

Mapping Report 2025

The major efforts in the past year have been the resurveyed map of Peelplace Noddle (Eel Tarn and Stony Tarn) and continued work on Bessyboot and the Coombe. Both are very high quality areas which are an important addition to our arsenal for open events. There's been a lot of work, as usual, 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

Our two licenses for the current version of OCAD have been well used. Processing of LIDAR data is much easier and more versatile using this version. The legibility tools have been particularly valuable in ensuring we have clear maps in complex areas. We are now one year into our three year license.

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.

Purple Pen remains our preferred course planning tool.

Event Areas

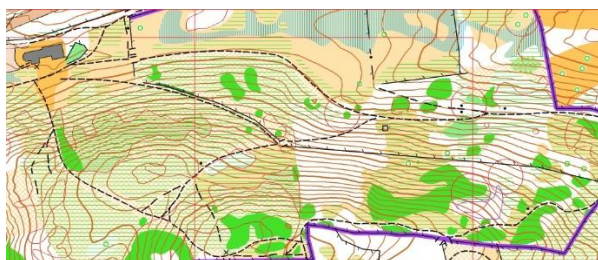
Peelplace Noddle (Eel Tarn and Stony Tarn) is our major addition.



Braithwaite and surrounding land is now available for small events. Input from local residents Scott White, Malcolm Ruckledge and Matt Atkinson was very useful.



The area includes Braithwaite How (Hope Memorial Camp), which will work on its own for a schools event. (extract rotated)



The whole of the open land on Knockmurton is up for sale. Offers to be in by 17th September. Depending on the future owner and land use we may lose one of our longstanding areas.

LiDAR base map of Haystacks prepared, with input from Howard & Kim's existing map. No current survey activity.



External Bodies

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

Borderliners used the combined High Brow and Watermillock Common map for a long O. They resurveyed Watermillock Common.

Permanent courses

Whinlatter:

Whinlatter suggested an update of the permanent courses at the end of 2025. We await the go ahead. Charlie Rennie will liaise with Rob Jones (Forestry England/WCOC) to create the courses.

Bowness Knott:

There are signs of use at some checkpoints. There are no records on iOrienteering for any of the three courses. There has been little interest from club members.

Bleach Green:

The northern part of the wood is closed for forestry work. There is some additional felling ongoing in the vicinity of the Scout Centre. The courses have remained open throughout. There have been two entries on iOrienteering for the easy course, and five for the harder course. There is evidence of much more use than this.

Last year we...

Howard and Kim Leslie:

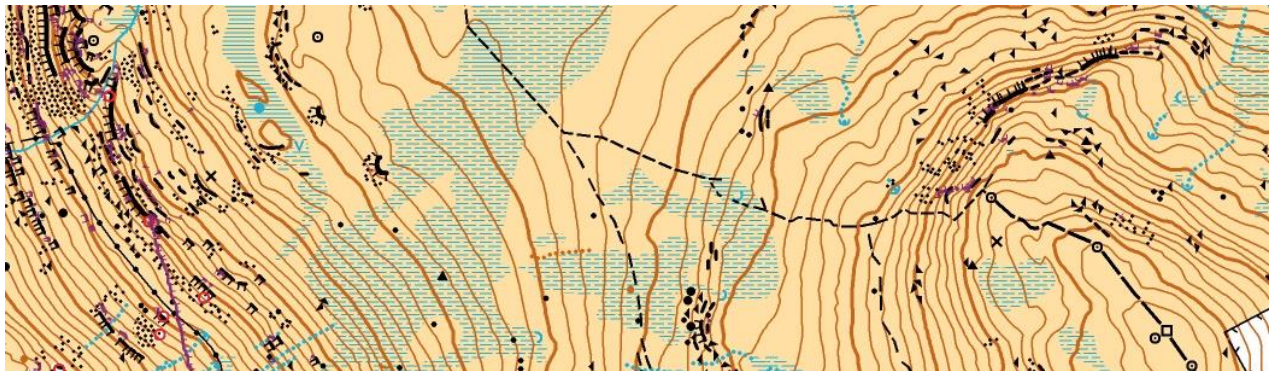
Maintained the Cockermouth urban maps. The data has now been handed over to Joe Sunley for update to current standards. Thanks are due to Howard and Kim for 25 years maintaining and developing this area. They will consider finishing the update of Coledale in the future.

