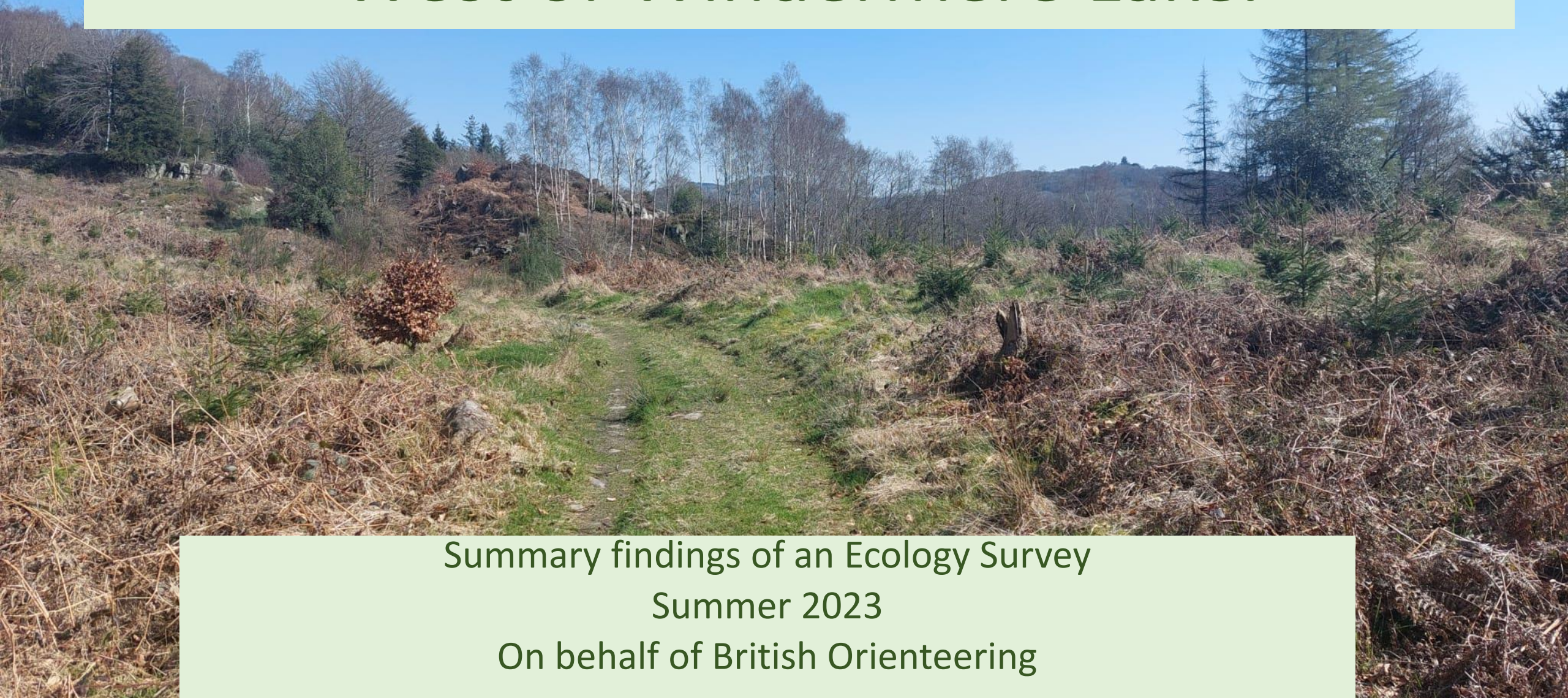
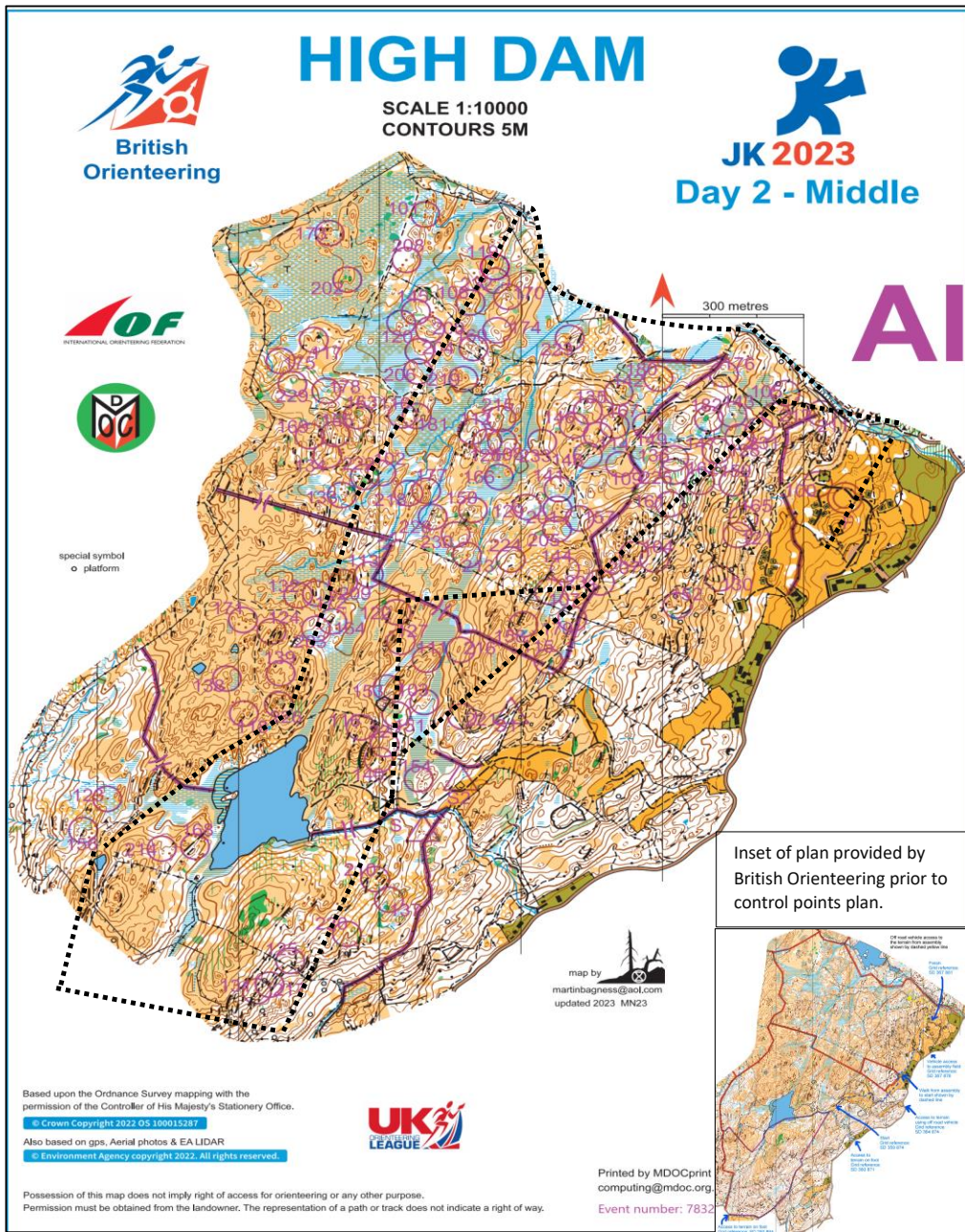


