

Ordnance Survey is aware that small-scale mapping of Great Britain, produced by the Russian Military and Geodetic and Cartographic Committee at scales of 1:25 000, 1:50 000 and 1:100 000, has been and may still be being imported into the United Kingdom.

We have been asked by a number of people whether this mapping is based on Ordnance Survey in-copyright mapping and if so what are the implications regarding its reproduction by others. Technical examinations of examples of this mapping leave us in no doubt that it substantially reproduces Ordnance Survey 1:25 000, 1:50 000 and 1:63 360 scale maps and has been revised up until recent times, again reproducing in-copyright Ordnance Survey material. The Russian mapping does contain small amounts of additional material but is almost entirely an adaptation of Ordnance Survey Crown copyright material. It was produced without the permission of Ordnance Survey and thus it infringes Ordnance Survey's Crown copyright.

We believe use of this mapping by third parties would seriously undermine Ordnance Survey's legitimate rights and unfairly distort the market for all UK map-makers, be they Ordnance Survey licensed or producers of wholly original mapping in their own right. Accordingly as the original copyright owner, Ordnance Survey is not prepared to sanction its use commercially and is anxious to see it removed from the marketplace. Under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 it is unlawful to import, trade in and use infringing material and we reserve the right to take legal action against any parties importing or offering this mapping for sale or reproducing material from it.

Ordnance Survey has no desire whatsoever to cause unnecessary difficulties for anyone currently holding published examples of this Russian mapping or copies taken from it. However as we cannot legitimise trading in it or copying from it, we would ask people holding such material to get in touch with Carl Calvert, Ordnance Survey (phone 023 8079 2360) as soon as possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made, by agreement with us, for the removal of such stocks from the market.

**Robin Knights, Intellectual Property Manger, Ordnance Survey
10 September 1997**