

Mapping Report 2024

In the last year we've issued no new major maps, but there's been a lot of work ongoing in updating and extending existing maps. We're lucky to have so much terrain, and the competent mappers to look after the most important bits.

Scope of mapping

Over the years we have mapped a huge area of 'West Cumberland' – see attached *Map of Maps*. (also issued separately at higher resolution). 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 continues to affect our area, with many large trees now affected. Some landowners (particularly the National Trust) are felling trees where the public may be vulnerable. Felling affected trees has its own hazards, and some land managers may prefer just to keep people away. As far as I know, we haven't lost any access yet for this reason.

Felling due to larch disease (Phytophthora ramorum) is affecting us a little in Whinlatter, and will do in Ennerdale, but there are currently no new big areas under threat.

Software

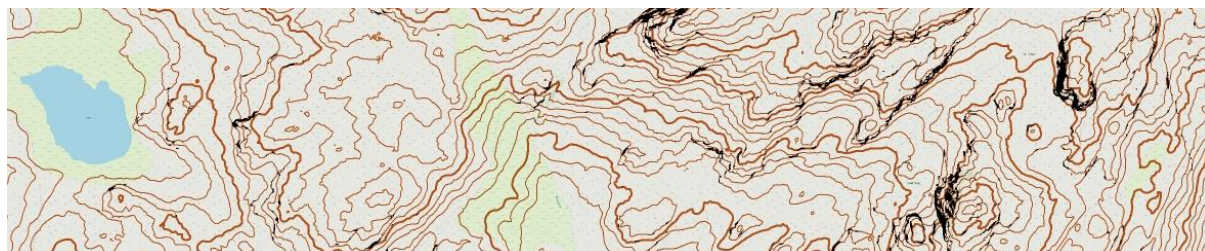
Jon Eaton has arranged for two club licences for the latest version of OCAD. The initial purchase is for three years. Any two nominated people can use it at once. So far, seven people have been given access. The main benefits are in processing LIDAR data and in checking readability of maps against IOF guidelines (e.g. not having black symbols too close together).

Open Orienteering Mapper (for making and maintaining maps) is still the preferred option for some of our mappers. It 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!

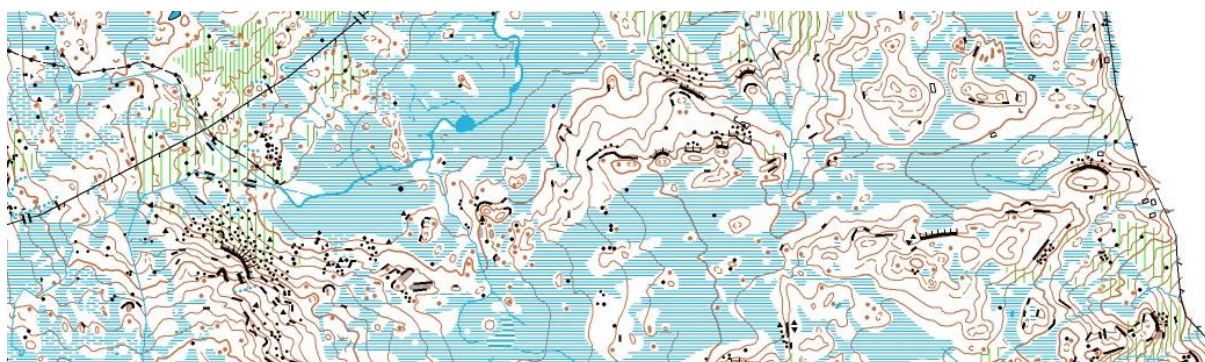
Purple Pen remains our preferred course planning tool.

Event Areas

We have had extensive discussion about the use of the Stony Tarn/Eel Tarn area. This area is of limited suitability for evening events, because not many people are prepared to travel. There is a usable field for Galoppen-sized events. It's an ideal area for a major event, but vehicle access, parking and assembly would have to be sorted before we made a commitment. A grant was sought for commercial mapping, but failed. Base map prepared from LiDAR; no fieldwork will be done unless there's a real prospect of using it.



