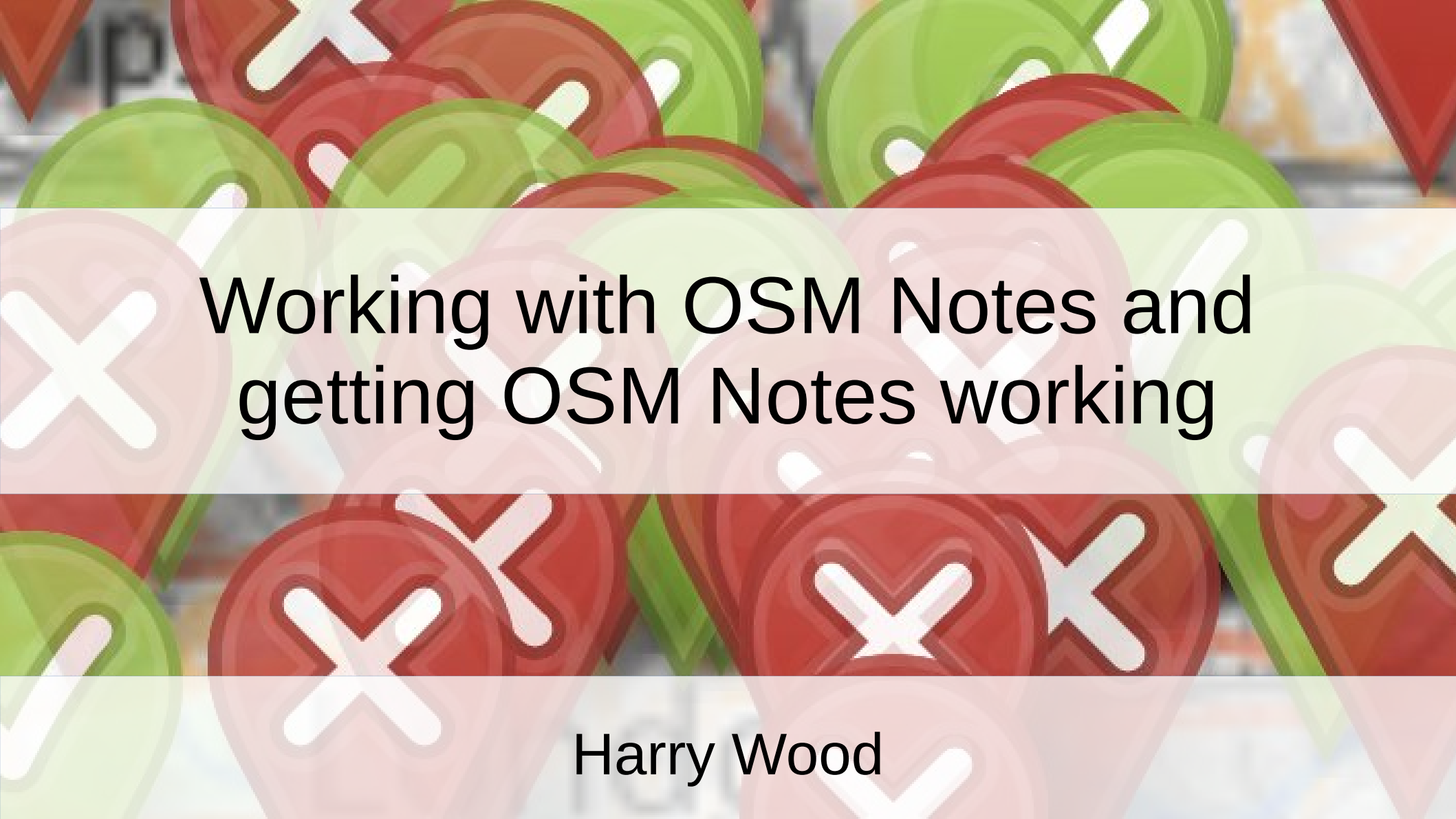




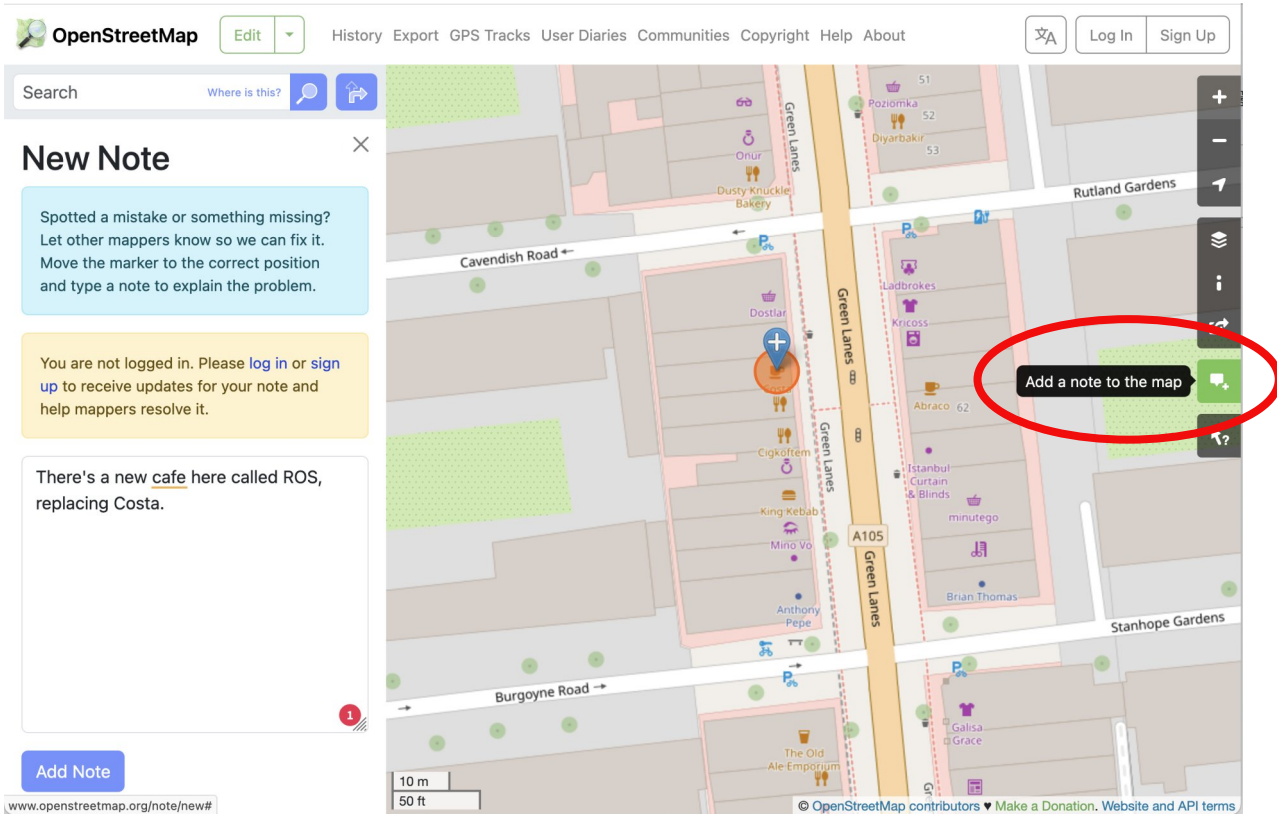
Working with OSM Notes and getting OSM Notes working

Harry Wood



Not this kind of “Notes”

OpenStreetMap.org Notes



The screenshot shows the OpenStreetMap.org website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like 'OpenStreetMap', 'Edit', 'History', 'Export', 'GPS Tracks', 'User Diaries', 'Communities', 'Copyright', 'Help', and 'About'. There are also 'Log In' and 'Sign Up' buttons. Below the navigation bar is a search bar with the text 'Where is this?'. On the left side, there's a 'New Note' section with a blue box containing text: 'Spotted a mistake or something missing? Let other mappers know so we can fix it. Move the marker to the correct position and type a note to explain the problem.' Below this is a yellow box with text: 'You are not logged in. Please [log in](#) or [sign up](#) to receive updates for your note and help mappers resolve it.' At the bottom of the left section is a blue 'Add Note' button. The main area shows a map of a street in London, with labels for 'Green Lanes', 'Cavendish Road', 'Burgoyne Road', 'Rutland Gardens', and 'Stanhope Gardens'. A red circle highlights a button on the right side of the map that says 'Add a note to the map'. At the bottom of the map, there's a scale bar showing '10 m' and '50 ft', and a copyright notice: '© OpenStreetMap contributors ▼ Make a Donation. Website and API terms'.

OpenStreetMap

Edit

History Export GPS Tracks User Diaries Communities Copyright Help About

Log In Sign Up

Search

Where is this?

New Note

Spotted a mistake or something missing? Let other mappers know so we can fix it. Move the marker to the correct position and type a note to explain the problem.

You are not logged in. Please [log in](#) or [sign up](#) to receive updates for your note and help mappers resolve it.

There's a new [cafe](#) here called ROS, replacing Costa.

Add Note

www.openstreetmap.org/note/new#

10 m 50 ft

© OpenStreetMap contributors ▼ Make a Donation. Website and API terms



OpenStreetBugs

OpenStreetBugs

Feel free to put on the map the modifications you would like to see on [OpenStreetMap](#) (name of a street, incorrect junction, amenity, etc.)

Do NOT use licensed data like paper maps, Google Maps, etc. Use only your knowledge of the reality or public domain data.

According to the OpenStreetMap license, the data that you add on the map will be licensed [CC BY-SA](#).

[Blog](#), [Credits](#), [Stats](#), etc.

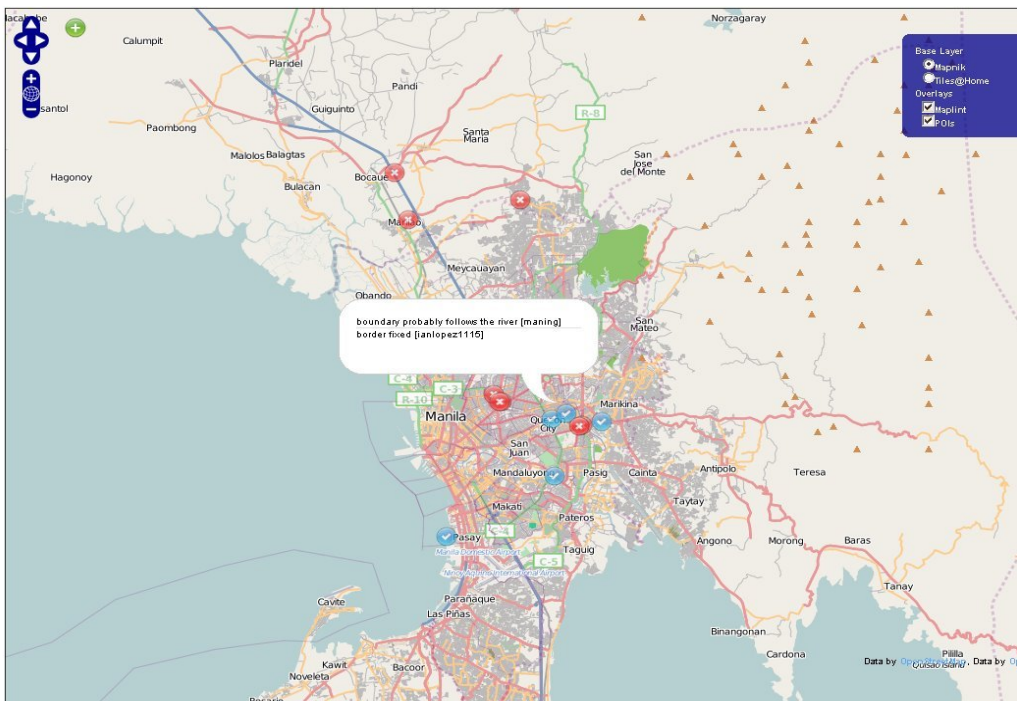
Use the  button (on the top of the map) to add a point.

