

Mapping Report 2023

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.

Tree Disease

Ash dieback seems to be progressing ever faster. It hasn't yet affected our access to areas, but it will in the future as large trees die and become dangerous. Felling affected trees has its own hazards, and some land managers may prefer just to keep people away.

We aren't currently losing any more areas to larch disease (*Phytophthora ramorum*) but it's still around.

Software

As last year, 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

We had a difficult period in spring and early summer when a number of events were under threat. Restrictions were placed upon us in Wythop Woods at short notice. Big efforts by Ian Teasdale and Steve Breeze got a much reduced event away. The Dalegarth Galoppen was in serious doubt when one of the National Trust tenants withdrew permission. Sterling work by Roger Thomas and Richard & Ann Cummings rescued that event. A training event in Powter How was cancelled because of nesting birds. Rannerdale Knotts permission was declined because of increased traffic in the Buttermere valley in the bluebell season.

Partly as a result of these problems, Liz Elliott initiated a series of meetings with all the National Trust Rangers involved in our areas. Mike Hind and I joined in for the relevant ones. These were very positive meetings and resulted in clear agreements on some areas with access restrictions. They also volunteered two new areas, which we are assessing (Dunthwaite near Isel and Low Wood at Wasdale)

External Maps

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

Permanent courses

Whinlatter:

Ongoing. We do not have anyone looking after these courses. There are likely to be changes needed after the major felling due early 2024

Bowness Knott:

Courses are still closed. Felling is complete, but some remapping is required. The forestry work has left the forest floor in a poor state; we decided that this is not a suitable area to take the general public into. New, paths-based, courses will be explored.

Bleach Green:

Ongoing. Signs of use, but only two recorded attempts on iOrienteering.

Last year we...

Toby Heppell:

Created a new map of Brick Kiln Wood



Dan Heppell:

Did some minor updates of Setmurthy

Alex Crawford:

Minor updates made to Longlands Lake

Howard and Kim Leslie:

Updated the Cockermouth urban maps

Updated Cockermouth School map

Steve Birkinshaw:

Is still working on Blease Fell

Mike Hind:

Updated Greta Gorge



Is updating Hawse End for the British Night Championships in Feb 2024

Took over High Rigg from Mike Pearson

Roger Thomas:

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

Michael Billinghamurst:

Updated Elva Hill following creation of drainage ponds by National Trust Riverlands. We currently have no access here.

Updated Maryport Coastal Park

Jon Eaton:

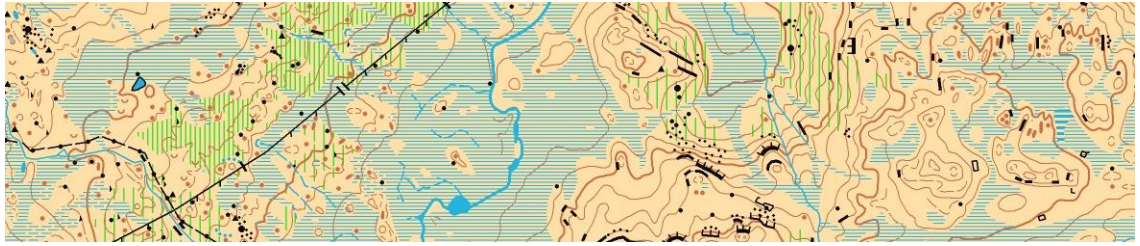
Created a new map of St Begh's School, Whitehaven



Updated the Hensingham map for an evening event

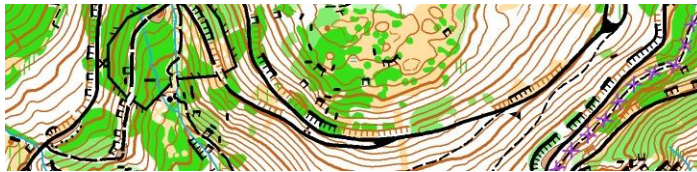
Mike Pearson:

Has paused his ongoing map of Harrop Tarn to Bleaberry Fell. He has provided a good bit of Armbboth Fell to work with. Mike deserves our thanks for this and for many other maps throughout the club's history.



Pete:

The major effort was the update of Whinlatter Forest to level A standard, in anticipation of the British Night Championships. It will not now be used for that, but we've had a Gallopen out of it, and will get a night event in before major felling starts.

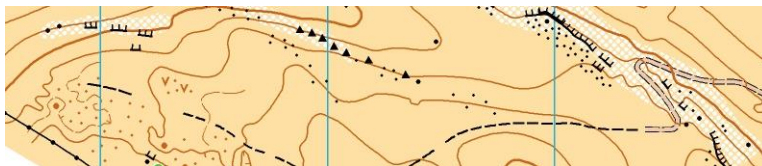


Updated the felling on Darling How.

Minor Changes in Wythop Woods.

Large scale map around Whinlatter Visitor Centre updated following felling and changes to the GoApe courses. Permanent course maps reissued.

Pardshaw Crag updated and partly redrawn



Updated Lowther Park following the most recent felling, and used it for an evening event. 'Like Tolkien's Forest of Fangorn' (Alex Crawford)

A new map of Egremont was created, and used for an evening event. It was well received, and will now be revised and extended.



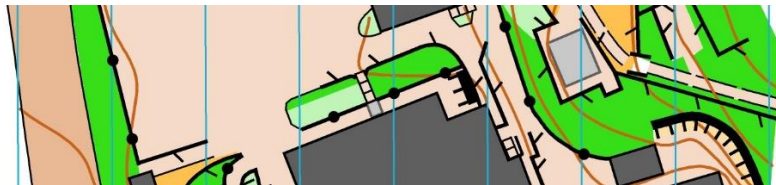
Took over Dalegarth Maps from Mike Pearson and made minor changes for the Gallopen on Dalegarth West.

