

Mapping Report 2026

The highlight of the year has been the club's staging of the Lakes 5 Day, day 2. Roger Thomas produced three excellent maps (and planned all the courses). Mike Hind updated the Borrowdale School map for the string course.

The other major effort was the resurvey of Blea Tarn to current standards, for the Galoppen in June.

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.

The year has had its surreal moments. A fake castle appeared while I was mapping at Buttermere (for a Game of Thrones type film) and then was demolished. Mike Harrison found a large hole covered in branches and moss at one his checkpoints on Leaps; this was a mineshaft that had been dug out just a couple of days before the event

Mike Hind

Mike Hind has supported club mapping for many years. In addition to his own maps, he took over maps from Mike Pearson, Dick Warner and Andy Warner. Mike Hind has now asked for others to take over his fell maps; he'll keep the town and school maps he looks after. We owe Mike a big vote of thanks for all his work.

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*) continues in Whinlatter and Ennerdale, but I am not aware of any areas under threat.

Software and symbols

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 two years into our three year license.

OCAD have released their new app for use on Android and iOS phones. I'd be happy to lead a training session on this if there is any interest.

Open Orienteering Mapper (for making and maintaining maps) is still the preferred option for some of our mappers. This is the free alternative to OCAD. It is accepted by IOF and British Orienteering

Purple Pen remains our preferred course planning tool.

The new International Specification for Indoor Orienteering Maps (ISInOM) is likely to be published at the end of the year. It's available as a pre-print. We don't (yet) have any indoor maps, apart from a couple of schools' that I did a while ago. But if anyone wants a discussion on the symbols, perhaps in advance of an event elsewhere, I'll be happy to lead one.



Event areas

Toby Heppell completed the Dunthwaite Estate map. We hope to use this soon for an evening event.

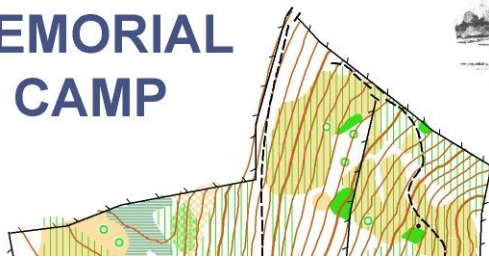


The new Braithwaite map was used for the first time. With some creative planning from Jamie and the use of the Atkinsons' fields, we got a good event out of this very small area.



The extension on to Braithwaite How was completed, but then major cutting of the gorse commenced, which obliterated many of the small paths. I waited for this year's bracken to see what would happen to the paths. The Hope Memorial Trust are interested in a simple permanent course that is not affected by these developments. I'll work with them on this. It has potential for a schools event, though parking is limited

HOPE MEMORIAL CAMP



SCALE 1:2600
Contours 2m

— Road
— Track
--- Path

Knockmurton has been bought by buylandplanttrees.co.uk. Mike Harrison obtained permission for a spring series event. If they adopt the same style of planting as at Low Fell then we'll lose the use of it in future – until we have a lovely deciduous forest there in about 20 years.

A review of the whole of the Whinlatter forest (north of the pass) was carried out to update the latest felled areas.

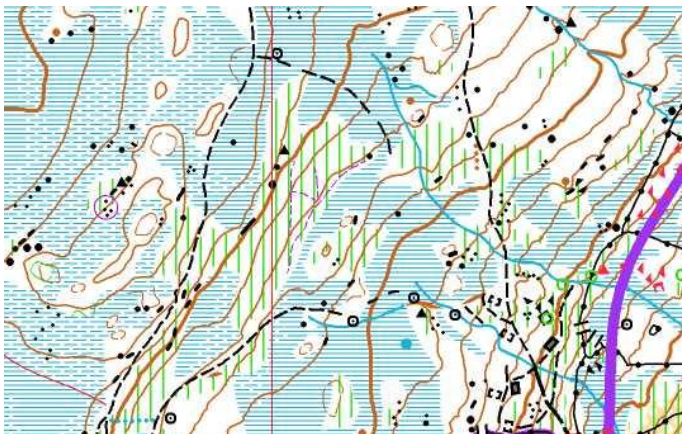
Joe Sunley is preparing an update of the Cockermouth map, based on Howard & Kim's development of it over 25 years. Two large sections have been used for evening events. Now redrawn to ISSprOM 2019 standards, it is more legible and uses the same symbols as events elsewhere.



