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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.

## ***Ordnance Survey and hunt maps***

***Tony Burgess and Derek Deadman***

*Sheetlines* has touched on various aspects of the adaptation of OS maps for use by huntsmen on several occasions (c.f. *Sheetlines* 11,16; 21,2; 22,15; 22,19; 66,33-36; 67,31; 97,38-42; 106,41-42) but members may still be unaware just how geographically widespread this practice was, or for how long such maps have been produced. The database constructed from his research by Tony Burgess<sup>1</sup> contains an extensive listing and description of fox hunting maps of the UK and includes three sections detailing nearly 150 Ordnance Survey maps adapted in some way for hunting purposes. Full details of the maps mentioned below may be found on this site.

The earliest recorded hunt map (not OS) produced for huntsmen was the W. King *Map of a Tract of Country Surrounding Belvoir Castle* that was published in 1806 at a scale of approximately one-inch to the mile. Although the map title does not explicitly mention hunting, that it was intended as a fox hunting map is attested by the fact that it was available in a box that carried the title *King's Hunting Map. Sold by J. Day, Bookseller, Melton Mowbray*. The map was dedicated to the Duke of Rutland whose seat was at Belvoir Castle, and who had his own pack of hounds. He apparently commissioned his agent William King to carry out the survey. Whilst the exact area covered by the Belvoir Hunt is not indicated, individual fox coverts are shown and named on the map. The relevance of this map to the Ordnance Survey has been well documented and discussed by Harley<sup>2</sup> and by Hellyer and Oliver.<sup>3</sup> Harley establishes that Lincolnshire (and consequently Rutland) was mapped 'out of turn' because 'the gentlemen of the county' in about 1818 – principally members of the Burton Hunt – wanted an up-to-date hunt map of their county comparable to that of King. Because of their efforts (which included a financial inducement), their appeal to the OS worked and the Lincolnshire and Rutland map was promoted up the order and published in 1825 (though with an imprint of 1 March 1824). As with the King map, the Lincolnshire and Rutland OS sheets did identify individual fox coverts (on these sheets termed covers – e.g. Normanton Fox Cover). Though not constituting a hunt map, the Lincolnshire and Rutland Old Series sheets do display information relevant to the huntsman. It does not seem to be known whether this was as a result of requests from hunts (e.g. the Cottesmore and the Burton Hunts), or whether such features were routinely shown as features on Old Series maps. OS maps, from the Old Series to the present, have marked fox coverts in words and not by a symbol. Presumably information on which areas were fox coverts would need to have been transmitted in some way to the OS. This could have been done by agents of leading landowners covering named

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<sup>1</sup> [www.oldkentmaps.co.uk](http://www.oldkentmaps.co.uk)

<sup>2</sup> JB Harley, *The Old Series Ordnance Survey Maps of England and Wales. Volume V. Lincolnshire, Rutland and East Anglia*, pp vii-x, Kent, Lympne Castle: Harry Margery, 1987.

<sup>3</sup> Roger Hellyer and Richard Oliver, *The First Ordnance Survey Map*, chp 4, The Charles Close Society, 2015.

features of estates. Less probably, hunts themselves could have provided the necessary details.

The period between about 1830 to 1880 was not one for which the Ordnance Survey provided much specifically for the huntsman. This may be because the market for such maps was well served by private map publishers who made scant reference to the OS for their source material. For example, Brown & Hewitt, Coombe and Oakden all provided maps for huntsmen in Leicestershire in the early 1830s. The Greenwood large scale (one-inch to the mile) map of Leicestershire (1826) had a special symbol on the map for 'woods and fox coverts' though the map of Rutland of the same year did not. It appears that most Greenwood maps did not carry the symbol. The Greenwood's major competitor in the production of large scale county maps in this period, A. Bryant, also had a special symbol for fox covers on at least some of his maps (e.g. Surrey, 1823; The East Riding of Yorkshire, 1829). Dewe's *New Map of the Country Around Oxford* (c1840) had fox hunting symbols indicating fox covers, Robinson (c1860) published a circular map of the bearings and distances of villages 12 miles from Grantham marked to show the fixed meets of the Belvoir and Burton Hunts in covers entitled *Illustrated Map of the Belvoir Hunt* and Maclehose (1862) produced a *Hunting Map of Ayreshire*. *The Sporting Magazine* published a series of hunt maps in the 1840s and Hobson's (later Walker's) *Fox Hunting Atlas* was available from 1849 with Walker's small folding hunting maps of the counties appearing from the 1850s. It should also be remembered that the Ordnance Survey was continuing its surveying of the country from south to north for the Old Series maps of England and Wales during this period. Ninety of the final 110 maps for the Old Series had been surveyed and published by the early 1840s, but the publishing of the mainland maps north of the Preston-Hull line was only completed in 1869. Thus, for some time, not all the country would have had OS maps available for use as hunting maps. The odd map such as Johnson's *Hunting Map of Cheltenham* (1845) that was 'reduced from the Ordnance Survey' paid lip service to the OS but this was unusual.

