

**Twenty-sixth session
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Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda

Report of the Division

REPORT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM DIVISION *

Report of Jamaica

Document prepared by the National Land Agency, Jamaica

NATIONAL LAND AGENCY (NLA): www.nla.gov.jm

1. The National Land Agency is an Executive Agency of the Government of Jamaica with responsibilities that include checking and certifying survey plans and cadastral maps, producing registered titles for land parcels and producing national and customized maps.

NATIONAL MAPPING

2. Jamaica is currently producing up-to-date interactive maps of the country at design scales of 1/50,000 for national coverage and 1/4,000 for built-up areas. For example, Kingston, the capital of Jamaica was recently mapped at 1/4000 scale and the resort town of Ocho Rios is currently being mapped.

GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

3. These up-to-date maps carry many new geographical names for features and places that are not yet approved by the Place Names Committee, which is currently inactive. However, there are allied processes that give recognition to geographical names. This recognition comes about by way of Parish Council approval for the subdivision of land and the National Land Agency certifying the survey plans and issuing titles based on those plans. This results in the official recording of the new geographical names in the National Land Agency's surveys and titles records.

PLACE NAMES COMMITTEE

4. The National Land Agency is currently documenting the new geographical names appearing on the maps for consideration by the Place Names Committee when it is reactivated. It is also planned to link each geographical name to coordinates and a point feature or polygon.

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Document prepared by the UK Permanent Committee on Geographical Names
with input from Ordnance Survey of Great Britain

National Geographical Names

Ordnance Survey www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk is the national mapping agency of Great Britain and as such is responsible for collecting geographical names information for national maps and geographic databases. Land and Property Services (LPS) www.dfpi.gov.uk/lps performs a similar function in Northern Ireland. Ordnance Survey operates as a Government Department, Executive Agency and Trading Fund, producing digital data products and paper maps for business, leisure, administrative and educational use covering England, Scotland and Wales.

Ordnance Survey is in the process of consolidating geographical names into its National Geographic Database. This includes the consolidation of distinctive names across its databases and work to identify the geographical extents of some named features. The objective is to generate a consistent and maintainable basis for geographical names in Great Britain as well as improving consistency across the portfolio of Ordnance Survey's national geographic information products and maps.

Names policy

Ordnance Survey names information is updated in the course of map product revision in consultation with local authorities, reliable organisations and expert individuals. Since 2000, particular emphasis has been placed on standardising Welsh-language names in Wales and Gaelic names in the Gaelic-speaking areas of north-west Scotland. A Gaelic Names Policy¹ was established in 2000 and led to the setting up of a Gaelic Names Liaison Committee, and the appointment of a Gaelic Names Liaison Officer to assist Ordnance Survey in the implementation of the policy. A Welsh Language Scheme², approved in 2001 and amended in 2006, sets out Ordnance Survey's commitment to the provision of information in Welsh. The Scheme is currently under review; its replacement is expected to reinforce the position of the Welsh Language Board's Place-names Standardization Team as the primary source of advice on names in Wales. See <http://www.byig-wlb.org.uk/English/services/Pages/Place-Names.aspx>

Products and projects

Ordnance Survey makes a number of datasets available free of charge under the terms of a new OS OpenData Licence³, including its 1:50 000 Scale Gazetteer. This Gazetteer⁴ contains some 250,000 names taken from the OS Landranger Map series. Every time a change is made to a name on the OS Landranger Map production database, the equivalent name is amended on the Gazetteer. This change could include a positional move to a name, an improvement to its cartographic representation, or the addition of a new name. An updated 1:50 000 Scale Gazetteer is made available in June of each year.

Address information from local authorities and Ordnance Survey is to be combined into a national address gazetteer database as a single definitive source of accurate spatial address data for England and Wales. Ordnance Survey and the Local Government Group have entered into a joint venture partnership,

¹ See <http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/aboutus/reports/scotland/docs/namesgaelicen.pdf> and <http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/aboutus/reports/scotland/docs/namesgaelic.pdf>

² See: <http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/aboutus/reports/wales/docs/welshlanguageschemefinal.pdf> and <http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/aboutus/reports/wales/docs/cynlluniaiithgymraegternfynol.pdf>

³ See <http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/business/licences/using-and-creating-data-with-os-products/os-opendata/index.html>

⁴ http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/products/50kgazetteer_open/

GeoPlace™, from which spatial address products will be created. It will combine local government's address and street gazetteers, the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) and the National Street Gazetteer (NSG), with Ordnance Survey's OS MasterMap® Address Layer 2. In Scotland local government and the Scottish Government are working with Ordnance Survey to explore ways of achieving the same goal. Products from the national address gazetteer database will provide access to a definitive database of addresses in Great Britain for use by all parts of the public sector and the private sector, removing duplication in the public sector and providing more comprehensive and accurate information. The national address gazetteer database is due to be launched in autumn 2011.