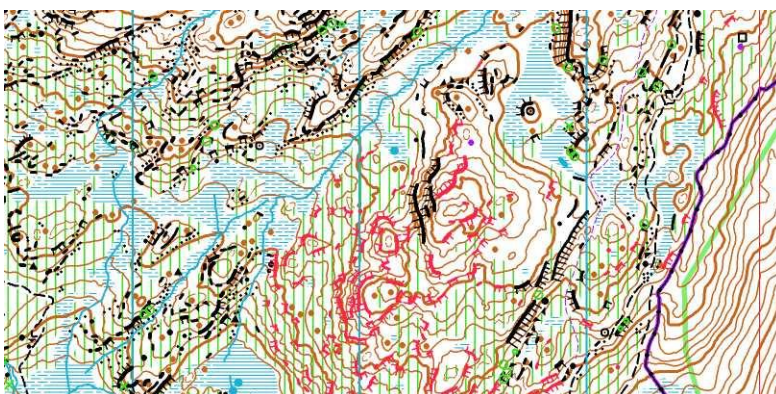
Lowther Park has seen a lot more forestry work. This time it is mostly thinning, but the forest floor is very rough.

The resurvey of the extension over Boat How to Burnmoor Tarn was completed, for future use in conjunction with Eel tarn for longer events.

Some additions have been made to the Blea Tarn map, to extend the area used for this year's galoppen.

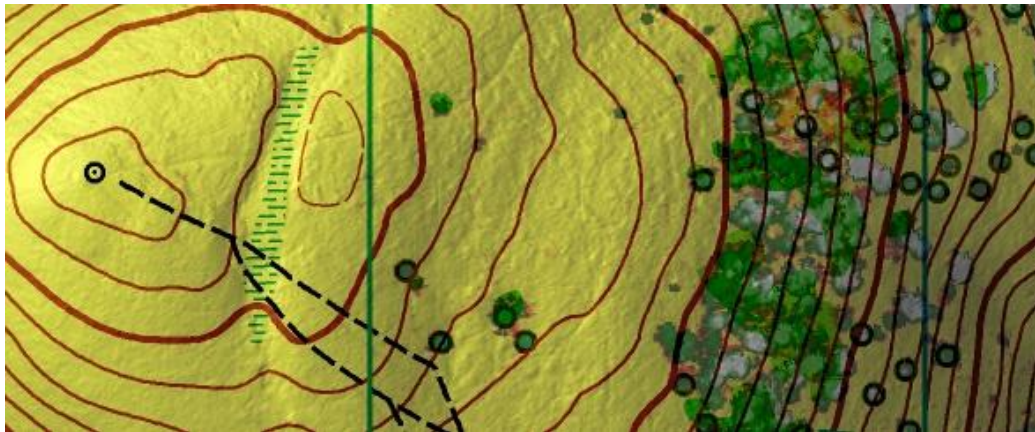


The eastward extension of Eel Tarn has started, and will be completed this winter when the bracken allows.



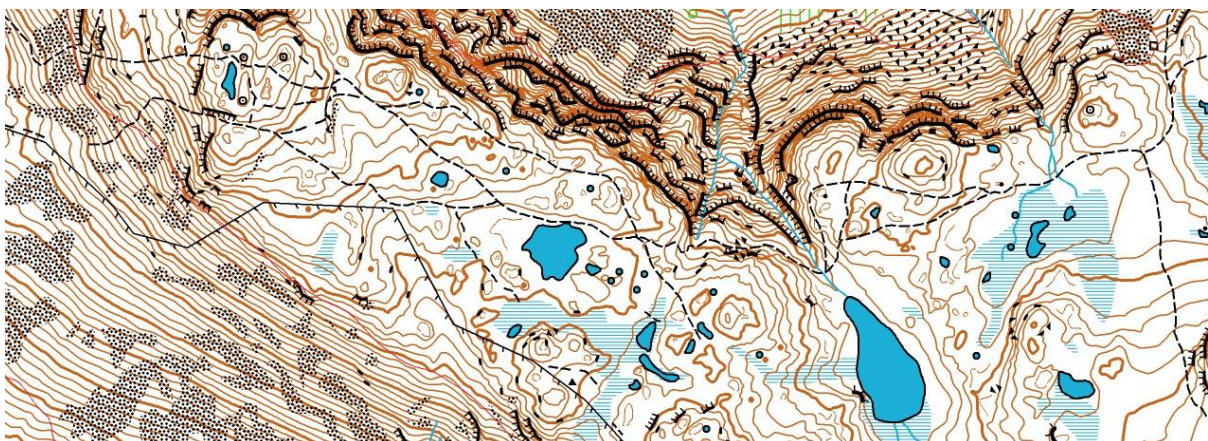
Minor updates were made to the Leaps and Knockmurton map for the Galoppen in October 2025, and the evening event in August 2026. Some old mineshafts were reopened on Knockmurton just before the Galoppen. More excitingly, a mine was reopened right on a checkpoint location for Mike & Ange's event in August. Map change is normal; fortunately O-pit traps are rare!

