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English only

**Eighth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**
Berlin, 27 August-5 September 2002
Item 12 (f) of the provisional agenda*
Toponymic data files: national gazetteers

United Kingdom: national gazetteers

Submitted by the United Kingdom**

Ordnance Survey Gazetteer products

Ordnance Survey (OS) is the national mapping agency of Great Britain and, in the course of map production and maintenance, collects names information.

Ordnance Survey does not currently have a single geographical names database for Great Britain, as names are held in datasets relating to specific map scales and products. This unfortunately occasionally results in some names' inconsistency between datasets. During its recent names review, Ordnance Survey pledged to examine these problems with the aim of removing any such anomalies.

The *Ordnance Survey Gazetteer of Great Britain* is updated annually and is available in both hardcopy and digital format as a CD-ROM. The names contained therein are taken directly from the 204 Landranger 1:50,000 scale maps, the biggest selling series of maps in Britain. Revised in accordance with Landranger revision cycles, the gazetteer contains over 258,000 names of populated places and features in England, Scotland and Wales, including places such as Moscow (in East Ayrshire) or Barcelona (in Cornwall).

Name fields include administrative information, National Grid reference, latitude and longitude co-ordinates, feature type and OS Landranger map sheet number.

More information is available as a downloadable pdf file on Ordnance Survey's website: <www.ordnancesurvey.gov.uk/downloads/techinfo/21073.pdf>

A further names-related product is the geo-referenced street dataset called the National Street Gazetteer (NSG). This has been created by OS in partnership with local authorities. OS administers the website at <www.nsg.org.uk>. Essentially, this is a comprehensive street referencing framework for Great Britain, integrated by the OS into a national dataset using data created, updated and maintained by local authorities. All roads, streets, thoroughfares, named paths and named walkways are included. Entries are named, classified, described, and given a unique reference number. Locational information is added by providing the National Grid reference for each end of the feature, as well as the locality, town and administrative division within which the feature occurs.

Gazetteer for Scotland

The *Gazetteer for Scotland* is a vast geographical database, featuring details of towns, villages, and topographic features from the Scottish Borders to the Northern Isles. The first comprehensive gazetteer produced for Scotland since 1885, it includes descriptions of tourist attractions, industries and historic sites, together with histories of family names and biographies of famous people associated with Scotland.

The *Gazetteer for Scotland* was conceived by Bruce Gittings of the Department of Geography, University of Edinburgh and David Munro of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society as a major development to promote understanding of the Geography of Scotland. It is aimed both at the local Scottish community, and at an international audience.

The intention is to develop a comprehensive geographical database for Scotland, accessible via the World-Wide Web. To date there are nearly 10,000 entries with descriptions, and over 1,500 illustrations. Part of this database will be published in book form in November 2002 under the title *Places and Landscapes of Scotland*.

To search the Gazetteer for Scotland database, see <www.geo.ed.ac.uk/scotgaz/>

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