Nickname or name:

[Permalink](#)

[As RSS feed](#)

[As GPX file](#)



Developed by
Xav and Emka
2009



Brilliant simplicity!

OpenStreetMap.org Notes

 **OpenStreetMap** Edit History Export GPS Tracks User Diaries Communities Copyright Help About

Where is this?  

Unresolved note #4988770

Description

I believe that there is a defibrillator here, on the wall near to the covered bicycle parking that is already mapped.

I took a photo but didn't include much of the surroundings and this is a medical feature so I'm hesitant about adding it without it being checked/confirmed first.

Created by [jayaddison](#) about 1 month ago

Location: [56.4647710](#), [-2.9694656](#)

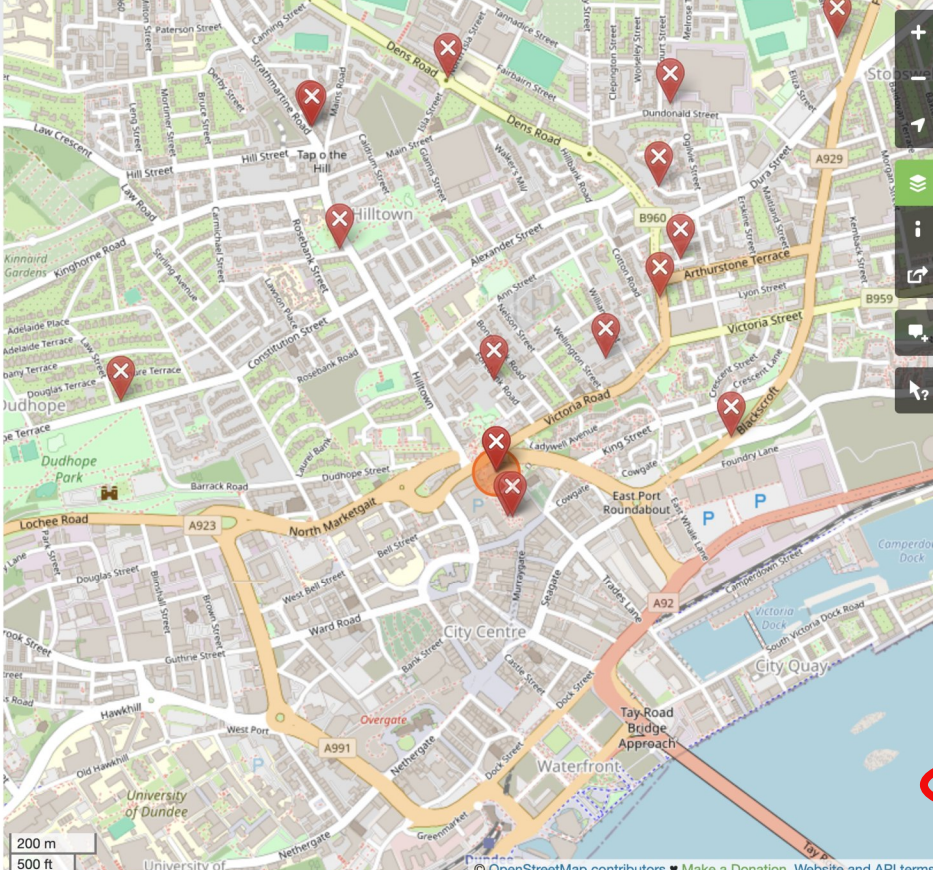
Discussion

Subscribe

Resolve

Comment

If this note contains sensitive information that needs to be removed, you can [report this note](#). For all other problems with the note, please resolve it yourself with a comment.



Map Layers

- Standard
- CyclOSM
- Cycle Map
- Transport Map
- Tracestrack Topo
- Humanitarian
- Shortbread
- MapTiler OMT

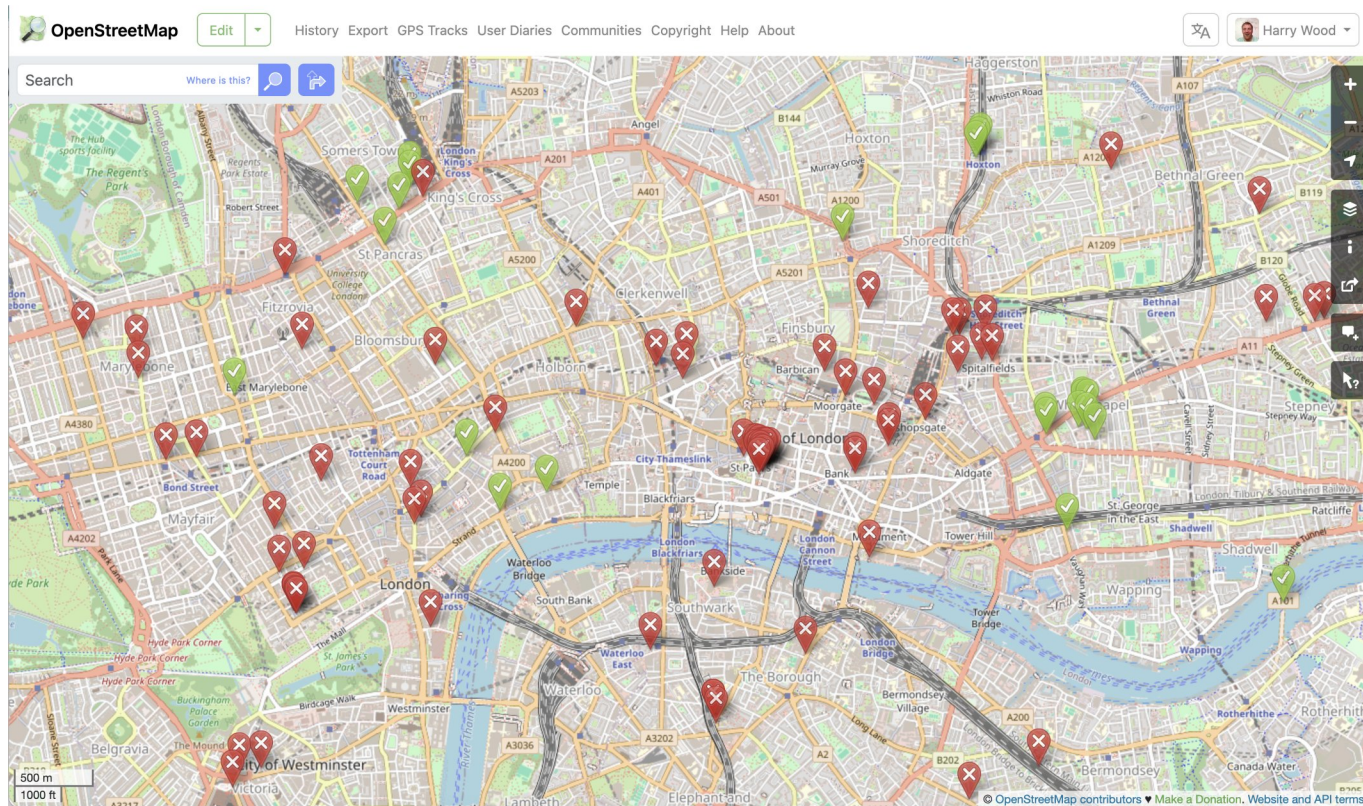
Enable overlays for troubleshooting the map

- ☒ Map Notes
- ☐ Map Data
- ☐ Public GPS Traces



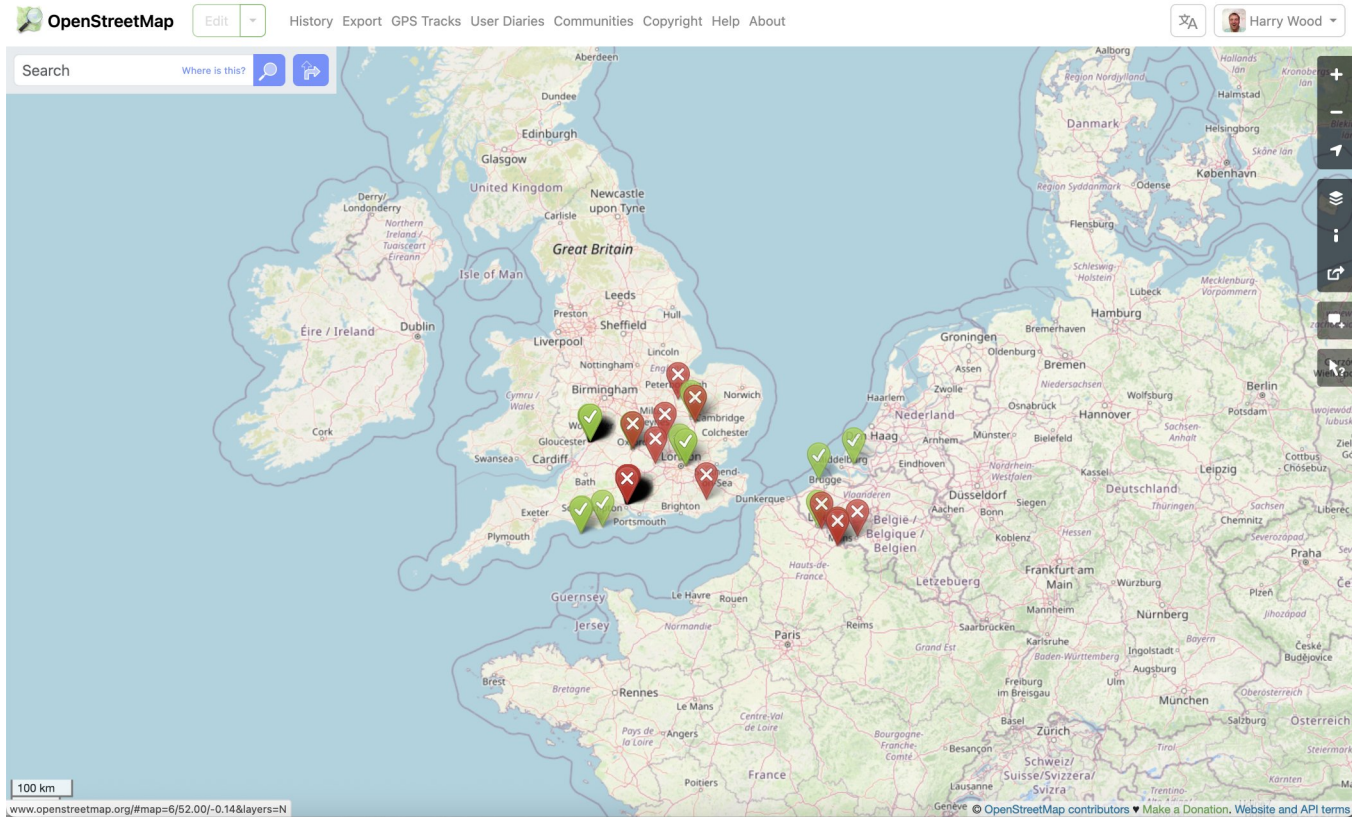
© OpenStreetMap contributors [Make a Donation](#), [Website](#) and [API terms](#)

