

## The Database of British and Irish Hills

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No lists were added during the past year. That will have pleased some users, though not all. The main developments to engage the team were the publication of LIDAR data by the Environment Agency, and the enthusiasm among Tump baggers for reclaimed spoil heaps.

LIDAR, about which more elsewhere in this issue, is a useful source of heights because its accuracy generally surpasses photogrammetry and it can provide data in mine reclamation and quarried areas, which are usually shown without contours on OS maps. There is currently not much data in upland regions, and little useful data in Scotland; but coverage in England and Wales is quite extensive below 350m, which is where Tumps come into their own. Mark Jackson has discovered a raft of new hills, Alan Dawson made use of LIDAR when looking at spoil heaps in the St Austell area, and G&J Surveys used LIDAR data to scope out surveys of Currock Hill and Chatterley Whitfield Hill. Other new Tumps have come into being after researching suggestions on the Tump Forum.

Man-made hills were not a big issue before the Tumps entered the DoBIH. Mynydd y Grug was discussed on the rhb group but rejected as a Marilyn replacement for Mynydd Machen. Silverhill, intended by Nottinghamshire County Council to become the new county high point, turned out to be 0.7m lower than Newtonwood Lane but later made it into the Tumps. Hensbarrow Beacon also prompted debate from time to time, but that was about it until two or three years ago.

There are those who regard all such hills as unworthy additions to hill lists. Rather more baggers think a reclaimed tip is OK if it looks like a hill rather than a spoil heap. More importantly for the database, neither Mark Jackson nor Alan Dawson rejects them. Artificial hills, as distinct from smaller man-made features such as tumuli, were never specifically excluded in the Summits and Cols protocol. It is not possible to remove subjective judgement completely, but section 2 of the latest version gives the criteria we perceive are currently being applied: that the tip should be permanent, settled, and either landscaped or naturally colonised by trees, shrubs or other vegetation. The current version of the guidelines can be read at [www.hills-database.co.uk/summits\\_and\\_cols.pdf](http://www.hills-database.co.uk/summits_and_cols.pdf)

Last year we published another report in our series dealing with the accuracy of various surveying and mapping techniques. *Accuracy of heights from Ordnance Survey maps* is a statistical analysis of the errors in spot heights and interpolated col heights from various scales of map, new and old, using data on hundreds of hills surveyed by Alan Dawson and G&J Surveys. It can be found on the Articles page of the DoBIH website, [www.hills-database.co.uk](http://www.hills-database.co.uk). A similar evaluation of LIDAR data is in progress.

We are grateful to all those who submitted GPS readings and survey results over the past year. Please keep them coming. Your contributions help to make the database a better resource for the benefit of all.