



# *Sheetlines*

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

“1:25,000 First Series, Regular Edition”

*John Cole*

*Sheetlines*, 69 (April 2004), pp.31-34

Stable URL: <http://www.charlesclosesociety.org/files/Issue69page31.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](http://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.

## *1:25,000 First Series, Regular Edition – further notes*

*John Cole*

These maps were first mentioned in *Sheetlines* by Richard Oliver.<sup>1</sup> This essay with some update now appears in Roger Hellyer's guide.<sup>2</sup>

In *Sheetlines 47* I gave a brief account of the eleven Regulars, regarding in particular survey dates, and attempted to outline some of the differences apparent in the very early B editions. But having only recently collected all the A editions it is now clear that this list can be considerably augmented even though in the cases of SX45 (part 44) and SX55 the revised editions seen were the B/\* and B/\*\* respectively.

Common to many if not all eleven maps were the following changes between the A and B editions:

- housing additions to built up areas,
- road and road surface alterations,
- alterations to edge place names and/or mileages,
- name alterations and additions including archaeological names or descriptions,
- industrial security – deletion of product: mines, works, mills etc.,
- alterations of tracks to footpaths and vice versa,
- additions of tracks and footpaths (mainly the former),
- vegetation changes.

The 1957 revision leading to the B edition was primarily directed towards revision of Seventh Series one-inch sheet 187, about three quarters of which was covered by the eleven larger scale maps. In view of some of the changes it is conjectured that revisers were instructed to collect information applicable to the two and a half inch map but falling well short of a complete revision. In the following mistakes as well as changes are noted as some were not corrected in print until the advent of 1:10,000 scale maps published 1982.

### *SX45 (part 44)*<sup>3</sup>

Bracketed descriptions of naval establishments removed.

Unusual boundary remark applying to Plymouth Breakwater not repeated.

Numerous battery and fort names were left as per the A edition with the exception of Woodland Fort, 4759, which was deleted (see also SX55). In addition two barracks names, Plumer and Seaton, were deleted and a third, Raglan, retained. In the case of three other barracks identified by annotation and black colouration of buildings, two were retained and one deleted (with buildings reverting to grey infill). The Royal Naval Barracks (north east corner of 4456) was not named or annotated on either edition.

Although the B edition for this sheet was not seen, the B/\* shows numerous buildings not shown on the A for security reasons, notably (i) Devonport Dockyard, (ii) on Drake's or St Nicholas Island and (iii) the continuation of a road and buildings at 48/4951.

Naval fuel tanks added at 5556. It is not known whether the dense black squares are a crude obliteration; *Pathfinder* 1356 (revised to 1983) shows tanks in this position.

Buildings altered, Whitesand Bay Battery, 4051.

<sup>1</sup> 'Episodes in the history of the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map family', *Sheetlines* 36, 15.

<sup>2</sup> Roger Hellyer, *A guide to the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 First Series*, London: The Charles Close Society, 2003.

<sup>3</sup> Parts of the A and B versions appear as plates 4 and 5 in Roger Hellyer's guide.

A trig point symbol has been removed at Agaton Fort, 4559.

Buildings and annotation 'Battery' added 42/4349.

'Signal Sta' and feature removed, 4248.

Antony ferry removed, 4157, and '(V)' added to Torpoint ferry, 4454.

Railways alterations are: 'Track of old railway' added, 4057; Admiralty siding at 4457 converted (believed wrongly) to multiple track; railway complex within dockyard mostly shown but two tunnels (660 and 150 yard) not indicated; errors at 4754 corrected (level crossing shown as bridge and annotation 'Sta' – closed 1941 – removed). But in 4458 'Sta' has been wrongly deleted from the former Southern Railway St Budeaux Station whilst on the other side of the road bridge 'Halt' has been rightly added to the former Great Western St Budeaux Platform. However Dockyard Halt, 4555, had still not been added to the B edition. Curiously it *is* shown on the one-inch sheet but as disused, when in fact it was used at the time.

There are low watermark alterations (not significant on the one-inch) at 4453, 4654, 4854 and 4948, and a tidal depiction error on the A edition at 4952.

The county boundary on the A edition has been removed on the B south of the level of the sea at low water in 4359.

Hyphens have been inserted in the parish name 'Maker-with-Rame'.

#### *SX46*

Carkeel Camp name and buildings deleted, 4160.

Foot ferry deleted, 4469.

Group of large buildings deleted, 4566.

Annotation 'mill' removed, 4363.

Tidal limit removed, 4563.

Parish name 'Botus Fleming', 4061, moved to map edge.

Village name 'Bere Alston' altered to lower case lettering, 4566.

#### *SX47*

New school appears at 4773.

The position of the air shaft (4570) on the alignment of the canal tunnel which is not shown on any modern OS map, appears to have shifted from one field to another. The B edition position is confirmed on the 1987 Pathfinder.

Halt (Whitchurch Down Platform) added, 4377. This was in existence at time of A edition.

#### *SX54*

Low water mark alterations, 5047, 5048, 5148 and 5246.

Buildings removed at Wembury Point, 5058, and added at RAF Collaton Cross, 5649.

#### *SX55*

One battery name and two fort names appearing on the A edition have all been removed, 5057, 5058 and 5156. Additionally buildings have been removed at Forder Battery and altered at Austin Fort.

Annotation 'aerial cable' removed, 5658.

The Gables Hotel altered to Hospital, 5355.

Quarry extensions 5054, 5253, 5552 and 5954.

