



ALERT

Garmin GPS devices not supported by appropriate mapping software

It has come to our attention that the Eire-Discoverer series of digital mapping software is no longer available on the Garmin website. This means that, if you buy a Garmin handheld device such as the Montana, Oregon, Etrex, *etc*, you will have great difficulty in locating suitably detailed mapping.

The Garmin Eire-Discoverer series was based on the OSi Discovery maps. Garmin does sell a digital 'topo' map of Ireland. However, the detail is very limited and is not adequate for hillwalking or mountaineering.

It is also possible on the Garmin website to buy BirdsEye satellite imagery for use on GPS devices. However, the photos do not show important details such as slope angle, place-names, *etc*.

Most outdoor shops appear to be unaware of this problem. An unsuspecting hillwalker can probably still buy a Garmin GPS handheld device in outdoor shops or on the Garmin website, only to discover that suitable digital mapping is not available (unless one is lucky enough to find a second-hand copy for sale on eBay). In addition to this, the equivalent digital mapping software for Northern Ireland disappeared from the Garmin website about three years ago.

Of course, there are other digital mapping options such as the Satmap GPS, which comes with its own digital mapping, and the ViewRanger mapping, which can be downloaded onto mobile phones and tablets. However, most Garmin handheld devices, as well as having a touchscreen, have the advantage of being waterproof. It would not be advisable to use a mobile or tablet in our typically damp outdoor conditions.

Mountaineering Ireland has contacted Garmin and Ordnance Survey Ireland about the situation. The reason for the removal of the Eire-Discoverer software from the Garmin website appears to be because the contract between Garmin and Ordnance Survey Ireland has not been renewed. We understand this is a commercial decision by Garmin in light of falling outdoor market sales in Ireland ■

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Mountaineering
Ireland

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HIGHS and LOWS

A quizzical look back at 40 years among mountains and plains – dancing (now and then) on the walls.*

Crags, peaks, routes, walks, nomadic journeys, north faces, documentary travels.

Tibet, the Eiger, the Sahara, Sceilg Mhichíl, the Himalayas, El Cap, and more.

Success (some),
failure (frequent).

A bilingual talk,
accessible to all...

Caint Dhá-theangach le Dermot Somers

THÍOS SEAL, THUAS SEAL

Súil cheisteach á dhíriú siar ar dhá scór bliain caite le ceird an tsléibhe – ag rince (uaireanta) ar na ballaí.*

Bealaí, ballaí, siúlóidí, turais imirce, scannáin eachtraíochta, agus tuilleadh lena chois.

An Tibéid, an Eiger, an Sahára, Sceilg Mhichíl, na Himiléithe, El Cap, agus go leor eile.

Buaiceanna (anois is arís), teipeanna (go minic).

Caint dhátheangach, eachtrúil, sothuigthe...

* *Rince ar na Ballaí* ('Dancing on the Walls'), published in 2002, is a book by Dermot Somers on his climbing life.

Teachers' Club,
36 Parnell Square West, Dublin 1
Thursday, November 10th 2016, 8pm
Admission: €5.00
Bookings: www.mountaineering.ie