Bob Barnby did a desktop review of Great Mell Fell, using Lidar data. This work is available to any mapper who wishes to continue the update with ground survey.



Mosser: the part of Low Fell owned by buylandplanttrees.co.uk was looking usable, as the first phase of planting is now well grown. A recent check shows that many new saplings have now been planted. They aren't fenced or in tubes, so difficult to avoid. We could pass through the area using the ridge path and the permissive path. We couldn't use it for normal courses.

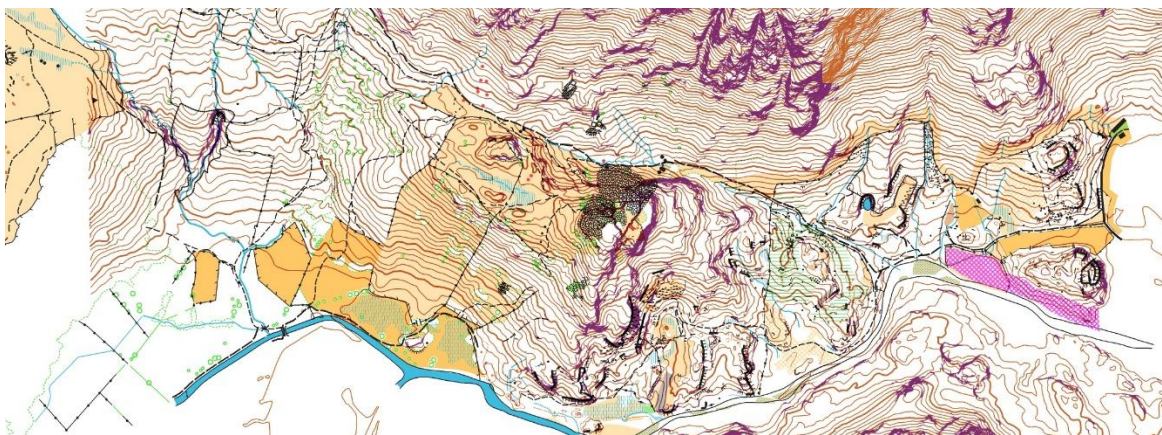
Joe Hudd has continued work on the Haystacks map, using a LiDAR base map I prepared with input from Howard & Kim's existing map. There is the possibility of linking this to the Honister Combe map.



I've made a new sprint map of Great Broughton. It's got some interesting features, but it has a busy road running through it and there is a lack of parking.

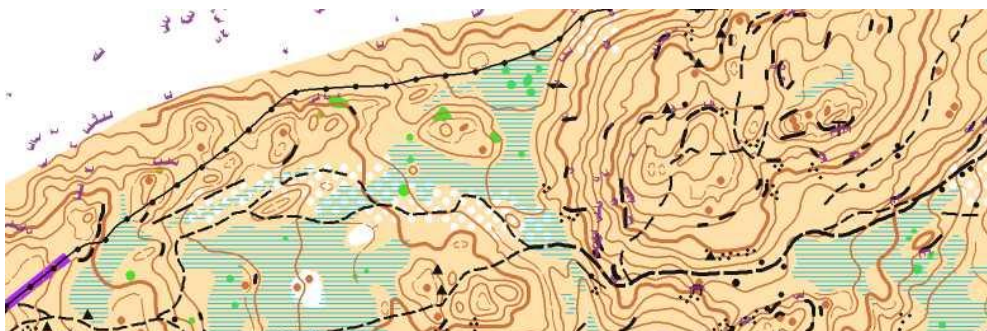


Roger Thomas has adopted Grange Intake (Jaws) and High & Low Hows, and is looking at the possibility of extending them past Castle Crag to join up with High Doat. We had a map of Castle Crag many years ago, but haven't been there for a long time. (extract rotated)



