June, 1914. The cover title refers to this section alone: O.S. 404. Revised to 1914. Character of writing for Ordnance Survey plans	NLS Map.X3.234

BEFORE THE FIRST WORLD WAR

How and where: or, A description of the maps produced by the Ordnance Survey of the United Kingdom;	Colonel R.H. Stotherd, Director-General of the Ordnance Surveys	London: Edward Stanford, 55, Charing Cross, London, S.W.	n.d.	24 pages, 13 cm. Gratis on application, or post-free for penny stamp. Stotherd was Director General from 7 April 1883 to	NYPL B-10 2184; Shropshire Archives 4756/1/41 (with manuscript addendum on page 17); private collection
---	---	--	------	--	---

Title	Publisher		date	Notes	Union list of copies
their scales and characteristics; with directions for obtaining them, and diagrams and explanatory notes facilitating reference while using them.				November 1886	
Ordnance Survey maps of the United Kingdom. A description of their scales, characteristics, and character of writing; also diagrams & explanatory notes to facilitate reference whilst using them	Colonel Sir C.W. Wilson, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., R.E., Director-General of the Ordnance Surveys	[Printed by Eyre and Spottiswoode for HMSO] – but no publisher named	1888	Price Sixpence. 12 pages, 33 cm. Print code 200-6/88 Wt 21792 E&S. With a section: Character of writing for Ordnance Survey plans. November, 1881, replicating the information given in OS 404. The same text also bound into “Ordnance Survey of England. County catalogue and reference book. Nottinghamshire” (see list of catalogues)	Copy once held by Ordnance Survey of Ireland, Dublin; photocopy in CUL CCS 410/1
Ordnance Survey maps of the United Kingdom. A description of their scales, characteristics, and character of writing; also diagrams & explanatory notes to facilitate reference whilst using them	Colonel Sir C.W. Wilson, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., R.E., Director-General of the Ordnance Surveys	[Printed by Eyre and Spottiswoode for HMSO] – but no publisher named	1890	Price Sixpence. 12 pages, 33 cm. Print code 500-4/90 Wt 1871 E&S. With a section: Character of writing for Ordnance Survey plans. November, 1881, replicating the information given in OS 404	CUL S696.a.88.53
Ordnance Survey maps of the United Kingdom. A description of their scales, characteristics, &c.	Colonel J. Farquharson, C.B., R.E., Director-General of the Ordnance Surveys.	[Printed by Eyre and Spottiswoode for HMSO] – but no publisher named	1897	Price Sixpence. 11 pages, 33 cm; 5 plates. Print code A 94772. 2000-1/97 Wt.16752 E&S	RGS; OSL
Ordnance Survey maps of the United Kingdom. A description of their scales, characteristics, &c.	Colonel D.A. Johnston, R.E., Director-General of the Ordnance Surveys.	London: Printed for Her Majesty’s Stationery Office, by Darling & Son, Ltd., 1-3, Great St Thomas Apostle, E.C.	September 1899	Price Sixpence. 14 pages, 33 cm; ? plates. Print code 4257-2000-11/99	BL Maps 207.b.23. The specimen map plates missing from this copy

Title	Publisher		date	Notes	Union list of copies
Ordnance Survey maps of the United Kingdom. A description of their scales, characteristics, &c.	Colonel D.A. Johnston, R.E., Director-General of the Ordnance Surveys.	London: Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office, by Darling & Son, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.	September 1902	Price Sixpence. 17 pages, 33 cm; 8 plates. Print code 12661-2000-9/1902 Wt 15947 D&S 8	CUL CCS 152/1; RGS
Ordnance Survey maps of the United Kingdom. A description of their scales, characteristics, &c.	Colonel R.C. Hellard, R.E., Director-General of the Ordnance Surveys.	London: Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office, by Darling & Son, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.	March 1906	Price Sixpence. 16 pages, 33 cm; plates. Print code 1000 3/06 D&S	Photocopy only known in private collection
Ordnance Survey maps of the United Kingdom. A description of their scales, characteristics, &c.	Colonel R.C. Hellard, C.B., R.E., Director-General of the Ordnance Surveys.	London: Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office, by Darling & Son, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.	July 1907	Price Sixpence. 16 pages, 33 cm; plates	Stanford University Library; private collection
Ordnance Survey maps of the United Kingdom. A description of their scales, characteristics, &c.	Colonel S.C.N. Grant, C.M.G., R.E., Director-General of the Ordnance Surveys.	London: Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office, by Darling & Son, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.	July 1908	Price Sixpence. 16 pages, 33 cm; 8 plates. Print code 3000 7/08 D&S	CUL CCS 152/2/1
Ordnance Survey maps of the United Kingdom. A description of their scales, characteristics, &c.	Colonel S.C.N. Grant, C.M.G., R.E., Director-General of the Ordnance Surveys.	London: Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office, by Darling & Son, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.	October 1910	Price Sixpence. 16 pages, 33 cm; 9 plates. Print code 3000 10/10 D&S	Birmingham University Library M0153270BU; University of Sussex Library
Ordnance Survey maps of the United Kingdom. A description of their scales, characteristics, &c.	Colonel C.F. Close, C.M.G., Director-General of the Ordnance Surveys.	London: Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office, by Darling & Son, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.	January 1913	Price Sixpence. 16 pages, 33 cm; 9 plates. Print code 3000 12/12 D&S	CUL S696.a.91.5; CUL S696.a.91.6; Seeley G. Mudd Library (via Yale University Library); RH