A group of little-known maps that did explicitly reference the OS as their source and which also (sometimes) gave hunting information were those of auctioneers Walton & Lee and of Farebrother, Ellis, Clark & Co. who both produced topographical map front covers for Sale Particulars for grand properties from the early 1880s. Elaborately decorated lithographic topographical map covers were prepared with the position of the property for sale marked in red. Where the property might appeal particularly to the hunting fraternity, the map would also display the places of meets, and also the local hunts prominently named across the face of the map in the same style as that used in the Hobson/Walker hunt maps. Unsurprisingly, given the pre-eminent position of Leicestershire in fox hunting, several of these hunt maps relate to that county (East Langton Grange, 1882, Freehold Estates near Melton Mowbray and Lutterworth, 1882, and the Gumley Hall Estate, 1892), but similar examples exist for other counties (e.g. Stanford Hall Estate, Notts, 1887). Most of these hunt maps do not give a specific scale, though that for East Langton Grange is stated to be

drawn at five miles to the inch. Several Sale Particulars refer to the Ordnance Survey as the source of the maps. For example, the Gumley Hall Estate details state that ‘The Plans are prepared and the quantities are taken from the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain, recently corrected by the Auctioneers’. These ‘corrections’ on this map included the insertion of a completely fictional railway connection north of Leicester between the Leicester & Swannington line and the line from Leicester to Peterborough. Examination of the Walton & Lee map covers suggests that all their topographical maps stemmed from the Ordnance Survey. A few maps even included hachuring reminiscent of that found on the Old Series. The major competitor to Walton & Lee in the auctioning of large estates was Farebrother, Ellis, Clark & Co. They produced at least one hunt map cover. This was almost identical to those produced by Walton & Lee. Again, it was a Leicestershire property (The Misterton Estate, 1883). Further information on these maps and on the firms that produced them can be found in Deadman.<sup>4</sup>

Once Ordnance Survey maps were available for an area in which hunting was an established practice, it would have made sense that those desirous of having a hunt map would seek to use an appropriate OS map rather than go to the expense and trouble of having a specific map printed. Judging by the maps discussed above, it appears that, ideally, the huntsman would desire a map to list the places of the meets, the area over which the hunt operated with its boundaries clearly marked and the locations of fox coverts. Additionally, if the map could be small enough to carry on the hunt for reference, this would be an advantage. Certainly, as noted above, some Old Series sheets did mark fox coverts, but whether this was standard practice for early OS mapping across the country remains uncertain. No systematic study seems to have been published on this type of feature on OS maps (though de la Mare<sup>5</sup> has considered kennels on one-inch OS maps) and none of the Ordnance Survey Instructions to one-inch field revisers of 1896, 1901 and 1909<sup>6,7</sup> refer to fox coverts explicitly. The one-inch revision instructions of 1896<sup>8</sup> did require that ‘Special attention should be given to hill, valley, forest and district names, and to names of commons, and objects well known in the district’. This might be interpreted as including fox coverts. On OS maps from the Old Series onwards, coverts may also appear under other names, such as holes, fox places, foxholes, gorse and named spinneys. Coverts were carefully planted and maintained by hunts. They spent thousands of pounds converting and maintaining patches of gorse by planting trees and shrubs to create ideal habitats for foxes.<sup>9</sup> The Quorn Hunt alone, which

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<sup>4</sup> Derek Deadman, ‘Map Covers on Sales Particulars’, *The Leicestershire Historian* 50, 11-15, 2014.