Getting crowded

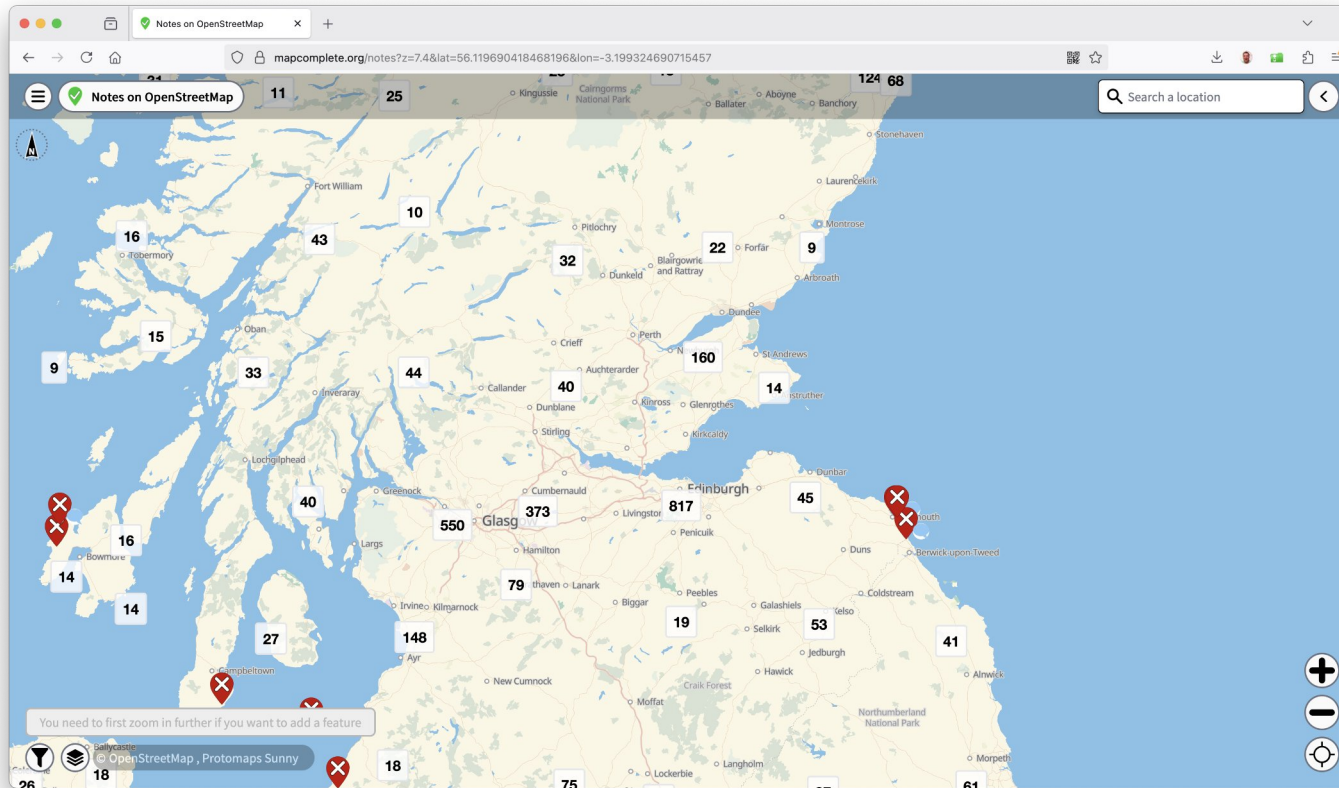


Max 100 notes

Gradually zoom out...



Marker Clusters?



mapcomplete.org/notes



OSM Notes

- ☒ CartoDB Dark
- ☐ CartoDB Light
- ☐ OpenStreetMap
- ☐ Black background
- ☐ White background
- ☒ Closed Notes (green)
- ☒ Open Notes (red)

Density Map!
harrywood.co.uk/maps/notes



```

echo "=== Generating chunk rasters ==="
CHUNK=0

# World grid in 60°x60° chunks
for LON_MIN in -180 -120 -60 0 60 120; do
    LON_MAX=$((LON_MIN+60))
    for LAT_MIN in -90 -30 30; do
        LAT_MAX=$((LAT_MIN+60))
        CHUNK=$((CHUNK+1))
        OUTFILE="$TMPDIR/chunk_closed_${CHUNK}.tif"
        echo " → Chunk $CHUNK : lon $LON_MIN to $LON_MAX , lat $LAT_MIN to $LAT_MAX"
    done
done

```

```

gdal_grid \
  -zfield id \
  -a count:radius=0.004 \
  -txe $LON_MIN $LON_MAX -tye $LAT_MIN $LAT_MAX \
  -outsize 12000 6000 \
  -l SELECT \
  -of GTiff \
  "notes_closed.geojson" "$OUTFILE" || echo " (no points in this region)"
done

```

```

echo "=== Merging chunks ==="
gdal_merge.py -o "$TMPDIR/closed_notes_density.tif" -of GTiff -co COMPRESS=DEFLATE -co TILED=YES $TMPDIR/chunk_closed_*.tif

```

```

echo "=== Colorizing ==="
# Color ramp for gdaldem
cat > "$TMPDIR/colors.txt" <<'EOF'
0      0  0  0  0
1      0 100  0 180
3      0 150  0 255
25     0 255  0 255
80    200 255 200 255
500   255 255 255 255
EOF

```

```

gdal_edit.py -a_nodata 0 "$TMPDIR/closed_notes_density.tif"
gdaldem color-relief -alpha "$TMPDIR/closed_notes_density.tif" "$TMPDIR/colors.txt" "$TMPDIR/world_color.tif"

```

```

echo "=== Reprojecting to Web Mercator ==="
rm -f "$TMPDIR/world_merc.tif"
gdalwarp -t_srs EPSG:3857 -r bilinear -co COMPRESS=DEFLATE -co TILED=YES "$TMPDIR/world_color.tif" "$TMPDIR/world_merc.tif"

```

```

rm -f "$TMPDIR/world_merc_trimmed.tif"
gdalwarp \
  -te -20037508.34 -11188890.0 20037508.34 11188890.0 \
  -co TILED=YES -co COMPRESS=DEFLATE \
  "$TMPDIR/world_merc.tif" "$TMPDIR/world_merc_trimmed.tif"

```

```

echo "=== Generating tiles (zoom 0-9) ==="
gdal2tiles.py -z 0-9 --exclude "$TMPDIR/world_merc_trimmed.tif" "tiles_closed"

```

```

echo "=== Done closed notes tiles: 'tiles_closed' ==="

```

gdal_grid

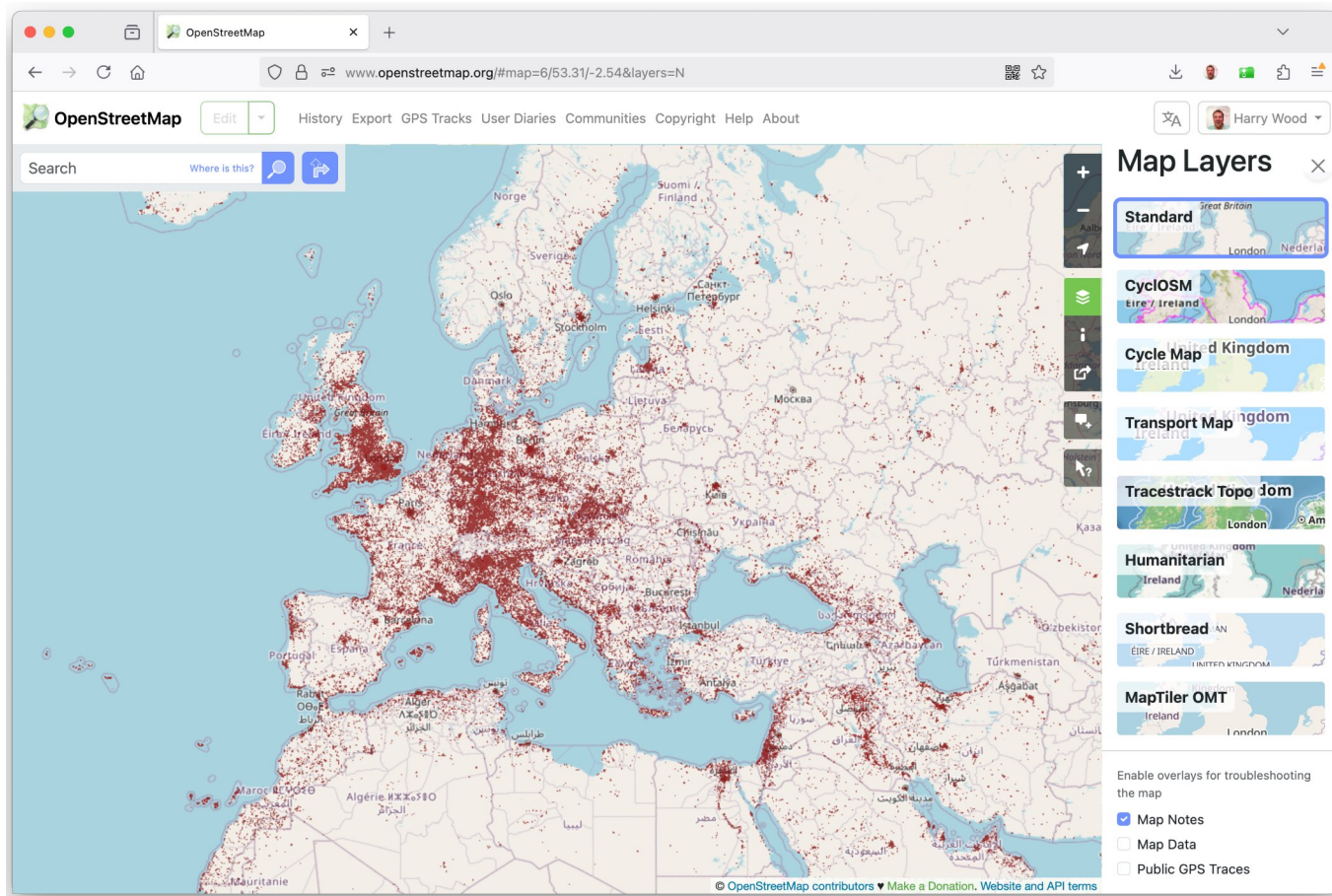
gdal_merge.py

gdaldem color-relief

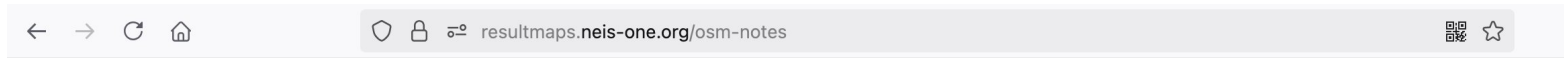
gdalwarp

gdal2tiles.py

Low zoom notes!