Title	Publisher		date	Notes	Union list of copies
Ordnance Survey maps of the United Kingdom.. A description of their scales, characteristics, &c.	Colonel C.F. Close, C.B., C.M.G., Director-General of the Ordnance Surveys.	London: Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office, by Darling & Son, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.	January 1917	Price One Penny. 14 pages, 33 cm; ? plates. Print code 1500 1/17 D&S. The front page illustrated in <i>Sheetlines</i> 15 (1986), 3	The Athenaeum, London; CUL CCS 150/10 (2 photocopies); Geographical Association Library
END OF SEQUENCE. Replaced by separate series of descriptions, one covering small scale, the other large scale maps. A third, covering medium scales, was added in 1947.					

Title	Publisher	date	Notes	Union list of copies
-------	-----------	------	-------	----------------------

SMALL SCALES

The cover designed by Ellis Martin, featuring three passengers in a motor car				
A description of the small scale Ordnance Survey maps with specimens & indexes [first edition]	Published by the Director-General at the Ordnance Survey Office Southampton	[1919]	Price 3d. 32 pages, octavo, including indexes. Some copies have 1920 revised price list (OSO-5000-26.1.20). With 9 specimen maps interleaved	
A description of the small scale Ordnance Survey maps with specimens & indexes – second edition, 1920 (on cover)	Published by the Director-General at the Ordnance Survey Office Southampton	1920	Price 6d. 32 pages, octavo, including indexes. With 11 specimen maps interleaved	
A description of the small scale Ordnance Survey maps with specimens & indexes – third edition, 1921 (on cover)	Published by the Director-General at the Ordnance Survey Office Southampton	1921	Price 6d. 26 pages, octavo, including indexes. With 10 specimen maps interleaved	
A description of the small scale Ordnance Survey maps with specimens & indexes – fourth edition, 1923 (on cover)	Published by the Director-General at the Ordnance Survey Office Southampton	1923	Price 6d. 26 pages, octavo, including indexes. With 10 specimen maps interleaved	
A description of the small scale Ordnance Survey maps with specimens & indexes – fifth edition, 1925 (on cover)	Published by the Director-General at the Ordnance Survey Office Southampton	1925	Price 1/-. 30 pages, octavo, including indexes. With 10 specimen maps interleaved	
A description of the small scale Ordnance Survey maps with specimens & indexes – sixth edition, 1927 (on cover)	Published by the Director-General at the Ordnance Survey Office Southampton	1927	Price 1/-. 30 pages, octavo, including indexes. With 10 specimen maps interleaved	
The cover by Ellis Martin, featuring an armorial design				

