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“More New Popular printings and other
discoveries”

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More New Popular printings and other discoveries
K S Andrews and P S Welham

Introduction

The very useful cartobibliography of the New Popular Edition of one-inch maps of England and Wales was compiled by Richard Oliver from studies of his collection and those of Guy Messenger and institutional libraries, plus input from individual collectors.¹

Two thoughts prompted a search for additional printings. First, the institutional collections, especially the legal deposit libraries, would have early copies of the first printing of each sheet and were therefore likely to lack reprints. Second, it seemed an amazingly prophetic anticipation of demand for so many New Popular sheets to be reprinted seldom or never. There was just one edition of 28 sheets, there were two editions of 31, three of 17, four of 11, five of 8, six of ten, seven of five and eight of four. Therefore half of the sheets had only one or two editions.²

The Messenger collection of 380 covered maps has very few duplicates, probably by his intention, because there were a total of 352 editions of the 114 sheets. Though excellent for many purposes, this limits it as a resource for extending the cartobibliography by directly comparing several copies of an edition. The present authors have now studied their personal collections, amounting to over 2500 copies of the standard colour version in covers. This direct comparison of, on average, about seven copies of each of the editions has revealed some unreported reprints (copies with the same print code but different marginalia) and overprinted corrections. In addition, the grid reference examples and grid north – true north deviations on many sheets were seen to have been corrected in later printings.

Indications of a facsimile reprint were a change to the price range, the position of the edition code or the style of the magnetic variation data but it was decided that facsimile reprints must also be demonstrably later, found in later covers than the original, printed to replenish stock. Where there was no clear time interval, *i.e.* cover types were the same, the difference was classified as a print run change which created two concurrent states of the edition.

¹ Richard Oliver, *A guide to the Ordnance Survey one-inch New Popular Edition*, London: Charles Close Society, 2000, 29-57.

² Richard Oliver offers, in a personal communication, evidence that the demand was not always well judged, citing several examples of over-estimation. Even before replacement by the Seventh Series a substantial part of the stock of sheet 105 (5500 copies in 1951, of 20,000 originally printed) was overprinted and handed over to the military. There are also instances such as sheet 76 where there was evidently a considerable surplus, as 10,000 copies were overprinted for military use in 1956, after the Seventh was published. See Roger Hellyer & Richard Oliver, *Military maps*, London: CCS, 2004, 42. There are instances of Seventh publication being delayed to allow New Popular stocks to run down: sheet 122, dated 1953 but only released early in 1955, is the most outstanding.

Prices noted in the marginalia (with dates from Oliver, *op. cit.*)

Date range	Paper flat	Paper folded	Cloth folded	Diss-ected	Outline	RO code
Pre-publication	1/6	1/9	2/6	4/-	--	Aa
	1/6	1/9 ; 2/-	2/6	4/- ; 4/6	1/6	Ab
	1/6	2/-	2/6	4/6	1/6	Ac
1.9.45 – 30.6.50	2/-	2/3	3/-	5/-	2/-	B
1.7.50 – 30.6.52	2/6	3/-	5/-	10/6	2/6	C
1.7.52 – 31.3.58	3/-	4/-	6/6	10/6	3/-	not reported
	3/-	4/-	6/6	--	3/-	D
	3/-	--	--	--	--	E
1.4.58 – 31.12.60	3/6	--	--	--	--	F
1.1.61 on	4/6	--	--	--	--	G

A flapping red-on-white paste-on often accompanies the pre-publication prices Aa, Ab and Ac.

The price range shown in the table as 'not reported' is thought to include the pre-increase dissected price of 10/6 by mistake. The range is printed on sheet 143, *Gloucester & Malvern*, edition 1297. The dissected price is usually omitted from July 1952.

Since only the paper flat version of the printing was sold without a cover price, the price statements E, F and G were a sensible simplification. Map researchers, however, thrive on detail.

In the cartobibliography, the price ranges Ac for Sheet 126, edition 8045 and E for sheet 182, edition E/ should be corrected to Ab and F respectively.³

Magnetic variation data

Until 1952, there were four marginal magnetic variation diagrams, each giving an accurate representation of the local deviation and its value in degrees and minutes with a date, *e.g.* 1 January 1947. The rate of change of the deviation, less than a minute a month, exposed the excessive accuracy of the date. A single larger marginal diagram was substituted with no warning to the user that its angle, about 4°, was of artistic value only. The year, the true angle and the annual change were printed as a footnote. Style changes revealed two facsimile reprints as noted in *table 1*.

³ Note by Richard Oliver in *Sheetlines 28*, 23 and personal communication.

