



# *Sheetlines*

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

“Surveyor's name on OS map”

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*Sheetlines*, 88 (August 2010), pp.41-43

Stable URL: <http://www.charlesclosesociety.org/files/Issue88page41.pdf>

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Published by  
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for the Study of Ordnance Survey Maps  
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***Surveyor's name on an OS map***

***Richard T Porter***

There is a minor tradition of cartographers' names appearing clandestinely on topographical maps, concealed e.g. in rock drawing<sup>1</sup> or coral symbols,<sup>2</sup> but even less common may be the overt appearance of a surveyor's name. I cannot claim the present instance as being one where the surveyor's name appears on the very map sheet which he surveyed, but the surveyor in question had served as an OS surveyor, and his first name does appear on an Ordnance Survey map. Since this does not include his surname, his identity will not be apparent without a field visit, so it is worth recording the circumstances for the interest of future students of Sussex place-names, although an outline account has already appeared.<sup>3</sup>

'Ken's Crossing' is a footbridge named after Kenneth Charles Dunlop (13 April 1926 to 21 July 2007). Born in Peshawar, where his father, Lt.-Col. C A M Dunlop, was with the 37th Dogras, he was educated at Bradfield College. In October 1944 Ken Dunlop enlisted in the Royal Artillery, was sent on a six-month gunnery course at Worcester College, Oxford, and commissioned in July 1946 as a Second Lieutenant (promoted Lieutenant after six months). He was posted to India (August 1946 to December 1947) in the 8th Brigade, Field

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<sup>1</sup> Chris Higley, 'Coastal Graffiti', *Sheetlines* 76 (August 2006) 62-63.

<sup>2</sup> Anecdotally, on DOS Fiji 1:50,000 maps; there may be others.

<sup>3</sup> 'Ken's Crossing', *Viewpoint* (The journal about Ordnance Survey and its people), 234 (Spring 2009), 24. This includes a reduced (c. 1:1440) copy of a 1:500 coloured Sitemap showing the name, and a computerised 'manuscript' extract from the author's request to OS.

Regiment R.A., serving in Coimbatore and Secunderabad. He was demobilised in March 1948.

He read for the Geographical Tripos at Pembroke College, Cambridge, graduating in 1951. After a survey course at the School of Military Survey, he then joined the Colonial Survey Service as a land surveyor in Northern Rhodesia, 1952-65; here he was for a short time Divisional Surveyor, Fort Jameson, but for most of his service he was a cadastral surveyor based in Lusaka. He then worked as an experimental officer in the Geodetic Office, SPC, at Feltham until in April 1969 he joined the Directorate of Overseas Surveys as a Senior Surveyor. His first posting was to British Honduras, followed by Botswana, in each case as party leader. He was seconded as Chief Surveyor to Seychelles, November 1972 to November 1974. As a member of the Joint Survey Service he was then appointed Deputy Regional Controller in the Ordnance Survey South Eastern Region, based in Tolworth Tower. Here, he covered an area then extending eastwards and southwards from High Wycombe to the coast, including the whole of London. He was responsible for 24 field offices and made regular liaison visits to the Greater London boroughs and district councils of surrounding areas.

In the period July 1977 to November 1985, Ken Dunlop was again seconded overseas, to the Cayman Islands to fill the post of Chief Surveyor and Registrar of Lands, latterly relinquishing the Chief Surveyor duties.<sup>4</sup> He published papers on land registration in the Caymans and St Lucia.

Following his retirement from government service, he was appointed Land Registry Advisor to the St Lucia Land Registration Titling Project until the end of 1987<sup>5</sup> and in 1988 produced a manual of land registry procedure. His final overseas assignment was to prepare an unpublished study of the Tanzania Land Policy Development project in 1994.