Mike Hind:

Minor updates to High Doat

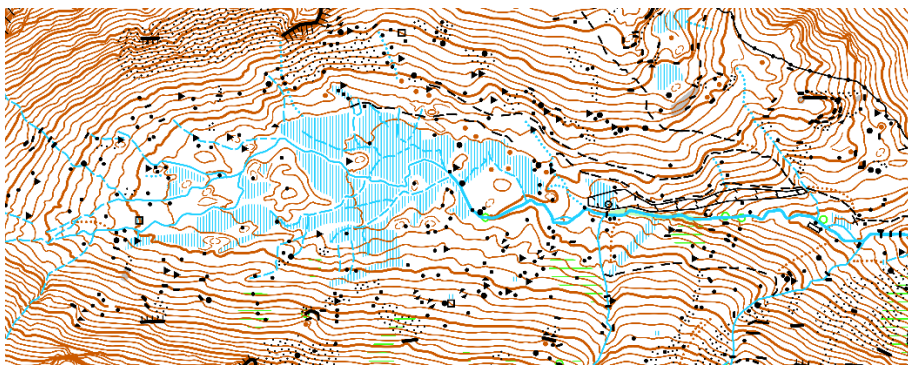
Minor updates to Low Rigg, with Bob Barnby

Has prepared a 5m contour version of Bleaberry Fell for possible resurvey

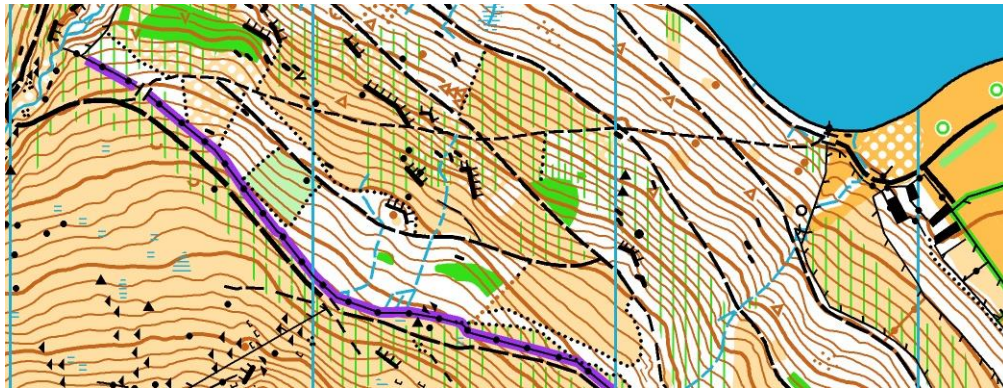


Roger Thomas:

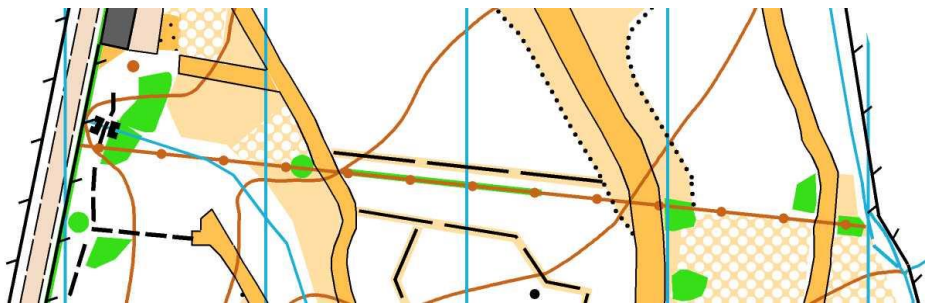
Continued survey of Bessyboot in Borrowdale. This has now been extended to lower level in The Coombe. (extract rotated)



Updated Holme Wood following the recent larch felling.



Created a new map of Westmoor for schools' use.



Michael Billinghamurst:

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

Updated Mawbray Banks.

Made minor updates to the Uldale Fells map.