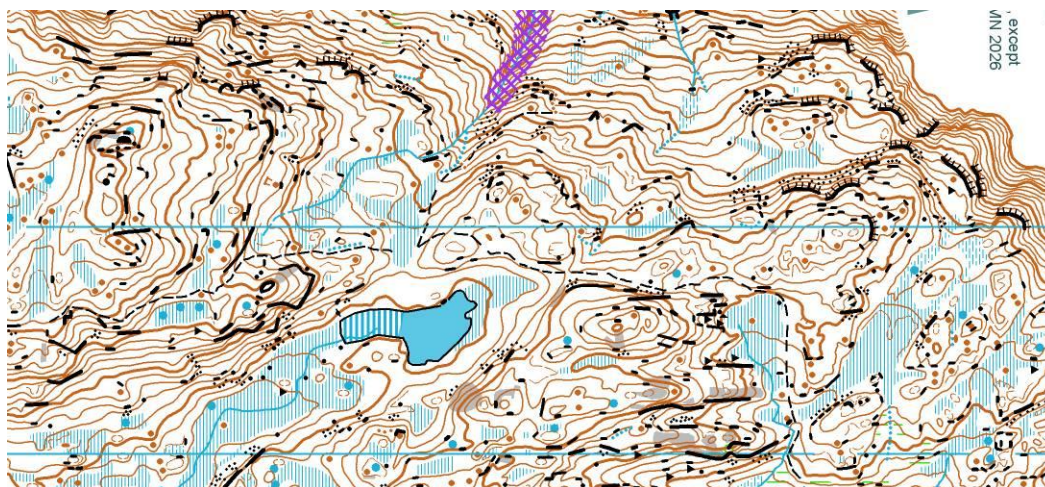
Charlie Rennie has made a number of updates to the Keswick map, for the Keswick Mountain Festival (Quid Games) and other events. Mike Hind continues to hold the master for this map. A combined Keswick and Latrigg map was prepared at short notice for the Quid Games

I have started reviewing the Muncaster Fell map using Jon Eaton's 2019 version. I've done all the major paths, and will continue when the bracken permits.

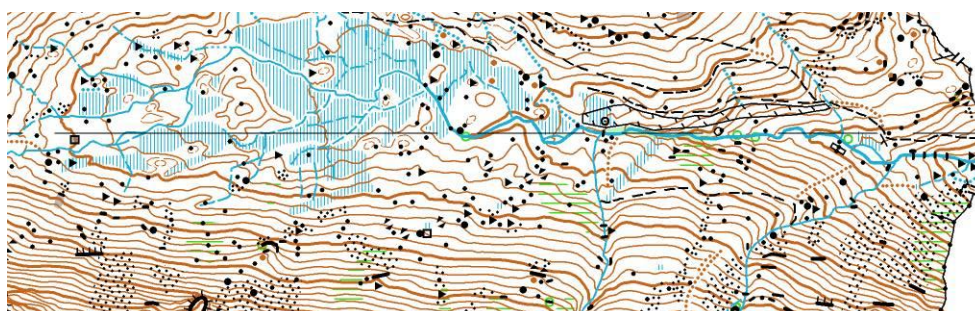


Major and Regional Events

Roger Thomas's long term project on Bessyboot bore fruit at the L5D. (extract rotated)



With an extension down into The Combe for the less adventurous (extract rotated):

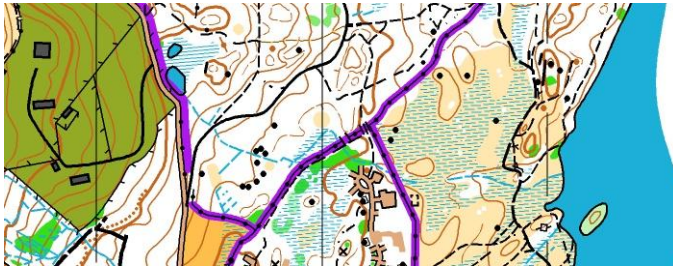


And a further extension to Low Buck How for the shortest courses.

