



# *Sheetlines*

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“Hunting with dogs and OS”

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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.

## ***Hunting with dogs and the Ordnance Survey***

***Aidan de la Mare***

There are two links between the sport of hunting with dogs and the Ordnance Survey. There are specially prepared Hunt maps, usually, perhaps exclusively, at one-inch scale, that are often cut-and-paste assemblies by such firms as Stanfords. And there is the presence of the word *Kennels* on one-inch and larger-scale maps, that may, and often does, represent hunt kennels. It is worth mentioning that a foxhunting pack may be made up of sixty to eighty adult dogs that need significant buildings to house them, although other hunts may have many fewer. I began this study some years ago by noting kennels on Fifth Edition maps while searching for garages,<sup>1</sup> but as I had an incomplete set of maps then, I did not pursue it. But I have picked up the subject again now that I have better coverage of maps and a copy of the essential reference book for hunts. This is the annual publication *Baily's Hunting directory*, I have the 1953-54 edition, a 650 page book then in its forty-eighth year. I bought this as it matches quite well with my set of New Popular maps, the earliest that I have at one-inch scale that covers all of England and Wales.

Hunt maps must have been quite plentiful, but they are now difficult to find and expensive to buy – even with the delights of eBay at one's disposal; I have only managed to find nine. The earliest is the most interesting; *Pytchley hunt map* (Northamptonshire) dating from about 1908 (*opposite*). It is assembled by Stanfords from parts of three sheets of the New Series in Colour, 170, 171 and 186, and from three Third Edition, Small Sheets 185, 202 and 203 (this is because, by chance, the map falls on the northern limit of the latter). The map is dissected and folded into a red book cover, and the map itself has seen quite a lot of wear and some exposure to wet, presumably in the field. The hunt boundary is coloured in shaded red and the hunt territory has a very thin pink wash, and the big estates are coloured by hand in green as are the woods on the New Series maps that were not printed in green. There are circles in increments of one mile centred, not on the Hunt kennels, but on the village of Long Buckby near the western boundary, which suggests that the map was assembled specially for the owner who lived there. It would be interesting to know if any other Pytchley maps survive, and compare them.

The *Cotswold hunt map*<sup>2</sup> is, as far as I know, the only hunt map that was printed by OS, my copy is the Second Edition of 1912 made up of four Third Edition Small Sheets in the outline and sienna roads format. The Hunt boundary and meet places are boldly printed in red, and there are black circles at two mile increments centred on the kennels that were then at Cheltenham. Although interesting as OS history it lacks the star quality of the Pytchley hunt map.

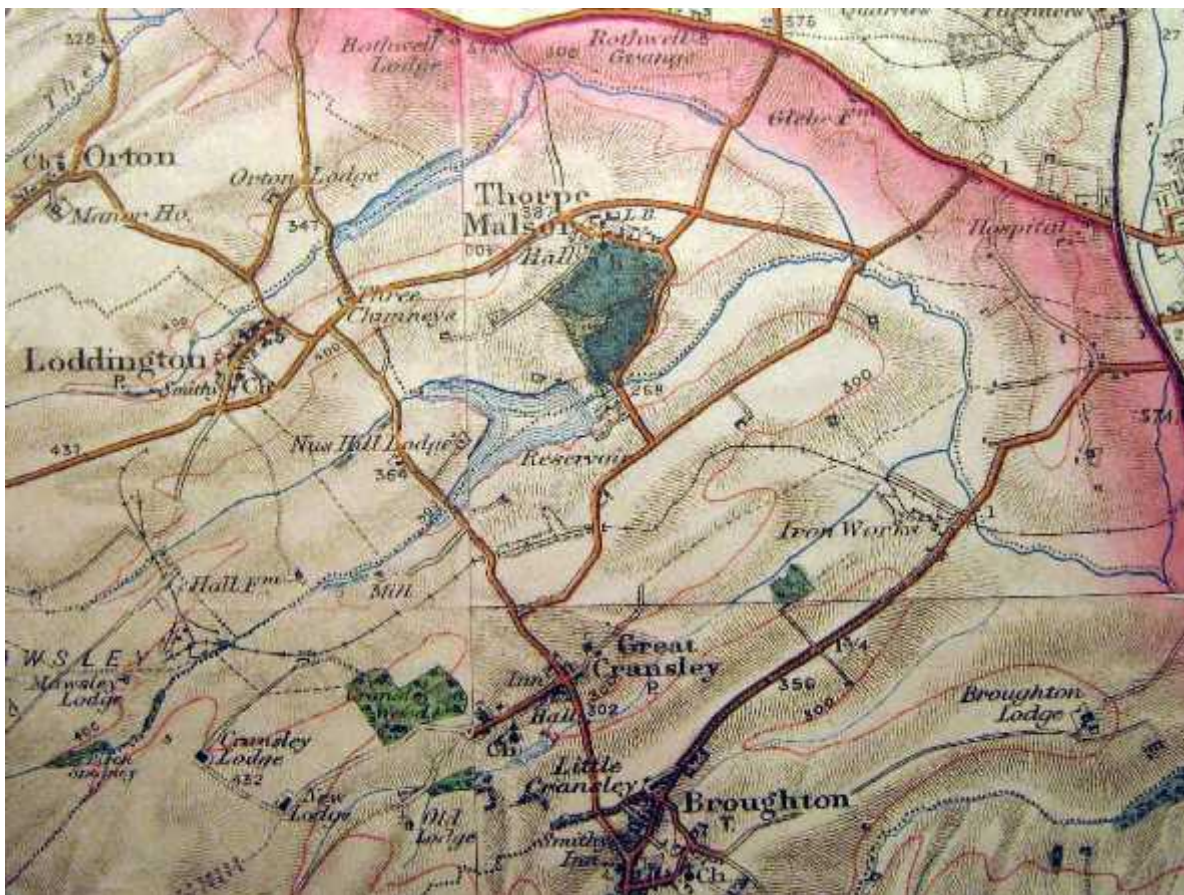
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<sup>1</sup> *Sheetlines* 60, 36-39.

