

Mapping Report 2020

Introduction

Covid-19 shut down all normal orienteering for about five months, and with it much mapping activity.

Some things continued, especially where mappers had terrain within reach of their daily exercise, and when we started to get going with MapRunF

Mapping Course

During the full lockdown, about 12 people signed up for the club Mapping Course. 14 modules were prepared, about 160 pages in total. It certainly kept me busy. Many people found that lockdown didn't give them as much spare time as expected, with a combination of Working From Home and domestic duties filling the days. I don't know of anyone that finished the full course, but it gave an insight into the processes of mapping to many.

The course remains available as a club resource.

In preparing the course I found some errors in the Open Orienteering Mapper program. The developers have improved the handling of GPS data with our help. We are still working on the proper translation of maps between OCAD and OOM, especially in British National Grid.

A lasting benefit of the course is the creation of ISOM 2017-2 and ISSprOM 2019 symbols sets, incorporating symbols specific to WCOC. These include the club badge and contact block created by Jon Eaton, both of which we are now using on new or updated maps.

Scope of mapping

Over the years we have mapped a huge area of 'West Cumberland' – see attached *Map of Maps*. As reported last year, there is such a lot that we can't maintain it all, so we have to be selective in updating the areas most important to our fixtures lists. We need to bring on more mappers to help in this, and hopefully the mapping course will encourage a few people to join in.

Standards for symbols and scales

The committee approved a policy for symbols and scales for all types of maps. In summary, newly created maps for fell and forest will be at 1:7500 or smaller (usually 1:10,000) and use ISOM 2017-2 symbols. Sprint and urban maps will be 1:4000 or 1:5000 and use ISSprOM 2019 symbols. Schools maps (various scales) will use the BOF standard symbol sets.

Larch Disease

Phytophthora ramorum is affecting many forests. We're losing some of our most runnable plantations to felling in an attempt to control the disease. In previous years, much larch was felled in Whinlatter, Wythop, Dent and elsewhere. Currently felling is ongoing in one of the few remaining good bits of Cogra Moss, in Sillathwaite Wood (next to Lowther Park), and on Crag Fell. Further work will soon start in Lowther Park and the southeast side of Dent. This is in addition to routine forestry work in Setmurthy, Ennerdale, and elsewhere.

Software

Pete Nelson and Jon Eaton made recommendations to the committee that new mappers and planners be encouraged to use Open Orienteering Mapper and Purple Pen in place of OCAD. No new licenses for OCAD would be purchased. This proposal was accepted.

External Maps

With the complete shutdown of Fell Running, we had no requests for external maps this year.

Permanent courses

There has been no routine update of the Whinlatter map. Covid-19 prevented access, and no changes were reported.

We removed punches from the permanent courses in Ennerdale and Bleach Green to reduce the chance of cross contamination with Covid-19. We are currently trialling a replacement based on scanning QR codes by smartphone (iOrienteering).

The Bleach Green permanent course map has been updated.

The western part of the Ennerdale permanent course map has been updated, and resurvey will continue as forestry work moves farther up the valley.

Data Resilience

I now have a much improved set of club maps, and clear owners for almost all of them. In most cases, therefore, there will be two copies – one held by the owner and one held by me. I'll shortly place a backup copy with the software officer so we are not at risk of losing our biggest asset.

Last year we...

Howard and Kim Leslie:

Updated the Cocker Banks part of the Cockermouth urban map

Mike Hind:

High Doat added to Honister map

High and Low Howes map redrawn to ISOM 2017-2

Jaws of Borrowdale redrawn to ISOM 2017-2

Keswick partially revised and redrawn to ISprOM 2019

Michael Billinghamurst:

The planned extension of Setmurthy onto the North slope of Elva Hill is complete, and will be used for a winter series event in November. Further extension depends on decisions as to which areas are usable taking into account ease of access (physical and permission) and quality of terrain.

The update of Setmurthy forest, following extensive forestry work, and The Hay is largely complete. Still awaiting completion of forestry work in the western end of the forest. I have not done the area to be clear felled in the east of the area.

Mike Pearson:

Low Rigg updated

Jon Eaton:

Continuous update of Whitehaven

Pete Nelson:

Started resurvey of Lowther Park

Resurveyed Knockmurton

Started resurvey of Ennerdale, as forestry work allows

Partially resurveyed Bleach Green

Started survey connecting Buttermere to Rannerdale

New map of St Joseph's School, Frizington

Minor updates to many other maps

Next year we'll...

Start on Coledale (Howard Leslie)

Finish the revision of the western part of the Cockermouth Urban map and start on Coledale (Howard and Kim Leslie)

Join up High and Low Howes with Honister/High Doat (Mike Hind)

Maybe map Snipeshow Tarn (Mike Hind)

Update 1 or 2 more maps depending on priorities to be agreed. Mawbray and/or Caer Mote likely to be part of this (Michael Billingham).

