

Black Country on the map



Professor Carl Chinn and Peter Mathews, president of the Black Country chamber, with the map

Celebrations at region's recognition

The first Ordnance Survey map of the Black Country is being unveiled tomorrow at the annual celebration of the area's chamber of commerce at Wolverhampton Racecourse.

The VIP event, entitled Let's Celebrate Success, will see the Ordnance Survey Landranger 139 edition map, entitled Birmingham and the Black Country, launched by Professor Carl Chinn and Digby, Lord Jones of Birmingham alongside Wolverhampton South East MP and Business Minister Pat McFadden.

The Black Country map will be published in October this year as a result of a long-standing campaign

by chamber president Peter Mathews to establish official recognition for the Black Country as a place of great historic and vital commercial importance to the UK.

Mr Mathews said: "I'm surprised that it's taken us centuries to get to this point. To date, the Black Country has not been recognised properly for the contribution it has made to the UK, let alone the rest of the world, as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution and manufacturing processes.

"The new Ordnance Survey map will show a physical manifestation of the region. The main decision behind the Black Country Map was to attempt to get recognition for

the Black Country itself, not simply on the map, but for the businesses, industry and people of the Black Country, our contribution to history and our promise for the future. I am extremely proud of this team effort and I thank the Ordnance Survey for their assistance in making this map a reality."

Local historian and Express & Star columnist Carl Chinn added: "It is very important for the Black Country to have been recognised by the Ordnance Survey. The Black Country is known for its contribution to industry and heritage and for our accent and dialect, but above all for a sense of belonging.