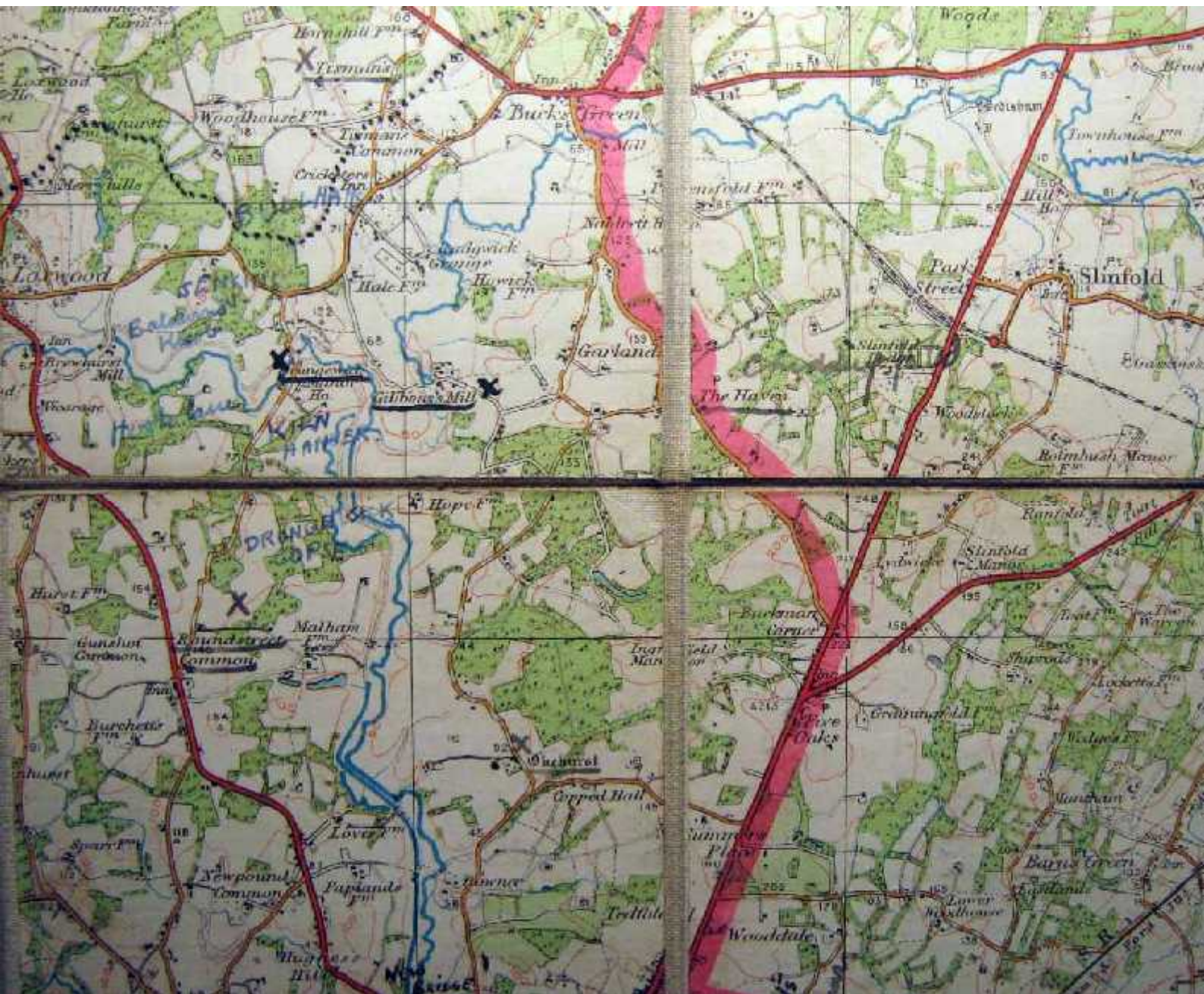
<sup>2</sup> Roger Hellyer, *Ordnance Survey Small Scale Maps, Indexes : 1801-1998*. Kerry: David Archer, 1999, p.19. 6/3.2.



