

**Twenty-eight session
28 April – 2 May 2014**

Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda

Report of the divisions

Report of the United Kingdom Division *

* Prepared by Catherine Cheetham, Head, Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, United Kingdom

**United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
Twenty-Eighth Session, New York, April 28-May 2 2014**

Provisional agenda item 4

REPORT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM DIVISION

Document prepared by the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain, the United Kingdom
Permanent Committee on Geographical Names and the National Land Agency of Jamaica

The United Kingdom Division comprises representatives from the United Kingdom and
Jamaica.

United Kingdom

ORDNANCE SURVEY – THE NATIONAL MAPPING AGENCY

Established in the 18th century, the Ordnance Survey (OS) www.ordnancesurvey.gov.uk is the national mapping agency of Great Britain and as such is responsible for collecting geographical names information for portrayal on national maps. The Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland (OSNI) www.osni.gov.uk performs a similar function in Northern Ireland. The Ordnance Survey operates as a non-Ministerial Government department and Executive Agency, reporting to Parliament through Ministers in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

OS MAP, GAZETTEER AND DATABASE PRODUCTS

Ordnance Survey continues to improve its range of digital products, the headline product being OS getamap™, a subscriber service giving access to the full detail of OS Landranger Maps and OS Explorer Maps for all of Great Britain. This application allows routes to be plotted, photos and notes to be added, and these are then printable/emailable/exportable to GPX format. High-resolution map-tiles may also be downloaded to handheld devices via the OS MapFinder, the official App.

Ordnance Survey is currently engaged in rationalising its place names databases, addressing the legacy of multiple cartographic products in which names were originally created independently. In future, place names will be held in a single database, thereby ensuring consistency among different representations. Further opportunities for consolidation are believed to exist through comparison with other UK government datasets and these are currently being investigated.

Improvements to Ordnance Survey's open data offering in this area are underway, in the form of an OS OpenData Gazetteer.

Ordnance Survey is a consortium member of the EU-funded European Location Framework Project (www.elfproject.eu), which aims to provide a single source of reference geoinformation for Europe. One element of the project is the Geo Locator service, which will take a feed of place names from the National Mapping Authorities of Europe.

OS NAMES POLICY

There is no national names authority in the United Kingdom. Instead, the geographical names as portrayed on hard-copy and digital products of the national mapping agencies – the Ordnance Survey (for Great Britain) and the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland (for Northern Ireland) – are recognised as being the authoritative geographical names of the United Kingdom. Toponymic information is collected and updated by the Ordnance Survey as an integral element of its product revision, and is achieved in consultation with local authorities, reliable organisations and expert individuals.

Jamaica

NATIONAL GAZETTEER PROJECT

The purpose of this project is to create a database of all approved place names across the island, referenced to the Jamaica Datum 2001 (JAD 2001) co-ordinate system, which is aligned to WGS 84. The source material for this phase of the project is the 1:12,500 Topographic Map Series (1972) with approved names. Subsequent phases will include sourcing additional names from a number of other series and scales of mapping.

However, many of these additional names may have to be finally approved by the 'Place Names Committee' (currently inactive), notwithstanding the fact that they may already have official standing in the records of the local authorities and the National Land Agency.

The gazetteer will be the most current reference document for official geographical names in Jamaica. It will be linked to the National Land Agency's geo-database and will serve to enhance the Agency's two main on-line offerings, namely, eLandjamaica and iMapjamaica for which plans are in place for them to be upgraded.

- eLandjamaica is the National Land Agency's internet-based service which allows users (subscribers & pay-per-view) easy access to property information at the click of a button from anywhere in the world. Access to eLandjamaica is via the National Land Agency's website at www.nla.gov.jm.
- iMapjamaica allows users anywhere in the world to spatially identify land parcels in Jamaica and access select land related information FREE OF COST. Access to iMapjamaica is via the National Land Agency's website at www.nla.gov.jm.

Data entry and geo-referencing of the Island's geographical names in the database is being done on a parish by parish basis. Data entry for thirteen of the fourteen parishes has now been completed. Data entry for Clarendon is in progress. To date a total of 10,503 toponyms have been entered.

It is planned that the first phase of the gazetteer will be completed within fiscal year 2014/2015 and that a compilation of the unofficial names, to create an unofficial names database to complement the gazetteer, will then be commenced.

CIVIC ADDRESS PROJECT

In 2011 a civic address pilot project was implemented in the Parish of St. Elizabeth, located at the south-western section of the island. The purpose of this pilot project was to inform the formulation of a national project.

The goal of the national project is to have all properties in Jamaica provided with a civic address effected through the respective local authority. This will result in easier location of properties, easier location of delinquent property owners, and better security of properties and residents.

National standards for civic address and road names, including commemorative names will be developed under this project. The project is currently on hold.

It is felt important that Jamaica both re-activate the Place Names Committee and resume the civic address project.