Pascal Neis Stats



OSM Notes Overview and Activities per Country

Copyright © [Pascal Neis](#) | Map data © [OpenStreetMap](#) contributors | More? See [ResultMaps](#)

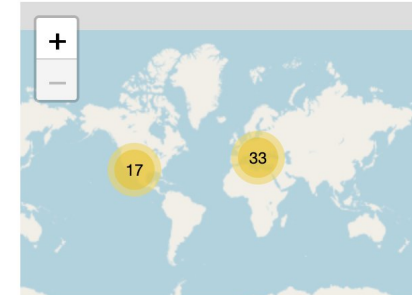
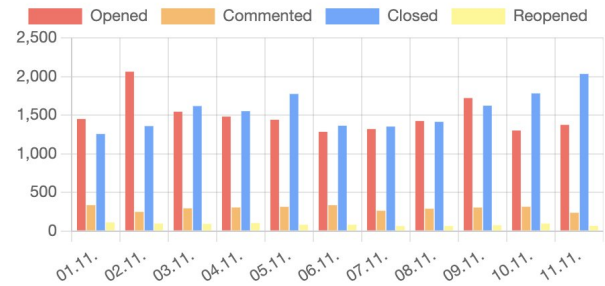
World and Stats per Country

Overall Notes **Opened: 463,052** **Closed: 4,443,778**

#	Country	Opened
1	Germany	38,544
2	United Kingdom	34,697
3	Italy	25,327
4	United States	23,043
5	Indonesia	17,748
6	Iran	17,108
7	France	15,235
8	India	14,354
9	Russia	14,331
10	Japan	13,367
11	China	11,078
12	Iraq	10,057
13	Thailand	8,374
14	Spain	7,284
15	Turkey	6,177
16	Philippines	6,177
17	Vietnam	5,101
18	Canada	4,774
19	Brazil	4,742

Last 10 Days' Activity

Opened: 16,401 **Commented: 3,239** **Closed: 17,120** **Reopened: 937**



Id	Contributor	@ UTC	Action	Comment
5048470	Przemysław69	21:38:47	closed	Done: https://www.openstreetmap.org/changeset/174532156
5023217	uprkos	21:38:24	closed	Dodałem.
5046602	p1230	21:38:04	closed	erl
5048768		21:37:35	opened	Das ist im Freilandmuseum der: Stadel aus Titting Quelle: ht...
5048767		21:34:41	opened	onosm.org submitted note from a business: نام: پاریل اسموک add...
5048600	GeorgeKaplan	21:34:13	commented	Erreur de quoi ?
5048698	GeorgeKaplan	21:33:58	closed	Pas de note personnelle svp
5048716	GeorgeKaplan	21:33:35	closed	Pas de note personnelle svp
5048766	Teelow	21:33:35	opened	Add tag hgv=no. No commercial trucks allowed either side v...
5048417	Vceka	21:32:07	closed	

OSM note activities of United Kingdom

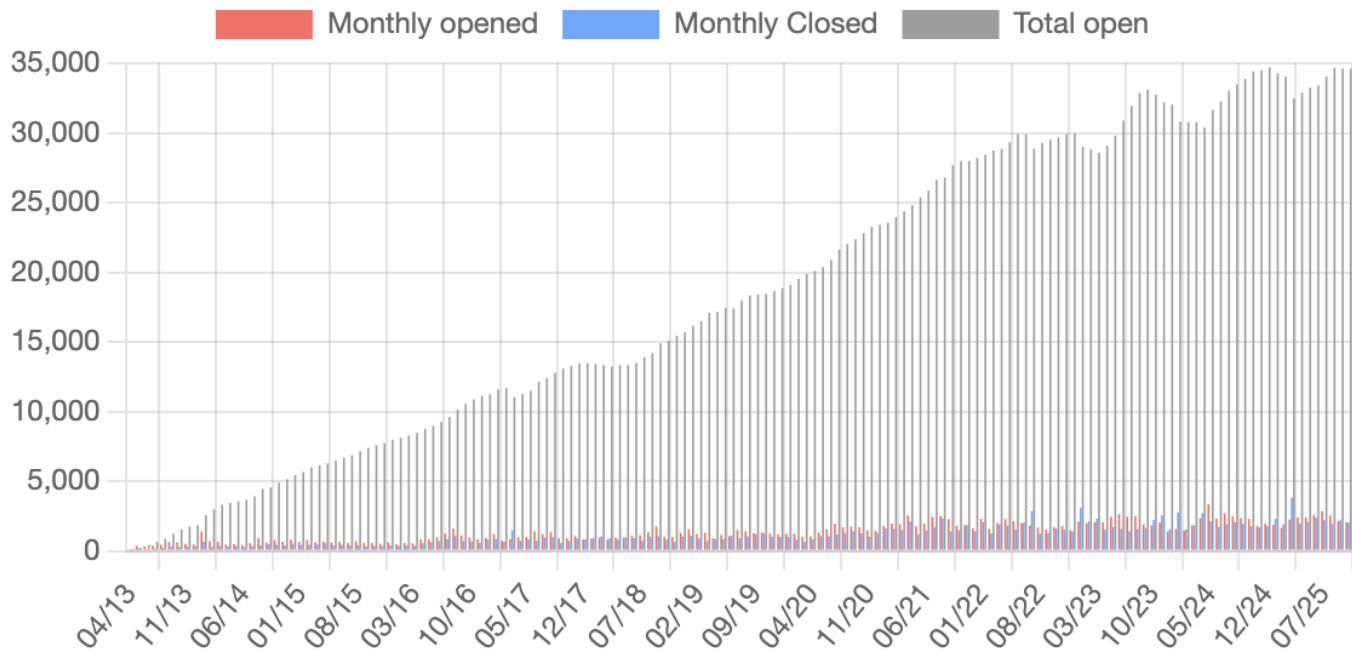
Copyright © [Pascal Neis](#) | Map data © [OpenStreetMap](#) contributors | [ResultMaps](#)-overview | [Notes overview](#) worldwide

Overall

Opened: 34,695 (17%) Closed: 173,947 (83%)

Feeds of the latest [opened](#), [commented](#), [reopened](#) or [closed](#) notes

Stats per month



Lots of people
using notes

Increasingly
going
unresolved

Netherlands and Belgium ranking low on open notes

OSM note activities of Netherlands

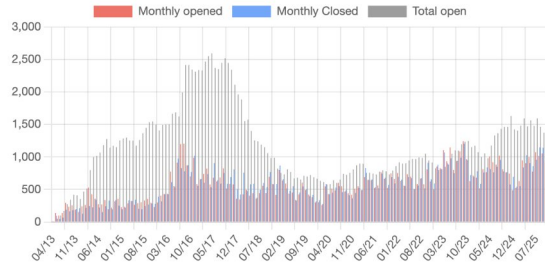
Copyright © [Pascal Neis](#) | Map data © [OpenStreetMap](#) contributors | [ResultMaps](#)-overview | [Notes overview](#) worldw

Overall

Opened: 1,412 (2%) Closed: 85,876 (98%)

Feeds of the latest [opened](#), [commented](#), [reopened](#) or [closed](#) notes

Stats per month



OSM note activities of Belgium

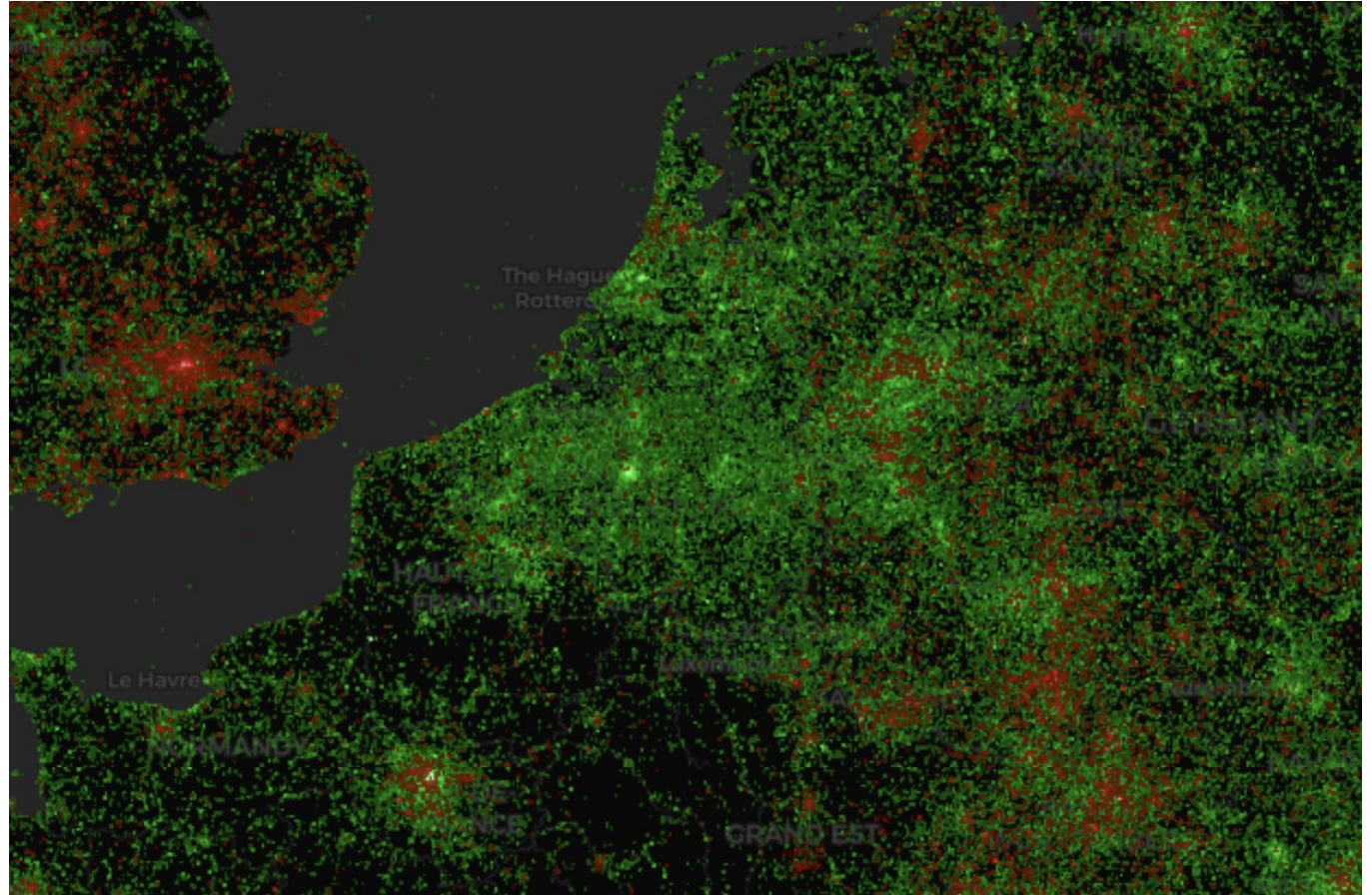
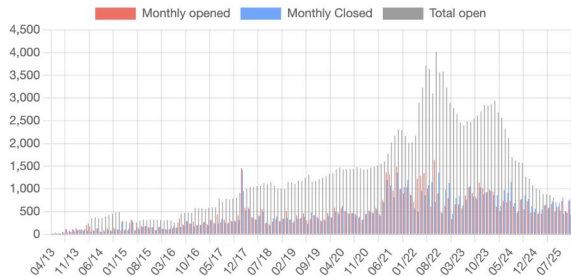
Copyright © [Pascal Neis](#) | Map data © [OpenStreetMap](#) contributors | [ResultMaps](#)-overview | [Notes overview](#) worldw

