

# THE HARDYS

- THE UK'S HIGH POINTS



Ian Hardy, MVO





The Joy of Walking

*This book is dedicated to my wife Sandra for all her love and support during the last thirty years*

First published in Great Britain in 1997 by Ian Hardy

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Front Cover	<b>Ben Nevis</b> from the sea, Grampians, Scotland <i>The United Kingdom's highest point</i>
Frontispiece (page i)	John Chapman on <b>Cadair Idris</b> , 2009, North Wales <i>The Joy of Walking</i>
Page iv	<b>Scafell Pike</b> , Lake District, England <i>England's highest point</i>
	<b>Snowdon</b> , North Wales <i>Wales' highest point</i>
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Back Cover	<b>[Castle Mound]</b> , Holy Island [Lindisfarne], England <i>The United Kingdom's lowest core Hardy</i>

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except:

p.18 [www.gla.ac.uk/medicalgenetics/islands/](http://www.gla.ac.uk/medicalgenetics/islands/)  
p.46 Adrian Fagg ([adrian.fagg@ntlworld.com](mailto:adrian.fagg@ntlworld.com))





**Scafell Pike**, Lake District, England  
*England's highest point*



**Snowdon**, North Wales  
*Wales' highest point*

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**Slieve Donard, Mourne Mountains, Northern Ireland**  
*Northern Ireland's highest point*

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Purpose**

This book lists the High Points (Hardys) of the United Kingdom (plus the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) in the following categories:

#### **1 Hill Ranges**

Alphabetical Order  
Height Order

#### **2 Islands**

[greater than 1,000 acres]

Alphabetical Order  
Height Order

#### **3 Administrative Areas**

[United Kingdom, Great Britain, countries and top-tier local authorities (mid-1970s baseline and all subsequent changes)]

Alphabetical Order  
Height Order

#### **4 All High Points**

Height Order  
Summit Name Alphabetical Order

Each High Point (Hardy) is further categorised by:

Country (England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland)

Inclusion in the original “core” Hardy list (see “Core Hardys” below)



High Points (Hardys) were identified by searching Ordnance Survey (OS – Great Britain, Northern Ireland, States of Jersey, States of Guernsey, States of Alderney) maps, atlases and hill walking literature, and, in the case of top-tier local authorities, government references and maps, with heights checked by reference to OS maps to a sufficient scale to select between candidates and resolve queries (nb. heights of high points in different editions and scales of OS maps can differ (the latest editions were used where possible), also triangulation pillars and spot heights do not always locate the highest point).

Administrative area boundaries were taken from OS maps, cross-checked with government reference maps for more recent area changes.

### **Hill Ranges**

Hill ranges were accepted, put on a reserve list or rejected, according to the following criteria: named on commonly-used general purpose maps and atlases, prominent in the context of the surrounding landscape, and consisting of more than one main summit. These criteria are unavoidably subjective, which is why there is a reserve list as well as an accepted list. The reserve list, together with a reject list, is included at Annexes A and B.

The hill-walking and climbing community uses its own collective reference names for many other groups of hills, some more acceptable than others (eg. the Carneddau and the Glyders in North Wales), but there are hundreds of such names, and they are not always consistently applied, so have not been listed.

Hill range extents and boundaries were judged by reference to atlases and Ordnance Survey maps. In a few cases this is also unavoidably subjective.

## **Islands**

All islands with a larger area than 1,000 acres are included. This arbitrary size “boundary” proved useful both in being “obvious” and in including all the major and well-known islands while excluding the innumerable minor islands (the alternative equivalent “boundary” of 500 metres was less useful in this respect, and seemed less in keeping with the imperial measures originally used for the Munros and other such tables).

A review of UK islands was conducted for this third edition, and re-examination of OS maps, and at larger scales, as well as the availability of far more comprehensive information on island areas with the development of websites on the internet, has resulted in the addition of 10 islands to the list, and the division of SHETLAND ISLANDS – BURRA, WEST AND EAST into 2 islands (BURRA, EAST and BURRA, WEST). This review has therefore added 11 Hardys (see Annex Q).

