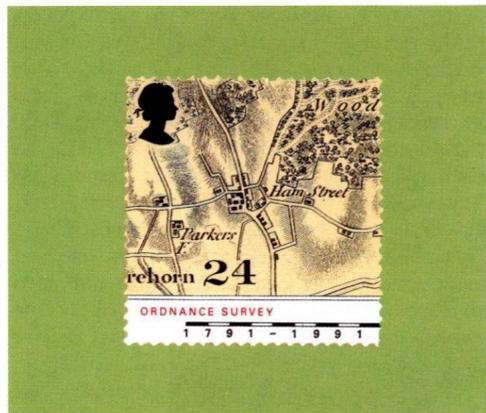


# Maps

17 September 1991

Four interesting and unusual stamps will be issued on 17 September 1991 to commemorate the bicentenary of the Ordnance Survey. Reproduced on each of the four stamps is the village of Hamstreet in Kent, six miles south of Ashford, near the Royal Military Canal and Romney Marsh, an area vital to the first cross-Channel survey link completed in 1788. The stamps show how it appeared on maps in 1816, 1906, 1959 and 1991. What is reproduced on the stamps is exactly the same section from each of the three one-inch maps and a slightly smaller section from the 1991 map, (scale 2 centimetres to 1 kilometre).

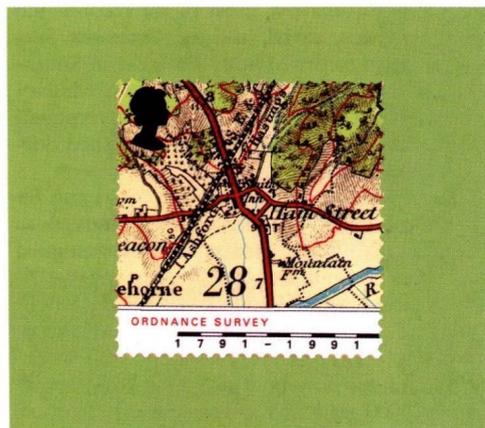
On the **24p** stamp (inland first class and EEC basic rate), from the 1816 edition of the 1801 Kent map, a section of the Royal Military Canal can be seen at the bottom right-hand corner. The 23-mile-long Canal was built as a defensive line during the Napoleonic Wars. The 1816 monochrome engraved map has been reproduced on this stamp through modern intaglio printing, replicating the method used with the original map, which was engraved by hand on copper plates.



The **28p** stamp (basic non-EEC rate), a section from the 1906 map, shows the increasing complexity of the conventional symbols. Printing methods have changed too: lithographic printing was introduced in 1842 and colour printing in 1877. The 1906 map was printed by

colour lithography, using some of the engraved elements from earlier maps. The stamp, like the original map, was printed by colour lithography.

The **33p** stamp (worldwide postcard rate), taken from the 1959 map, illustrates the increasing sophistication of map production, which becomes more detailed and precise with the use of modern technology. Aerial photography was



first used for mapping by Ordnance Survey in 1919. The post office and the church are also indicated for the first time. The stamp, like the original map, was printed by colour lithography.

The **39p** stamp (Airmail Zones 1 and 2 basic rate) shows Hamstreet as it appears on the current OS map (Sheet 189). Additional details are the symbols for orchards, the brown colour for a 'B' road and red and white for a narrow road with passing places, and the indication of a long-distance footpath, the Saxon Shore Way. The stamp, like the original map, was printed by colour lithography.

Ordnance Survey, Britain's national mapmakers, has been involved in the mapmaking business for 200 years. Mapmaking has changed dramatically since the very first map of Kent was published in 1801. The survey was carried out by the Board of Ordnance, based at that time in the Tower of London. The Tower

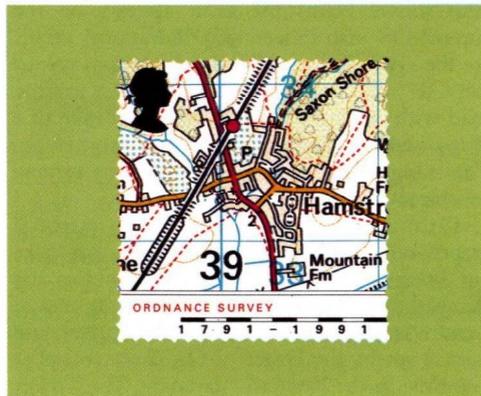


remained the home of Ordnance Survey until a fire in 1841 rendered the nation's mapmakers homeless. Fortunately, most of the records and equipment were saved, and the Ordnance Survey relocated to the Military Barracks in Southampton which had formerly housed a Military School. This was possibly the first Government decentralisation and mapmaking flourished during the next century.

The Ordnance Survey's home was again hit by fire in 1940. The headquarters moved to Chessington but the drawing offices continued their work in Southampton. In May 1969, HM The Queen opened the new purpose-built Ordnance Survey Headquarters at Maybush, Southampton. There are over 1,500 staff working in this purpose-built accommodation with almost 1,000 stationed in over 100 field offices located all over the country.

### Technical Details

The stamps were designed by Howard Brown. The 24p and 28p values were printed by Harrison and Sons Limited; the 24p by intaglio (recess) and offset lithography, and the 28p by



offset lithography. The 33p and 39p stamps were printed by offset lithography at The House of Questa Limited. All are on phosphor-coated paper, of "almost square" format (35 x 37mm), printed in sheets of 100 with PVA Dextrin gum. Perforation measures 14 x 14½.

### Presentation Pack

The pack (No. 221) will cost £1.55. It was designed by Howard Brown with text by Mavis Riley; made and printed by Raithby, Lawrence.

### Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Cards, featuring enlargements of the stamp designs, will be available approximately two weeks before the stamp issue, price 19p each. They are numbered 138A-D.

### First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, "Collections", philatelic counters and main post offices approximately two weeks before 17 September, price 19p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one for the Bureau, the other for Southampton.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the stamps cancelled with the requested postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 17 September.

Collectors may send their own cards/covers for the pictorial postmarks; these should be sent on the first day of issue in a stamped outer envelope endorsed "Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark" to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT (Bureau postmark) or South East Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail Windsor, Peascod Street, WINDSOR SL4 1AA (Southampton postmark). Collectors wanting their cards/covers returned under cover should enclose a suitable addressed envelope. This need not bear additional postage stamps, the postage being already paid by the stamps affixed to the covers for postmarking.

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for those collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps. In addition, pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmarks will be used at City of London EC (shows City coat of arms), and Durham (Cathedral). Reposting addresses: London

North SHC, Royal Mail City and International, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA (City of London handstamp); and Northern England SHC, Royal Mail Newcastle, Forth Street, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AA (Durham). These handstamps were introduced on 17 January 1989 and 22 March 1988 respectively.

A number of special handstamps sponsored by stamp dealers and others, will be used on 17

September - details of these will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau.

### Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from Collections and philatelic counters from 18 September, price 21p. This will be on sale for one year.