Mike Pearson has provided his work so far of Armboth Fell, some of which was used for an evening event. The long term aim is to join Harrop Tarn to Bleaberry Fell.



External Bodies

We had no requests for maps from Fell Race organisers or other bodies this year. EUOC requested Honister Coombe, but it was not then used.

Borderliners sought our agreement to them mapping Keswick (Threlkeld) Golf Course. This map is now complete.

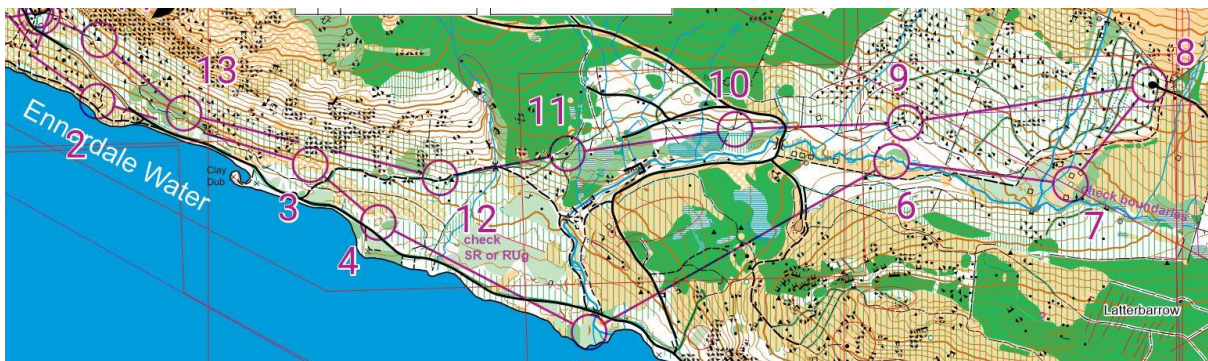
Permanent courses

Whinlatter:

Whinlatter suggested an update of the permanent courses there. Charlie Rennie will liaise with Rob Jones (Forestry England/WCOC) to create the courses when a small area of larch felling is complete.

Bowness Knott:

The map has been updated, and new courses created and installed. The 'technical courses were heavily constrained by the condition of the forest floor. There is a lot of challenging 'brash on boulderfield' terrain which is not suitable for a public course. One checkpoint has been removed by persons unknown, and replaced. There are signs of use at some checkpoints, but few people record their run on iOrienteering – 3 on the easy course and 2 on the short technical. There has been little interest from club members.



Bleach Green:

Ongoing. The northern part of the wood is due to be closed this winter for forestry work. It is hoped that this will not affect the courses. Only one person has recorded their run on iOrienteering this year.

Last year we...

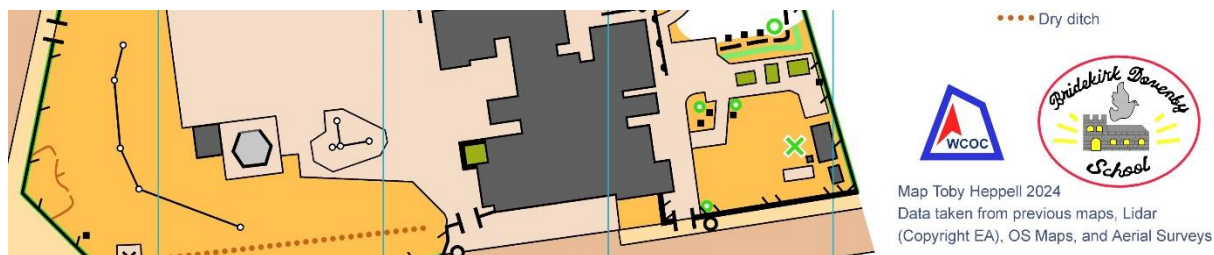
Supported the Spring Rocket League organised by Jamie Rennie with special maps prepared for Keswick (Mike Hind), Whitehaven (Jon Eaton), Vulcans (revised and extended by Roger Jackson), and Cockermouth (Howard Leslie). Additional mapping by Jamie. Logos prepared by Jamie, Jon, and Joe Sunley.