<sup>5</sup> Aidan de la Mare, ‘Hunting with dogs and the Ordnance Survey’. *Sheetlines* 97, 38-42, 2013.

<sup>6</sup> Roger Hellyer and Richard Oliver, *One-inch Engraved Maps of the Ordnance Survey from 1847*, chp 7, The Charles Close Society, 2009.

<sup>7</sup> Roger Hellyer and Richard Oliver, *A guide to the Ordnance Survey one-inch Third Edition maps in colour*, pp 41-52, The Charles Close Society, 2004.

<sup>8</sup> Richard Oliver, ‘The one-inch revision instructions of 1896’. *Sheetlines* 66, 11-25, 2003.

<sup>9</sup> Michael Clayton, *Foxhunting in Paradise*, p9, John Murray Publishers Ltd, 1993.

covers parts of Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire, had sixty-nine named gorse, covers and coverts in 1869-70<sup>10</sup> as well as at least as many other named 'venues', many of which would also have been coverts under other names.

For interest, an examination of a group of fox coverts near to the landmark hill of Billesdon Coplow, which is about six miles due east from Leicester, was carried out. This hill is in the Quorn Hunt area, just north of the boundary with the Fernie Hunt (originally part of the Quorn and later the Sir Bache Cunard in the 1870s -1880s). The history of these and other Leicestershire and Rutland hunts have been discussed by Clayton.<sup>11</sup> The examination of OS maps over time shows that the OS did update their information on coverts (or covers). Around Billesdon Coplow, the Old Series maps show Fox Hole Spinney, Botany Bay Fox Cover and an unnamed cover, and at a short distance near King's Norton, Norton Gorse and Norton Spinney. The New Series and all other series maps of scales of one-inch to the mile and 1:50,000 maps to the present that show this area omit the unnamed cover and Norton Spinney but include Lord Morton's Covert (west of Tilton). The importance of such notable coverts and spinneys to the huntsman is attested to by the accounts of hunting in this area in the late 1800s. Pennell-Elmhirst<sup>12</sup> devotes one chapter to 'The Tilton Day of 1881'. As part of the route taken, the hunt 'ran to within two fields of Lord Moreton's covert; then swung leftwards towards The Coplow'. Similarly in the season of 1878-79, he reports (p.250) that 'So they went to Billesdon Coplow, with a vain appeal, on the way, to Lord Moreton's little gorse at Cold Newton; and at the Coplow, or rather in its twin covert, Botany Bay, they hit upon a whole bevy of ... "the little red beasts" '. The scale of the half-inch map might be expected to mitigate against showing small hunting features such as coverts and kennels. Surprisingly, however, the half-inch small sheet series map of 1905 does show Botany Bay Fox Covert, though incorrectly named as Botany Pay Fox Covert. This error was corrected on the half-inch Large Sheet Series map of 1914.

The Ordnance Survey maps could be adapted to meet at least two other of the requirements suggested above – those for the precise delineation of the area and boundaries of the hunt and the portability of the map – and such maps began making their appearance in some numbers from the 1870s.

Early OS-based hunting mapping was mainly restricted to overlaying limited, if any, actual information onto a standard OS map. Unfortunately, in many cases the sheet marginalia would be removed from the map, making the dating a little more problematical. In the formative days (mid to late 1800s) the maps could be a one-inch or, less often, a six-inch map. The simplest approach was to case the map and entitle the case and/or map with some reference to a hunt, or an individual (possibly the name of the Master of the Hunt). For example, a box of two six-inch 1901 maps in red cloth entitled *North Staffordshire Hunt* in gold block lettering

<sup>10</sup> Squire de Lisle (ed), *The Operations of The Quorn Hounds 1869-1870 The Diary of Frank Gillard*, p 217, Sycamore Press, 1982.

<sup>11</sup> Michael Clayton, *Foxhunting in Paradise*, John Murray Publishers Ltd, 1993.

