

# Mapping Report 2022

## Introduction

With tree planting (Mosser, Bleach Green), and larch disease (Dent, Lowther, Holme Wood, Setmurthy, Cogra Moss, Bowness Knott) we are losing terrain faster than we're gaining it. We were fortunate to escape Storm Arwen with only minor damage.

We completed important resurveys of Southerndale and Lank Rigg.

The scrapping of the proposed ELMS environmental grant scheme by the current government will affect us. It is not yet clear what the effects will be.

## Mapping Day

We held a second successful outdoor Mapping Day, with five participants. An indoor tech session was held, with seven people.

## 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 Dent (Uldale side), part of Lowther Park, and bits more of Setmurthy, and felling has started in Bowness Knott. There is to be felling in Holme Wood and Whinlatter.

## 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!

## Event Areas

Part of the Mosser Fells north of Low Fell summit has been planted with trees. an important bit of the map for us. This is an important bit of map for use, and we've

hardly used it since the remapping exercise in 2017 – 2018. The new owners appear to be amenable to use using the area, but it needs an assessment to see if we can without damaging the new planting.

At Bleach Green the fields south of the river are now planted with trees, and unavailable to us. The forest on the lower slopes of Grike has mostly been felled (larch disease again).

The felling on the Uldale side of Dent, for control of larch disease (*Phytophthora ramorum*) is complete. There's not much left that is useful to us.

The felling of larch in Lowther Park is complete. We've lost the best bit (in the NW corner), but the remainder is usable

### **External Maps**

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

### **Permanent courses**

Whinlatter:

Minor updates made to the maps and course files for Whinlatter. The Out of Bounds area around the Go Ape facility has been removed.

Bowness Knott:

Courses are currently closed for felling. BOF POC register, Wild Ennerdale website, and iOrienteering site all changed. Remapping will be required before the courses are replanned and reopened. Before closure, there was evidence of use around the checkpoints. There was only one recorded completion on iOrienteering.

Bleach Green:

One checkpoint disappeared; now replaced. Signs of use, but only three recorded attempts on iOrienteering.

Longlands Lake:

The Rivers Trust are considering a permanent course here

Walkmill Community Woodlands:

The Rivers Trust are interested in establishing a permanent course, probably after the completion of planned footpath work.

## **Last year we...**

Howard and Kim Leslie:

Beck Wythop: Feedback / suggested updates given for the Beck Wythop part of Wythop Woods. Pruning / opening up of some older paths that were becoming overgrown.

Used for a WCOC summer series event on 28/07/2022

Cockermouth - Castlegate (including the secondary school)  
This part of the Cockermouth map was updated August 2022.

Used for a WCOC autumn series sprint race on 22/09/2022

Steve Birkinshaw:

Started mapping Blease Fell, at the West end of Blencathra.

Steve's first map, Threlkeld Common, was used in conjunction with Mike Hind's Threlkeld Knotts map for the Lakes 5 days. This provided possibly the best running of the whole week.

Mike Hind:

Updated Latrigg Top and Greta Gorge  
Continued joining Low and High Hows to Honister and High Doat  
Updated Hawse End for the CompassSport Cup

Roger Thomas:

Completed the resurvey of Holme Wood, which was used as part of the summer series and the planner and competitors found it an improvement. Felling for the control of larch disease (*phytophthora ramorum*) will require an update when complete .

Continued field survey for Phase I of the new Bessyboot area in Borrowdale.  
About halfway through.

Michael Billinghamurst:

Major resurvey of the Southerndale map  
Further updates to Setmurthy to reflect forestry work.

Jon Eaton:

Updated Whitehaven/ Kells for the Autumn series

Pete:

The major effort was a full resurvey of the Lank Rigg, Latterbarrow and Matty Benn's area. This was used for a sparsely attended Galoppen. There is lots of potential for good courses here – mainly higher up for longer courses.



The Bleach Green map was updated and extended. It now also covers the northern half of Broadmoor Woods, including the site of the proposed new car park. This will be necessary for the permanent courses when the existing Bleach Green car park is closed and vehicle access restricted.

The Whitehaven Academy map was resurveyed. This needs update now that the new school buildings are in use

The Longlands Lake (Cleator) map was resurveyed and extended. It was used for an easy sprint event.

Keltonfell Top has been converted to sprint symbols and extended to give positive boundaries all round.

Plumblands School mapped.

Westlakes Academy (Egremont) mapped. The map will be updated when their new sports field is developed

Walkmill Community Woodlands (Moresby) was mapped for the first time. Permission to use the area was withdrawn a few days before the planned event in September. We might get back in after planned footpath improvement work is complete; this depends on a successful lottery funding application.

Ennerdale Scout Centre remapped and internal permanent courses replanned.