## **Administrative Areas**

Below the obvious United Kingdom, Great Britain and United Kingdom “Home” Country areas, every post-mid-1970s local government reorganisation top-tier administrative area is included (both those still current and those now defunct), incorporating all the new areas created during the subsequent local government reorganisation through the 1990s, and the more recent more restricted reorganisation culminating in the changes which came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 (to distinguish between the two reorganisations, the 2009 changes are summarised in Annex C). The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are also included.

A further reorganisation is planned for Northern Ireland in 2012 when the Province reverts to the pre-1974 six counties except for the separation of Belfast into a separate authority.

Note that to facilitate reference, the official names of some local authorities have been re-ordered in the alphabetical and other lists (eg. North, South and West Yorkshire are listed as Yorkshire, North; Yorkshire, South and Yorkshire, West). These local authorities are listed in Annex D. The few equivalent re-orderings in the hill range and island lists are also listed in this Annex.

The 1990s and 2009 changes, while moving towards complete coverage by unitary authorities, still leaves a two-tier local government structure in many English counties. Some of these second tier authorities are larger and/or arguably as, if not more, “important” than some unitary authorities (eg. Woking (second tier) versus Wokingham (top-tier)). So, for completeness, interest and reference purposes, the remaining two-tier English counties with their associated second tier local authorities are listed in Annex E.

Again for completeness, there is a lower tier, parishes, some of which have councils. These are listed in government reference sources and on the internet (see Annex P).

In England there are also the nine regions “above” the local authority structure, created in 1998, whose High Points therefore correspond with that of one top-tier local authority within each of their boundaries (which may be a hill range). These are listed in Annex F.

For reference, top-tier local authorities are of different types:

England and Wales: English Counties (as at 1.4.09)  
 Unitary Authorities (in England as at 1.4.09, in Wales as at 1.4.05; some are cities or boroughs)  
 Metropolitan Districts (as at 1.4.95; some are cities; joint boards still exist)  
 London Boroughs (as at 1.4.96; still regarded as “top-tier” despite the creation of the Greater London Authority in 2000, two are “cities”)

[Annex G lists the English local authorities by Type, Annex H lists the Welsh names of the Welsh local authorities]

Scotland: Council Areas (as at 1.4.07; some are cities)

Northern Ireland: District Council Areas (as at 1.4.92; five are cities)

The mid-1970s (from 1974) was chosen as the Administrative Area High Point baseline because it was the then-current structure when the list of Hardys was first compiled. Older structures could also be used, going as far back into history as boundary identification allows. The previous structure, the “Counties”, will still be familiar to a lot of people, and many were retained through the mid-1970s changes (a few as second tier authorities), and even echoed in some subsequent unitary authorities established in the mid-1990s (albeit usually with some boundary changes). They are listed in Annex I.

An alternative “county” structure, the Vice Counties, could also be used. These are “permanent” and are used for various kinds of geographically-based scientific recording. There are 119 Vice Counties. They are listed in Annex J. There are even other possible structures, for example the Lord Lieutenancies (Annex K).

## **Core Hardys**

The original list of “High Points” (prior to the first edition of this book) included all but one hill range (the LONG MYND, a subsequent addition from the reserve list), a more subjective “more important” island selection (before the adoption of the formal criterion of the 1,000 acre lower limit), and only the mid-1970s administrative area baseline (the initial compilation was produced before the first of the later reorganisations). These “core” Hardys are identified in the lists, and are also listed in Annex L.