Sheet number	Edition	
95	1215	The price range was changed from B to C and the MV style and date changed from 1950 to 1952.
156	1254	The MV style and date were changed from 1951 to 1952.
169	F/	The price range was changed from E to F.
175	C/	The price range was changed from E to F and the print code was moved.
180	H/	The price range was changed from E to F.
183	A///	The price range was changed from E to F.
186	C	The price range was changed from D to F and the print code was moved. Later, it was increased in size. There are three printings of this edition.
188	D/	The price range was changed from F to G.
189	C	The price range was changed from D to F.
190	A///	The price range was changed from E to F.

Table 1. Facsimile reprints of editions of New Popular sheets

Facsimile reprints

Ten editions had marginalia changes that showed they were reprinted, one of them twice, and the cover variants are supporting evidence of a time lapse between the sub-states. For completeness, the reprints of sheets 169 F/, 175 C/, 183 A///, 186 C, 188 D/, 189 C and 190 A///, already in the cartobibliography, are included in *table 1*, where four of the reprints are new reports.

Sheet 186, *Bodmin & Launceston*, edition C is the one that was reprinted twice. The first state of this edition, C1, has price range D. The second state, C2, and the third, C3, have price range F and 00 below the grid letter diagram and can be distinguished by the size of the edition letter C. See *figure 1*. State C2 is a new report.

Print run changes

Some editions have sub-states but their cover variants are similar, suggesting that they were intended to be printed as a single batch. Sheet 164, *Minehead*, has an edition coded 25046.Cr. and is also common without the Cr. Paper and cloth copies are of both types and are found in covers ranging from KA3.3 to 3.6.⁴ Sheet 174, *Bude*, edition 20046/Cr is another example, with some copies having 20046/Cr. below Scale and others 20,046 Cr. above Scale, both found in covers KA3.3 to 3.5, paper and cloth. The authors have decided that these are not true facsimile reprints, not being later replenishments of depleted stock.

⁴ For details of New Popular cover codes, see *Sheetlines* 76, 14-28.

Sheet 186	Edition letter & position	Price range	00 below grid	Cover variants, KA	Cover date codes seen
C1	c low	D		6.2 – 6.4	up to 6.59
C2	c high	F	✓	6.4	8.59 and 9.59
C3	C high	F	✓	6.4	10.60

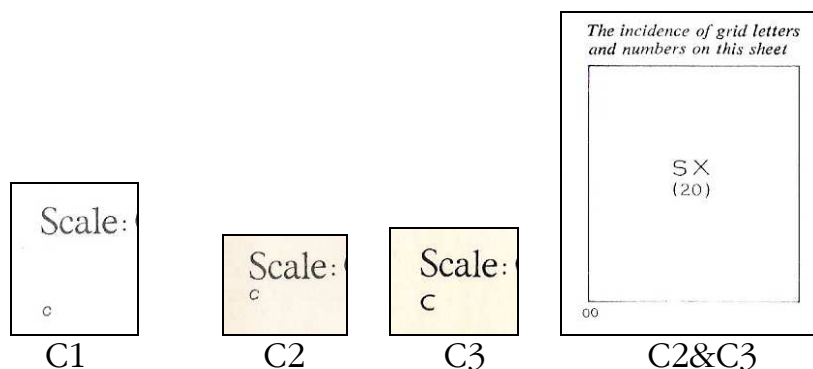


Figure 1. Details from the three states of sheet 186 edition C

Overprinted corrections

These are a different matter again. They affect sheets that have already been produced and were made to the print run either in whole or in part. For example, the 100 km grid reference square on sheet 176, *Exeter*, 30046 was corrected from 20 to 21 and copies exist with and without the overprinted corrections. The legal deposit sheet in Cambridge, acquired 11 October 1946, is uncorrected, and covered copies are in covers KA3.3 and 3.4. Corrected copies were found to be in the later covers 3.6 to 3.8. See *figures 2 and 3*.

On the other hand, the adjacent sheet 177, *Taunton & Lyme Regis*, 12045/Cr. has the grid reference square corrected from 30 to 31 and no uncorrected copy has been seen. Even the Cambridge copy acquired 17 January 1946 is overprinted as are two copies in the British Library acquired in the same month.

Like many others, sheets 136, 20046 and 137, 30046 have 'Provisional Edition' in the heading but these particular ones also exist with the words deleted by overprinting because they were not provisional. The British Library has both versions of both maps.⁵ The heading was trimmed from folded maps so is not often seen in private collections.

