

Mapping Report 2021

Introduction

With Covid restrictions easing, we started to get the benefit of much mapping activity that was carried out during the cessation of events through 2021.

Mapping Day

We held a successful outdoor Mapping Day, with five participants. Another will be held shortly, for the benefit of those who wanted to come to the first one, but were unavailable.

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. Help is always welcome for updating maps.

Larch Disease

Phytophthora ramorum continues to affect us. We've lost much of Setmurthy. A lot of felling is in progress in Darling How (Whinlatter west). There will be further felling in the main part of Whinlatter. The felling in Cogra Moss was more extensive than expected. Work has yet to start in Dent and Lowther Park, but it will take out most of Dent (Uldale) forest as far as we are concerned.

Software

The use of Open Orienteering Mapper (for making and maintaining maps) and Purple Pen (for course planning) is spreading through the club, as recommended by the committee. Both apps are currently free, and provide an easier alternative to the versions of OCAD that many of us use.

OOM is currently at version 0.9.5, and incorporates some improvements requested by us. It may go to a paid version at version 1.0 (no date yet) so get your free version while you can!

Map Scales

Evening events based on maps drawn at 1:10000 have mostly used a scale of 1:7500 for some years. This has been judged to be a good compromise to suit newcomers, young people, and those whose eyesight is not as sharp as it was. The international standard requires a simple enlargement of the 1:10000 symbols. Where appropriate we are changing smaller 1:7500 maps to 1:4000 or 1:5000 and

converting to sprint (ISSprOM 2019) symbols, which gives a neater appearance (Low & High Park, Curwen Park, KeltonFell Top, StoneyWath, Bleach Green, Wood Hall, Silloth Dunes). Some have also been converted to 2m contours, to comply with the sprint standard.

Course planning symbols

There was a debate in committee and in the wider club about the appropriate size of course planning symbols on 1:7500 maps. It was decided to enlarge the control circles in the same way as the map symbols. Opinion remains divided about this policy.

External Maps

We had no requests for maps from Fell Race organisers or other bodies this year.

Permanent courses

Whinlatter:

Updates made to the Whinlatter map, particularly for the new felling and new out-of-bounds area around GoApe. New line maps printed. Decision still awaited about the star course, which is badly affected by the new OOB.

Steve Birkinshaw set up the Hard Course A as a MapRun

Bowness Knott:

Now operating on the iOrienteering system. We had hoped to get a better impression of usage from this system, to inform a decision on extending the system to former courses up to and beyond Gillerthwaite. The only courses open are the two close to Bowness Knott. The short technical has only two recorded uses in the last year. The short easy has none. There is evidence on the ground of the courses being visited, but the web results do not reflect this.

The Ennerdale courses were recommended in the Camping and Caravanning magazine, with no apparent response.

Bleach Green:

Now operating on the iOrienteering system. Just four records on the easy course and none on the harder course. The permanent course map has been updated.

iOrienteering: The developer requested a report comparing iOrienteering with MapRun, for use with BOF. I prepared one, but it did not draw the conclusions he

wanted. MapRun and iOrienteering appear to be growing closer together in their capabilities.

MapRun: There are about 20 events using club maps on MapRun. I haven't found a way of checking completions for those I have not done myself

Mapping Data

More free LiDAR data is becoming available from the Environment Agency, but unfortunately in a form that our current OCAD version can't handle. It is also at too high a resolution, which means direct conversion to contours gives very wiggly lines. Methods developed to pre-process this data so that it is useful for orienteering maps.

Ordnance Survey are making more of their data freely available via APIs. We can now get georeferenced maps at all scales.

Last year we...

Howard and Kim Leslie:

Cockermouth - The Moor: brand new map created dated APR 2021 (this area had never been previously mapped with the O sprint spec).

This map was used for the first time at Thu Sprint event on 22/04/2021.

Map of school / Beech Lane area – minor edits / additions

Remainder of Cockermouth – various misc edits / updates as notice

Steve Birkinshaw:

Major new map of Threlkeld Common, which joins on to the existing Threlkeld Knotts and Clough Head maps (and ultimately to High Brow). This map was used successfully at a weekend event.

