

## The Database of British and Irish Hills

Chis Crocker

2022 has been a quiet year for the DoBIH. That doesn't mean the editors have been idle, as we're still heavily involved in LIDAR work. However the flood of Tump changes has become a trickle as recent releases of LIDAR data have been in dribs and drabs and confined to England, where coverage is almost complete. Analyses have more often been concerned with fixing summit locations when GPS submissions indicate doubt.

We released updates to the offline formats, which we now issue biannually, in July and December. The only significant change was brought about by the redefinition of the Grahams. Alan Dawson confirmed that the new lower height limit of 600m would also apply to Graham Tops, although he would rather we dropped the list. That was our preference too, along with the Corbett Tops and Murdos which were replaced by the Simms in 2010. However a consultation exercise showed that support for retaining the old categories had scarcely dropped from the 2018 user survey and a previous consultation in 2014. So the lists are still there but with the Graham Tops redefined as 600-762m. In tandem we redefined the Highland Fives as spanning 500-600m to remove the overlap. As others have commented, this also makes more sense of the name. It means they no longer align with the Donald Deweys in the Southern Uplands, but David Purchase always regarded his list as a downward extension of the Donalds and unrelated to the TACit lists.

Prompted by the publication of new 1:25000 and 1:20000 maps by EastWest Mapping, we recently commenced a joint project with our friends in MountainViews to improve the accuracy of our Irish lists. Twelve of the fifteen maps published to date, all in upland areas and targeted at walkers, are based on BlueSky digital elevation models created from aerial surveys. Contours are at 5m intervals and almost all listed summits and most cols have spot heights. 75 of these summits have been surveyed by MountainViews, from which I was able to conclude that EastWest heights are considerably more accurate than OSi heights. Specifically, the rms (root mean square) error of spot heights on EastWest and OSi maps is 0.68m and 1.76m respectively. The largest error I found was 2.0m, with most c.1m or less. British OS maps have an rms error of 1.2m at both 1:50k and 1:25k scales. Inevitably we will see changes to some of the lists. OSi continues to release 1:25k maps in its Adventure series, but all those we have seen are blown up 1:50k maps as far as contours and spot heights are concerned. We are grateful to everyone who has contributed to the DoBIH Fund, which financed the purchase of two sets of EastWest maps for Jim Bloomer and myself to work on.