

## Re: Which GPS for ..

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.geo.satellite-nav/2004-06/0937.html>

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GSV Three Minds in a Can wrote:

- > *Want a handheld (or wrist fitted) GPS unit for walking in the UK. As far*
- > *as I can tell there are none of them which are going to have maps at any*
- > *useful level of detail ('major towns' and 'motorways' are not much*
- > *interest .. the whole point of the exercise is to not come within 20*
- > *miles of either).*
- >
- > *Field boundaries, footpaths, ditches .. that would be useful (and is all*
- > *recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1:25000 maps), but I see no way of*
- > *putting it in a GPS receiver (short of dragging a PDA or Laptop along*
- > *with me, plus the 10lbs of batteries to run it for a reasonable time).*
- > *Is that a correct assessment?*

There are a couple work-arounds, depending on how much effort you're willing to invest. First is that people have developed tools for creating maps in Garmin-compatible format. See:

[http://gps.chrisb.org/gps\\_mapper.htm](http://gps.chrisb.org/gps_mapper.htm) But there is substantial work required to generate a usable map. The second method is to create tracklogs on your PC that cover the planned trails for your trip and upload these to the GPS. Most Garmins provide for up to 10 'saved' tracks which I've usually found to be adequate for displaying the trails in the region where I plan to hike. Lowrance's iFinder is even better in this regard with 10 tracks of greater length and which can be differentiated with various line types.

Programs like OziExplorer and GarTrip let you use scanned maps and trace the desired paths with your PC mouse to create the tracklogs.

- > *Recommendations please. I have no particular axes to grind about*
- > *manufacturers, although I notice Garmin want to stiff me £25.95 for a PC*
- > *data cable (that's about \$45 guys!), which puts their sanity into question.*

The original equipment manufacturer is rarely the most economical source for accessories. In this case there are plenty of other sources for cables. Check the pfranc website for both ready-made cables and connectors.