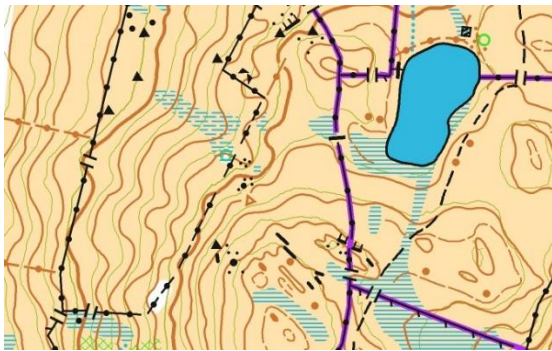
The resurveyed Blea Tarn map was used for a Galoppen event. This is an interesting example of how techniques have changed over the life of the club. I first mapped this in 1979, using a Harveys Photogrammetric plot and drew it with pen & ink. Don Scarrott converted it to OCAD in about 1998, and resurveyed it. I did more survey in the current century using GPS. This year's was a complete reworking, based on Lidar data.



Mike Hind supported Caitlin Pearson in updating the Hawse End map for the February Galoppen.



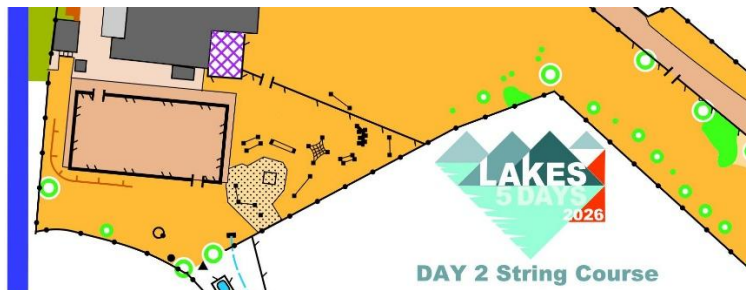
I've done a basic update of High Rigg for the November Galoppen. I've concentrated on the main paths, and features near them. The map remains sound, though a full lidar based update is desirable soon.



Schools

Mike Pearson completed the new St Herberts School (Keswick) map.

Mike Hind updated the Borrowdale School map. This was used for the L5D day 2 string course, and is now handed over to the school.



Evening events

A lot of effort goes into maintaining our smaller and sprint areas for the Thursday evening events. Thanks to all our mappers for helping to maintain the Club's exceptional record of putting on events.

The Egremont map was extended and used for an evening event. This is a good sprint area, though the event was constrained by emergency services being called to a house near the start.

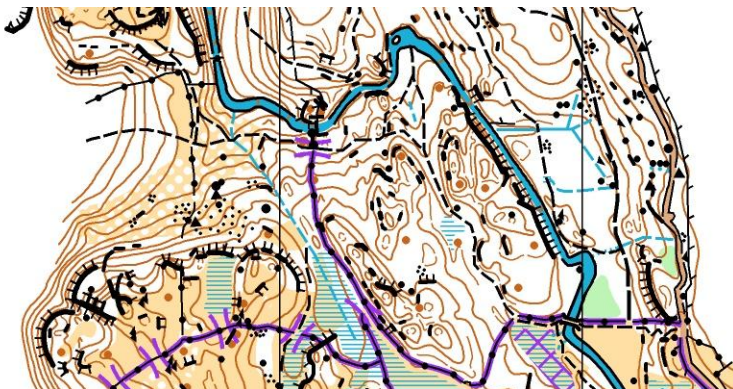


The Whinlatter Visitor Centre map was revised, and used for Spook-O

Roger Jackson updated Camerton, extended Allonby, and updated Maryport Golf Course for Thursday evening events.

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Roger Thomas updated Hog's Earth, and is now exploring the fell above (Thwaite Bank) for a possible extension.



Phil Newall updated Caer Mote for the night series, and has now adopted the map as owner. Welcome to our mapping group!

