A new survey of surviving copies of William Smith's 1815 map, *A Delineation of the Strata of England and Wales, with part of Scotland*, verifies the 1938 classification of the maps by Joan and Victor Eyles into five series but proposes that their unnumbered and unsigned Series V maps be divided into Series Va and Series Vb. The Series Va maps share characteristics with late Series IV maps while Series Vb maps appear to represent a possible second edition dating from the mid to late 1830s during which Smith was also working on a revised, but never issued, edition of his *Memoir*. While the paper for almost all copies of the main issue of Smith’s map came from the Springfield Mill at Maidstone in Kent and is countermarked 1812, the copies of Series Vb maps examined are on paper made at Rye Mill near High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire in the 1830s. The new survey has confidently located about seventy surviving copies of Smith’s map, and the likely location of at least thirty additional copies. It is suggested that perhaps as many as 130 to 150 copies of the map survive out of a probable original print-run of about 330 to 350.

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Smith’s A Delineation of the Strata of England and Wales, with Part of Scotland, published in September 1815. Image courtesy British Geological Survey as a one-time-only reproduction: British Geological Survey copyright permit no. CP15/050, © NERC. Smith in later life finally received some recognition of his pioneering work, including the first Wollaston Medal of the Geological Society of London (1831), which 146 years later named after Smith its medal for excellence in contributions to applied and economic aspects of geology. The methods Smith developed are a fundamental underpinning of biostratigraphy and a basis of every student’s field mapping exercise to the present day. FURTHER READING. Online gateway to Smith’s maps and much more: www.strata-smith.com. This sumptuous and comprehensive evaluation showcases Smith’s 1815 hand-coloured map, A Delineation of the Strata of England and Wales, with part of Scotland, and illustrates the story of his career, from apprentice to fossil collector and from his. Interleaved between the sections are essays by leading academics that explore the aims of Smith’s work, its application in the fields of mining, agriculture, cartography, fossil collecting and hydrology, and its influence on biostratigraphical theories and the science of geology. William Smith discovered that he could identify rock layers by the unique fossils they held. His discovery helped later generations of scientists to understand the history of life on Earth. Published in 1815, Smith’s Geological Map of England and Wales and Part of Scotland was the first geologic map to cover such a large area in such fine detail. The map used hand-applied color gradations to show where one formation gave way to the next, conveying three dimensions of information on a two-dimensional surface. William ‘Strata’ Smith (23 March 1769 – 28 August 1839) was an English geologist, who created the first nationwide geological map. Like another great scientist of his time, Michael Faraday, he was the son of a blacksmith. His geological discoveries were made when, as a young man, he was a surveyor, and so travelled the country. Smith’s greatest discovery was that sedimentary rocks of a similar age held fossils of a similar type. So he could identify them when they were at the surface in different