Ordnance Survey's products and services reflect names provided through official channels and evidence on the ground, but the organisation recognises that knowledge of locally-used unofficial "vernacular" names is sometimes necessary; for the emergency services for example and increasingly for web searches. It aims to improve the information in its national gazetteer to provide a fuller view of the toponymic landscape than that which is available on the printed map. With this in mind, Ordnance Survey has initiated a number of research projects to determine which vernacular names are important and how to collect them efficiently. As part of this work Ordnance Survey was recently involved in Location Lingo (www.locationlingo.net), initiated by the English Project⁵ to collect unofficial vernacular toponyms via an online form. The data collected during this short project will be carefully scrutinised in an attempt to isolate the many spurious names provided, and the remaining information will be published by the English Project. Ordnance Survey was keen to monitor the success of collating data submitted by the public in this way and is assessing the process and results in order to undertake a more formal data collection procedure in the future, with a view to compiling a gazetteer of alternative unofficial names used in Britain.

Administrative changes in England

Recent legislation has further amended the administrative structure in England, with a number of two-tier authorities becoming unitary. England is now composed of 152 first-order administrative divisions. These comprise a mixture of 125 unitary (single-tier) authorities and 27 two-tier authorities, the latter each being sub-divided into a varying number of districts. Of the 125 single-tier authorities, 56 are classified as Unitary Authorities, 36 as Metropolitan Districts, 32 as London Boroughs, and 1 as a City Corporation.

Changes since the publication of the UK Toponymic Guidelines in 2009⁶ are as follows:

- Cornwall⁷, Durham⁸, Northumberland⁹, Shropshire¹⁰ and Wiltshire¹¹ have all become unitary authorities
- Bedfordshire has split into the two unitary authorities of Bedford and Central Bedfordshire¹²
- Cheshire has split into the two unitary authorities of Cheshire East, and Cheshire West and Chester¹³

London Boroughs, Metropolitan Districts and the City Corporation have not been affected.

⁵ The English Project (www.englishproject.org) is an influential charitable organisation which promotes awareness of the English language and collects data on current use, such as the language used in text (SMS) messages.

⁶ *Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland – Revised and Enlarged Edition, 2009*, W.P. 7 of the 25th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

⁷ *The Cornwall (Structural Changes) Order 2008 No. 491* http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi_20080491_en_1

⁸ *The County Durham (Structural Change) Order 2008 No. 493* http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi_20080493_en_1

⁹ *The Northumberland (Structural Changes) Order 2008 No. 494* http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi_20080494_en_1

¹⁰ *The Shropshire (Structural Changes) Order 2008 No. 492* http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi_20080492_en_1

¹¹ *The Wiltshire (Structural Changes) Order 2008 No. 490* http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi_20080490_en_1

¹² *The Bedfordshire (Structural Changes) Order 2008 No. 907* http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi_20080907_en_1

¹³ *The Cheshire (Structural Changes) Order 2008 No.634* http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi_20080634_en_1

Foreign Geographical Names

Established in 1919 at the Royal Geographical Society, Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (PCGN) is the United Kingdom's authority on foreign geographical names. It has a cross-government function to formulate and coordinate policies and procedures for the proper writing of geographical names for places and features outside the United Kingdom and ensure the implementation of those policies across the UK Government. It gathers information on names standardised by national authorities in order to carry out its principal objectives which are listed below:

- To establish and apply the principles by which foreign geographical names should be used by UK government departments;
- To develop, maintain, disseminate and promote policies and standards based on these principles;
- To supply geographical names advice and approved names in accordance with these policies and standards;
- To analyse developments and identify and evaluate key issues of toponymic and wider geopolitical interest using a range of sources, including those in different languages and scripts, in order to ensure the timely provision of appropriate geographical names and related geopolitical information;
- To improve cross-government awareness of geographical names issues, actively promote PCGN policies and procedures and ensure targeted provision of geographical names advice;
- To raise the profile of geographical names at the international level and improve working relations with other geographical names authorities and individuals with appropriate expertise.

Further information on PCGN can be found at www.pcgng.org.uk