Toby Heppell:

Made the first new map from scratch using LIDAR and OCAD 2018, for personal training.

Prepared a new map of Bridekirk Dovenby School.



Roger Jackson:

Updated and extended Vulcans (see above).

Prepared a new map of Maryport Harbour, used for the Autumn series.



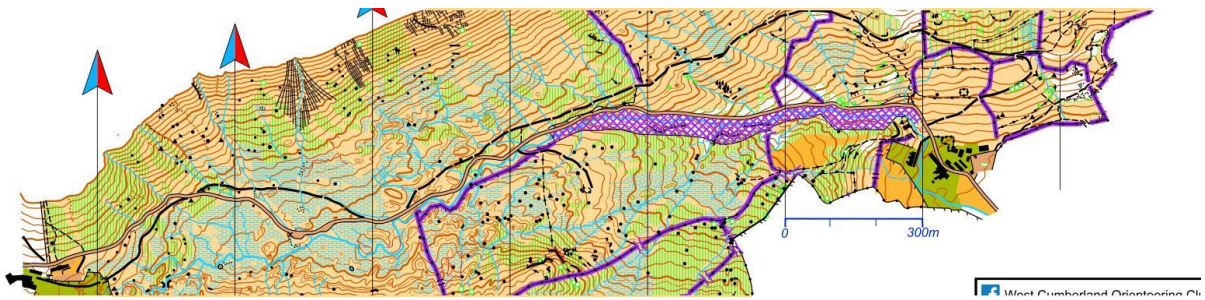
Howard and Kim Leslie:

Maintained the Cockermouth urban maps.

Mike Hind:

Updated Hawse End for the British Night Championships in Feb 2024.

Prepared a combined map of Honister and High Doat for the Galoppen



Updated Crow Park and Cockshot Wood.

Reworked Keswick Master to bring it closer to ISSprOM 2029 standard (with Pete)

Roger Thomas:

Continued survey of Bessyboot in Borrowdale. This map was used on the Beer Trail and both terrain and map were very well received.



Michael Billinghamurst:

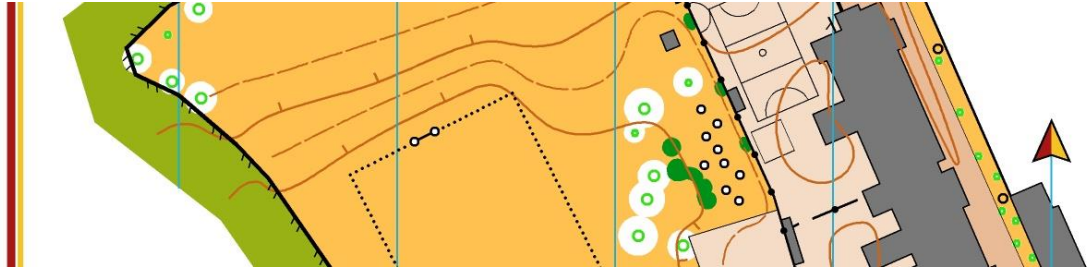
Kept an eye on the continued felling and windblow in Setmurthy.

Jon Eaton:

Created a new map of St Benedict's and Mayfield Schools (Whitehaven)



Prepared a new map of Richmond Hill School (Aspatia) for the schools' league

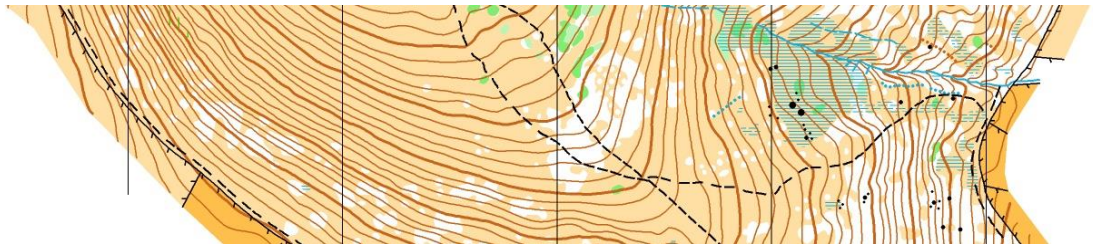


Mike Pearson:

Was given a special presentation to mark over 50 years of mapping for the club (in addition to many other contributions).

