



Sheetlines

The journal of
THE CHARLES CLOSE SOCIETY
for the Study of Ordnance Survey Maps

“Scaling the Depths”

David Andrews

Sheetlines, 104 (December 2015), pp28-29

Stable URL:

<http://www.charlesclosesociety.org/files/Issue104page28.pdf>

*This article is provided for personal, non-commercial use only.
Please contact the Society regarding any other use of this work.*

Published by
THE CHARLES CLOSE SOCIETY
for the Study of Ordnance Survey Maps
www.CharlesCloseSociety.org

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.

Scaling the depths - a wet walk

David Andrews

The story of the underwater right-of-way in August *Sheetlines*,¹ brought to mind a memory from 1966. At that time I was a young OS surveyor engaged upon the resurvey of Scarborough at 1:1250 scale. The local surveyors were sent a proof copy of the proposed revised edition of the North York Moors one-inch tourist map for comments. The previous, ('A'), edition of the map, (*figure 1*), did not include public rights of way.



Fig 1. North York Moors one-inch Tourist map, A// edition, copyright date 1963

When we inspected the proof of the 'B' edition we very quickly noticed that the proposed revised map had public footpaths crossing the waters of the reservoir just south of the village of Scalling Dam, (*figure 2*).

We immediately notified OS HQ in Southampton, convinced that this must be a mistake. The amazing response was that it was not a mistake. The draughtsmen had noticed this at compilation stage, and had raised the issue with North Yorkshire County Council. NYCC's reply had been that the footpaths were still legally public rights-of-way and OS was obliged to show them as NYCC were the authority for the routes and status of rights-of-way, and OS had to accept their authority in the matter and show them on the OS maps. Therefore the map would have to be printed with the footpaths crossing the water.

The map went to print and distribution. So much I know as fact from my own experience and knowledge.

The remainder of this article is based upon rumour, which is that there was a public outcry once the map went on sale. OS told the complainers, "it's not our problem, NYCC are the authority for rights-of-way, tell them".

Right: cover of B edition



¹ 'Washed out', *Sheetlines* 103, 52.

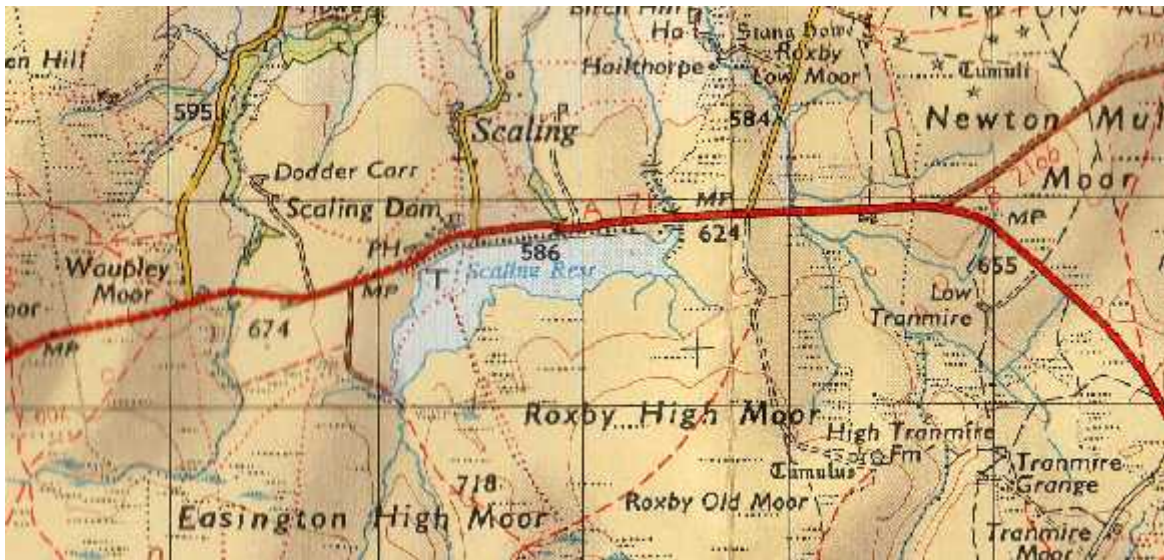


Fig 2. North York Moors one-inch Tourist map. B edition. copyright date 1966

NYCC then became so fed up, (or probably embarrassed), with the public complaints that they rapidly amended the definitive map to delete the offending footpaths and asked OS to reprint the map without the footpaths. OS took the line, “we told you about this at proof stage and you said you were not amending the Definitive map. If you want our map reprinted you will have to pay for the reprint, and withdrawal of the existing stock”.

Whether that actually happened I don't know, but the next edition, still copyright date 1966, appeared with the offending footpaths removed, (*figure 3*). Whether NYCC had to pay for the reprint and stock withdrawal I don't know. What I do know is that very few copies of the “B” edition seem to be around, and I have five in my collection. My grandchildren's inheritance

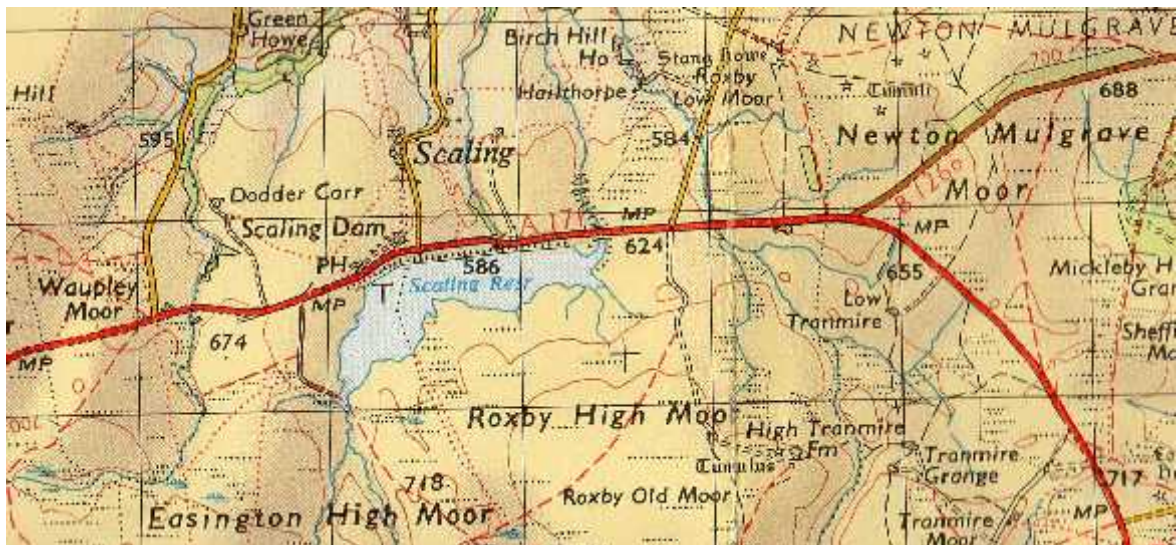


Fig 3. North York Moors one-inch Tourist map, B/ edition, copyright date 1966*