<sup>12</sup> Captain Pennell-Elmhirst, *The Cream of Leicestershire. Eleven Seasons' Skimmings*, pp 394-398, George Routledge and Sons, 1883.

on the cover with a 'North Staffs Hunt – Duke of Sutherland – North East' and 'South East' on the maps that otherwise have no information of specific interest to huntsmen. More commonly, the map would simply show a shaded outline of the hunt area with the hunt named. An example would be that of an Old Series one-inch map (post 1878) with the hunt outlined by a strong pink border and the words 'North Staffordshire' in blue uppercase across the hunt area.

Nicholson<sup>13</sup> has explored the development of the OS one-inch map from one designed with the military in mind to the emergence of a map that would appeal to the general public. Sir Charles Wilson, Director General of the Ordnance Survey, writing in 1889 stated 'The Department is directed to make maps ... for state purposes ... The construction of special maps for popular use was designedly left to private enterprise, and any attempt to compete with private firms in 'catering for the public' has been discouraged'.<sup>14</sup> In terms of the provision of specialist hunt maps based on the Ordnance Survey maps, the firm of Edward Stanford & Co. stands predominant. As an agent of the Ordnance Survey, Stanford had been offering high quality hand-coloured maps folded to go into the pocket from at least 1857.<sup>15</sup> By the time of the Dorington Committee of 1892 which considered both the out-of-date nature of the one-inch map and the suitability of OS maps for public use, Edward Stanford Junior was the sole agent for OS maps of England and Wales. Stanford's offered a service to hunts and huntsmen by offering to mount dissected OS maps in covers, with maps marked up to show hunt areas and names, and sometimes also with places of meets denoted on the map by red circles. They would (for a fee, of course) produce maps using OS sheets for single hunts or multiple hunts and even to very large maps made to hang from walls on rollers covering a dozen or more hunts. Typically, Stanford's maps carry a label for the firm, the earliest of which located so far is for a map covering seventeen named hunts in the counties of Leicestershire, Oxfordshire, Essex and Cambridgeshire. This used Old Series sheets electrotyped in 1879 and 1880 cased in a box with label entitled 'Country Around Upper Caldecote'. The whole map is hand coloured in pastel shades of ochre, yellow, purple and pink with Upper Caldecote Hall at the centre and marked with radiating circles from the Hall at one inch intervals. A more modest but still attractive production of the same period was a map with a Stanford label constructed from New Series sheets electrotyped in 1891 and sold in a red cloth Stanford case entitled 'Belvoir Hunt'.

Burgess<sup>16</sup> has identified thirty-seven separate hunt maps produced by Stanford's using one-inch sheets published by the OS from the Old Series in the 1880s through to the 1960s and the Seventh Series. Most of these maps, however, cover the period up to the 1930s, after which a second firm – Sifton Praed & Co. – appear to have become the major provider of hunt maps using OS sheets. Fifty-

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<sup>13</sup> Tim Nicholson, *The Birth of the Modern Ordnance Survey Small-Scale Map. The Revised New Series colour printed one-inch map of England and Wales 1897 – 1914*, The Charles Close Society, 2002.