*Extracts from Pytchley hunt map of 1908, showing  
(below) the joint between New Series and Third Edition mapping*

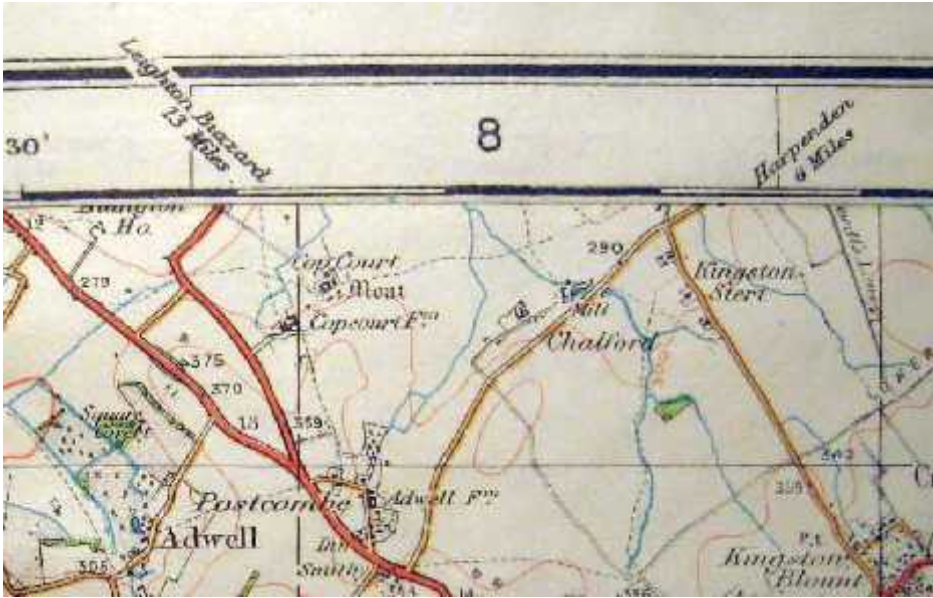


I have two copies of the *Crawley and Horsham hunt* map, assembled from parts of four Popular Edition maps of Sussex. One is slightly earlier than the other and they show different hunt boundaries, which are coloured red by hand, but no other information is supplied. One is in Stanfords' usual sectioned format in a red book cover probably about 1935. The other is a very neat double-sided sectioned map with panels only  $3\frac{1}{4}$  by  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches, with no margins, hinged card covers and probably of about 1928 (*below*), a real pocket map. It has seen a lot of action, with meets and other additional information marked by pen, that is concentrated around Wisborough Green at the western edge of the map, suggesting that the owner lived there.



*Crawley and Horsham hunt map, c1928*

*Essex and Suffolk, Essex side* is a standard-sectioned Popular sheet 98, (3000/29) with the red hunt boundary in the usual Stanfords' red book cover, and has seen very little use. *Atherstone hunt*, incorrectly titled *Atheston* on the cover, is a compilation by Sifton Praed of parts of four Popular Maps of about 1936 centred on Nuneaton in Warwickshire, there is no margin or hunt boundary.



