

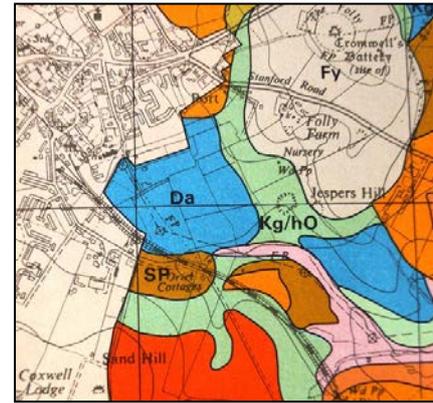
# Soil Survey maps

## Soil Survey of England and Wales

The Soil Survey of England and Wales was established in 1939, although its published coverage of Oxfordshire was very partial.

### 1:250,000

The soil survey maps and associated regional bulletins at the 1:250,000 scale offer a regional and strategic perspective. They give a description of the region, its soil background, formation and classification; also a detailed description of the soil associations, land drainage and agricultural and forestry information.



Print publications:

- *Soils of Berkshire* (1979) [ref: OV 551/(JAR)]
- *Soils and their use in South East England* (1984) [ref: memoir SV 551/(JAR); map A:MC3:13-1]

Online:

- Simplified soil map data is viewable at the 1:250,000 scale only on Defra's [MAGIC](#) website

### 1:63,360

From 1939 to 1966, mapping was carried out at a scale of 1:63,360 (1" to 1 mile). The areas mapped were selected to represent typical landscape types, soil problems, complexity of soil pattern and land use. Only 10% of England and Wales was covered; and so there are only two 1:63,360 sheet maps and memoirs [ref: OV 551] in the Oxfordshire region:

- *Sheet 268, Soils of the Reading district* (1968)
- *Sheet 253, Soils of the Wantage and Abingdon district* (1973)

### 1:25,000

Between 1966 and 1979, mapping was carried out at a 1:25,000 scale which allowed the survey to relate soil type to individual fields depicted on the base map. There are three 1:25,000 sheet maps [ref: A:MC20] and accompanying memoirs [ref: OV 551] in the Oxfordshire region:

- *Witney South* (SP30) (1982-3)
- *Tiddington* (SP60) (1983)
- *Faringdon* (parts of SU28, 29, 38 and 39) (1973)

## National Soil Resources Institute

Soil Survey work is now carried out by the [National Soil Resources Institute](#), established at Cranfield University in August 2001 - which maintains [LandIS](#), an online environmental information system.

[Landis](#) includes a free [Soilscapes Viewer](#), based on a simplified 1:250,000 scale soil survey dataset.

You can also view the 1:250,000 scale soil mapping online via the [UK Soil Observatory map viewer](#).

## And how do I go about viewing them?

For small scale survey data, you can use [Soilscapes Viewer](#). If you wish to see the original maps and reports, you can order these up for viewing in our Searchroom, citing the catalogue references given for each map listed above.

## [Contacting and visiting Oxfordshire History Centre](#)

Updated 23 September 2015