Title	Publisher	date	Notes	Union list of copies
A description of the small scale Ordnance Survey maps with specimens & indexes – seventh edition (on cover)	Published by the Director General at the Ordnance Survey Office Southampton	[1930]	Price 1/-. 34 pages, octavo, including indexes. Print code OS-10,000-30. With 10 specimen maps interleaved	
A description of the Ordnance Survey small-scale maps – 8th edition (on cover)	Published by the Director General at the Ordnance Survey Office Southampton	[1935]	Price 1/-. 24 pages, octavo. Print code OSO 368 5000 1.35. The indexes transferred to another section: Specimens and indexes of the Ordnance Survey small-scale maps of Great Britain, in 27 plates, bound in at the back	
A description of the Ordnance Survey small-scale maps – 8th edition (on cover)	Published by the Director General at the Ordnance Survey Office Southampton	[1935]	Price 6d. 24 pages, octavo. Print code OSO 368 5000 1.35. The specimens section is not included in this version, though the six indexes are present, unpaginated	
Specimens and indexes of the Ordnance Survey small-scale maps of Great Britain	Published by the Director General at the Ordnance Survey Office Southampton	[1935]	Octavo. 27 plates, usually bound in with: A description of the Ordnance Survey small scale maps, 8th (1935) and 9th (1937) editions, but also issued separately without cover	
A description of the Ordnance Survey small scale maps – 9th edition (on cover)	Published by the Director General at the Ordnance Survey Office Southampton	[1937]	Price 1/-. 24 pages, octavo. Print code OS 368 5000 4.37. With: Specimens and indexes of the Ordnance Survey small-scale maps of Great Britain, in 27 plates, bound in at the back	
A description of the Ordnance Survey small scale maps – 9th edition (on cover)	Published by the Director General at the Ordnance Survey Office Southampton	[1937]	Price 6d. 24 pages, octavo. Print code OS 368 5000 4.37. The specimens section is not included in this version, though the six indexes are present, unpaginated	
Cover design within a brown surround				

Title	Publisher	date	Notes	Union list of copies
A description of Ordnance Survey small scale maps [tenth edition]	Published by the Director General at the Ordnance Survey Office, Chessington, Surrey	1947	Price one shilling and sixpence. v, 21 pages, octavo. Print code OSO 10,000 9-47. With: Specimens and indexes of the Ordnance Survey small-scale maps of Great Britain 1947, in 19 plates, bound in at the back	
Specimens and indexes of the Ordnance Survey small-scale maps of Great Britain 1947		1947	Octavo. 19 plates, usually bound in with: A description of the Ordnance Survey small scale maps 1947, but perhaps also issued separately. Unique number 3273	
A description of Ordnance Survey small scale maps [tenth edition (revised 1949 – the revision is not mentioned)]	Published by the Director General at the Ordnance Survey Office, Chessington, Surrey	1947	Price one shilling and sixpence. v, 22 pages, octavo. Print code OSO 154/4025 R 8-49. With: Specimens and indexes of the Ordnance Survey small-scale maps of Great Britain 1947, in 19 plates, bound in at the back	
A description of Ordnance Survey small scale maps [tenth edition – reprinted with addendum 1951]	Published by the Director General at the Ordnance Survey Office, Chessington, Surrey	1947, reprinted with addendum 1951	Price two shillings net. v, 22 pages, octavo. Printed by the Campfield Press, St Albans, print code 409 K48 6/51. With: Specimens and indexes of the Ordnance Survey small-scale maps of Great Britain 1947, in 19 pates, bound in at the back	
A description of Ordnance Survey small scale maps [eleventh edition]	Published by the Director General at the Ordnance Survey Office, Chessington, Surrey	1957	Price two shillings and fourpence net. iv, 12 pages, octavo. Print code OSO 363/8000 11-56. With: Specimens and indexes of the Ordnance Survey small-scale maps of Great Britain 1957, in 17 plates, bound in at the back	

Title	Publisher	date	Notes	Union list of copies
Specimens and indexes of the Ordnance Survey small-scale maps of Great Britain 1957		1957	Octavo. 17 plates, usually bound in with: A description of the Ordnance Survey small scale maps, 1957 edition, but perhaps also issued separately. Unique number 4005	

Title	Publisher	date	Notes	Union list of copies
-------	-----------	------	-------	----------------------

MEDIUM SCALES

A description of Ordnance Survey medium scale maps [first edition]	Published by the Director General at the Ordnance Survey Office, Chessington, Surrey	1947	Price one shilling and sixpence. v, 21 pages, octavo. Print code OSO 5000 12-47. With 12 plates, some folding, interleaved	
A description of Ordnance Survey medium scale maps [first edition]	Published by the Director General at the Ordnance Survey Office, Chessington, Surrey	1947	Price one shillings and sixpence. v, 21 pages, octavo. Print code OSO R 2500 6-48. With 12 plates, some folding, interleaved	
A description of Ordnance Survey medium scale maps [second edition]	Published by the Director General at the Ordnance Survey Office, Chessington, Surrey	1949	Price one shilling and sixpence. v, 21 pages, octavo. Print code OSO R 7500 1-49. With 14 plates (unique numbers 11 to 24), some folding, interleaved	
A description of Ordnance Survey medium scale maps [second edition – reprinted with corrections 1951]	Published by the Director General at the Ordnance Survey Office, Chessington, Surrey	1949, reprinted with corrections 1951	Price two shillings net. v, 21 pages, octavo. Print code 400 5700 4/51, printed by Fosh & Cross Ltd, London. With 14 plates (unique numbers 11 to 24), some folding, interleaved	
A description of Ordnance Survey medium scale maps [third edition]	Published by the Director General at the Ordnance Survey Office, Chessington, Surrey	1955	Price two shillings and fourpence net. iv, 20 pages, octavo. Print code OSO 318/10,000 9-55. With 14 plates (unique numbers 55 to 67), some folding, bound in at the back	