Mike Hind:

Updated Latrigg Top and Greta Gorge

Redrew Keswick Urban Map for BOF selection race now in ISSprOM 2019 with 1:4000 and 2m contours

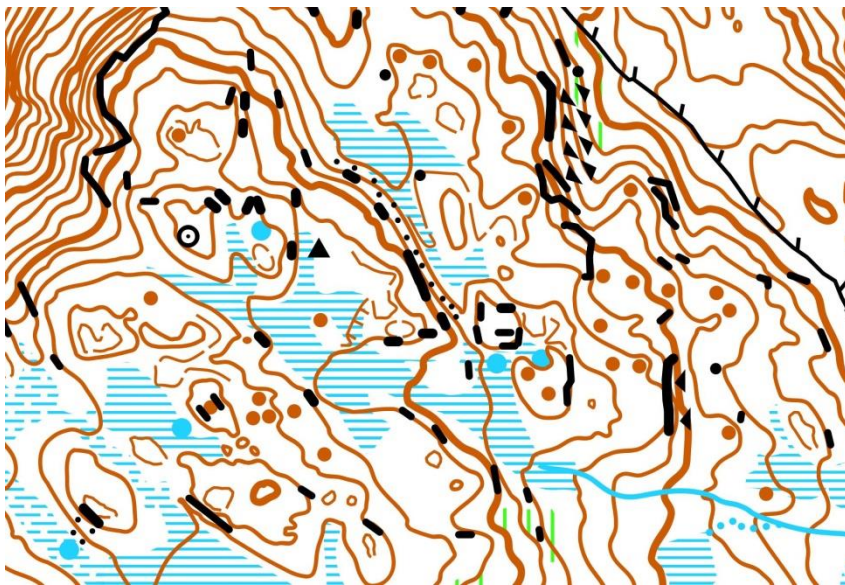
Began joining Low and High Hows onto Honister and High Doat

Started the update of Hawse End ready for the CST in Feb 2022

Roger Thomas:

Attended a club mapping course day in June 2021 and was 'rewarded' with being given Holme Wood at Loweswater to update. A lot has changed in 10 years! A summer vegetation survey has been completed and revisions are due to be completed this autumn. A 2022 planner and competitors are going to see some significant changes – hopefully for the better!

Roger has also embarked on mapping a new area; Bessyboot above Stonethwaite in Borrowdale. It's a high fell area, sheep cropped grass, no heather and virtually no bracken. Plenty of rock, contour and marsh detail as draft extract shows.



Michael Billinghamurst:

Further updates to Setmurthy to reflect forestry work. This is still going on in some places so more changes will be needed.

Completed Elva Hill map, with first use of the area for many decades in July.

Remap of Mawbray following conservation work in the area - gorse cutting, new fence, new ponds. Reinterpretation of contours.

Partial update of Silloth Dunes

Mike Pearson:

Continued working on the Armboth to Bleaberry Fell map. Now mostly done.

Updated Derwent Hill

Bob Barnby:

Updates to Slate Fell

Pete Nelson:

Completed resurvey of Lowther Park. Three attempts at holding an event on it failed. Two were Covid related. The third was for forestry work, that started just three days before the planned event. We are unlikely to get onto it until the felling is finished, which will remove the best bit.

Ennerdale resurveyed, as far as Irish Bridge. Successful evening event held, using some areas we haven't been in for many years.

Bleach Green resurveyed for permanent courses and evening events.

Rannerdale Knotts was surveyed for the first time, thus connecting the Buttermere and Rannerdale maps, and opening up a suitable area for larger events.



New map made of Seaton School, Workington.

New map made of Paddle School, Eaglesfield.

New contours and resurvey of the Leaps/Gavel map, with emphasis on the neglected parts of SE Gavel.

Raven Crag (Dent) resurveyed for MapRun.

Flat Fell resurveyed with new contours.

High and Low Park (Loweswater), Stoneywath, Woodhall, Mire House, Silloth Dunes and Keltonfell Top converted to Sprint (ISSPrOM 19) standard.

Update and minor extension for Keltonfell Top.

Whinlatter updated for recent felling around the visitor centre.

Base map prepared for Flimby Great Wood. No fieldwork yet.

Base map of Bessyboot prepared for Roger Thomas

Blea Tarn and Eel Tarn/Stony tarn maps largely redrawn in current software.
Major resurvey on the ground needed.

Minor updates to many other maps

Next year we'll...

Start on Coledale at some time (Howard Leslie)

Continue working on Blease Fell, Blencathra (Steve Birkinshaw)

Continue joining High and Low Hows with Honister/High Doat (Mike Hind)

Finish resurvey of Holme Wood (Roger Thomas)

Continue first survey of the summit of Bessyboot (Roger Thomas)

Continue on Armboth to Bleaberry (Mike Pearson)

Finalise Setmurthy once forestry work is complete (Michael Billinghamurst)

Possible extension to Elva Hill (Michael Billinghamurst)

Potential remap of Caer Mote (Michael Billinghamurst)

Update Whinlatter in preparation for the British Night Championships in 2024
(Pete) (unless I can find someone else to do it!)