Land at Finsthwaite & Rusland Heights, West of Windermere Lake.



Summary findings of an Ecology Survey
Summer 2023
On behalf of British Orienteering



Yewbarrow Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

- Extensive yew groves on the slopes and crags, in association with old sessile oak woods Ancient.
- Woodland flora and base-rich flushes along the stream-sides.





Three field survey visits to identify evidence of potential damage to habitats resulting from the British Orienteering event undertaken on the 8th of May 2023

- ***Natural England*** were consulted to establish potential concerns with impacts on Yewbarrow Woods SAC and SSSI.
- ***Formation of new desire lines within the designation***, which could then become utilised by other recreational users, resulting in loss of ground vegetation and wider damage to designation features (camping, mountain biking / fire incidents).
- ***Compaction of tree roots*** to over mature yew, resulting in root systems being restricted in the uptake of water and nutrients and potentially causing long-term deterioration of tree growth.
- ***Trampling of vegetation and compaction of soil*** may result in loss of species and potential colonisation of less desirable competitive plant species.







Event Planning: events planned during a consistent dry period as the field evidence reflects trampling is more visible within wet areas. Maintain participating numbers to a given threshold, i.e., no greater than 250 participants.

Route Planning: survey confirmed evidence of trampling within low-lying wet areas purple moor-grass and *Sphagnum* areas. Future events to consider positioning control points to divert foot traffic away from low-lying boggy areas.

Fixed point photography: due to the scale of the site and extents of the event, it is recommended that fixed point photography locations are established.

Yewbarrow Wood: future orienteering events are planned beyond the designation boundaries of Yewbarrow Woods SAC and SSSI.

Desk Study Data: communication with Natural England highlighted there was limited information about the wider site in respect of reptiles and ground nesting birds. It was therefore requested that desk study information of the site is sourced prior to any future planned event across the site.