Dec 2010 Hills database survey

Database format used - *includes multiple selections*	total	proportion of sample	editorial team response
Access, relational	18	21%	
Access, non-relational	4	5%	discontinue in v12
Access 97	5	6%	discontinue in v12
Excel	52	60%	
csv	23	26%	
not stated	12	14%	probably using the hill-bagging site

Access version preference			
strongly prefer relational	12	14%	
slightly prefer relational	6	7%	
no preference	21	24%	
slightly prefer non-relational	0	0%	
strongly prefer non-relational	1	1%	
no opinion	36	41%	

New lists			
Donald Deweys (Scottish Lowland 500m/p30)	31	36%	yes
Scottish Highland 500m/p30	25	29%	yes
Yeamans - as published	18	21%	under consideration
Yeamans - Woodall/Clements revision	19	22%	under consideration *(note: 11 requested both historic & revised lists)*
Irish hills	35	40%	yes

Other lists			
Synge	3		no
Bridge	3		already in database (added in v11.2)
E&W 400m/p30	2		not at present
original Munros	2		no; hills nos. can be obtained from munrotab file on DoBH site
sub Donalds	1		yes; v12 will have subGTs and subCTs
sub Dewey Donalds	1		yes
SMC Furths	1		possibly; Irish hills will be added
SIMS	2		remaining SIMS will be in v12
GBI p600, p500, p300	1		searches across GBI will be possible in the Access db when Irish hills are added
Scot p300, p200 (or ability to choose eg pxxx)	1		relational Access version allows search by drop; can use filter or sort in Excel
p300	1		see above
p50 (FiMPS)	1		no, unless part of the Jacksons
p30 (Jacksons)	1		not at present, would add c.10,000 hills
E&W Murdos, Corbetts, Grahams and subs	1		use search facility in Access; not recognised categories
Wales - Terry Marsh	1		book is out of print so likely to remain a minority interest
Michael Dewey's Notable Hill Tops	3		will consider
notable hills/viewpoints/coastal hills	1		policy to avoid subjective lists unless they are published and reasonably popular
historic points from earlier lists	1		needs definition; we have Bridge, Buxton & Lewis and deleted Munro tops
John Kirk 'Thousanders'	1		an idea rather than a list, potentially infinite as drop is undefined
Irish Marilyns and HuMPS	1		yes
Irish 500s / Arderins	1		under consideration
Channel Island HuMPs	1		will consider
OS trig points	2		outside scope
European country tops/highpoints/P600	3		outside scope of DoBH; might be added to hill-bagging site
Alpine 4000s	1		outside scope
National peaks	1		outside scope of DoBH; might be added to hill-bagging site

New features
data

	total		editorial team response
prominence parents	3		will consider in the future
better use of Area field to group tops on same hill	1		Area field is designed for larger groupings. Parents would be better. Database Notes has a section on how we use the Area field
add mountain group eg Snowdonia/Glyders, Brecon Beacons/Pen-y-Fan, South Downs (mid and SW Wales are too broad)	1		Would prefer parents if going this route. May add further area names for South Downs etc.
letter 'c' before estimated drop	1		See http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rhb/message/15893. Would also interfere with numeric searching
add 2 date fields to all records (in/out) so that all corrections and changes can be deduced if required	1		Difficult to do without compromising usability. Regrettably we can't provide an audit trail within the database, but the Change Control Database records all changes since 1 Jan 2010 other than minor GR changes arising from GPS measurements. Major changes in revision history.
use locally known names for hills	1		Would need outside help. Still need to include names from lists and maps as alternatives for searchability
revise regions and move away from the Marilyn ones	1		Insufficient support; nobody has asked for HuMP Topo regions
omit Birketts, Deweys etc and don't clutter up Scotland with a partial 500 list or Yeamans	1		Unfortunately other users want them! Could maybe develop a 'preferences' system in Access version to exclude some categories
enough Scottish stuff and no interest in Ireland	1		see above
more consistent use of (), [] and - in the name field for summit names, areas, disambiguation, etc. so that the individual components can be identified algorithmically	1		We improved v11 in response to a similar request. We try to be consistent with the protocol given in the Database Notes
list list-blocker hills eg Inn Pin, The Cobbler, St Kilda, Old Man of Mow	1		will consider adding to the Database Notes; reluctant to add a subjective categorisation to the database
use accented characters in hill names	1		would interfere with searchability
too often seeing heights to one decimal place that are not warranted eg 499.6m should be rounded up to 500m	1		Decimal points are given when justified by the precision of the survey. The accuracy of the 499.6 height was better than +/-0.1m. A height of 500m would give the impression that Hand Lake should still be Dewey. This applies to several other borderline hills.