Small map made of Wasdale Mountain Rescue Team Base, for their Open Day. This clashed with other club activities and we were unable to attend
Marron Leys remapped and used for both the Spring Series and Club Chase



Minor updates to Bleach Green for the Schools League final

The Calvert Trust requested an update of the orienteering maps of their main centre at Dodd Wood. Full suite of detailed and simplified maps and courses produced.



All Saints' School, Cockermouth, remapped

Swarth Fell remapped with new contours

Walkmill Community Woodlands (Moresby) remains unavailable, but we have been offered one part of it until the footpaths in the remainder are upgraded following a successful lottery funding application.

Stocks Wood (Wigton) Outdoor Centre map kept up to date with ongoing developments

Minor updates to many other maps

Next year we'll...

Review suitability of Dunthwaite Estate for training events (Toby Heppell)

Start on Coledale at some time (Howard Leslie)

Maybe update Caer Mote (Michael Billinghamurst)

Continue working on Blease Fell, Blencathra (Steve Birkinshaw)

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

Finish updating Hawse End for the 2024 British Night Championships

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

Update Holme Wood when NT have finished the larch operation (Roger Thomas)

Final update of Whinlatter (Thorntwaite) following felling and thinning in early 2024 (Pete) (unless I can find someone else to do it!)

Finish extension to Hunter How (Pete)

Update Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre maps and courses (Pete)

Update Whitehaven Academy and Westlakes Academy (Pete)

Continue with the new map of St. Benedict's and Mayfield Schools' Campus (Jon Eaton)

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

Map Low Wood, south of the Wasdale YHA (Jon Eaton/Pete Nelson). Anyone got any YHA contacts?

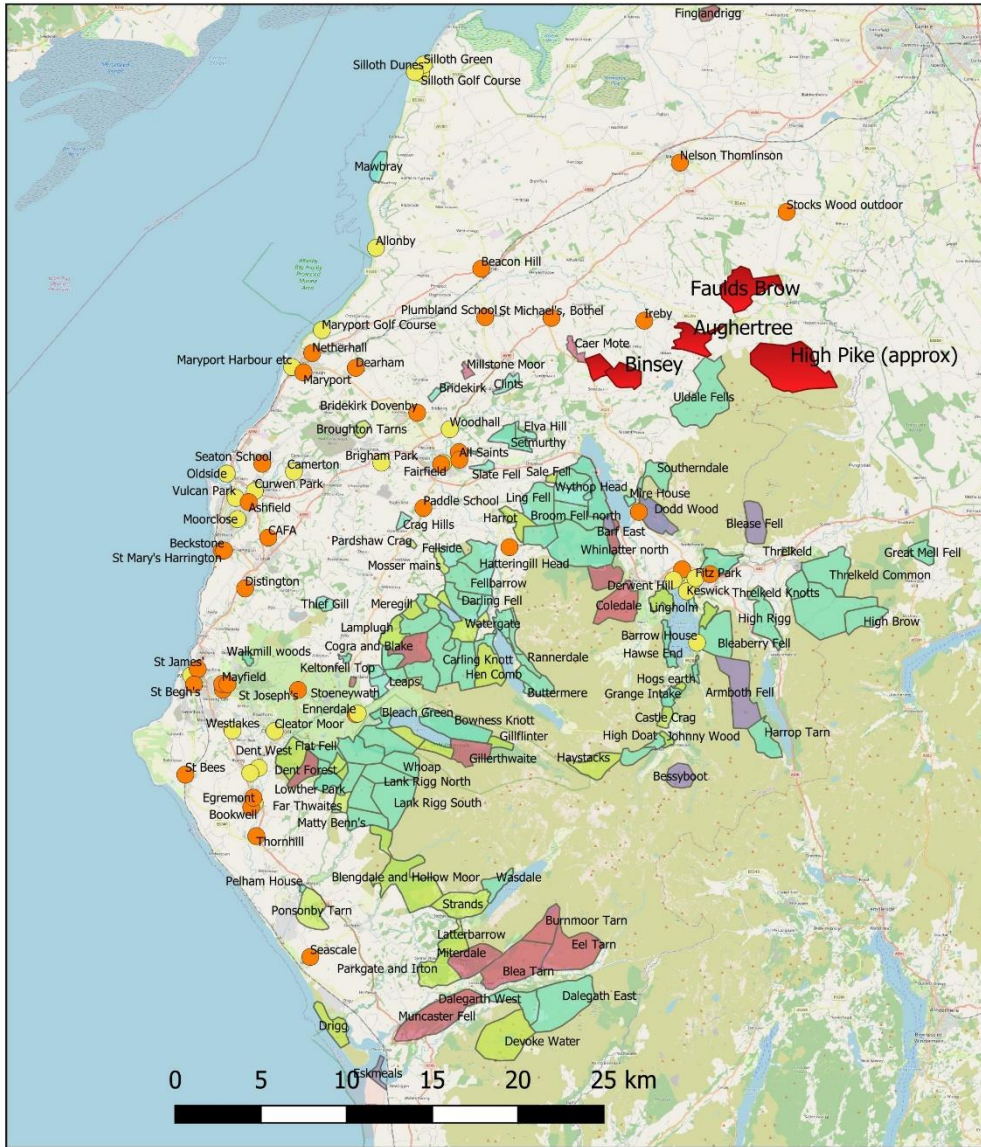
We need mappers for...

Minor updates to some smaller maps – suitable for new mappers

Keeping on top of forestry changes in Whinlatter

Eskdale (especially Blea Tarn and Eel Tarn) update.

Pete Nelson October 2023



The map of maps

October 2023

sprint and schools

- School
- Sprint

Mapped areas

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