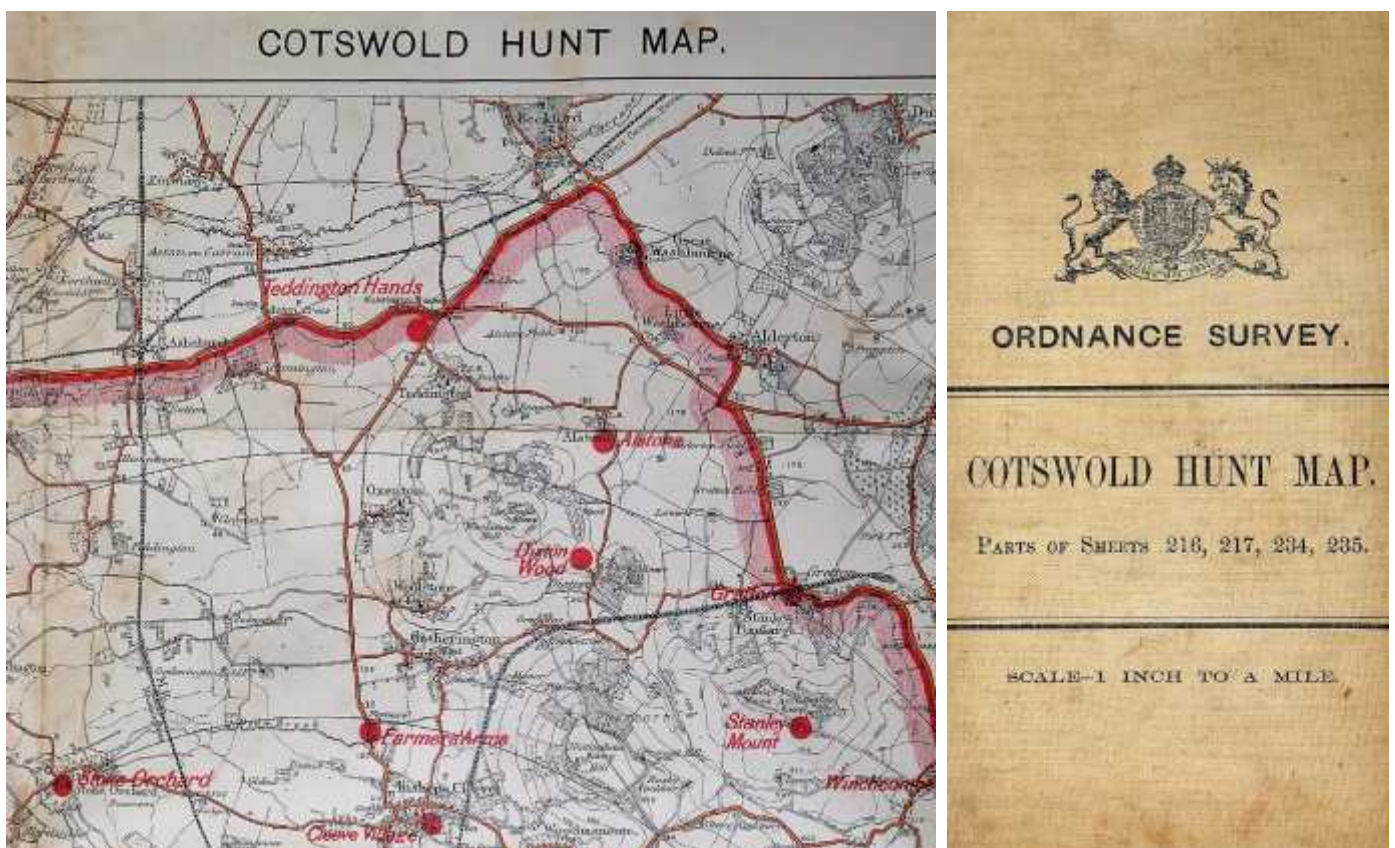
<sup>14</sup> *ibid*, p 8.

<sup>15</sup> *ibid*, p 6.

<sup>16</sup> [www.oldkentmaps.co.uk](http://www.oldkentmaps.co.uk)

nine of their hunt maps have been noted, the last being a map for the 'Hambledon Hunt' published in the 1960s using a Seventh Series OS map. Sifton Praed productions typically show a single hunt area outlined in a strong pink colour, possibly with the hunt named, in cloth or card covers with a decorative label with a handwritten or printed title. The hunt maps of these two firms cover the whole of England, from Exmoor in the south west to Yorkshire in the north. On the basis of hunt maps inspected, few other firms seem to have offered huntsmen such a service. Labels for George Philip & Son (*Herts Hunt*, 1907 – For use by the 'Herts Hunt Wire Committee'), William Stanford & Company (*Hunting Map of the Country Round Oxford*, 1905-07) and Cook, Hammond & Kell Ltd. (*The Warwickshire Hunt*, c1945) have been noted.

