

Unlicensed Ordnance Survey maps in planning applications

Ordnance Survey has been contacted by several planning authorities who have informed us that they continue to receive significant numbers of planning applications using unlicensed Ordnance Survey mapping, and have requested that we provide guidance on this issue. This guidance therefore explains how to recognise an unlicensed Ordnance Survey map, and the steps which you may wish to consider taking if you have any concerns.

Identifying unlicensed mapping

We ask authorities to discourage the use of unlicensed mapping, not only as a matter of good practice but to comply with copyright law and Public Sector Mapping Agreement obligations.

Planning maps will usually have been created using mapping created by one of our Licensed Partners which use Ordnance Survey large scale data, which are specifically designed for planning application use, but in some cases applicants will be licensed to use another of our large-scale products¹.

A properly licensed Ordnance Survey plan will display:

- the statement '© Crown copyright and database right 20xx';
- an Ordnance Survey licence number in the format 1000xxxxx; and
- Ordnance Survey or licensed partner branding.

The following factors may indicate an unlicensed Ordnance Survey plan:

- the absence of any of the above;
- any indication that the mapping was originally provided for another purpose (for example, 'education use', 'personal use' or 'research/reference use' markings, or the display of a university name or an address which is inconsistent with the applicant);
- indications that the plan is a photocopy or a 'screengrab' image of Ordnance Survey mapping, or has been traced from Ordnance Survey mapping;
- any indication that the map is a Land Registry® document; or
- any indication that correction fluid has been applied.

A typical example of a properly licensed plan is shown overleaf.

Next steps

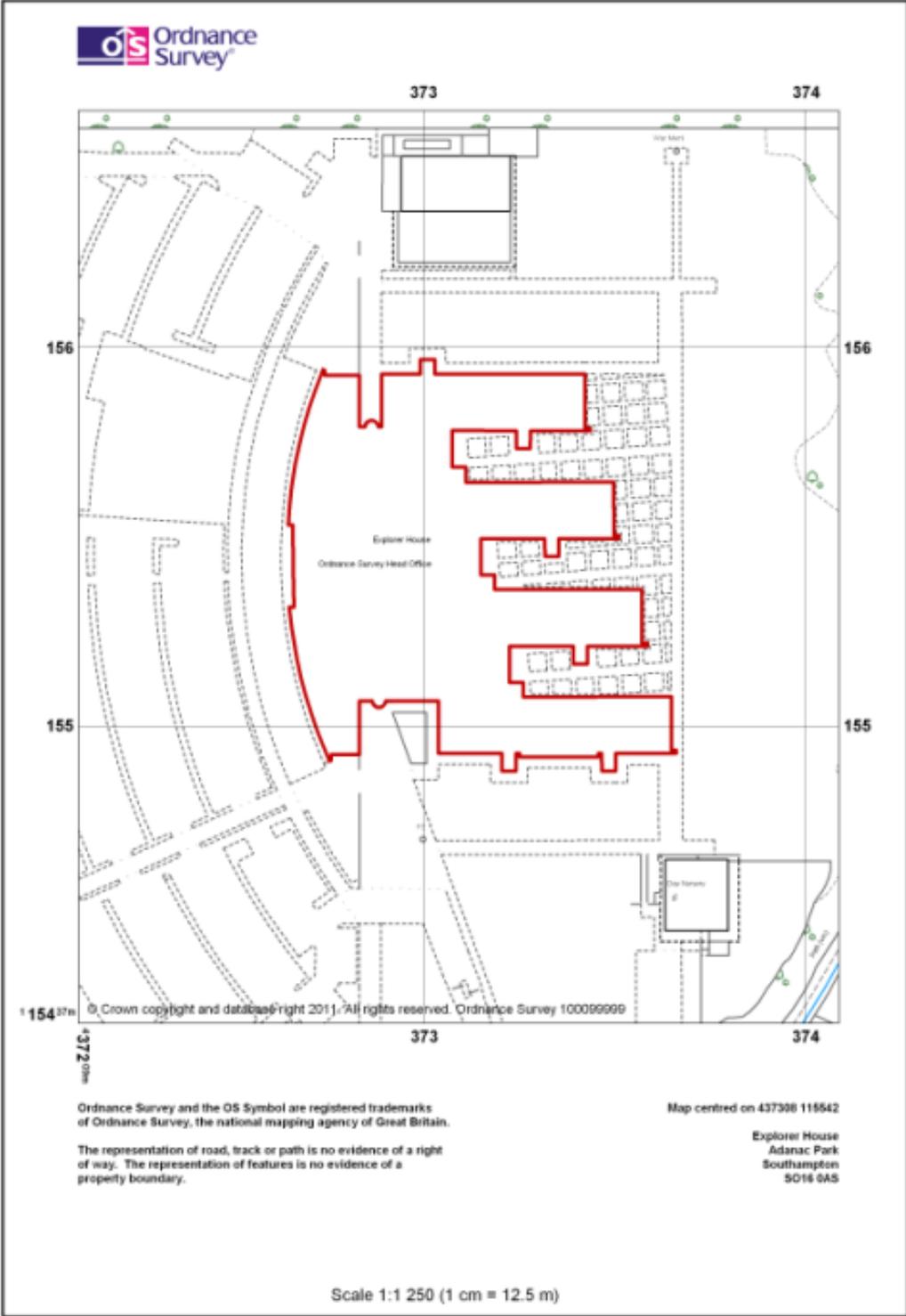
If it is clear that a plan is based on unlicensed Ordnance Survey mapping, we ask that you request the applicant to provide a licensed plan.

¹ OS OpenData™ products can be freely re-used under the terms of the OS OpenData Licence, so would not show a licence number. However, these products are of too small a scale to meet location or site plan requirements.

If it is unclear whether a plan is licensed, we ask that you contact the applicant for information on the source of the mapping. If you wish, you may use the pro-forma letter provided.

If a business routinely submits unlicensed plans to you, or you have any other concerns about licensing issues, please contact your account manager so that we can investigate.

Example of a legitimate Ordnance Survey based plan



Trademarks

Ordnance Survey, the OS Symbol and OS Sitemap are registered trademarks and OS OpenData is a trademark of Ordnance Survey, the national mapping agency of Great Britain.

Land Registry is a registered trademark of HM Land Registry.