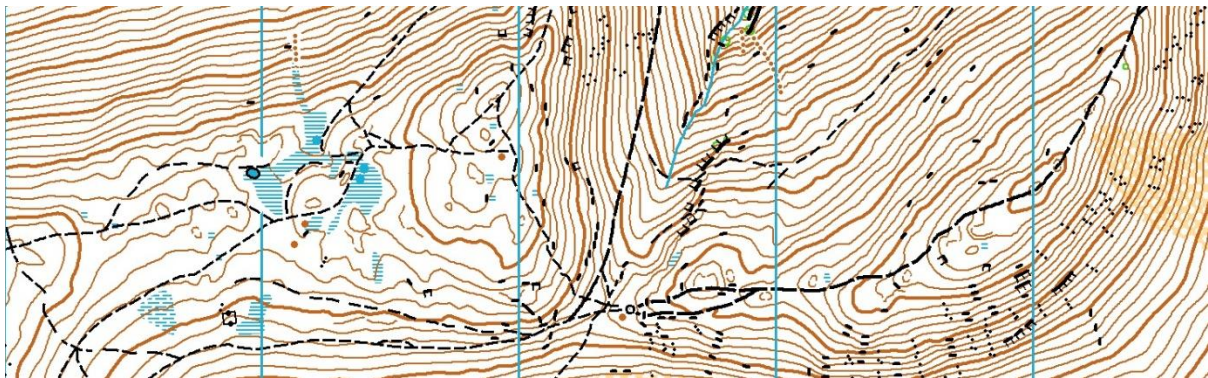
Setmurthy Forest remains under pressure from felling and windblow, but Michael Billinghamurst updated it and got a successful night event out of it.

The upper part of the Fangs Brow map was updated for the night series.

Joe Hudd made some updates to the old Wasdale map for the evening event.

There were many changes to the Stoneywath and Hunter How map, mainly to do with gorse. Updated and used for the night series.

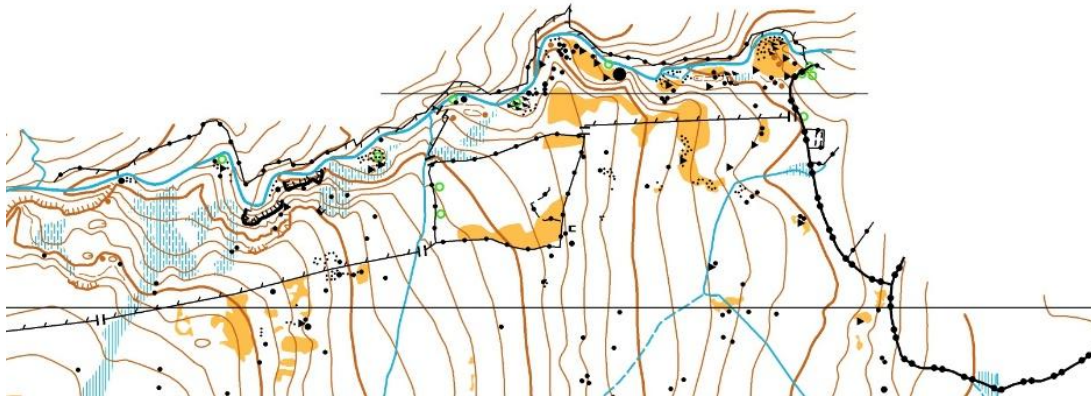
I did an update of the Barrow area of Howard & Kim's Coledale map. There's more to do, but it was used successfully for an evening event.



The Woodhouse part of the Buttermere map was used for a night event in Feb, but did not work well. I've resurveyed and redrawn it with particular attention to clarity of crossing points. During survey, a castle appeared between the woods and lake shore. Unfortunately the film makers demolished it before we could use it.



Steve Birkinshaw brought the eastern edge of Threlkeld Common (Mosedale Beck) into use for the first time (extract rotated)



External Bodies

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

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:

I have closed the Long Technical course. Windblow and the very rough forest floor was making some checkpoints inaccessible

There are signs of use at some checkpoints. There is one record on iOrienteering for each of the short easy and short technical. There has been little interest from club members.

Bleach Green:

The northern part of the wood has been largely felled, with some additional felling in the vicinity of the Scout Centre. The courses have remained open throughout. There has been one entry on iOrienteering for each of the easy course and the harder course. There is evidence of much more use than this.

We need mappers for...

Coledale (to complete the update)

Great Mell Fell (update from new lidar basemap)

Bleaberry Fell (update from new lidar base map)

Latrigg and Greta Gorge (routine maintenance)

High Rigg (anything from routine maintenance to complete resurvey)

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 2026