Phil Newall:

Made some updates to the Great Mell Fell map for the summer evening event

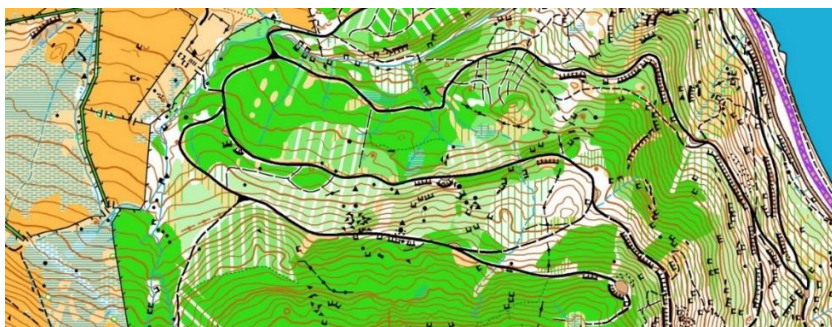


Aaron Rennie:

Has expressed an interest in participating in club mapping. We're currently looking at suitable areas.

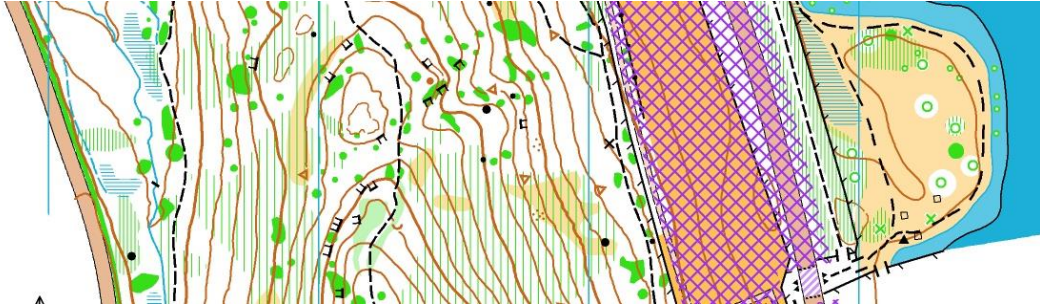
Pete:

The south end of Wythop Woods was updated in anticipation of it being used for the Wythop Galoppen. Little of it was actually used in the end, but it remains available and may be used as an easy night event, with the courses based on paths and tracks



Large scale map around Whinlatter Visitor Centre updated (again) for the autumn series and SPOOK -O.

Powter How remapped and extended, and handed over to Dave Fenwick as the new map owner.

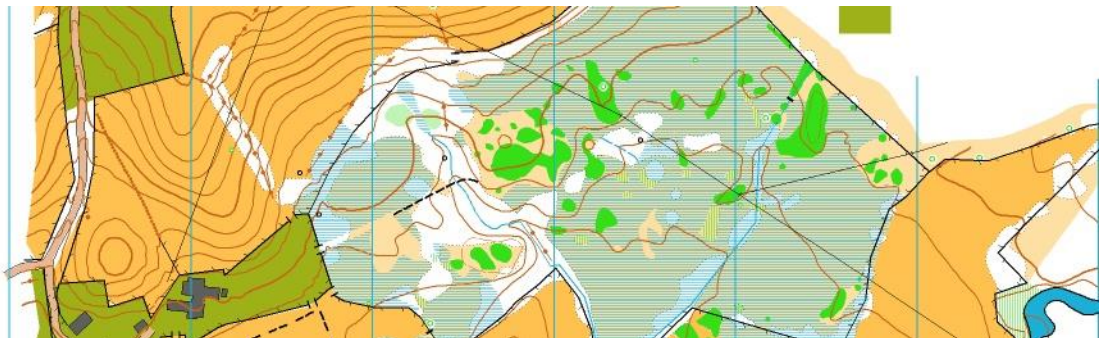


Took over Armboth Fell from Mike Pearson, though I'm unlikely to do any actual mapping. Volunteers welcome.