Jon Eaton:

Updated the Whitehaven Harbour map

Mike Pearson:

Is making a map of St Herbert's School, Keswick



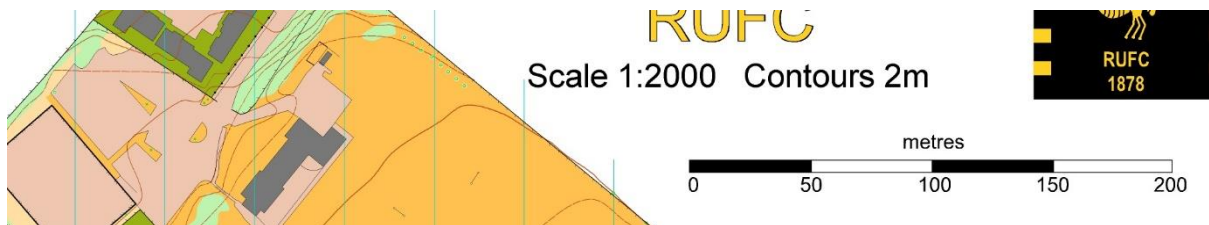
Alex and Sophie Crawford: made minor updates to Marron Leys

Aaron Rennie:

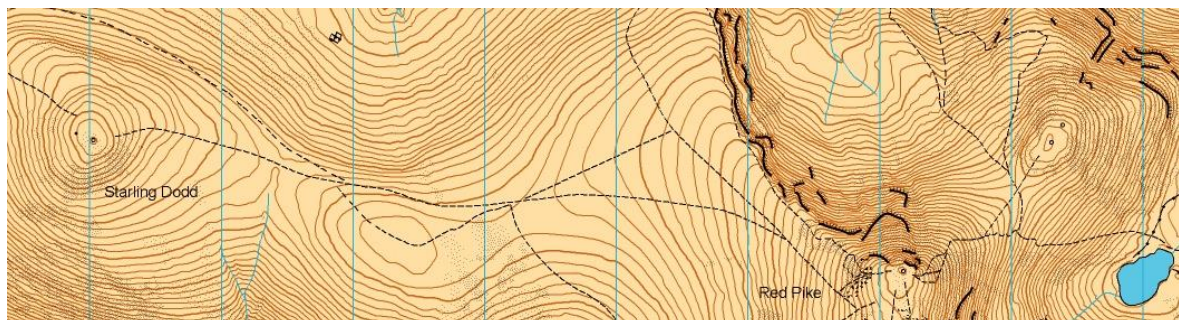
Has been supplied with a base map of Whitehaven Golf Course for possible development



Charlie Rennie: Cockermouth RUFC



Dan Heppell and Pete Nelson: added Red Pike and Starling Dodd to the Loweswater Fells map for the Allerdale Chase, thus connecting through to the Ennerdale map. This addition was largely theoretical, using LiDAR and aerial photos.

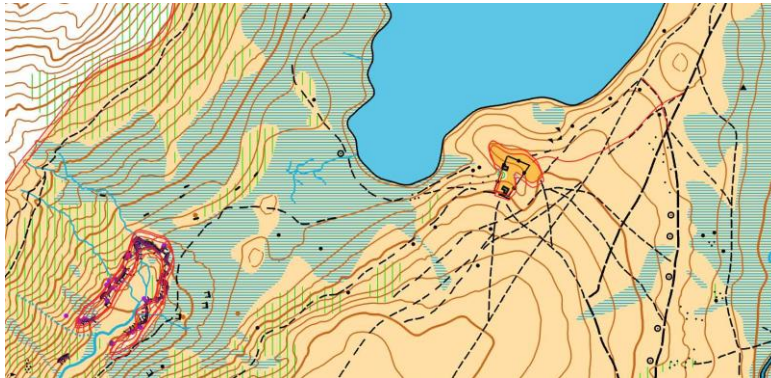


Pete:

Spent the winter in Eskdale resurveying the 1970s Eel Tarn and Stony Tarn map. Now called Peelplace Noddle, after the complex area between the two tarns. Bracken growth eventually stopped the survey. It was used very successfully for the Galoppen in June. More survey to follow.

Created the new map of Braithwaite and surrounding areas.

Started work on updating the Burnmoor and Boat How areas, to join Peelplace Noddle to Blea Tarn and recreate the old Eskdale Tarns map. This will be valuable for longer events like the Copeland Chase.