*Garth hunt map, Popular Edition c1926 showing incorrect mounting of margins*

stuck on all the way round, these however are inexpertly or carelessly applied. The titles of the two maps on the top margin have been transposed, and the alphanumeric marking in the margins do not line up with those on the map. It also illustrates the dubious benefit of including map margins where the road destination notes do not match the roads, and sometimes indicate places that are already on the map.

The *Verderer's map of the Beaufort hunt*, as it is entitled, is a curiosity. It was published by W Bennet of Bristol and acknowledges that it was 'Reproduced from OS by permission..'. It is a rather poor outline reproduction of parts of Popular sheets 103, 104, 111 and 114 with hunt boundary, meet places underlined and marked with spots and additional topographical detail all in red. There are also two panels of information about meet places, but somehow one would have expected a rather more stylish effort for the very up-market Beaufort hunt in the south Cotswolds. The latest hunt map that I have is the *South Oxford hunt* assembled from parts of New Popular sheets 145, 146, 158 and 159, all of 1946 except 158 which is 1945. It is a dissected map with a thick inserted neat line and plain margins, but with the legend from sheet 147 across the bottom. It has the hunt boundary marked by hand in pale pink with the rather strange convention of marking the outside of the boundary on the north and east sides, and the inside for the west and south sides. It was all done very neatly by Stanfords and is in almost perfect, unused condition. These nine are an entertaining set of

Also by Sifton Praed is an enormous sectioned map measuring 40 by 45 inches covering a large area to the west of London for the Garth hunt (left) but also including the South Berkshire hunt territory, and is made up from the whole of Popular Edition 112 and 114 with parts of 105, 106, 123 and 124. It has no additional markings, it has parts of the map margins

novelties, and probably only a glimpse of the variety of others that must exist.