Walkmill Community Woodlands (Moresby) updated after phase I of the Rivers Trust work was completed. We hope to use it for a night event this winter (late 2024).



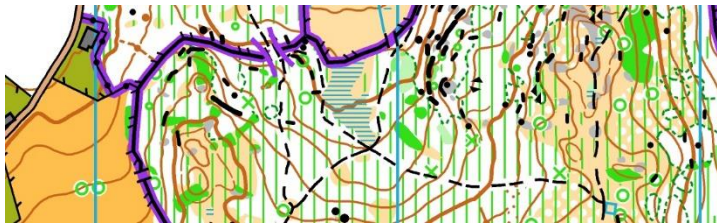
Finished the extension to Hunter How, to include the complex (and now notorious) bog.



Updated Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre maps and courses.



Update to the Brackenthwaite Hows area of Scale Hill, for use at the Club Chase and January night event.



Whitehaven Academy map updated followed opening of the new school and demolition of the old buildings. The all-weather pitch I mapped for my Surveying O Level GCE in 1969 is now Astro turf.



Mapped Low Wood, south of the Wasdale YHA and connected it to the existing Wasdale Map. Used on a rather wet evening event.



Minor updates to High & Low Parks for the night event. A rare use of the lower slopes of Hen Comb was a good idea from Bob Barnby.

Minor updates to Longlands Lake for the night event. We lost a small but valuable part of this map because of a collapsed bridge.



Remapped Mire House (Bassenthwaite) following thinning work in Castock Wood and reinstatement of the pipeline works



Map of Egremont Castle Prepared to Schools' standard



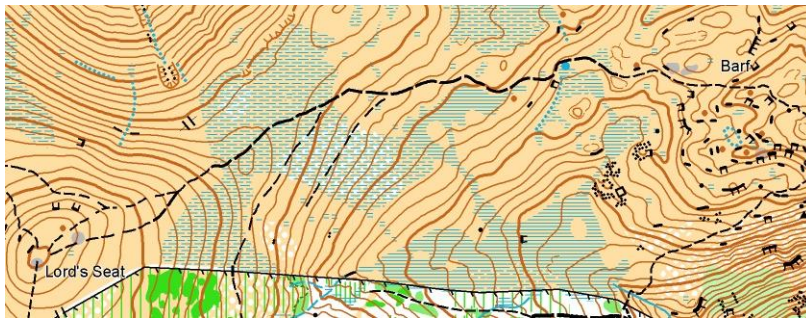
A special enlarged version of the Blindcrake map was prepared for the Saturday Series.

Leaps and Keltonfell Top maps combined and partially remapped at a common scale for the Peter Palmer Relays.



Minor updates to east face of Low Fell (Mosser). These will not now be needed as there is to be more tree planting from Crabtree Beck east to this fellside. We can start using the fell west of Crabtree Beck (subject to permission) as the earlier planting is now sufficiently mature.

New path and related changes between Barf and Lord's Seat.



Minor updates to the Matty Benn's area for the summer series.

Next year we'll...

Continue work on Dunthwaite Estate for training events (Toby Heppell)

Start on Coledale at some time (Howard Leslie)

Maybe update Caer Mote, and consider remapping the remains of Setmurthy (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 and associated lower level land in Coombe Gill. Coombe Gill is a possible area to use for shorter courses, when the longer ones do the 400m climb to Bessyboot. (Roger Thomas)

Update Holme Wood on completion of larch felling by the National Trust (Roger Thomas).

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

Further update of Whinlatter (Thornthwaite) following felling and thinning (Pete)

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

Start mapping on either St Bees or Whitehaven Golf Course (Aaron Rennie)

We need mappers for...

