

## Index Maps

### 1. Introduction

An *Index Map* is a map with marker “flags” indicating the location of, and linking to, other more detailed maps (of rides or other routes). We call these marker flags *Index Markers*. On clicking one of these markers you are given more details and a link to click to take you directly to the more detailed map.

The marker flags we use are Green, Green/Yellow, Blue and Red (with a binocular symbol).

Our convention (on Ridemaps) is that:

- Green takes you directly to a map of a ride
- Green/Yellow to a map of a ride and drive
- Red to a map of a long distance ride or trail
- Blue to another (sub) *Index Map*

We will refer to *Ride Maps* and *Index Maps*. *Ride Maps* are the maps of your rides or other routes. *Index Maps* are maps that index and link to *Ride Maps* (or sub *Index Maps*).

On Ridemaps there is a main regional *Index Map* and also sub *Index Maps* where there is a group of rides in a particular location, e.g. the group of rides in the Blackdown Hills is a sub index for the regional South West index.

You can also use *Index Maps* on Dobbin for organising your own maps as well as preparing maps for Ridemaps.

### Quick Overview

You do not have to manually add *Ride Maps* to a *Index Map*. Any *Ride Maps* that exist in your user directory are automatically added to an *Index Map* if eligible (see section 2. below).

For the Ridemaps site adding your ride to the main regional *Index Map* is now completely automatic, just copying a map onto Ridemaps will add it to the regional *Index Map*.

To create a new sub *Index Map* giving links to a group of rides:

- i. Create a blank map centred on your group of rides
- ii. Specify the *Ride Maps* that are to be added to the *Index Map* (when it is displayed). You specify on a *Ride Map* itself on which *Index Map* the *Ride Map* is to be displayed.
- iii. A link to the new sub *Index Map* will automatically appear on the regional map with a Blue Marker.

The following sections explain how this works and more detail on how to build your own *Index Maps*.

## 2. Adding your new ride to an existing Index Map

*Index Maps* are designated by the map name ending in "index" or "indexx".

An "index" map is used for a regional index. e.g. map name "southwestindex", linking to all the Rides in South West.

Sub *Index Maps* are "indexx" maps. e.g. "Blackdownindexx" for the *Index Map* web page showing the Blackdown Hills group of rides within the South West.

*Index Markers* on these maps are automatically generated each time an *Index Map* is loaded. Maps (both *Ride Maps* and *Index Maps*) are searched for, and any eligible ones found are automatically added to the *Index Map* each time the map is loaded. Therefore you do not have to (and cannot) edit the markers on an *Index Map*.

- "index" maps add markers for all *Ride Maps* found in the region (see above) unless the maps are specifically excluded (by specifying a different *Index Map* when building the map of your ride – see below.)
- "indexx" maps add markers only for *Ride Maps* that have been specifically nominated (when building your *Ride Map*) to appear on that *Index Map*.

### Options for specifying on which *Index Map* your ride is displayed

You can specify these options when you create a *Ride Map* or you can add them at a later time.

- On "Build a Map" these options are in the orange box on the second screen of Build a Map. They enable you to:
  - i. specify a particular *Index Map* when you build your map. Your *Ride Map* will only then appear on the specified *Index Map*. (default is blank and your map will automatically appear on the Regional "index" *Index Map*.)
  - ii. to specify the heading and text that appears in the popup box when you click on the index marker on a *Index Map*. (Default is the map heading.)
  - iii. to specify the text for the link to the map in that box. (Default is 'Ride Details')
- If you do not specify a *Index Map* when building your map, your map will be automatically added to the regional *Index Map* (or any other "index" map which may exist). This makes it very easy to add simple rides to a regional map. By default any new map added (copied onto) to Ridemaps immediately appears on the regional *Index Map*.

- If you do not want your map to appear on the regional ("index" map) you must specify a *Index Map* (in the orange box) when building your *Ride Map*. It will then only appear on that specified *Index Map* (if it exists).
- Note that you can currently only specify one *Index Map* on which your *Ride Map* will appear.

### 3. Creating a new *Index Map*

To create a new *Index Map* you simply create a blank map of the area you wish the *Index Map* to cover. Markers linking to rides are then added automatically to that map.

Whenever an *Index Map* is loaded (in your browser) and displayed any existing markers on the map are automatically deleted and replaced with the markers linking to any eligible Ride Maps found. You can put route outlines on the map (see 1. below).

To create your new new *Index Map*:

1. Use "Build a Map" and either:
  - Load a gpx file (as layer 1) which has just one marker (any symbol) at the point on which wish to centre your *Index Map*,
  - or load a gpx containing all the routes you are going to index on *Index Map* (assuming you want them to appear on your final *Index Map*.)
2. Complete the map in the normal way but choose a map name ending in index or indexx and produce your map.
3. You have now produced your base *Index Map* centred appropriately. You may wish to manually adjust the zoom to the appropriate level. Once you have done this you should clear the automatic centre and zoom option in Build a Map. This is because if you subsequently rebuild (your *Index Map*) to make any changes e.g. to the heading, your map may subsequently re-centre in the wrong place and not at the most appropriate zoom level.
4. If you want existing *Ride Maps* to appear on your *Index Map*, or are creating new *Ride Maps*, ensure that they specify this *Index Map*. See "Options for specifying which *Index Map* your ride is displayed" above.
5. When you load your new *Index Map* you will find all your maps automatically appear. Any initial marker you may have loaded (to centre the map) when producing your *Index Map* will not be shown.

Notes:

- i. Unless you wish to change any headings, map centre or any routes displayed on your *Index Map* you do not need ever to rebuild this map.
- ii. Remember the marker links which appear are entirely automatic and depend upon the *Ride Maps* that are linked to a *Index Map* (for indexx maps) or which have not been specifically excluded (for indexx maps)