

Notes on the Forestry Lease Atlases

There are four Atlases, each of which covers a different part of the New Forest. The main map sheets date from the 1890s and come from the second edition of the County Series of the Ordnance Survey (OS), at the scale of 1:2500. Irrespective of their annotations these are fine maps in their own right.

The County Series predated the National Grid, and has its own referencing system. Each county is divided into numbered rectangular parent tiles, six miles in extent from East to West and four miles from North to South. In turn each tile is subdivided into 16 rectangular sub-sheets, numbered 1 to 16. The tiles align exactly: there is no overlap. A more detailed explanation of the system can be found at the National Library of Scotland, [Ordnance Survey Maps - 25 inch England and Wales, 1841-1952](#).

It is the sub-sheets which make up the body of the Atlases. Each sub-sheet covers an area of 1.5 miles from East to West, and 1 mile from North to South; each physically measures about 100cm in length by 70 cm in depth.

At the front of each atlas is a smaller scale index map which shows the New Forest with the County Series grid overlaid on it. The section of the Forest covered by each particular atlas is enclosed in a red line.



The index maps use Arabic numerals for both parent tiles and sub-sheets, distinguishing the parent tile by a larger font. Burley, for example, in this image taken from the index, is covered by tile 71-14, at the bottom of the extract.

Searching for *Hampshire* followed by the title number in the *New Forest Centre (Records)* data source of New Forest Knowledge will bring up brief details of the appropriate map. Once you have clicked on the heading and loaded the full record for the map you will see another low resolution image. You can view or download a higher resolution PDF copy of the map from within the body of the record.

It is worth noting that the OS uses Roman numerals to denote the parent tile. Officially this sheet's title is: *Hampshire Sheet LXXI-14*. The title is located at the top right hand corner of the sheet. If you want to find the series number of an adjacent sheet, you will find it printed in small capitals in the middle of each side, between the border of the map and its edge.

Please also note that if searching generally for maps of this series using Roman numerals, the letter I (for India) is used in the notation for the number 1. In some typefaces it can be difficult to distinguish this letter from the letter l (for Lima) or 1 (wun).