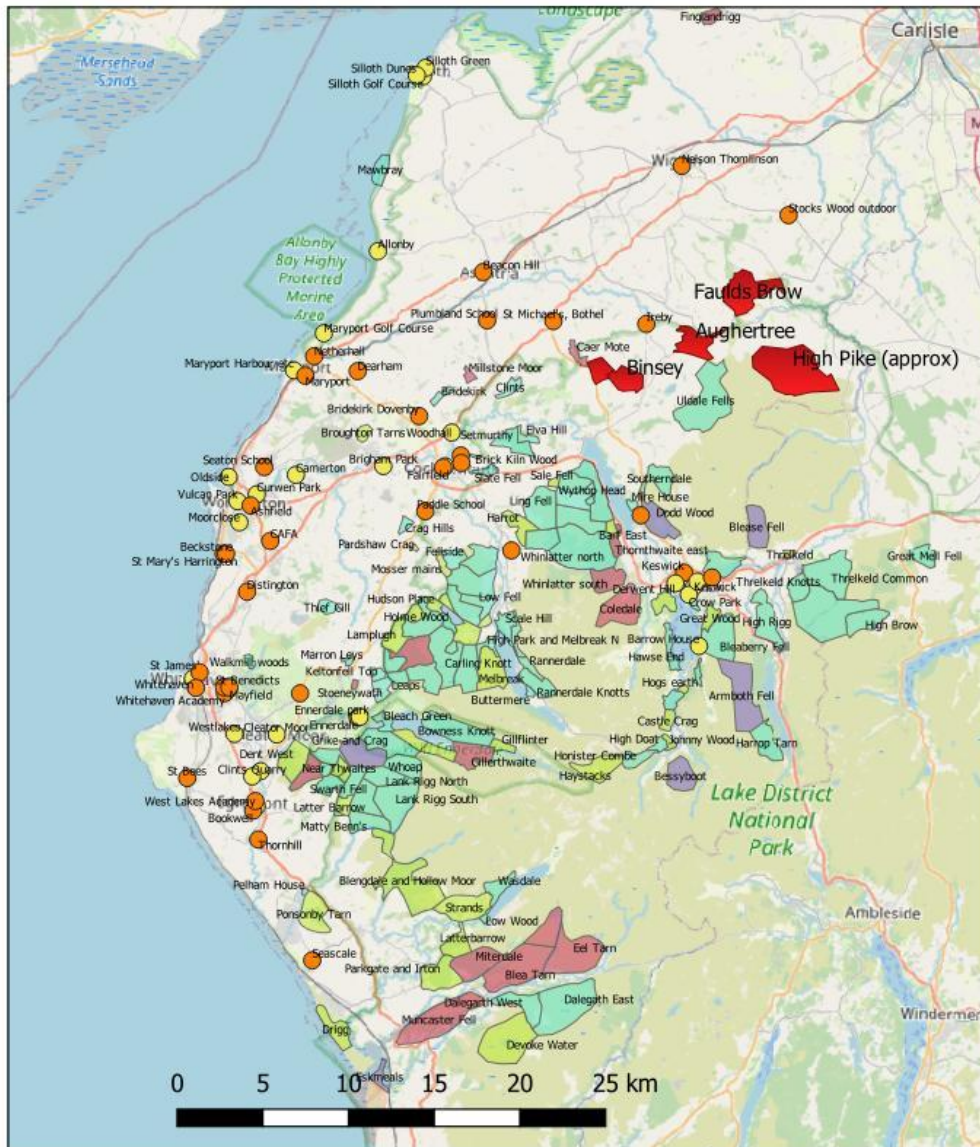
Minor updates to some smaller maps – suitable for new mappers

Keeping on top of forestry changes in Whinlatter

Eskdale (especially Blea Tarn and Eel Tarn) update.

Continuing Mike Pearson's work on connecting Harrop Tarn to Bleaberry Fell via Armboth Fell

Pete Nelson October 2024



The map of maps

October 2024

sprint and schools

- School
- Sprint

Mapped areas

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