Stocks Wood (Wigton) Outdoor Centre map prepared for the owners. This wood was originally owned, planted, and mapped by Andrew Suddaby of Borderliners.

Minor updates made to Wythop woods for the summer series event. Start made on mapping archery targets in Hogg Wood

High and Low Park sprint scale maps revisited and improved

Minor updates to many other maps

### **Next year we'll...**

Start on Coledale at some time (Howard Leslie)

Possible resurvey of Whinlatter south of the road (Michael Billinghamurst)

Update Caer Mote (Michael Billinghamurst)

Update to Elva Hill following creation of drainage ponds by National Trust Riverlands (Michael Billinghamurst)

Continue working on Blease Fell, Blencathra (Steve Birkinshaw)

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

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

Continue on Armbboth to Bleaberry (Mike Pearson)

Update Whinlatter (Thorntwaite) 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)

### **We need mappers for...**

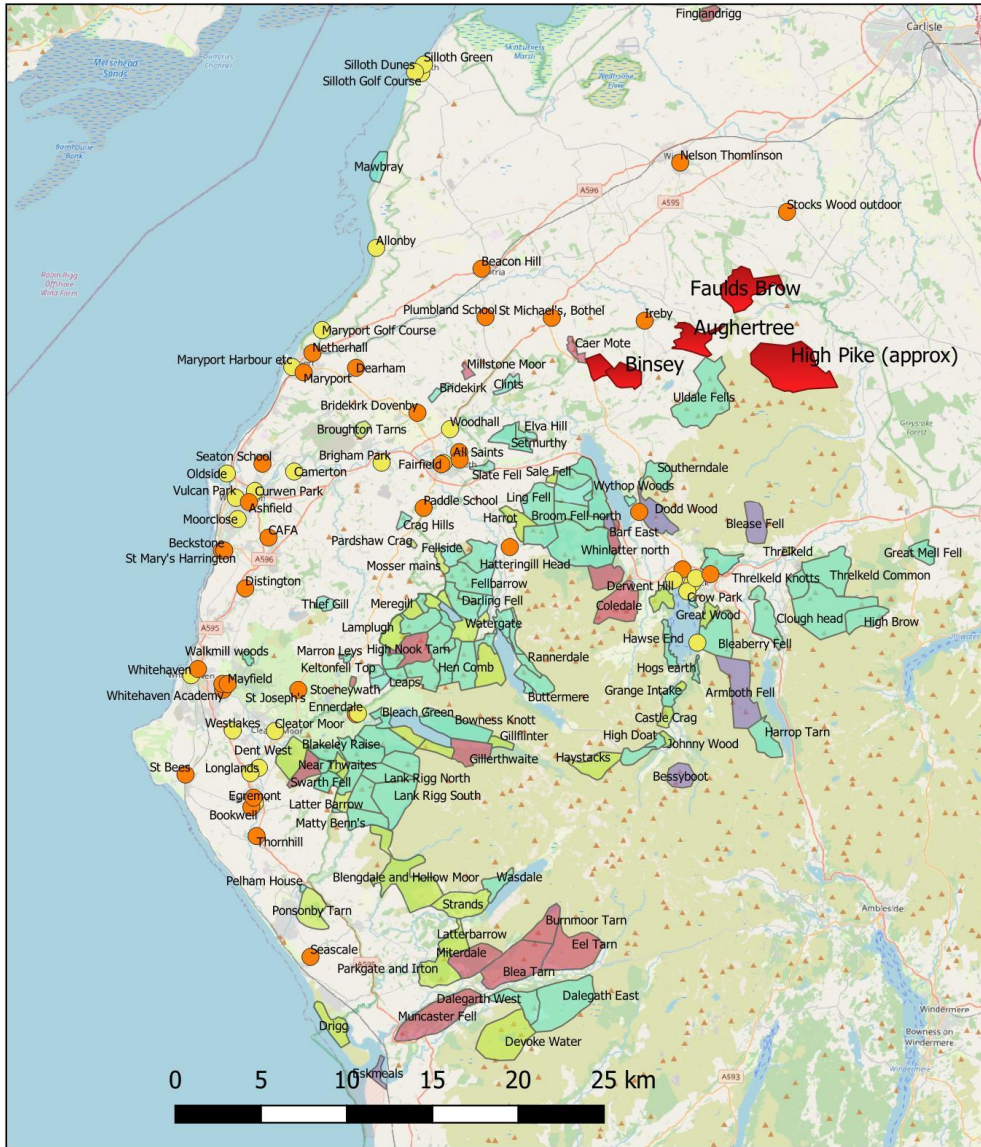
Lots of updates.

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 2022*



# The map of maps

September 2022

Status of schools and sprint maps to be verified

sprint and schools

- School
- Sprint

Mapped areas

- OK
- Needs Update
- Historic or not in use
- In Prep
- Borderliners