Updated the Leaps map for the October Galoppen. Many of the old mining features are now scarcely visible among the longer vegetation.

Added new paths on Whinlatter Top using data supplied by Susan Skinner

Started update of felling in Whinlatter Forest. More to do.

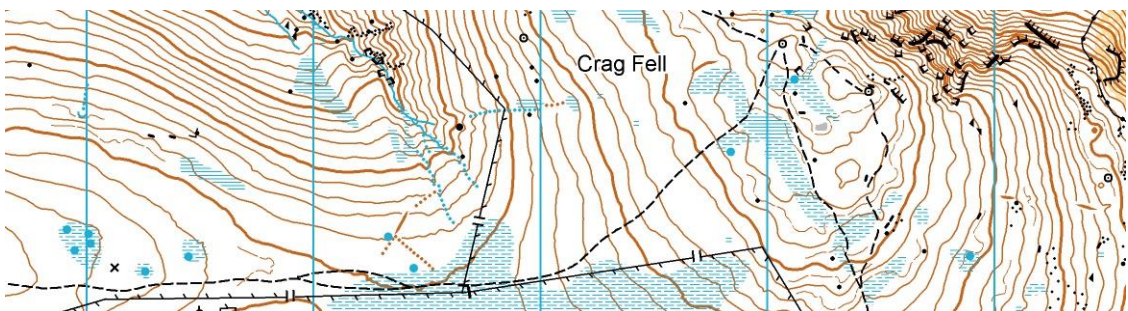
Updated Lowther Park for a night event

Made minor updates to Owsen Fell/Burnbank for an evening event

Made minor updates to Lank Rigg for the Beer Trail

Minor updates to Rannerdale and Rannerdale Knotts for the Galoppen in March

Crag Fell update for the Grike and Crag Fell evening event in August. There is more to do on this map, but we use it so rarely that it is a low priority.

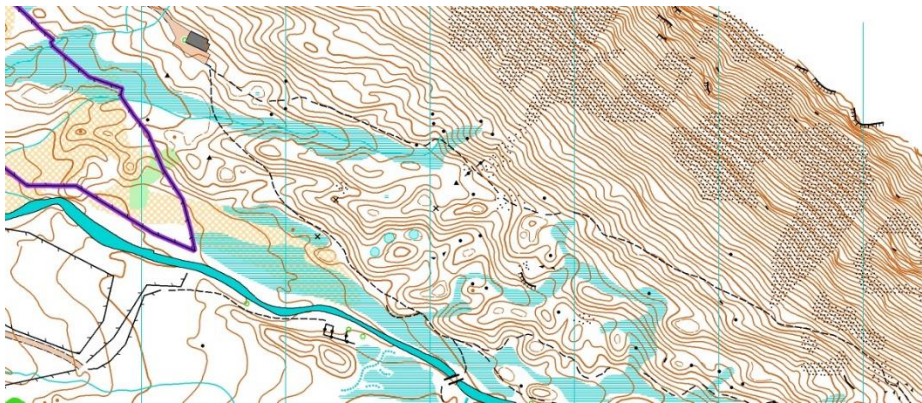


Walkmill Community Woodlands (Moresby) further updated after recent work. Used for the first time this year, on a night event.



Crated a LIDAR base map of Haystacks, with input from Howard and Kim's existing map. No current intent to do any ground survey.

Survey of the drumlins area at Black Sail (Ennerdale). It's very small, and inaccessible (only 2km from Gatesgarth car park, but over Scarth Gap!), so more for interest than any practical use.



Next year we'll...

Update Caer Mote or High Brow. Keep an eye on the remains of Setmurthy (Michael Billinghamurst)

Possibly develop the Bleaberry Fell map using the new base map created from LiDAR data (Mike Hind)

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

Continue mapping Whitehaven Golf Course (Aaron Rennie)

Continue update of Coledale (Pete)

Do some more on Peelplace Noddle when the bracken dies back (Pete)

Finish Braithwaite How when bracken permits (Pete)

Continue update of Burnmoor and Blea Tarn (Pete)

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

We need mappers for...

Minor updates to some smaller maps – suitable for new mappers

Keeping on top of forestry changes in Whinlatter

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

Pete Nelson September 2025

