

Rannóg Pholasáí, Cháilíochtaí,  
Churaclaim agus Mheasúnachta,  
An Roinn Oideachais agus  
Scileanna, Bloc 2, Sráid  
Maoilbhríde,  
Baile Átha Cliath 1

☎ (01) 8892384



Qualifications, Curriculum and  
Assessment Policy Unit,  
Department of Education and  
Skills, Block 2 Marlborough  
Street,  
Dublin 1

Facs (01) 8892040

## **Circular 0050/2013**

### **To Boards of Management, Principal Teachers and Teaching Staff of Post-Primary Schools**

#### **Changes to the Legend and Symbols on the 1:50,000 Discovery Series Ordnance Survey (OS) Maps used for Teaching, Learning and in Examinations.**

#### **Introduction:**

The layout of the legend and the design of some symbols used on the 1:50,000 Discovery Series Ordnance Survey (OS) maps are being changed by Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI). The purpose of this circular is to bring these changes to the attention of teachers of Geography, Environmental and Social Studies, Active Leisure Studies within the Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) programme and other subjects or programmes that may use these maps for teaching and learning during junior cycle and senior cycle.

#### **Changes to the legend and symbols:**

The changes to the 1:50,000 Discovery Series OS maps are as follows:

- The background colour of the legend is changing from green to a light cream colour.
- The legend symbols are no longer grouped under headings but are now presented as lists.
- Five new symbols are included in the legend, a further seven have been redesigned and one symbol has been removed.

Details of these changes are outlined in a document, *'New Style Discovery Series Legend'* that has been prepared by the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST). This document can be accessed on the Scoilnet website at <http://maps.scoilnet.ie/legendchanges/> .

### **Teaching and learning:**

The changes introduced by the OSI are minor. In teaching map skills to students, teachers should therefore continue to use the existing 1:50,000 Discovery Series OS maps whether found in textbooks, in past examination papers or in map sets held in classrooms in conjunction with the guidance provided in the document *'New Style Discovery Series Legend'* available at <http://maps.scoilnet.ie/legendchanges/>. Teachers should make sure that their students are aware of the newly designed legend and redesigned symbols to ensure that they are fully prepared to use these maps in future examinations. Teachers can access 1:50,000 Discovery Series OS maps that include the changes to the legend layout and to the design of the symbols through Scoilnet Maps at <https://maps.scoilnet.ie>. This online map and aerial photograph resource, provided by the Department of Education and Skills to teachers and their students, allows free access to a wide range of OS maps.

### **State Examinations:**

The State Examinations Commission (SEC) will continue to use 1:50,000 Discovery Series OS maps that do not contain the changes to the legend and symbols in state examinations for 2014 and 2015. Starting in 2016, the SEC will use the 1:50,000 Discovery Series OS maps with the newly designed legend and redesigned symbols in examination papers for Geography, Environmental and Social Studies and Active Leisure Studies.

This Circular may also be accessed at [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)

Breda Naughton  
Principal Officer  
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