⁵ The BL uncorrected copies have no acquisition date but the ones with deletions are ex Directorate of Military Survey Map Library dated 19/11/46 (sheet 136) and 2/1/47 (sheet 137). At shelfmark 1175 (264). Uncorrected sheets may therefore be scarce.

THE NATIONAL GRID			
To refer to a particular point:- (1) Read for each half of the reference the double figures printed in large type in the margins, which denote tens of Kilometres and Kilometres. (2) Then, to obtain reading to nearest 100 metres, estimate position of point in tenths from the grid lines, which are 1,000 metres apart.			
THUS TO GIVE A NORMAL NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE ON THIS SHEET			
EXAMPLE		SILVERTON STA.	
East		North	
Take west edge of square in which point lies and read the large figures printed opposite this line on north or south margins.	97	Take south edge of square in which point lies and read the large figures printed opposite this line on east or west margins.	01
Estimate tenths Eastwards	7	Estimate tenths Northwards	6
	977		016
Reference		977016	
Similar references occur at intervals of 100 Kilometres i.e.- in each of the figured squares in the diagram. The figure indicating the square should be added where necessary; thus as the point is in square 20 it may be referred to as 20/977016			
Crown Copyright Reserved.			

Figure 2. Sheet 176, edition 30046 with grid square 20 uncorrected

THE NATIONAL GRID			
To refer to a particular point:- (1) Read for each half of the reference the double figures printed in large type in the margins, which denote tens of Kilometres and Kilometres. (2) Then, to obtain reading to nearest 100 metres, estimate position of point in tenths from the grid lines, which are 1,000 metres apart.			
THUS TO GIVE A NORMAL NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE ON THIS SHEET			
EXAMPLE		SILVERTON STA.	
East		North	
Take west edge of square in which point lies and read the large figures printed opposite this line on north or south margins.	97	Take south edge of square in which point lies and read the large figures printed opposite this line on east or west margins.	01
Estimate tenths Eastwards	7	Estimate tenths Northwards	6
	977		016
Reference		977016	
Similar references occur at intervals of 100 Kilometres i.e.- in each of the figured squares in the diagram. The figure indicating the square should be added where necessary; thus as the point is in square 20 ₂₁ it may be referred to as 20 ₂₁ /977016			
Crown Copyright Reserved.			

Figure 3. Sheet 176, edition 30046 with grid square 20 corrected to 21

Sheet number	Edition		States seen
97	1022	Overprinting L.M.& S.R. to L.& N.E.R. in lower margin.	1
136	20046	'Provisional Edition' in upper margin deleted.	2
137	30046	'Provisional Edition' in upper margin deleted.	2
161	8046/Cr.	Overprinting E to W twice in True N – Grid N variations. See <i>figure 4</i> .	1
164	25046.Cr	Cr removed from the code.	2
174	20046/Cr	Print code moved.	2
176	30046	Overprinting grid square 20 to 21.	2
177	12045/Cr	Overprinting grid square 30 to 31.	1
189	40,046	MV angle corrected to 11°38' by overprinting.	2

Table 2. Print run changes and overprinted corrections to editions of New Popular sheets

For completeness, the changes to sheets 97 1022, 164 25046, 174 20046/Cr and 189 40046, already in the cartobibliography, are included in *table 2*, where five of the changes are new reports.

Grid reference corrections

The first New Popular maps to be produced had an explanation of The Ordnance Survey Grid which was covered at a late stage with a pasted slip titled The National Grid. The British Library has copies of sheets 161, 11040 and 169 (no code) without, surprisingly, the National Grid paste-ons. This paste-on was chiefly to replace an unsatisfactory single-letter system by a two-number system for identifying the 100 kilometre squares.

The eastings or northings in the grid reference examples on 26 sheets were changed. Both eastings and northings were altered on a further eight sheets, two of the double faults being altered in stages. Every change meant a reduction by 100 metres except the easting on sheet 142 which was the sole instance of an increase. To have 42 changes on 114 sheets is either indicative of a confused Romer user or of a new official procedure requiring not a rounded reference but one designed to be to the south-west of the example, though the instructions do not allude to this. It would leave the six figures undisturbed in an eight-figure version of the reference. The exception on sheet 142, where the movement is to the east, was evidently only spotted after the preparation of the Seventh Edition pilot sheet in the summer of 1949, as that retains the uncorrected reference.⁶

The readings before and after the changes are given in *table 3*.

True north untrue

The east and west edges of each sheet are grid north. The deviation of each edge from true north is recorded in the marginalia.⁷ The values naturally change with latitude and longitude but some were found to change by human error between editions as follows.