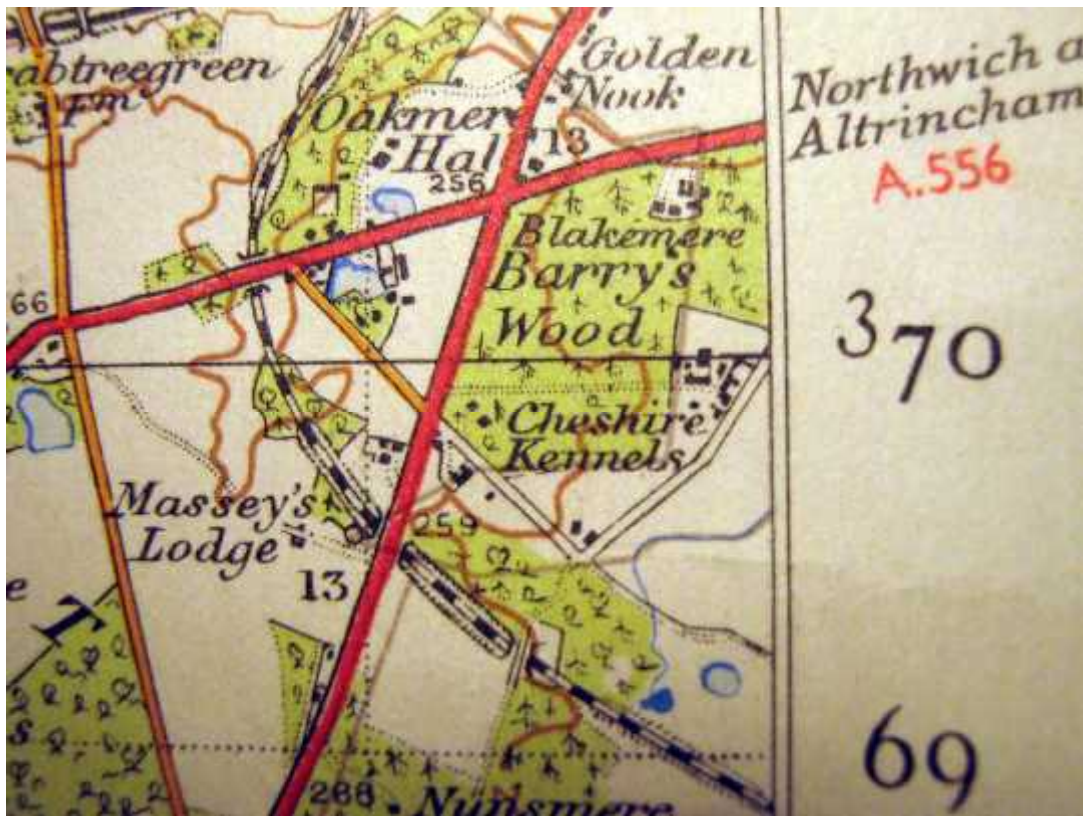
### ***Kennels***

The matter of the kennels marked on one-inch maps is more problematic. The task of comprehensively searching each map of each series is beyond my patience and unlikely to provide information of any great value. So the original search of the Fifth Edition for kennels was superseded by an approach from the other end, beginning with the hunts in *Baily's directory* and trying to identify the kennels on the New Popular Maps. This produced 100 hunt kennels out of the total of 197 foxhunts in England and Wales mentioned in the 1953-54 Directory. There were a further 120 other hunts, but as only seven appeared on the maps out of the first 56 that I looked at, so I gave up the tedious task and went back to the foxhunts on other series of maps. It is not worth, I think, including tabulated results as I am not by any means sure of the accuracy or comprehensiveness of my results.

A study of the Seventh Series revealed that the number of foxhunt kennels had fallen to 64 plus four for those of other hunts, and in a few cases they are on the A printing but absent from the last printing, and vice versa. These numbers have been further reduced to 47 on the *Landranger* maps dated a year or so either side of the millennium, but interestingly include four that appear there for the first time. Going backwards from my starting point, the Fifth Edition includes 50 hunt kennels. A further 16 appear in the area that was redrawn in Fifth Edition style but published as New Popular. These represent all those that I had already found and suggest that a serious attempt was made to include them in that Edition. The remaining 34 up to the Scottish Border are found on the New Popular Provisionals, therefore derived directly from the Popular Edition.

As I only have Third Edition and Popular Edition maps of approximately the same area as the Fifth Edition, I can only compare the numbers in a limited area. This area, which includes Kent and East Sussex, should have 59 kennels, but only 46 are on the equivalent Popular Edition Maps, and 32 on the Third Edition. I cannot draw any satisfactory conclusions from this rise from about 1900 to peak in about 1930 and fall away again by 2000. I can guess that OS found, or deemed, that the one-inch map was suitable for those who hunted with dogs, and that it was an adequate reason for including hunt kennels on the maps, because most kennels are not particularly distinctive topographical features, although they do have a more audible presence than many more prominent features that might have been included.

Probably for reasons of space, the unadorned word *Kennels* is almost always used, although in a few cases *The Kennels* is to be found. The only exceptions that I have found at the one-inch scale being *Ascott Kennels* at Leighton Buzzard for the Whaddon Chase hunt, and *Cheshire Kennels* at Sandiway for the Cheshire



*Cheshire Kennels named on New Popular sheet 109, 1947*

hunt (*above*). There is also a small number (not counted) of kennels marked on the Fifth Edition that do not belong to a hunt, so presumably are boarding or breeding kennels. One of these, on the A20 near Farningham in Kent, briefly got its name *Lincoln Kennels* on the Seventh Series map, but lost its name completely on the *Landranger*, even though it is still there in business as a boarding kennel.

Not surprisingly some kennels also appear on the 1:25,000 maps, but my collection of these is very limited, so I cannot make a useful assessment of them. But such as I have of different series do seem to show more detail than is normal for the one-inch scale. The now defunct Cowdray hunt kennels at Midhurst in Sussex is described on the *Explorer* map as *Kennels Dairy* although the whole building now seems to be derelict. And at Ivybridge in South Devon the hunt managed to get its kennels correctly called *Dartmoor Hunt Kennels* in full on the Regular Edition SX65, but the kennels have since been moved a couple of miles, and although still active are not mentioned on the *Explorer* map. But I suppose that much more information will be found on larger scale maps.

The ban on hunting with dogs in 2004/5 seems to have caused little alteration to the overall number of hunts that are still active, there being a small rise between 1953 and 2013, although there was a small fall in the number of foxhunts, due to amalgamations particularly among old hunts in areas where urban expansion has been densest. But now, having spent quite a lot of time looking at this subject, I wonder if it was worth it. Perhaps I can view it as an introduction to a byway of CCS study that might be taken further by someone more competent at some time in the future.