

Spokes Edinburgh Cycle Map, edition 11, late 2021

Notes from the cartographer

The new map is a complete revision (drawn from scratch, built off OS & OpenStreetMap data in GIS then transferred to a graphics package). Doing the 2019 'interim update' of the old map I found that it was 'geographically challenged' around the edges and couldn't be sensibly updated to correctly fit in the new development on greenfield sites in the south and southeast of the city.

Redrawing from the ground up meant I had to make lots of little editorial decisions along the way. It looks very different from the old one (in some ways more like the Spokes Lothians 'County' maps). Some things (like getting every street named) never got finished when I ran out of steam on a particular task. And I increased the sheet size so Balerno doesn't sit in a little inset box at a smaller scale (like Shetland on most maps of the UK). If you're wondering why a chunk of the Pentlands is shown, that was where I was going to put half the key, until someone suggested that with a bit of juggling and editing it would all fit in the Forth.

There are bound to be changes people like and other changes they don't like. It would be helpful to get feedback not only about mistakes but about things you think are missing or not shown in the way you think they should be.

The print run is designed to last about three years, so on the next edition – which will just have incremental changes – I'll be able to fix things that are 'wrong' with this map as well as showing the new cycle routes we hope will be in place or committed for construction by then (City Centre West-East, with George Street if we're lucky; Meadows to George Street, Canal to Meadows, West Edinburgh Link and, hopefully lots of 'Spaces for People routes made permanent).

Once you've used the new map for long enough to get used to it IF you have suggested changes, ways to improve the map (without starting again!) I would really appreciate an email saying what and why, with annotated photos if it's a specific detail that needs amended.

If you do have comments, email spokes@spokes.org.uk and ask for them to be passed to Andy in the Spokes maps group.