Overall

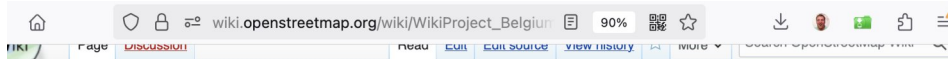
Opened: 439 (1%) Closed: 71,391 (99%)

Feeds of the latest [opened](#), [commented](#), [reopened](#) or [closed](#) notes

Stats per month



Belgium Getting Organised



WikiProject Belgium/Resolving notes

< WikiProject Belgium

Anyone can open a [note](#) on OpenStreetMap, even anonymously. It's a handy way to tell mappers that something should be mapped or edited. However, notes do not always get closed and too many open notes litter the map. This project has the goal to close as many as possible in a coordinated way. By joining the efforts of mappers, we can divide the work in a structured way, we can ask a second opinion when something is not clear and we can motivate each other to ["listen the curve"](#).

Contents [show](#)

Methodology [\[edit | edit source \]](#)

Hashtags in comments [\[edit | edit source \]](#)

We use hashtags to categorise notes that cannot be easily closed. You can filter notes based on these hashtags in MapComplete. The following hashtags are in use:

- [#OSMbe #FollowUp](#) in mm/yy: this note will only become relevant in the future. Fill in the date (or month, or year) that it should be next reviewed.
- [#OSMbe #SurveyNeeded](#): this note cannot be fixed without a survey.
- [#OSMbe #ComplexMapping](#): it's a lot of work to be able to close this note. Leave this hashtag to indicate that you prefer someone else to fix this issue.

Tools [\[edit | edit source \]](#)

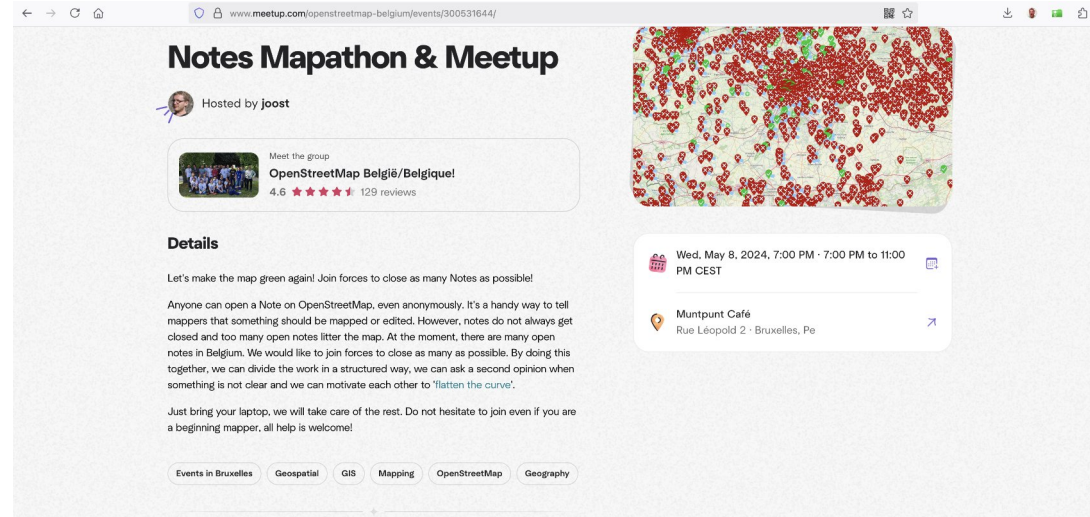
- [The MapComplete theme for notes](#) [↗](#) can be a very handy tool:
 - it can be used to filter notes (based on e.g. age or message content)
 - it shows all notes in the map view
 - it can be used to add photos to the note and view those photos
- <https://observablehq.com/@vgeorge/oldest-osm-notes-by-country> [↗](#)
- <https://ent8r.github.io/NotesReview/> [↗](#)
- <https://resultmaps.neis-one.org/osm-notes-country?c=Belgium> [↗](#)

Changesets to resolve notes [\[edit | edit source \]](#)

Every time a note is fixed, mention the note number and the hashtag [#notesBE](#) in the changeset comment, together with information that you would usually put in a changeset comment. An example:

Mapped [...] based on note [#\[...\]](#) [#notesBE](#)

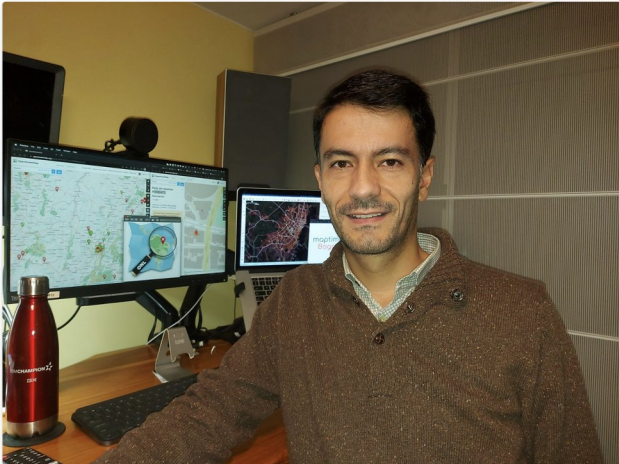
Afterwards, the note can be closed. This will automatically send a message that the person who created the note will receive (if it is not



“Notathon” events

The evolution of 'notathons' in Latin America

[Notes](#) is a core feature of the OpenStreetMap.org website. It enables you to add a comment on the map to assist others in mapping/editing OpenStreetMap. Other users can respond to your notes, for example to ask for additional details if necessary. Members of the OSM community in Bogotá in Colombia have been holding notathons – meetings to close pending OSM notes – and now they're trying to help the various Latin American communities to do the same. Below is an interview of Andrés Gómez ([OSM Colombia](#)) by Juan Arellano (volunteer translator in the [OSM Foundation's Communication Working Group](#)), conducted originally in Spanish and translated into English.



OpenStreetMap Blog

Open via RSS

Search

State of the Map Latam

by Core Software Engineer

2025 Voting

Board Election – Online vote until 13 September at 16:00

Annual General Meeting

ce

Map at UN Open Source

OSM note activities of Colombia

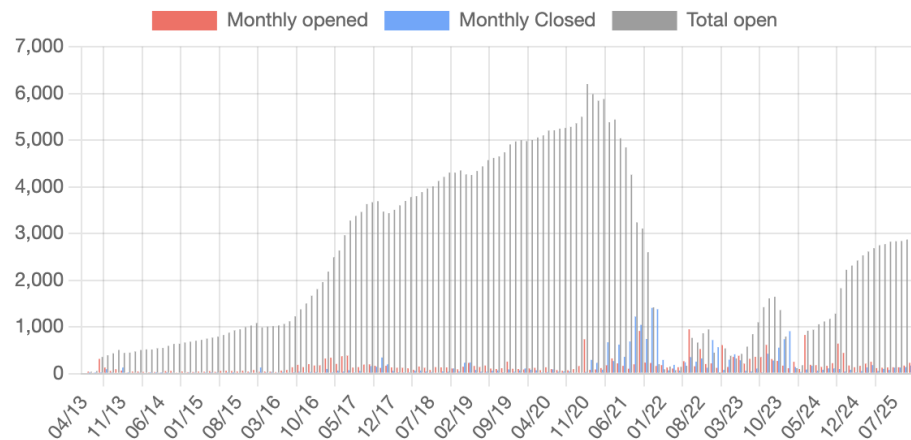
Copyright © [Pascal Neis](#) | Map data © [OpenStreetMap](#) contributors | [ResultMaps](#)-overview | [Notes overview](#) worldwide

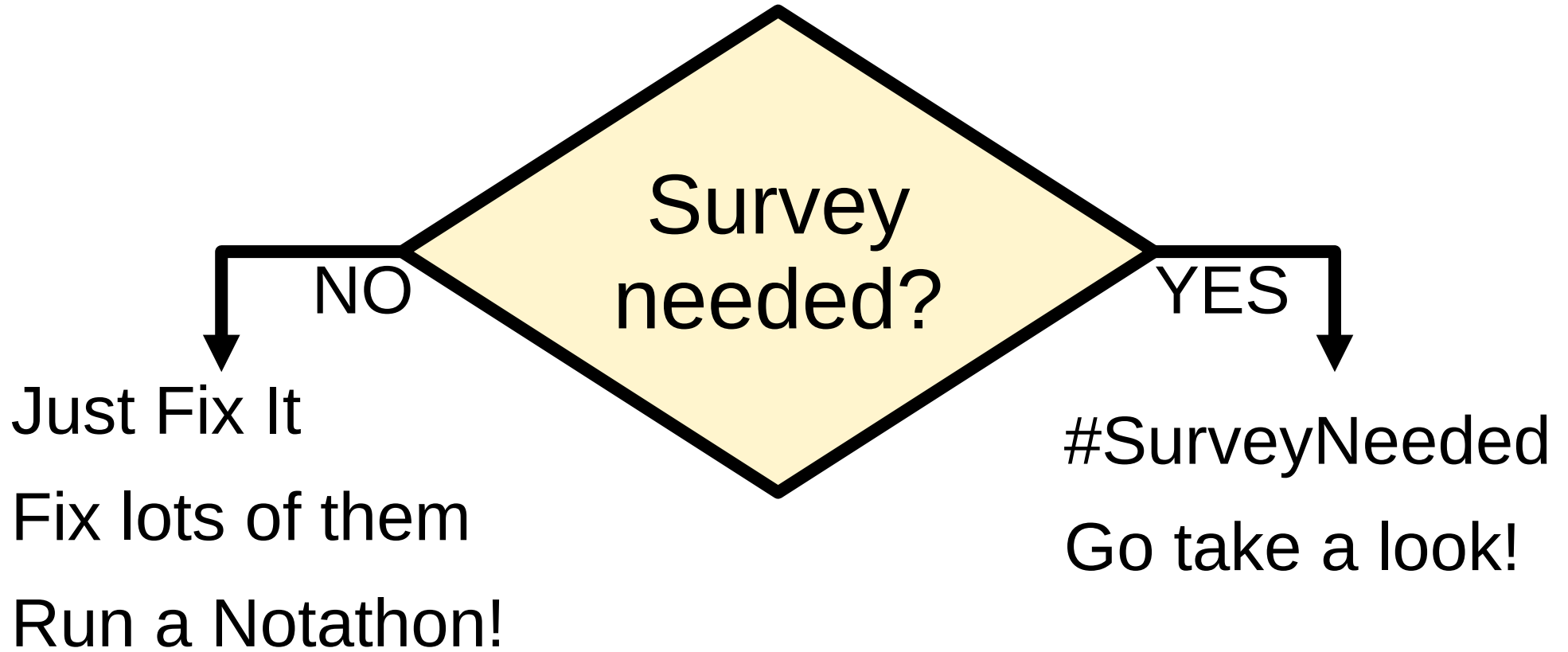
Overall

Opened: 2,928 (11%) Closed: 22,734 (89%)