- A correction of 1 minute was common and, exceptionally, the value for the west edge of sheet 178 was subject to vacillation.
- On five maps the minutes were shown as seconds – not always amended in later editions. All four sheets printed at Waddon have this error.
- *The Chilterns*, sheet 159 had a large error on both edges because sheet 160 values were used.
- The east and west edges of the map were confused on sheet 167.

⁶ Thanks to Richard Oliver for suggesting a change of policy as an explanation and the subsequent comments.

⁷ Some early sheets do not give values and others have the value for the centre of the sheet only.

See *table 4* for a complete list of changes. True north is always correct – what a rash assertion!

Sheet number	Last edition before change	Grid reference	First edition with change	Grid reference
89	1014	522 773	1231	521 773
92	1017	683 768	1198	682 768
108	1033	127 716	1211	126 715
118	1043	474 188	1247	474 187
119	20046	827 351	1278	826 351
124	15046/Cr.	521 094	1262	520 094
126	25,000/7/46 Wa.	303 186	1288	302 185
129	1054	432 830	1218	431 830
134	20046.	245 714	1186	244 713
135	20046.	647 732	1286	646 731
142	1067	463 336	1239	464 336
143	30046.	772 223	1227	772 222
			1264	771 222
146	1176	695 153	1307	695 152
147	16,046/Cr	124 181	1188	123 181
149	20046.	849 298	1206	849 297
156	1185	737 816	1254	736 816
157	1147	238 876	1273	237 876
159	1252	813 981	D	812 981
162	1274	905 979	F	904 979
163	25,046/Cr.	674 293	1195	674 292
164	25046.	927 256	1190	927 255
			1303	926 255
166	1178	874 268	D	874 267
167	1123.	925 539	1150	924 538
168	25000/6/46 Wa.	518 428	1162.	517 428
169	1125	955 414	1151	954 414
171	1152	519 465	1259	519 464
175	20046.	523 872	1212	522 872
176	1201	977 016	1275	976 016
177	1205	454 085	1257	453 085
182	1156	148 293	1235	148 292
183	1157	526 068	1291	525 068
187	1179	527 637	C	527 636
188	30046.	683 504	1193	683 503
190	35046.	742 453	1229	741 452

Table 3. Changes to eastings and northings of grid reference examples

Sheet number	Edition	East edge	West edge
93	1018	1° 35' W	
	B	1° 37' W	
126	25,000/7/46 Wa. and 1288	3° 01" W seconds	2° 33" W seconds
150	up to 1207		2° 24' W
	C		2° 25' W
159	20,046 and 1202	1° 32' W	1° 05' W
	from 1159	1° 10' W	0° 43' W
162	20,046/7/46.Wa. and 1197	2° 23" W	1° 56" W
	1274 and F	2° 23' W	1° 56' W
163	up to 1237		1° 46' E
	E and E/		1° 47' E
167	1123	0° 05' E	0° 19' W
	from 1150	0° 19' W	0° 08' E
168	25000/6/46 Wa.	0° 46" W	0° 19" W
	from 1162	0° 46' W	0° 19' W
173	up to 1280	2° 43' W	2° 16' W
	E/ and E//	2° 42' W	2° 15' W
178	15,045/Cr.		0° 32' E
	25,046		0° 31' E
	1228		0° 32' E
	E, E/ and E///		0° 31' E
180	10046/Cr. to 1183	0° 45" W	0° 19" W
	from 1155	0° 45' W	0° 19' W
181	25000/6/46 Wa.	1° 09" W	0° 42" W
	from 1194	1° 09' W	0° 42' W

Table 4. Grid north – true north deviation corrections

Conclusions

With the 352 editions of the New Popular sheets there are, in addition, 17 sub-states, of which six were caused by print run changes or overprinted corrections. There are 11 facsimile reprints of the map area with changed marginalia. This study prompts the thought that there could well be a few more detectable reprints waiting to be discovered. The frequency of undetectable reprinting can only be imagined by extrapolation. It is concluded that low stocks of a sheet did not necessarily trigger the revision of a sheet to produce a batch with a new print code. Late printings of the popular sheets of Devon and Cornwall feature prominently in the list of facsimiles.

This is the first report of facsimile reprints of New Popular sheets with a change from old to new style magnetic variation information.

Grid references and true north deviations were evidently subject to occasional checks.

True North at the East and West edges of this sheet is $01^{\circ}59'$ ^{W.} ~~E.~~ and $01^{\circ}32'$ ^{W.} ~~E.~~ of Grid North respectively, and is always correct
Annual change in Magnetic Variation is about $10'$ E.

Figure 4. Sheet 161, edition 8046/Cr. with E overprinted W.

Acknowledgements

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