



Sheetlines

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“The old Town Series: 1:500, 1:528 and
1:1056”

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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.

The old Town Series: 1:500, 1:528 and 1:1056 (continued)

John Cole

This series was reviewed in *Sheetlines 61*, with examples given from the Godfrey Edition. Most people who are interested in these scales will be aware that for London, Alan Godfrey's 1:1056 total presently stands at 36 maps.¹ Anyone wishing to collect all of the original 326 London sheets but thinking that there may be a long time to wait, can to a certain extent do so (as well as cutting costs!) by obtaining the forty or so 1:2500 reprints for central London dated approximately 1862-73. Excepting the interior details of important buildings (which may be the main deterrent) and minor street furniture e.g. lamp posts, these are exact reductions of the larger scale right down to trees in back gardens. On the strength of two examples they would also appear to be a guide as to whether roofed areas on the 1:1056 are likely to be stippled. Yes, in the case of *Holborn, The City & The Strand*; no, in the case of *Whitechapel, Spitalfields & The Bank*. Perversely boundary descriptions, often difficult to follow without magnification, appear on the 1:2500 but not on 1:1056 examples I have.

Each 1:2500 sheet comprises four full, four half, and one quarter 1:1056 sheet, so that the figure of forty quoted provides 250 1:1056 sheets. The remaining 76 of the 1862-72 survey are to be found around the fringes of this area.

The revised or resurveyed 1:2500 maps of Glasgow and Edinburgh during 1893-4 are also reductions of the 1:500 map with similar limitations as in London except that Edinburgh's have been redrawn. Ten of the Glasgow 1893-4 1:2500 maps are (or were) available in the Godfrey Edition. When these were revised in 1909 a large percentage of the interior passageway divisions of tenements at ground floor level were removed as unimportant at the smaller scale. The whole of the Edinburgh 1:500 area, apart from five sheets on the fringes of 1.16 and 3.04, is contained in thirteen Godfrey 1:2500 sheets.² This amounts to 185 constituent maps (including an example which appears on the reverse of the 1:1056 *Edinburgh Castle* sheet).

In England most of the 1892-3 1:500 survey of Plymouth is embodied in the four 1:2500 sheets available to date. Exceptions are ten 1:500 maps around the fringe and a further five, covering the dockyard, not published for security reasons. In addition parts of a further fifteen maps (and consequently the same areas on the 1:2500) are also blanked out for security e.g. The Royal Citadel and the Victualling Yard. As in Edinburgh the reduced 1:500 is redrawn at the smaller scale.

Nine Godfrey 1:2500s in Lancashire and three in Yorkshire dated 1888-94 are wholly or partly 1:500 reduced. The 1:500 survey itself is a replot and/or extension of the original 1:1056 survey. The roofed areas in all of these sheets are unstippled or hatched and the general appearance is somewhat 'coarse' when compared with late nineteenth century 1:2500 for other parts of the country. There are also some oddities on the dividing lines between the 1:500 reduced maps and the 1:2500, as shown in the illustrations.

Although not mentioned in *Sheetlines 61*, another Irish example of 1:2500 enlarged to 1:1056 is available in the Godfrey Edition. This comprises three maps for the towns or villages of Bessbrook, Crossmaglen and Keady in County Armagh. The 1:2500 survey was