Feeds of the latest [opened](#), [commented](#), [reopened](#) or [closed](#) notes

Stats per month





OpenStreetMap

Search

Resolve #5048825

Description

⚠️ Pick you map man not letting me download your map that nothing can fucking load anyway

Created by anonymous about 22 hours ago

Resolved by Harry Wood about 21 hours ago

Location: 51.5051765, 0.0327873

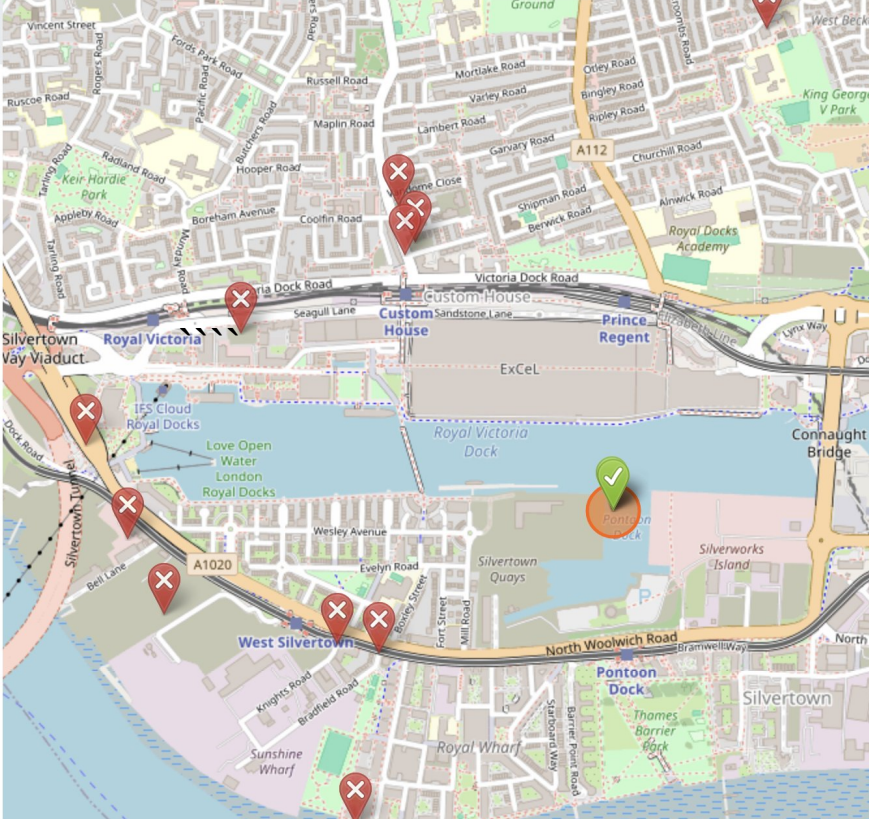
This note includes comments from anonymous users which should be independently verified.

Discussion

Resolved by Harry Wood about 21 hours ago

If you reach out on a better contact channel: osm.wiki/Contact_channels and describe what kind of download you are trying to do, I'm sure someone will be happy help.

Deactivate



Spectrum of ~~spam~~ abuse

The F word:
Only 2 open notes
265 notes overall
hidden? Unknown

Misusing Notes to contact us → wiki.osm.org/Contact_channels

OpenStreetMap | Edit | History | Export | GPS Tracks | User Diaries | More | Harry Wood

Search | Where is this?

Resolved note #314656

Description

hi

Created by anonymous almost 11 years ago
Resolved by Harry Wood over 10 years ago
Location: 16.2713690, 80.4590607

This note includes comments from anonymous users which should be independently verified.

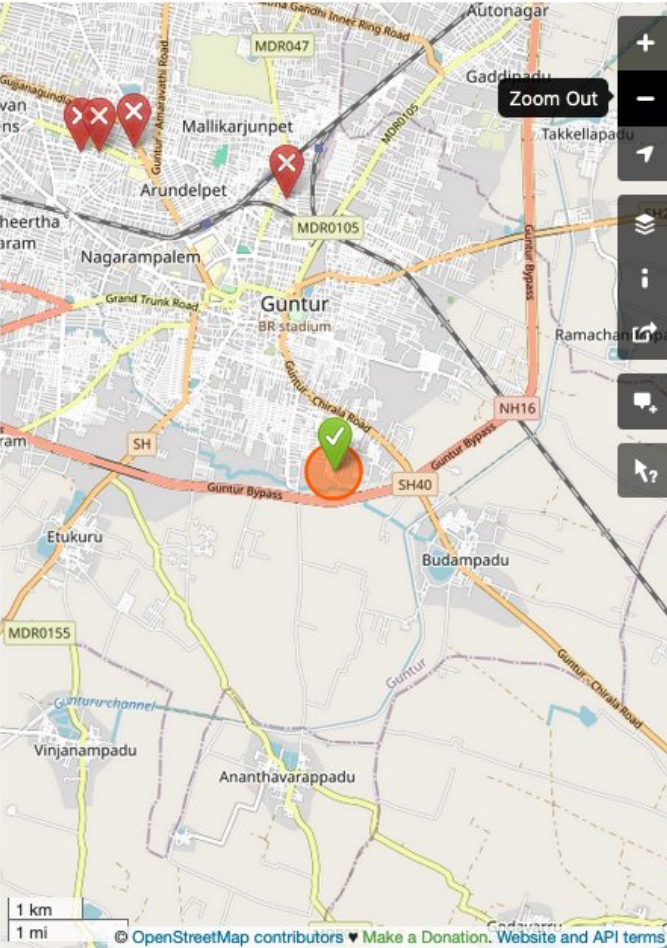
Discussion

Unsubscribe

Resolved by Harry Wood over 10 years ago

Hello. Thanks for experimenting with the OpenStreetMap 'notes' feature. You can use it to report things which are missing on the map. Even better, OpenStreetMap lets you edit the map directly to add roads etc. The map in this part of India sure needs some work! Want to help make a map of Gunter? For now I am closing your experimental note.

Reactivate



Nonsense Notes

“Thanks for experimenting”

Assume good faith

I'm not normally dealing with this

but low likelihood it will get seen

Systematically. Use standard snippets

www.openstreetmap.org/note/3843466#m 110%

OpenStreetMap Edit

History Export GPS Tracks User Diaries More

Log In Sign Up

Description

Replacing misplaced note:

Simon Power Estate agent
<https://simonpower.exp.uk.com>

Created by anonymous about 2 years ago

Resolved by Harry Wood 2 days ago

Location: [51.5790049, -0.1472050](#)

This note includes comments from anonymous users which should be independently verified.

Discussion

Resolved by Harry Wood 2 days ago

You could be adding this note to tell us that there is an estate agents shop at this location, but... there isn't. It's just a residential building:
<https://www.mapillary.com/app?pKey=433707515232315&focus=photo&lat=51.579>

So I assume you're misunderstanding what these OpenStreetMap notes are for. It's not a way of letting you add a marker to advertise your website. You're welcome to add notes if you want to tell us something is missing or incorrect on the map.

Off-topic Promotion

Link unrelated to the location

Spam? Or misunderstanding



OpenStreetMap

Edit

History Export GPS Tracks

More



Log In

Sign Up

#1359337

Description

"this path actually connects Parkland walk on the south with Summerland gardens on the north via the parking lot."

POI has no name

POI types: highway-path

OSM data version: 2018-03-16T17:06:02Z

#mapsme

Created by [RomanK1111](#) over 7 years ago

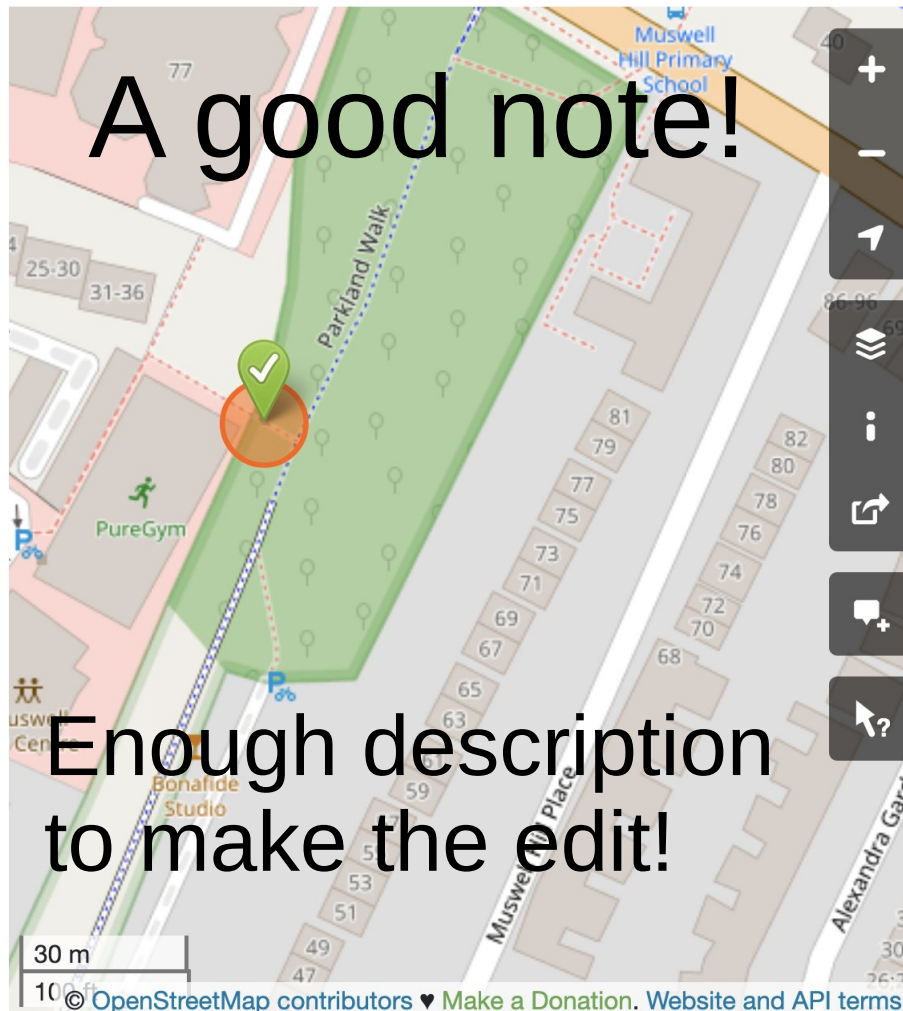
Resolved by [danmiz](#) almost 5 years ago

Location: [51.5899247](#), [-0.1411593](#)

Discussion

Comment from [Harry Wood](#) over 7 years ago

Thanks for that. That's good clear note description so I've gone ahead and made the change [osm.org/changeset/59668005](#) but I can try to go check next time I'm walking there too.