It was during his final retirement at West Chiltington, in Sussex, that Ken Dunlop identified the need for a footbridge across the River Chilt in Monkmead Woods, almost opposite his home, to link the two sections of woodland, so that families and dog-walkers would not have to use the main road. In 1992 he built his first bridge, but it was soon washed away by floods; its immediate successors either rotted or were vandalised, but the fourth incarnation (1997) was so well used that by popular demand it was replaced (2003) by a permanent structure, warmly welcomed by West Chiltington Parish Council, commissioned by the Horsham District Council, and built by an external construction company.<sup>6</sup>

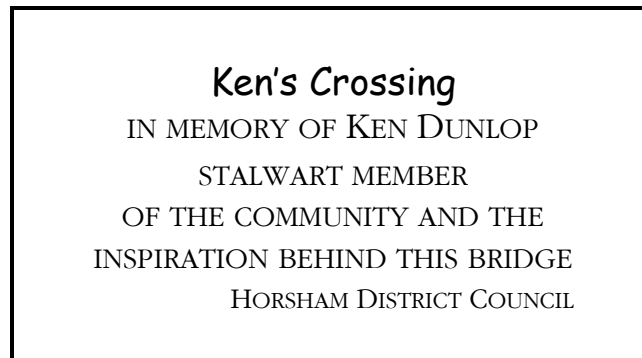
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<sup>4</sup> His work in the Caymans is remembered in Alan Markoff, 'Former Registrar of Lands dies', *Caymanian Compass*, weekend edition, Friday-Sunday, 10-12 August 2007.

<sup>5</sup> This is the main theme in Keith Syrett, 'Obituary: Ken Dunlop FRICS (Rtd)', *Geomatics World* 16.5 (July/August 2008) 10.

<sup>6</sup> A fuller account of the earlier versions of the bridge, and of Dunlop's local interests, is given in Charlie Ebers, 'Bridge tribute to a stalwart', *West Sussex County Times*, 1 February 2008, 5.

The 1997 and 2003 structures were being referred to locally as ‘Ken’s Bridge’ while Dunlop was still alive. After his death, his family came up with the idea of a commemorative plaque, and felt that ‘Ken’s Crossing’ had a better, and more alliterative, ring to it. This name, and the plaque, were approved by the District Council:



This was unveiled on 28 January 2008.

At Mrs Dunlop’s suggestion, the author wrote to OS to propose the survey and naming of this bridge as ‘Ken’s Crossing’ on the National Geographic Database. The resulting Sitemap is published in *Viewpoint*.<sup>3</sup> The full National Grid reference of the centre of the bridge is TQ 07869 16677.

OS Object Name Books give ‘Authorities’ and ‘Descriptive remarks’ for the names of the features they list, but for the most part they add little to the map information except where they detail the land use (arable, pasture), include disquisitions by local experts, or give the ownership of the land.<sup>7</sup> Only half-a-dozen of Dancy’s examples, culled from the length and breadth of Britain, provide real or supposed *explanations* of the name.<sup>8</sup> It is only when we have such explicit detail as that related above that we can claim one of Professor Ross’s pristine place-names: ‘In my Salamanca lecture [April 1955] I introduced the concept of the *pristine* place-name, that is, a place-name of whose act of creation we are cognisant. Most of the world’s place-names are, of course, non-pristine’.<sup>9</sup>

### ***Acknowledgements***

I am most grateful to Ken Dunlop’s son, Colin, and Ken’s sister, Mrs Vanrenen, for providing almost all the background information, and the references cited, about Ken Dunlop’s career. OS Customer Service Centre (Emma Cutler), the OS technical team, and the *Viewpoint* Publishing Editor (Hannah Whittle) have been extremely helpful.

<sup>7</sup> I have in mind here the ONBs for the Edition of 1910 of the north-western Yorkshire Wolds (PRO OS 35). For the disquisitions see Maurice Beresford, ‘The spade might soon determine it’: the representation of deserted medieval villages on Ordnance Survey plans, 1849-1910, *Agricultural History Review*, 40.1 (1992) especially pp 68-69.

<sup>8</sup> John Dancy, ‘Object name books’, *Sheetlines* 75 (April 2006), 21.

<sup>9</sup> Alan S C Ross and A W Moverley, *The Pitcairnese language*, London: Andre Deutsch, 1964, 11-12.