functionality

Item	Count		Response
Total Hills Climbed box on summary report	1		non-relational versions will be discontinued in v12; present in relational
link to hill-bagging to get fast access to GoogleMaps	1		will add URL to Excel and csv versions (already present in relational)
search by map	1		done in v11.5.1; not yet in hill-bagging
easy method of extracting data as POI for my Garmin	1		GPSU format waypoints in www.hill-bagging.co.uk - you might be able to convert these to POI using GPSU. See also http://www.haroldstreet.org.uk
link to Geograph photos	1		maybe, but hill-bagging site has links to Des Taylor's summit photos which is possibly more useful
split Marilyns by country	1		now available in v11.5.1; similar feature being developed for League Tables in hill-bagging site
the ability to add my own hill categories and to then be able to treat these in exactly the same way as any other category	1		The search screen can be used to select subsets based on height and drop. You can then show "Climbed" or "Unclimbed" to check your totals. Anything else would require adding data to the underlying tables, possibly even adding new hills - you'd lose this data when we release new versions.
takes too long to load	1		should not be a problem on newish PCs
ability to multi-select hills for logging rather than doing one at a time	1		probably more an issue in the hill-bagging site, when adding a large backlog - there is now the facility to import from DoBH
print search outputs	1		will consider providing in relational version
Regions and Sections columns are too wide and should be much further to the right	1		prefer them where they are - helps distinguish between hills of similar name
look at http://mountainviews.ie	2		will be in touch with the author
add version as record at end of the csv file	1		given in the Properties tag (right-click on filename)
routes to summits (gpx files)	1		outside scope; better left to hillwalking websites that focus on routes

formats

Item	Count		Response
OpenOffice / xml / ISO formats	3		OpenOffice has poorer programming functionality and would give us more versions to maintain. Pursuing Access runtime alternative
Smartphone app	2		iPhones app at http://grahamhaley.co.uk/hills/ See below for Android
Android app	1		free from <http://www.colessoft.com/search/label/British%20Hills> or <http://www.androidzoom.com/android_applications/travel_and_local/british-hills_lbiq.html>
sql based database	1		most people prefer to build their own from the csv file
full blown, anonymous, web based relational version	1		www.hill-bagging.co.uk tries…
greater harmonisation between DoBH and hill-bagging: a single entity which can be viewed via a number of platforms	1		trying to harmonise, but will always be differences as the web interface can provide greater functionality than an Access database

other

Item	Count		Response
donations via PayPal link or similar	2		will consider; contributions to the survey fund would be welcome!
message board / discussion forum	2		www.hill-bagging.co.uk has user logs which are effectively a message board for each hill. Not keen on starting a discussion group. rhb e-group is a forum for prominence-based lists
A sensible relationship with OpenStreetMap would be very good. Maybe you could start with talkytoaster (he of contour lines) if you haven't already.	1		not sure what we could get from a relationship with OpenStreetMap

www.hill-bagging.co.uk (specifically)

Item	Count		Response
allow others to view your progress	2		possibly, but need to avoid compromising privacy
record separate ascents	1		working on it
When a session times out, mountains climbed on maps default to webmaster's list. This is slightly annoying and would be better if it went back to an all unclimbed map.	1		fixed
new name that excludes 'bagging' and British'	1		can't take "bagging" or "British" out of URLs etc because it would ruin search engine rankings, and far too well established brand name

general comments

very pleased with survey work, YouTube pieces and collaboration with hill-bagging.co.uk
very happy with Excel version, best source for British Hills
excellent job thanks
keep up the good work
more than happy with the excellent work
excellent resource although I find the hill-bagging.com website more user-friendly. Currently keep DoBH and hill-bagging updated as back up for each other
everything I require
keep up the good work
thanks for all your hard work
fantastic resource - thanks to everyone involved in putting it together and keeping it up to date
it's great and I love Simon's associated website
own Access db, update from DoBH
love the lists really-just wish had more lifetimes to complete them
You are doing a great job!! You have built on what others have done before and have created an authoritative and extensive database
keep up the good work, your efforts are much appreciated
no dislikes
I think your site is fantastic and my prime source of information on all British hills
obviously thanks a great deal for doing this (though I'm sure you're having a lot of fun); of course there's Alan Dawson's revisons
just keep up the great work guys and many thanks
I love the site, I just wish it had been available 20 years ago
thanks for all your work
fantastic site, helps feed my addiction
csv version works fine fo rme - I load it into mysql
Love it! Keep up the good work

you are top of my bookmarks list
The maps won't show on my wife's laptop. Love the site
rarely use csv version; use on-line version because of mapping features
I find the programme very convenient to use
it's really wonderful

total responses   87