The position of two of the branch railway lines was as follows: Turnchapel closed to passengers 9/51, goods 10/61. Yealmpton closed to passengers 10/47, goods 2/60. On the A edition Oreston station was shown on the former; Plymstock (both lines), Elburton, Brixton Road (named in full), Steer Point and Yealmpton on the latter. Billacombe, 5253, was not shown. All stations were shown as disused on one-inch sheet 187 published 1961.

Plym Bridge Platform, 5258, not shown (appearing as a halt on one-inch sheet 187).

Marsh Mills Station 5256 should have been named in full as Marsh Mills does not appear on map.<sup>4</sup> Even though the railway had been dismantled by the time of the B//\*, 'Sta' and a black square remained on the map.

Village name 'Plympton' altered to lower case lettering, 5456.

### *SX56*

The name 'Heddon Down' has been added, 5860. However this was an obsolete spelling (Headon Cottage will be noted in the same square). It was corrected to 'Headon Down' on OLM 28.

'Sta' (Bickleigh) added 5262; was in existence at time of A edition.

Alterations to water areas, 5564, 5663 and 5662.

Administrative name 'Plym Forest' added 5460.

'In ruins' added to five farm names, 5668, 5669, 5769 and 5868.

Princetown branch railway line removed and altered to track of old railway.

'Mine (disused)', missed on A edition, added at 5968. This was the locally well-known Eylesbarrow tin mine, which should have been named in full as it eventually was on OLM 28.

### *SX57*

A wall extending from approx 592783 to 600782 (and appearing on SX67) was missed on both A and B editions, subsequently appearing on OLM 28.

The provisional marsh symbol (at odds with the legend) appears on both the A and B editions.

The annotation 'Field Firing Range' has been added to the B edition. It appears as 'Field Firing Area' on one inch sheet 187 and 'Merrivale Field Firing Area' on OLM 28.

The detail of Princetown Prison has been removed from the B edition.

The Princetown branch railway has been treated as per SX56. However some cuttings not shown on the A edition appear on the B.

Parish and village name 'Petertavy' altered to 'Peter Tavy', 5177 and 5749.

A trig point at 5971 has been given a value: 1461 feet.

The unfortunate 'BROCK' at 5375 on the A edition is converted to 'B Rock' (Boundary Rock).

Pitts Cleave Quarry (5076) is extended. A quite remarkable addition is to be noted in this square at 502767 on the B edition. This is a small enclosure of less than ten metres square which was hardly a significant change to the large scale map. However it was added to the 1:2500 in 1980, subsequently appearing on the derived 1:10,000 SX57HW and eventually OLM 28!

Television Sta at North Hessary Tor added 5774.

The name 'Holming Beam', shown correctly at 5976, is also shown incorrectly on both A and B editions inside the wood known as Long Plantation, 5975. This was corrected on an OS name form at a fairly early date but did not appear in print until the publication of 1:10,000 map

<sup>4</sup> For the same reason it was not necessary to name Bere Ferrers, 4563, on SX46 whilst Tamerton Foliot Station, 4460, was justified as it was a mile from the village.

SX57NE in 1982. Many other name corrections, alterations and additions appeared at this time on all the other relevant 1:10,000 maps.

### *SX64 (part 63)*

On the B edition, but not the A for some reason as yet unexplained, the vegetation symbol for both coniferous and non-coniferous trees is that of the provisional 1:25,000. This is only to be found in the woods either side of the Erme estuary and in some cases the symbol is mixed with the correct ones,

Low water mark alterations appear at both the Erme and Avon estuaries. There are also foreshore alterations at 6739 and 6838.

The name 'Denton's Rock' at 6838 has been shifted northward on the B edition and the rock itself, removed.

There is a considerable depiction of land alteration at 6846.

'(P)' for post office has been repositioned at 6947 and brackets removed; similarly at 6347.

There is a detail and vegetation alteration at Bolberry Down, 6838.

### *SX65*

The village names 'Ivybridge' and 'Modbury' have been reduced to lower case status, 6356, 6651.

The name and buildings of Ivybridge Camp have been deleted, 6456.

'Alluvium Beds', 6355, has been deleted whilst the feature itself appears as overgrown.

Administrative, name 'Erme Forest' added, 6250.

Building additions at Moorhaven Hospital, 6657 and glasshouses, 6858.

### *SX66*

Enclosures printed in the wrong colour (blue) on the A edition, have been altered to black at 6656, 6765 and 6766.

On the B edition at 63/6463 a feature has been added<sup>5</sup> and the river apparently widened at this point. On OLM 28 the feature no longer appears; the archaeological annotation is altered to 'Settlement' and the river reverts to its original width.

At 6261 the depiction of a reservoir (covered) has been altered and it ceases to be annotated under security rules. Similarly the Avon Dam Reservoir is added to the B edition at 6765 but not named or annotated (although the actual dam is).

A name 'Peathy's Path' is added at 6864 but no path is actually indicated.

The village name 'South Brent' has been reduced to lower case status, 6960.

The curious repetition of 'Green Hill', 6367, and in larger lettering at 6366 is repeated on the B edition. That at 6366 was removed on OLM 28.

### *SX67*

The annotation 'Ancient Trackway' is added<sup>6</sup> to the feature on the A edition at 6279.

'Hotel' is added at 6074: possibly a change rather than an omission.

The security alteration of removing 'powder' from 'mills' at 6277 is made to look ridiculous with the distinctive name 'Powder Mills Farm' appearing in 6276.

<sup>5</sup> Presumably that referred to by 'Enclosure & Hut Circles', annotated but not shown on the A edition.

<sup>6</sup> Believed wrongly – it is disputed in informed quarters that this was ever a track.