A good note!

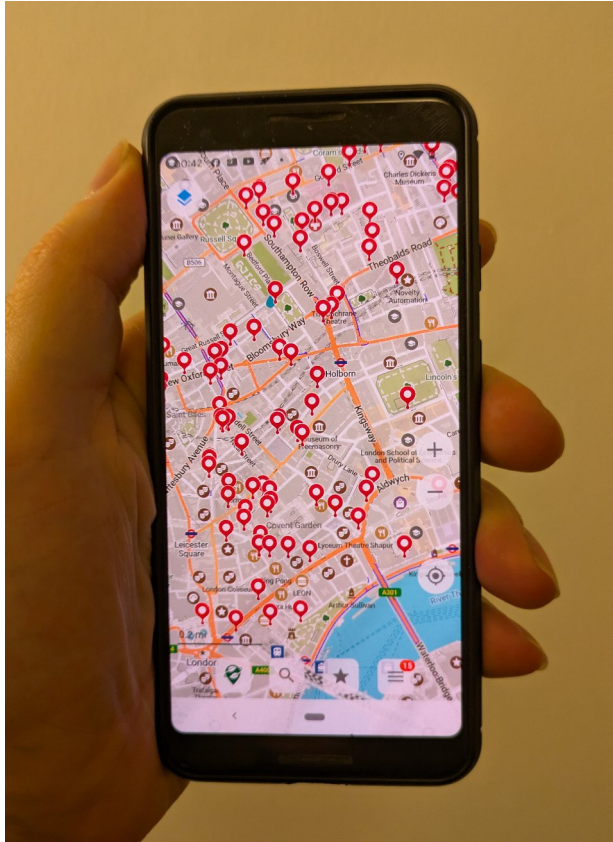
Enough description
to make the edit!

#SurveyNeeded ?

Each note a fun little mapping puzzle

Resolve notes when I'm out and about

KML notes tool

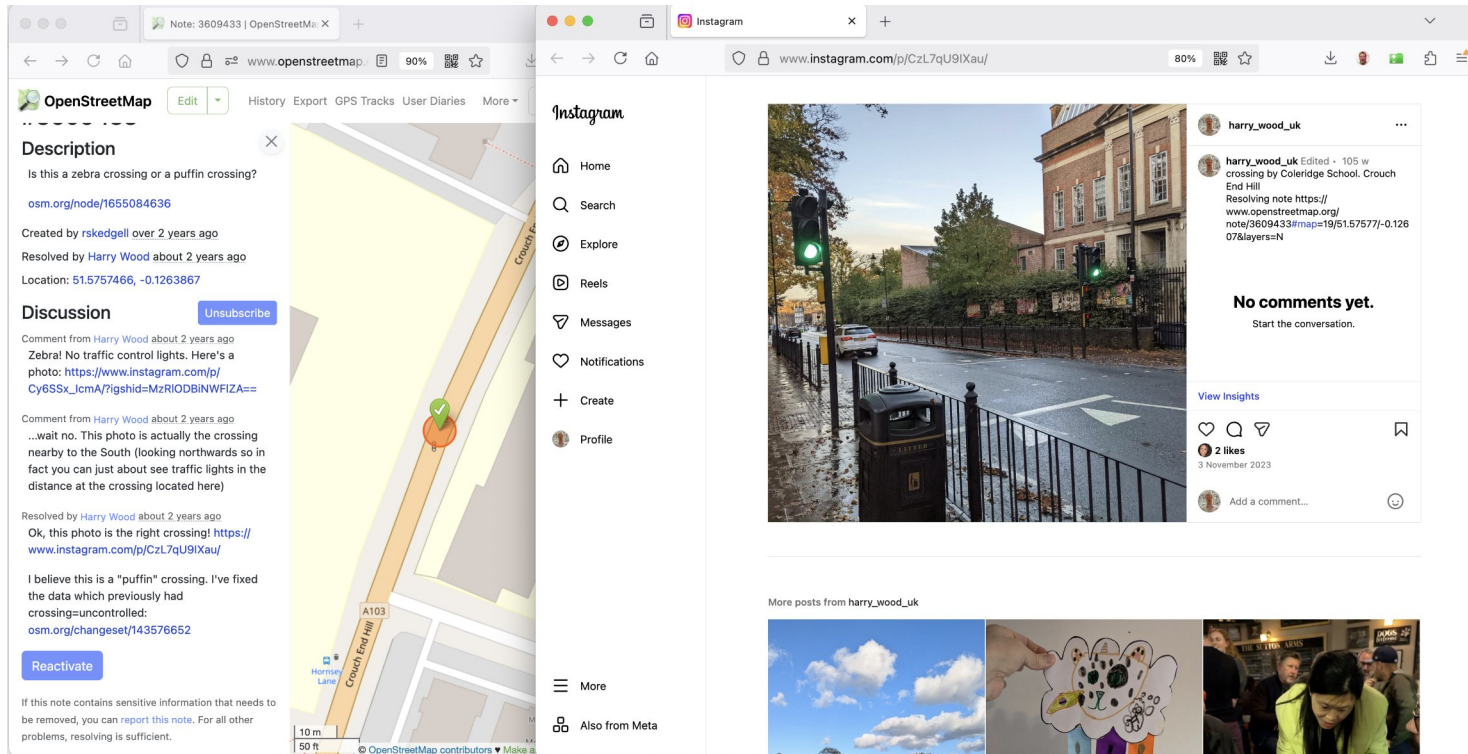


harrywood.co.uk/maps/notes/kml

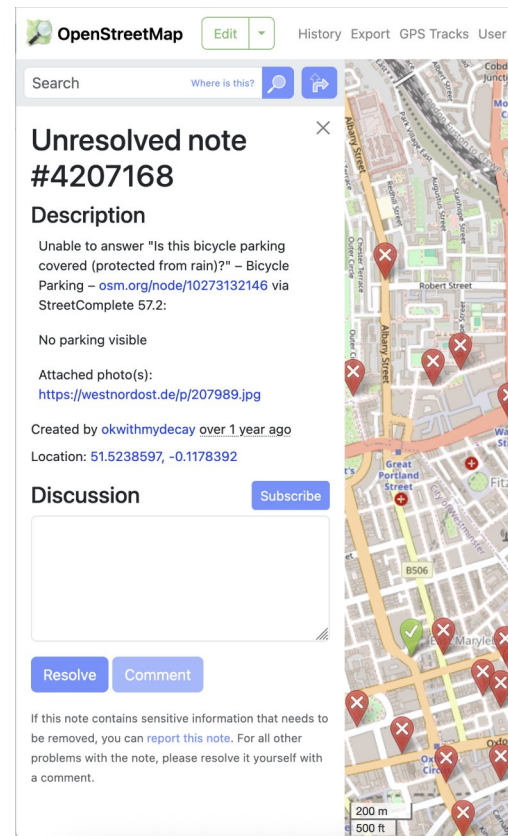
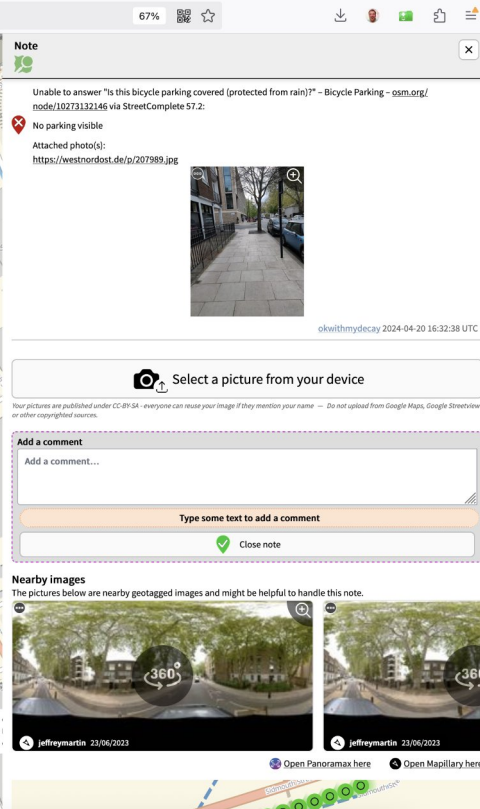
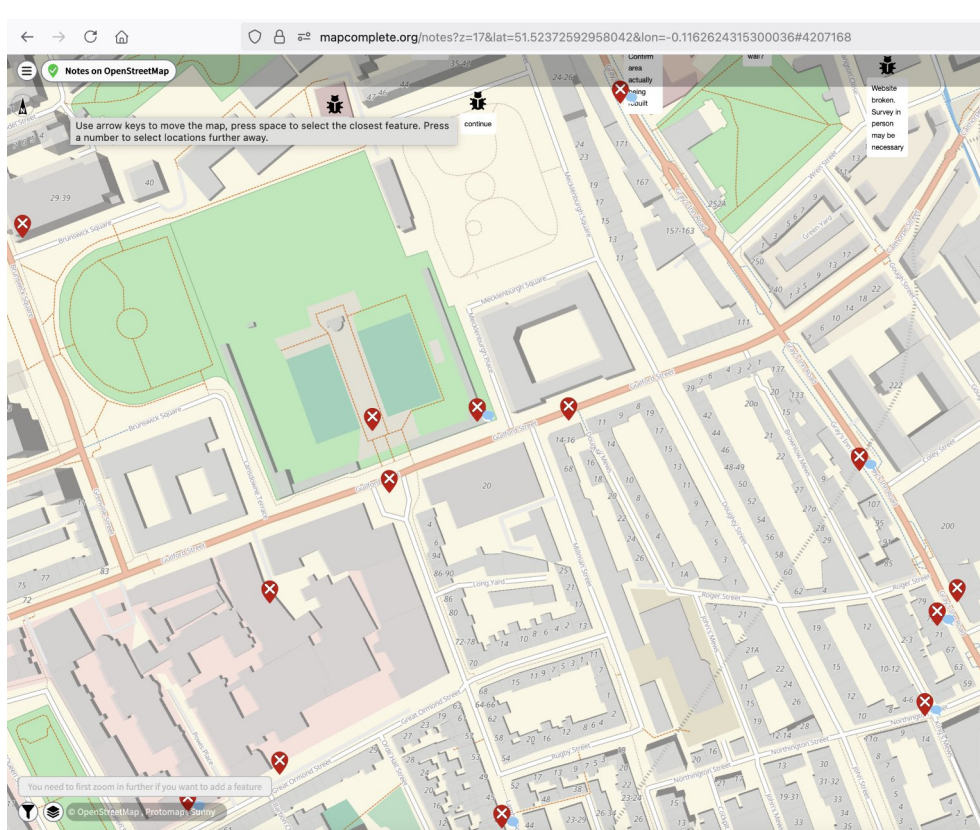
Notes as a KML download
Opens in Organic Maps
Offline. Display only.
Bringing notes where I notice them

