

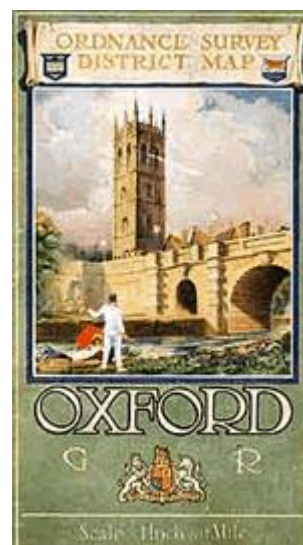
# Ordnance Survey Maps

The Ordnance Survey was founded in 1791 to provide accurate mapping as a counter to the threat of a French invasion.

The Oxfordshire area was first surveyed in the early 19th century and, with regular revision since then, Ordnance Survey maps have become a remarkable record of the changing landscape.

## How do I know which map sheets and editions you hold?

We have noted under each scale or category of Ordnance Survey map listed below how to identify individual sheets.



### Finding aids:

- **Spreadsheet** – holdings list held in spreadsheet form, only available through Searchroom staff
- **Heritage Search** – online catalogue (suggested search terms are given)
- **Manual catalogue** – paper holdings list of maps (catalogue only available in Searchroom).
- **National Library of Scotland** offers a comprehensive online graphical index to published 1:1,250, 1:2,500 and 1:10,000 / 1:10,560 scale Ordnance Survey maps, 1841-1991 <link to: <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/records> >

## And how do I go about viewing them?

We have noted under each scale or category of Ordnance Survey map listed below what formats are available for viewing and where they are stored.

### Format:

- **Paper** – sheet map on paper; please ask to book a seat at the Map Table
- **Microform** – these include 35mm microfilm, aperture card or microfiche; microform readers are available in the Searchroom
- **Digital** – digitised map content is available through all the public computers in the Searchroom; two computers have dedicated large screens for map use. County Series OS maps area available through a clickable map index, in a sheet-by-sheet arrangement; they area also available as searchable seamless mapping through the PlanWeb program. National Grid OS maps are only available as searchable seamless mapping through the PlanWeb program

## 1:63360 (1" to 1 mile)

Draft field drawings, known as the Ordnance Surveyor's Drawings, were prepared of the very first survey between 1808 and 1818 at a scale of 2" to 1 mile (1:31680)

Format – microfiche [ref. Microforms Room: MR2]

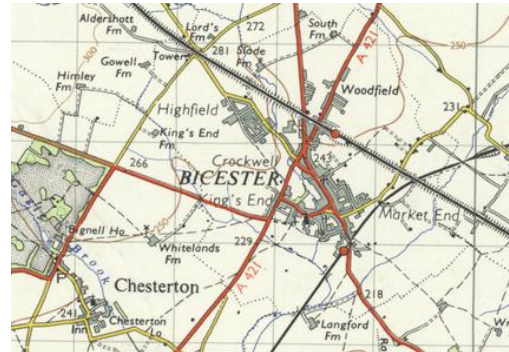
Finding aids – Bibliographical fiche and index map [ref. Microforms Room: MR2]

Coverage – Southern England

Format – paper [ref. A: MC3.6.1B]  
Finding aids – index map [ref. A: MC3.6.1B]  
Coverage - Oxfordshire

This early field survey was used as the basis for the Old Series or 1st edition 1" to 1 mile maps first published in 1830.

A New Series was published from 1847 and revised editions appeared regularly until metrication brought the Seventh Series to an end in the 1974-6. Old Series and New Series maps have been republished since 2005 as colour facsimiles under the imprint of Timeline or Cassini, re-projected to fit the modern 1:50,000 scale.



Format – paper (original sheets) [ref. A: MC14]  
Finding aids – spreadsheet

Format – paper (facsimiles of Old and New Series) [ref. Searchroom: OZ 942]  
Finding aids – Heritage Search [search for: “Cassini” or “Timeline”]

Online – National Library of Scotland <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore> , including:

- New Series, 1893-1905
- New Popular Series, 1945-47
- Seventh Series, 1955-1961

## 1:50000

Metric replacement for the old 1" maps - First Series, 1974-6; Second Series (1974-) renamed Landranger from 1979.



Ordnance Survey one inch popular ed. - Oxford & district (1921)

Format – paper (original sheets, flat up to 2004) [ref. A: MC14]  
Format – paper (original sheets, folded from 2005) [ref. Searchroom: OZ 942]  
Finding aids – spreadsheet

## 1:25000 (2½" to 1 mile)

Provisional edition (1945-56), Second Series (1965-94) renamed Pathfinder from c.1980, Explorer (1994-).

Format – paper (original sheets, flat up to 2000) [ref. A: MC14]  
Format – paper (original sheets, folded from 2002) [ref. Searchroom: OZ 942]

Finding aids – spreadsheet  
Online – 1:25,000 Provisional edition (1945-56) only:  
<http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore>

## 1:10560 (6" to 1 mile)

County Series 1st edition (1866-83), 2nd edition (1897-1900), 2nd revision (1909-21);

Format – paper (original sheets):

- Berkshire [ref. D: MC6]
- Oxfordshire [ref. A: MC16]

Finding aids – spreadsheet; printed holdings list and map index in Catalogue area

National Grid Provisional edition (c.1948-65) and Regular edition (c.1953-70).