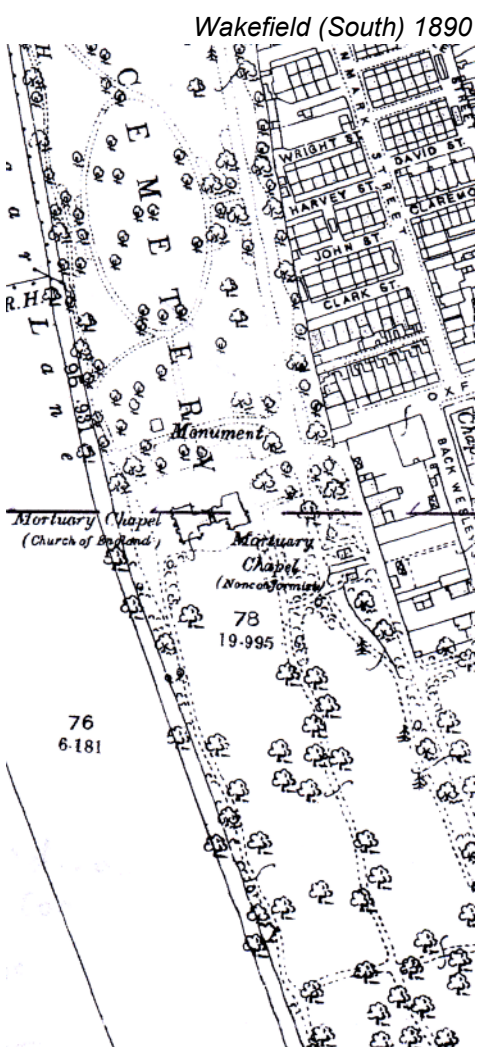
¹ Manchester and Salford, fourteen; Liverpool, seven; Leeds, four; Kingston upon Hull, two and Dublin one.

² Although the Edinburgh *Gorgie* map is dated 1905, the 1896 version (which includes five 1:500 reduced maps) appears on the reverse.

dated 1906-7 and whilst Bessbrook and Crossmaglen are 1917 reprints, Keady was reprinted in 1920.

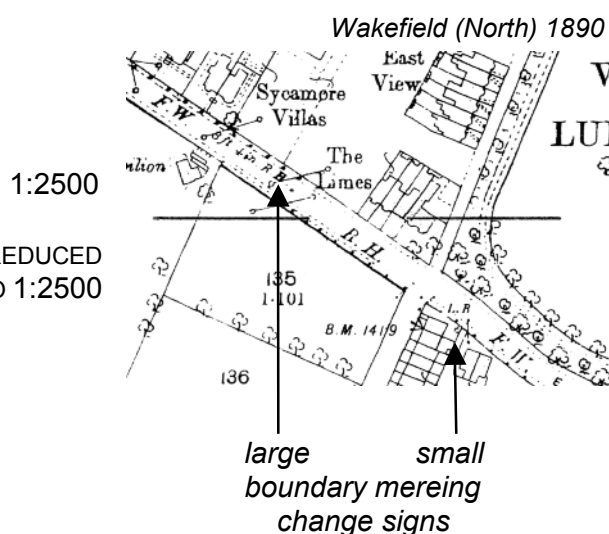
The characteristics are different from the other Irish examples in that roofed areas are not stippled or cross hatched, but the warnings are the same, in saying that the maps have been enlarged from the 1:2500 and ‘must not be expected to give measurements to a degree of accuracy greater than that to be expected from the smaller scale.’ (They are reduced by Alan Godfrey to a scale of 18 inches to the mile.)

Godfrey Edition 1:2500 maps of Lancashire and Yorkshire with dividing lines between the 1:500 reduced maps and the 1:2500 mapping added from the 1:500 indexes



1:500 REDUCED TO 1:2500
Bushes and small ornamental trees

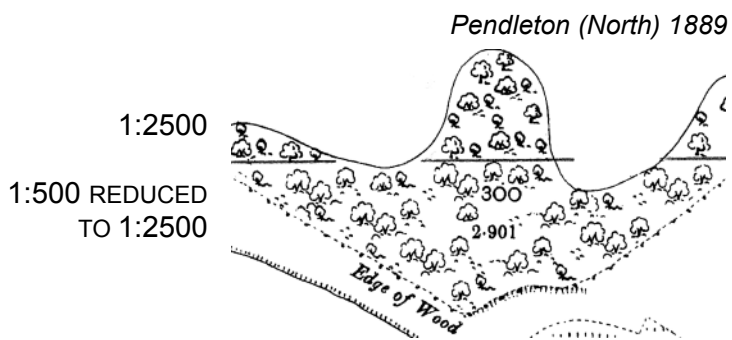
1:2500
Large ornamental trees



1:2500
1:500 REDUCED TO 1:2500

large boundary mereing change signs
small boundary mereing change signs

The examples show (above) a dramatic alteration of size in boundary mereing change signs and (left & below) abrupt alterations to vegetation depiction at the boundary between scales.



1:2500
1:500 REDUCED TO 1:2500