The Ordnance Survey did print one hunting map under its own name. This was the *Cotswold Hunt Map* with imprint date of 1903 that stemmed from the one-inch Revised New Series map of England and Wales. The hunt overprint was in green. In 1912, a map with the same title was printed by the OS but now based on the one-inch Third Edition map of England and Wales. On this map, the places of meets and the boundaries of the hunt were marked in red. It was bound in standard OS white covers (Hellyer 3.2.b.1)<sup>17</sup> entitled *Cotswold Hunt Map*. This latter map (at least) carried a note 'Printed Specially for Cotswold Hunt' making it an early example of a repayment service map.



<sup>17</sup> John Paddy Browne, *Map Cover Art*, Ordnance Survey, 1991.

One type of map intended for hunting use and using OS material is that which has been specially folded, presumably to allow the huntsman to consult it whilst in the saddle. Wheeler<sup>18</sup> has recently discussed an example of one version of this, the Stanford-Bridges method of Map Mounting, which was advertised as being ‘Especially valuable for Hunt, Motoring and Touring Maps or generally for Maps used in the open air.’ Wheeler describes a *Vale of White Horse* hunting map using a Popular map published before 1927 that displays the usual Stanford’s bright pink outline of the borders of the hunt. Burgess<sup>19</sup> reports two other examples both on Popular sheets (*South Notts* c1923 and a composite of two hunts, *Bicester & Warden Hill* and *Whaddon Chase* c1929). In both these cases, Hunt Meets are marked with red spots. Stanford’s were also involved in an earlier attempt to provide a novel form of mounting, namely Tunmer’s Patent Mounting. This method of folding was similar in intent to Stanford-Bridges in that it allowed only a small strip of map to be visible at a time. Whether the method was intended for use with hunting maps seems unknown. The example inspected has an Edward Stanford label and is a purely topographical map made up from first edition quarter-inch maps of 1902-03 stretching from Beachy Head in the south to Leicestershire and Rutland in the north and from Reading in the west to Lowestoft in the east. The whole is in three vertical sections each mounted ingeniously concertina style with tabs that allow parts of maps to overlay others. Major GK Ansell devised a system of back-to-back map folding that Stanford’s copyrighted in 1906. Whilst no hunt maps are known using this system of folding, a Stanford



<sup>18</sup> Rob Wheeler, ‘Stanford’s Hunting Populars’, *Sheetlines* 106, 41-42, 2016.

<sup>19</sup> [www.oldkentmaps.co.uk](http://www.oldkentmaps.co.uk)



catalogue of 1909 lists a Major Ansell *Aldershot District Manoeuvre Map* priced at eight shillings. This would suggest that hunt maps may have been priced at a similar sum. A fourth, much later, example of folding is the method of laminating and folding maps using Seventh Series sheets proposed by Lt-Col RA Turner, DSO, MC, as described in his booklet *Hunt Maps 'Of Name'*. "Ord Survey Crown Copyright" is claimed, but this may be for the maps used rather than the method of folding. Seventh Series maps c1965 for the 'Old Surrey & Burstow Hunt', the 'Puckeridge Hunt' and the 'Heythrop Hunt' have been found, each dissected and double-sided and contained in red pliable plastic covers. It is perhaps surprising that Stanford did not appear to use Pegamoid waterproofing often on their hunt maps. Only one example of a hunt map using this process has been noted. Its only connection to hunting is through the map title and cover (*A map of the South Western Environs of London for Cycling, Boating and Hunting*, Edward Stanford, 1899).

Ordnance Survey maps have been adapted and used for hunting in one way or another from nearly the start of OS mapping. Echoes from the hunts of the early nineteenth century remain to this day as named places on maps. Agents of the OS (and in one case, the OS itself) busied themselves colouring, dissecting, mounting and covering OS maps to show hunting boundaries, places of meets and kennels for the use of huntsmen all over the country. In rare cases, attempts were even made to come up with specially folded maps that could be used in the saddle. Hunting has resulted in the use of a surprisingly wide range of OS maps reflecting many aspects of this activity, new information on which is still being collected.

*Opposite: Belvoir Hunt map published by Stanford using OS New Series mapping, 1895.*

*Right: Quorn Hunt double-sided map published by Sifton Praed using Seventh Series mapping, 1953.*

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