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“Tidal tales”

John Cole

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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.

Tidal Tales

John Cole

The implications of the term ‘revised’ together with a date or dates has been discussed on a number of occasions in *Sheetlines* and certainly in depth in issue 51. My personal preference had hitherto been the revision box diagram of the Seventh Series one-inch which according to its legend would be hatched, or stippled (virtually always the fully revised hatching) together with date or dates.

Years ago I regarded this as unimpeachable truth but sadly have discovered it not to be the case regarding low water tide lines or channels. My faith was initially shaken by the very first *Sheetlines* article I read,¹ but subsequently I have completed my own comparisons of all New Popular with (mainly) first edition Seventh Series sheets for England and Wales and a limited number of Scottish Sevenths with the previous Popular edition.

The low water tide line or channel on the following Seventh Series maps is partly (or as much as 90% in a couple of cases²) that of the New Popular and probably the Popular edition before: 56, 59, 67, 75, 88, 89, 105, 107, 162, 165, 172 and 173. In all cases these are unstable areas of sand and mud, but remembering that the Seventh Series revision took place when air photographs were readily available it is felt that even a more up-to-date approximation would have been better value than the state of the tide line some twenty years before, especially in view of the amount of revision claimed.

There are likely to be additional Scottish Seventh Series sheets with unrevised low water marks, especially as this was noted on the A (first revision) of sheet 72, *Dornoch*: ‘Fully revised 1955-56 except for low water mark’.

¹ Richard Oliver, ‘Taking to the water: some examples of Ordnance Survey mapping of the coast’, *Sheetlines* 45, 9.

² Sheets 75 and 88.