Review Great Mell Fell for possible revision (Nick Evans)

Continue on Armboth to Bleaberry (Mike Pearson)

Ongoing updates to Whitehaven (Jon Eaton)

Watching brief on some historic areas – Drigg, Blengdale, Parkgate, Ponsonby Tarn (Jon Eaton)

Continue update of Ennerdale as forestry work is completed (Pete)

As time and priorities permit, connect Buttermere to Rannerdale, update Whinlatter south (Pete)

We need mappers for...

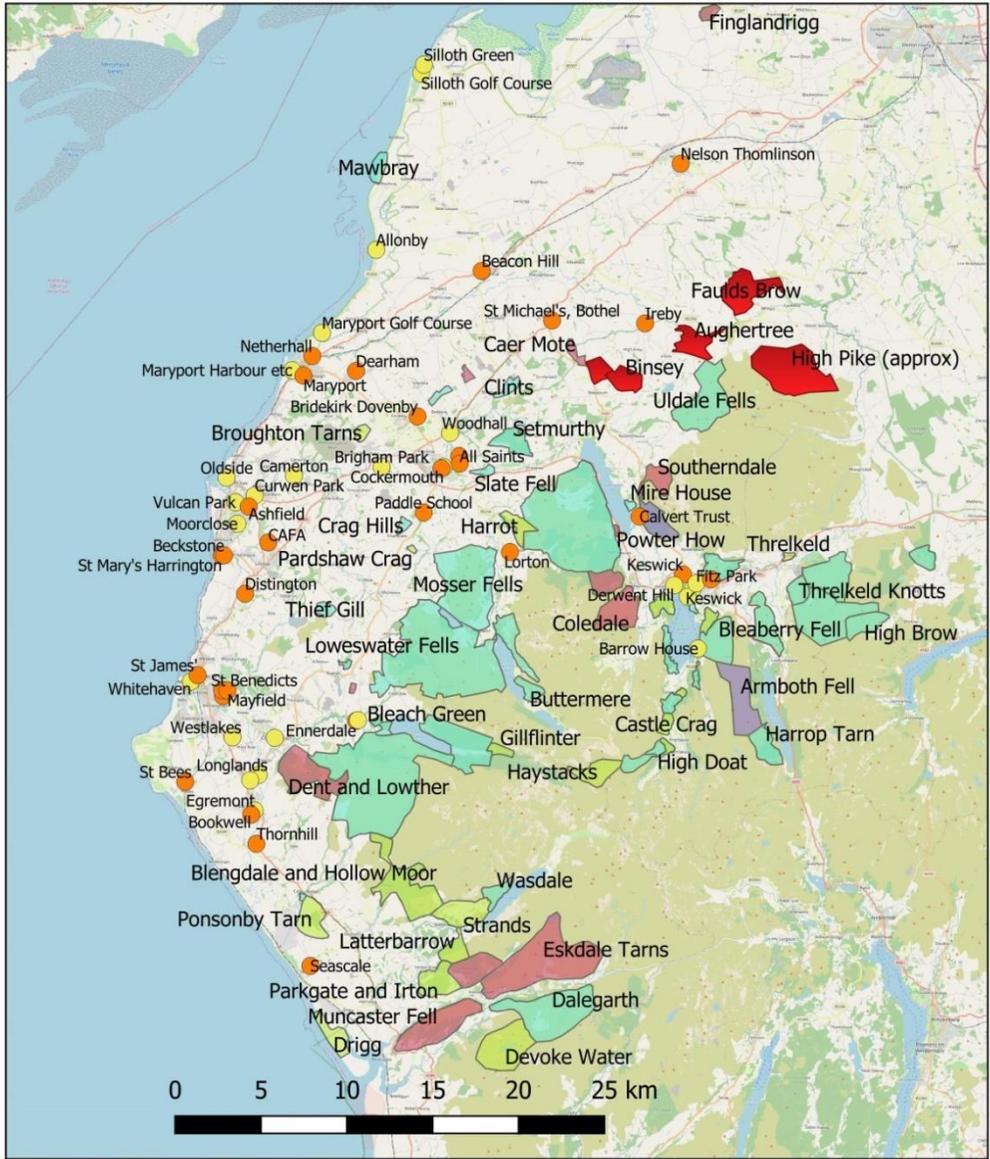
Lots of updates.

Minor updates to some smaller maps – suitable for new mappers

Keeping on top of forestry changes in Whinlatter

Eskdale (Blea Tarn and Eel Tarn) are rather neglected.

Pete Nelson September 2020



The map of maps

September 2020

Status of schools and sprint maps to be verified

sprint and schools

- School
- Sprint

Mapped areas

- OK
- Needs Update
- Historic
- In Prep
- Borderliners

