

INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL MAPPING

BY ROB NICHOLSON





WHAT ARE WE DOING TODAY?

- Plotting walks using the web browser on your PC, laptop or tablet
- Using navigation apps on your mobile phone
- Short walk around Bollington where you navigate... but don't know the route
- Back here for tea & coffee (optional)

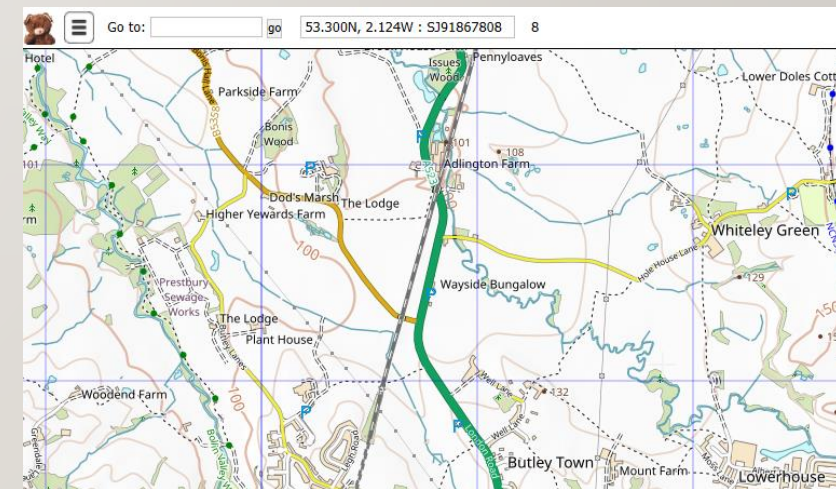


PLOTTING WALKS USING THE WEB BROWSER

- Pros:
 - Cheaper – in fact can be free. No need to buy lots of maps
 - Access to all areas, not just the areas you have a map for
 - Easy additional information like distance, ascent and duration
 - Can be shared with other people, saved for later or shared at the start of the walk
 - Easier to carry than a big map and bag – unless you enjoy battling with a map in a strong wind
 - Forces you to plot the route beforehand
 - Easy to transfer to smartphone if using app



- Cons:
 - Some people *like* maps 😊
 - You need a computer (or tablet) and printer – or at least a friend
 - Needs ink, paper and plastic bag
 - Needs preparation – can't just walk out the door and go
 - Map-the-hugs can run out of OS tiles and switches to Open Maps





MAPPING WEBSITES

- <https://maps.the-hug.net/>
 - Great name and it's free!
 - Has limited number of OS map tiles so switches to OpenMaps later in the day – which doesn't have all paths
 - Can download and upload GPX files for transfer to other systems
 - Bit of a clunky interface but functional
 - Use snipping tool on Windows to save to a PNG or print in landscape
- <https://www.bing.com/maps/>
 - Free and OS view works all the time
 - Can't be used to plot routes but useful for printing OS maps of an area
 - Zoom in and out and use full-screen (F11)
- <https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk>
 - Whilst there is a free version, the paid-for version is packed full of features esp. on the web
 - Routes appear automatically on your mobile phone
 - In-built print function



DEMONSTRATION OF MAPPING WEBSITES



USING NAVIGATION APPS ON YOUR MOBILE PHONE



- Pros:
 - You'll never get lost. You might not be where you want to be, but you'll know where you are!
 - Can be read at night without a torch
 - As up to date as possible
 - Access to all areas at any time
 - Records statistics like speed and time
 - Can be shared with others and lots of shared routes available for free
 - Website can be used to plot routes beforehand
- Cons:
 - Technology can and *will* fail, especially the battery but phone can break – backup with paper map and maybe even a compass
 - Extra weight, cost and hassle of a charger
 - Annual fee – although possibly less than multiple maps
 - Difficult to use in the rain or when wearing gloves

NAVIGATION APPS



- Phone requirements: GPS, good screen, powerful battery, data tariff, compass optional
- OS Maps: £3.99/month, £19.99/year auto-renewal, £25.99/year (OS 1:25k & 1:50k)
- ViewRanger: £24.98/year
- Both offer trials
- Other tracking apps:
 - Free versions aren't bad
 - MapMyWalk
 - Strava
 - Running both will hit battery life

DEMONSTRATION OF OS MAPS



THE WALK



- Walk is 3 miles/5 km
- Split into smaller groups
- Lead walk for one km using OS Maps app and then handover
- Presentation is on the website
- Please ask any questions during the walk
- Off we go!