Format – digital

Finding aids – searchable through PlanWeb

Format – paper (original sheets) [ref. A: MC17]

Finding aids – spreadsheet; map index in A: MC17

Users are expected to consult the digital version of this mapping, unless they have a justifiable need to examine the original.

## 1:10000 National Grid

This series provided the Metric replacement for the old 6" maps (1972-96).

Format – digital

Finding aids – searchable through PlanWeb

Format – paper (original sheets) [ref. A: MC17]

Finding aids – spreadsheet; map index in A: MC17

Users are expected to consult the digital version of this mapping, unless they have a justifiable need to examine the original.

Superseded by Landplan digital raster mapping (1999-)

Format – digital

Finding aids – searchable through PlanWeb

## 1:2500 (25" to 1 mile) County Series

- 1st edition (1866-83). 'Books of reference' on microfilm [ref. Microforms Room: MR2] give land use information for most Berks and some Oxon sheets up to October 1879.
- 2nd edition (1897-1900);
- 2nd revision or 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (1909-20).
- 3<sup>rd</sup> (incomplete) revision or 4<sup>th</sup> edition (1919-39).



Format – digital

Finding aids – searchable through PlanWeb or clickable Oxfordshire index map

Format – paper (original sheets) [ref. D: MC6-MC9 ]

Finding aids – spreadsheet

Users are expected to consult the digital version of this mapping, unless they have a justifiable need to examine the original.

### **1:2500 (25" to 1 mile) National Grid survey**

- Chart paper editions 1955-92. Begun nationally in 1948, the first survey of Oxon was completed 1962-80, and Berks 1964-82. The Banbury survey was begun in 1965 and Oxford in 1955. We hold all later chart paper editions, as published, up to 1992 when the paper series was discontinued and superseded by digital mapping.

Format – digital

Finding aids – searchable through PlanWeb

Format – paper (original sheets) [ref. D: MC10-MC13, MC15]

Finding aids – spreadsheet

Users are expected to consult the digital version of this mapping, unless they have a justifiable need to examine the original.

- Interim and bespoke editions, 1977-99. Published chart paper editions were updated by SIM (Survey Information on Microfilm) printouts, showing latest surveyed changes (1977-93). We also hold selected Superplan printouts (1994-9) which were the digitally-sourced on-demand replacement for SIMs.

Format – paper (original sheets) [ref. D: MC10-MC13, MC15]

Finding aids – spreadsheet

There are no digital versions of these map sheets, so users need to order the paper originals for consultation in the Searchroom.

- Computer-based seamless digital mapping of Oxfordshire, using Ordnance Survey Landline data, for 1998, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, and annually thereafter.

Format – digital

Finding aids – searchable through PlanWeb

### **1:1250 (50" to 1 mile) National Grid survey**

- Chart paper editions 1955-89. National Grid mapping at this scale was introduced for towns with a population of over 20,000 in the 1940s; Oxfordshire coverage of published editions includes Abingdon (1980-6), Banbury (1965-c.1984) and Oxford (1955-89).

Format – digital

Finding aids – searchable through PlanWeb

Format – paper (original sheets) [ref. D: MC18-MC19]

Finding aids – spreadsheet

Users are expected to consult the digital version of this mapping, unless they have a justifiable need to examine the original.

- Interim and bespoke editions 1970-97. Published chart paper editions were updated by SIM (Survey Information on Microfilm) paper printouts, showing latest surveyed changes (1970-95). We also hold selected Superplan printouts (1995-1997) which were the digitally-sourced on-demand replacement for SIMs.

Format – paper (original sheets) [ref. D: MC18-MC19]  
Finding aids – spreadsheet

There are no digital versions of these map sheets, so users will need to order the paper originals for consultation in the Searchroom.

- Computer-based seamless digital mapping of Oxfordshire urban areas, using Ordnance Survey Landline data, for 1998, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, and annually thereafter.

Format – digital  
Finding aids – searchable through PlanWeb

## 1:500 (10.56 feet to 1 mile)

As part of the OS County Series mapping, only towns with a population of over 4,000 were surveyed at this generous scale; in Oxfordshire, that meant Abingdon, Banbury, Henley and Oxford only (1873-82). These are immensely useful to historians as the detail of buildings and street furniture is quite stunning. The town plan scale was never revised beyond this first edition of 1873-82.



Ordnance Survey 1:500 plan of Oxford - sheet 33.15.24 (1880)

Format – digital  
Finding aids – searchable through PlanWeb  
Format – paper (original sheets) [ref. A: MC14]  
Finding aids – spreadsheet

Users are expected to consult the digital version of this mapping, unless they have a justifiable need to examine the original.

## Where else can I go?

### Websites

- **National Library of Scotland** offers a growing selection of georeferenced historic Ordnance Survey maps <link to: <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore> >

- **Bodleian Library** (Oxford University) online catalogue <link to: <http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk>>. Searches can be limited to cartographer, format, scale, date, etc.
- **British Library** map collections <link to: <http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelprestype/maps/index.html> >.
- **British Library** online catalogue <link to: <http://explore.bl.uk>>.