Title	Publisher	date	Notes	Union list of copies
-------	-----------	------	-------	----------------------

LARGE SCALES

The cover designed by Arthur Palmer, featuring two men at a map table				
A description of the large scale maps of Great Britain produced and published by the Ordnance Survey, with specimens, symbol sheet, and diagrams [first edition]	Published by the Director-General at the Ordnance Survey Office Southampton	[?1920]	Price 6d. 20 pages, octavo. With 14 plates, some folding, interleaved	
A description of the large scale maps of Great Britain produced and published by the Ordnance Survey, with specimens, symbol sheet, and diagrams. Second edition, 1922	Published by the Director-General at the Ordnance Survey Office Southampton	1922	Price 6d. 20 pages, octavo. With 14 plates, some folding, interleaved	
A description of the large scale maps of Great Britain produced and published by the Ordnance Survey, with specimens, symbol sheet, and diagrams. Third edition, 1926	Published by the Director-General at the Ordnance Survey Office Southampton	1926	Price 1s. 20 pages, octavo. With 14 plates, some folding, interleaved	
A description of the large scale maps of Great Britain produced and published by the Ordnance Survey, with specimens, symbol sheet, and diagrams. Fourth edition	Published by the Director-General at the Ordnance Survey Office Southampton	[1930]	Price 1s. 20 pages, octavo. Print code OSO-3753-10,000-1930. With 11 plates, some folding, interleaved	
A description of the large scale maps of Great Britain produced and published by the Ordnance Survey with specimens, symbol sheet and diagrams. Fifth edition	Published by the Director General at the Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton	[1936]	Price 1s. 20 pages, octavo. Print code OSO 3753 3000 11.36. With 11 plates, some folding, at the back. The title page reset	

Title	Publisher	date	Notes	Union list of copies
A description of the large scale maps of Great Britain produced and published by the Ordnance Survey with specimens, symbol sheet and diagrams. Sixth edition	Published by the Director General at the Ordnance Survey Office Southampton	[1939]	Price 1s. 16 pages, octavo. Print code 3753 5000 1.39. With 8 plates, some folding, at the back	
Cover design within a blue surround				
A description of Ordnance Survey large scale maps [seventh edition]	Published by the Director General at the Ordnance Survey Office, Chessington, Surrey	1947	Price one shilling & sixpence. v, 23 pages, octavo. Print code OSO 5000 12-47. With 9 plates, some folding, interleaved	
A description of Ordnance Survey large scale plans [seventh edition (revised 1949 – the revision is not mentioned)]	Published by the Director General at the Ordnance Survey Office, Chessington, Surrey	1947	Price one shilling & sixpence. v, 23 pages, octavo. Reprinted 1949 with an addendum page. Print code OSO 001/2500R 3-49. With 9 plates, some folding, interleaved	
A description of Ordnance Survey large scale plans [seventh edition (revised 1949 – the revision is not mentioned)]	Published by the Director General at the Ordnance Survey Office, Chessington, Surrey	1947	Price one shilling & sixpence. v, 23 pages, octavo. Reprinted 1949 with an addendum page. Print code OSO 176/5000R 11-49. With 9 plates, some folding, interleaved	
A description of Ordnance Survey large scale plans [eighth edition]	Published by the Director General at the Ordnance Survey Office, Chessington, Surrey	1954	Price two shillings net. v, 21 pages, octavo. Print code OSO 181/8000 6-54. With 10 plates, some folding, interleaved, and the 1.6.54 price list (OSO 232/5000 8.54) inside the back cover. Other copies recorded with price lists OSO 342/5000 3-55, OSO 374/20,000 6-55	
N.B. A description of the Ordnance maps of Northern Ireland, 1952 and 1959 will be found in the list of catalogues				