## **List Formats**

The alphabetical lists are laid out in tabular form by:

- name [in capitals] (nb. some hill ranges are split into sections with hyphens, and where one section's high point is the whole hill range's high point an equals sign is used instead of a hyphen)
- cross-references (both ways) [inset, in capitals]
- administrative area location (both defunct and post-reorganisation where appropriate, using an arrow)
- summit name [inset, in bold, “invented” names (no map name) in square brackets]

- map number (in bold italics)
- category identifier(s) (country: E = England (plus the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man), W = Wales, S = Scotland, N = Northern Ireland; Co = core Hardy)
- map sheet/reference (OS, NI = Northern Ireland, SJ = States of Jersey, SG = States of Guernsey, SA = States of Alderney)
- Hardy number (in italics) [from the All High Points in height order list]
- height in metres (with qualifiers)
- an asterisk indicates clarifying checks are still in progress or clarifying notes are included (see Annex N)

The height order lists are laid out by:

- name (in capitals)
- position in height list
- height in metres (with qualifiers)

The administrative area lists additionally include other category identifiers (P = post-reorganisation area, D = defunct area, H = hill range cross-reference, I = island cross-reference, U = urban (low-lying, high point uncertain/irrelevant)).

Note that in the second edition “P” was “N” (changed to allow “N” for Northern Ireland), “D” was “O” (for “old” – changed to define the formal status more accurately) and “H” was “R” (changed to be more logical)

The All High Points lists in height and name order additionally use the identifier A = Area, and H and I refer to hill ranges and islands themselves, not just as administrative area cross-references. The first list's height order serves as a Hardy number, and a map number is also given (in italics). The summit name is also included, so this list can serve as the main reference list.

The All High Points list in height order uses identifiers for Hardys which are also on the other main summit lists (M = Munro, C = Corbett, G = Graham, H = Hewitt, L = Marilyn) (see below and Annex M).



Where list entries are in colour, green indicates a hill range, blue indicates an island, and red indicates an administrative area.

## **Maps**

Basic Hardy location maps are included after the Hardy High Point lists. For England these are based on the Regions structure (the South East is divided into two maps, the South West into three maps, London is on a larger scale). Wales is divided into 2 maps, mainland Scotland and some islands into 7 maps, the outer Scottish island groups into 3 maps. Northern Ireland is all on one map. Separate maps for each map area identify core Hardys and other Hardys.

The boundaries and names of hill ranges, islands, and administrative areas are annotated on the maps, with each Hardy being represented by a triangle and its Hardy number (see the All Heights List in Height Order). The triangles are coloured green (hill range), blue (island), red (administrative area) or black (urban where high point irrelevant). Note that some Hardys are the high points of both hill ranges and administrative areas or islands and administrative areas (see the Lists). Text accompanying each map lists the Hardy numbers on the map with their Hardy name, summit name and summit height.

The legend for the Maps is included at the beginning of the Maps section.

## **Other Summit Lists**

Hardys which are also Munros, Corbetts, Grahams, Hewitts or Marilyn's (the main summit lists covering the United Kingdom) are listed in Annex M, and identified in the list of all High Points in height order (by identifiers given in the list formats above).

## **High Point Queries**

The second edition of this book listed six High Points where identification had not been fully established, and the identification of four further High Points has been queried subsequently. The current status of these queries is summarised in Annex N.

## **Information**

There are now 342 Hardys (135 core Hardys). A breakdown by category, country and core is tabulated in Annex O.

These lists have been accepted as an authority by the Long Distance Walkers Association (LDWA).

Reference sources and useful links are listed in Annex P.

This book is complemented by the website [www.thehardys.org](http://www.thehardys.org). The website includes a forum and bagging features.

All changes from the second edition are listed at Annex Q.

Thanks are due to all those whose comments have produced improvements to this edition (and previous editions) of ***The Hardys – the UK's High Points***, in particular Alan Dawson (compiler of the Marilyn's and the Hewitts et al) and David Purchase. My wife Sandra's photo editing skills cleaned up the map scan images, and the website depended on Alex Page's enthusiasm and expertise, with a little help from Sandra. Douglas Wilcox and Adrian Fagg kindly allowed the use of two photographs.

All comments, queries and suggestions will be gratefully received, and incorporated into an Addenda to this third edition of the book where appropriate. Please e-mail me, Ian Hardy, at:

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