Keep on top of changes to many smaller maps (Pete)

Continue to replace old interpolated 5m contours with LiDAR, particularly
Loweswater Fells and Lank Rigg (Pete)

We need mappers for...

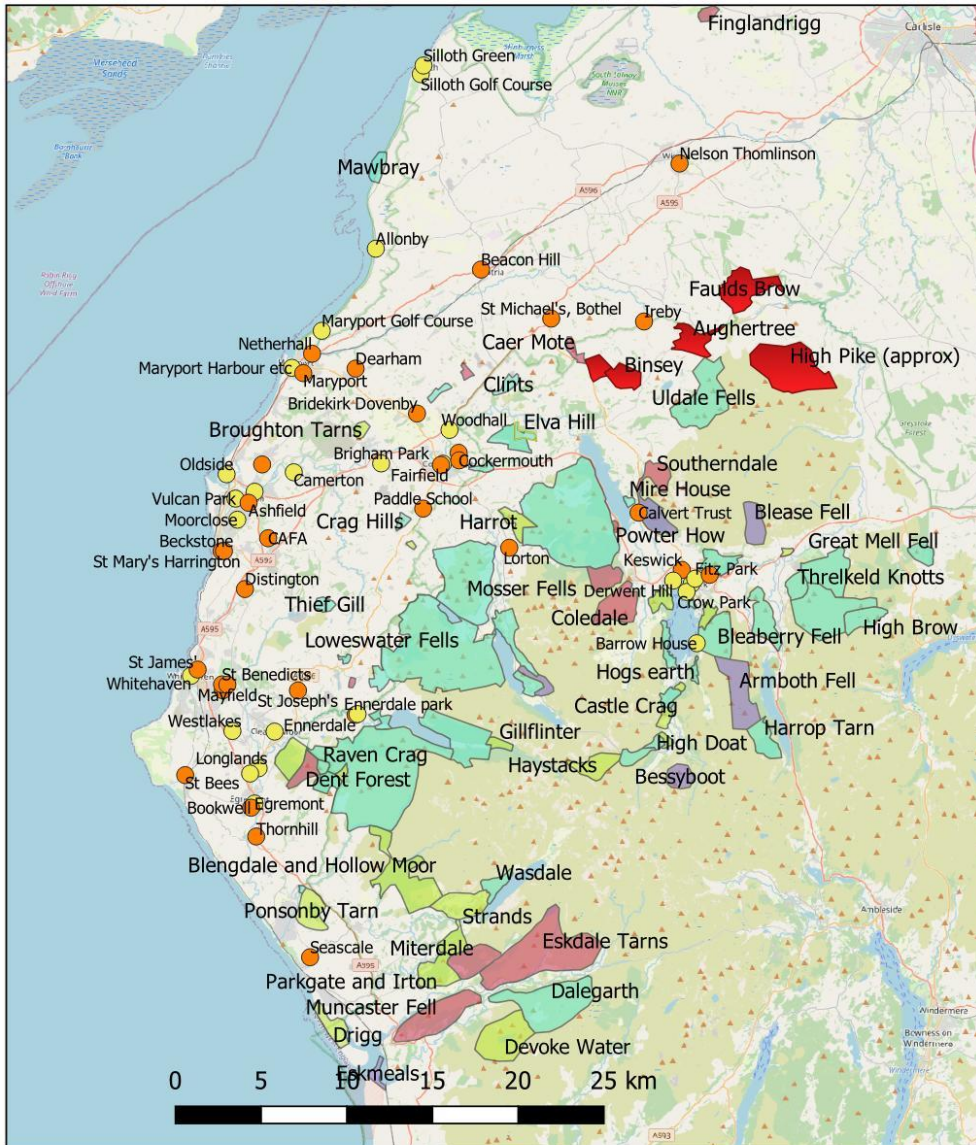
Lots of updates.

Minor updates to some smaller maps – suitable for new mappers

Keeping on top of forestry changes in Whinlatter

Eskdale (Blea Tarn and Eel Tarn) update.

Pete Nelson September 2021



The map of maps

September 2021

Status of schools and sprint maps to be verified

sprint and schools

- School
- Sprint

Mapped areas

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