Go take a look

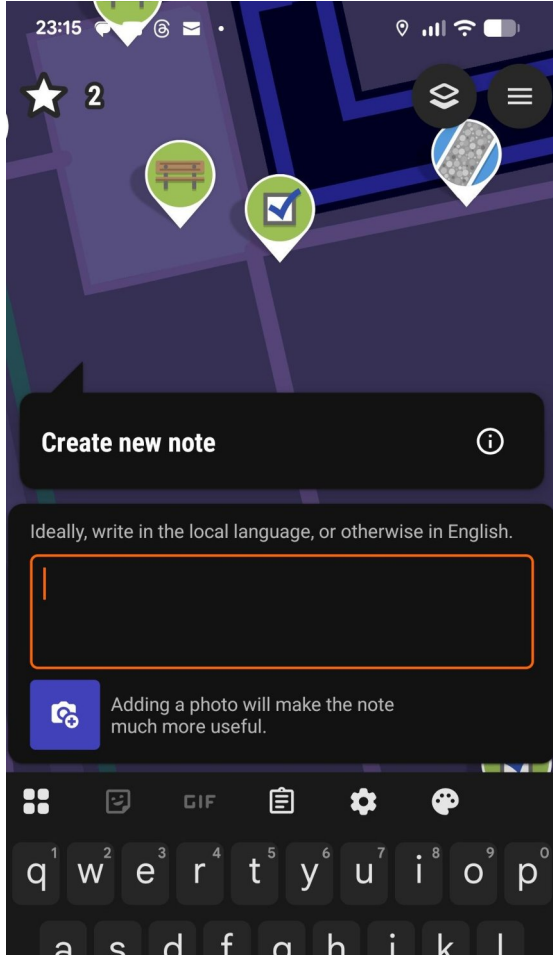
And share a photo!



Map Complete



vs simple display



StreetComplete

OpenStreetMap surveyor app

63,281 open StreetComplete notes
(14% of all open notes)

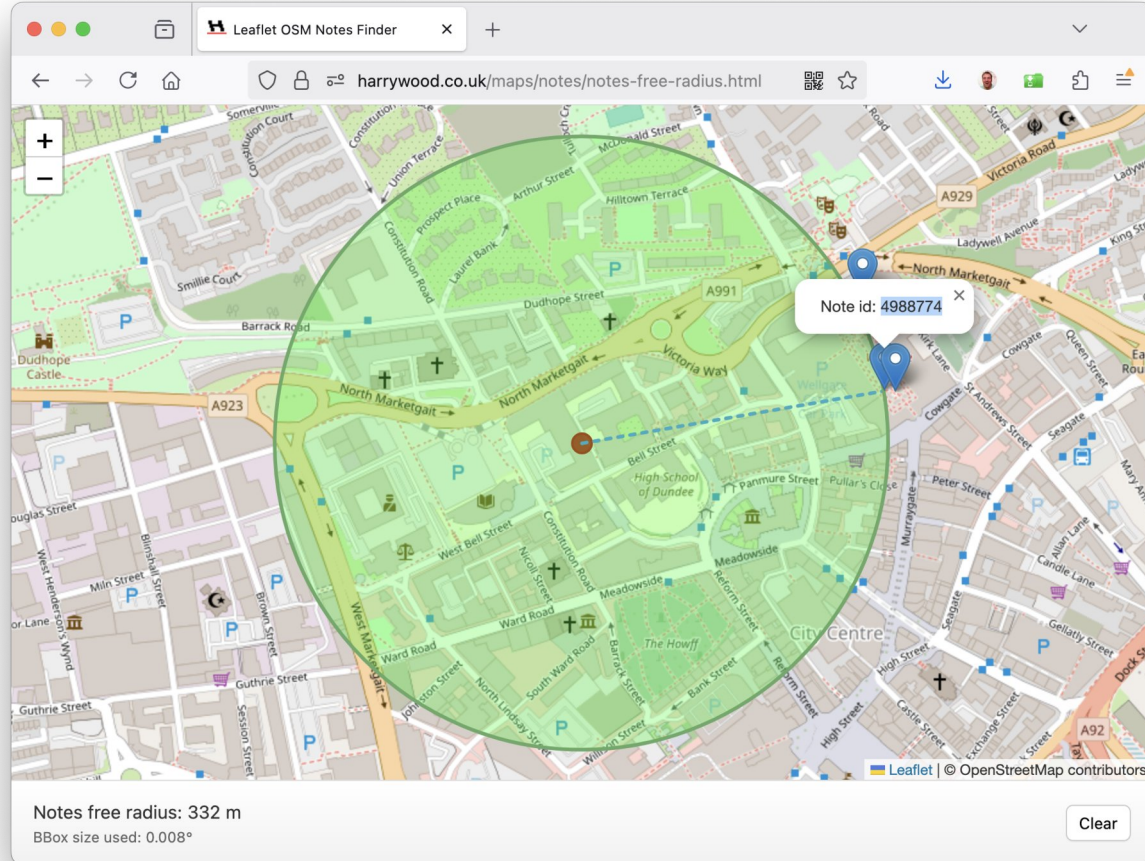
“Unable to answer...”

Encourages photos!

12,914 open notes with ‘westnordost.de’ photo links

What is your “Notes Free Radius”?

harrywood.co.uk/maps/notes/notes-free-radius.html



“tracking notes”



And sometimes i have “tracking notes” like “There is a construction site here - Watch for changes” and then feeding it with updates whenever i see change. For me thats some kind of geographically bound temporal mailinglist anyone can subscribe to.

Flo

The image displays two side-by-side screenshots from a web browser. The left screenshot shows the OpenStreetMap website with a note titled "Unresolved note #4139620". The note's description states: "New building needs adding." It was created by "Yeomanry Survey" over 1 year ago at the location "51.5146886, -0.1057166". The discussion section includes a comment from "Harry Wood" 6 months ago, which reads: "There's still no building here yet. I took a photo through the gate (North end of Poppins Court viewing westwards), but we can't really see properly. There's a deep hole in the ground beyond this railing: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DJM72FyIEPb/>". The right screenshot shows an Instagram post by the user "harry_wood_uk". The post features a photograph of a construction site with a gate and a caption that reads: "OpenStreetMap note: <https://www.openstreetmap.org/note/4139620> View through the gate at the North end of Poppins Court viewing westwards, but we can't really see properly. There's a deep hole in the ground beyond this railing." Below the photo, it says "No comments yet. Start the conversation." and "View Insights".

“You’re shrinking my notes free radius!”



Remote Fix

Abuse

Rude words

Nonsense

Promotion

Poorly
described

Good enough
description

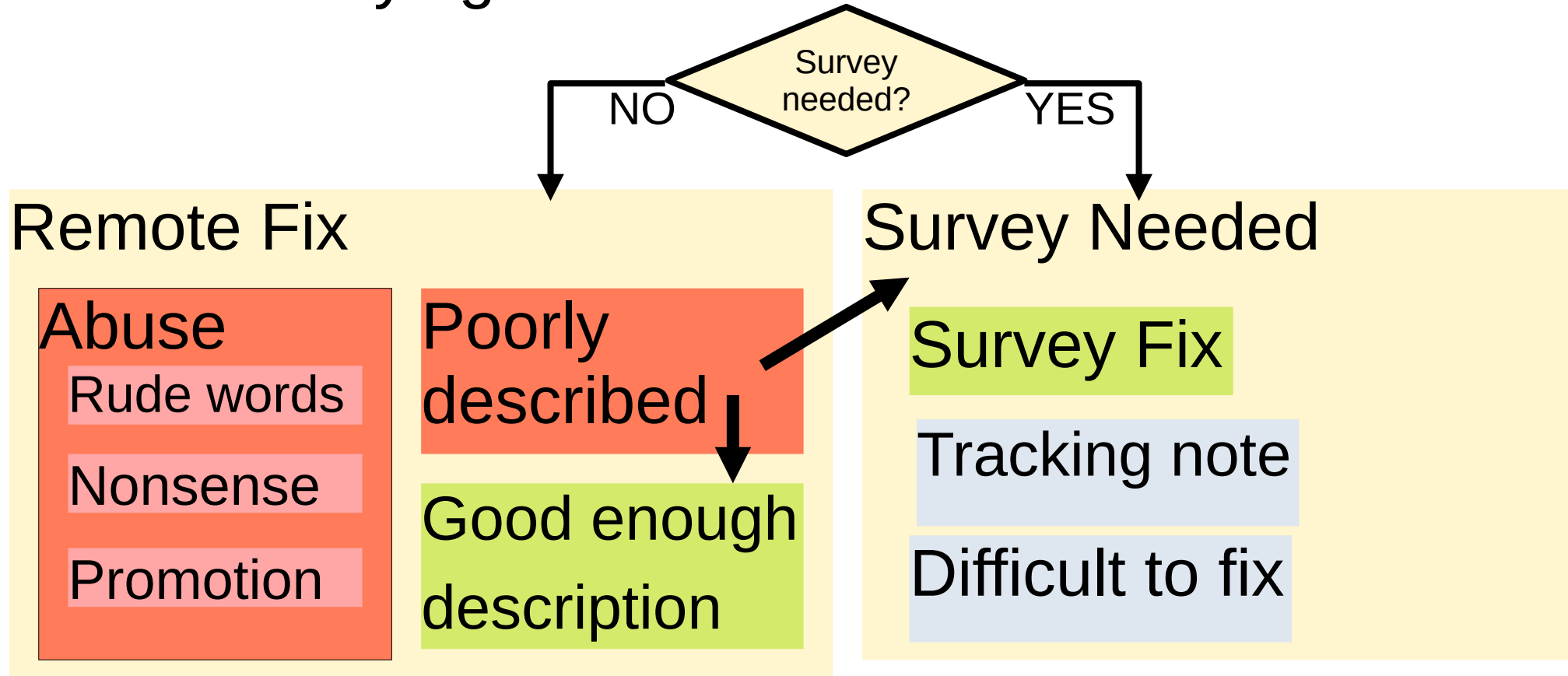
Survey Needed

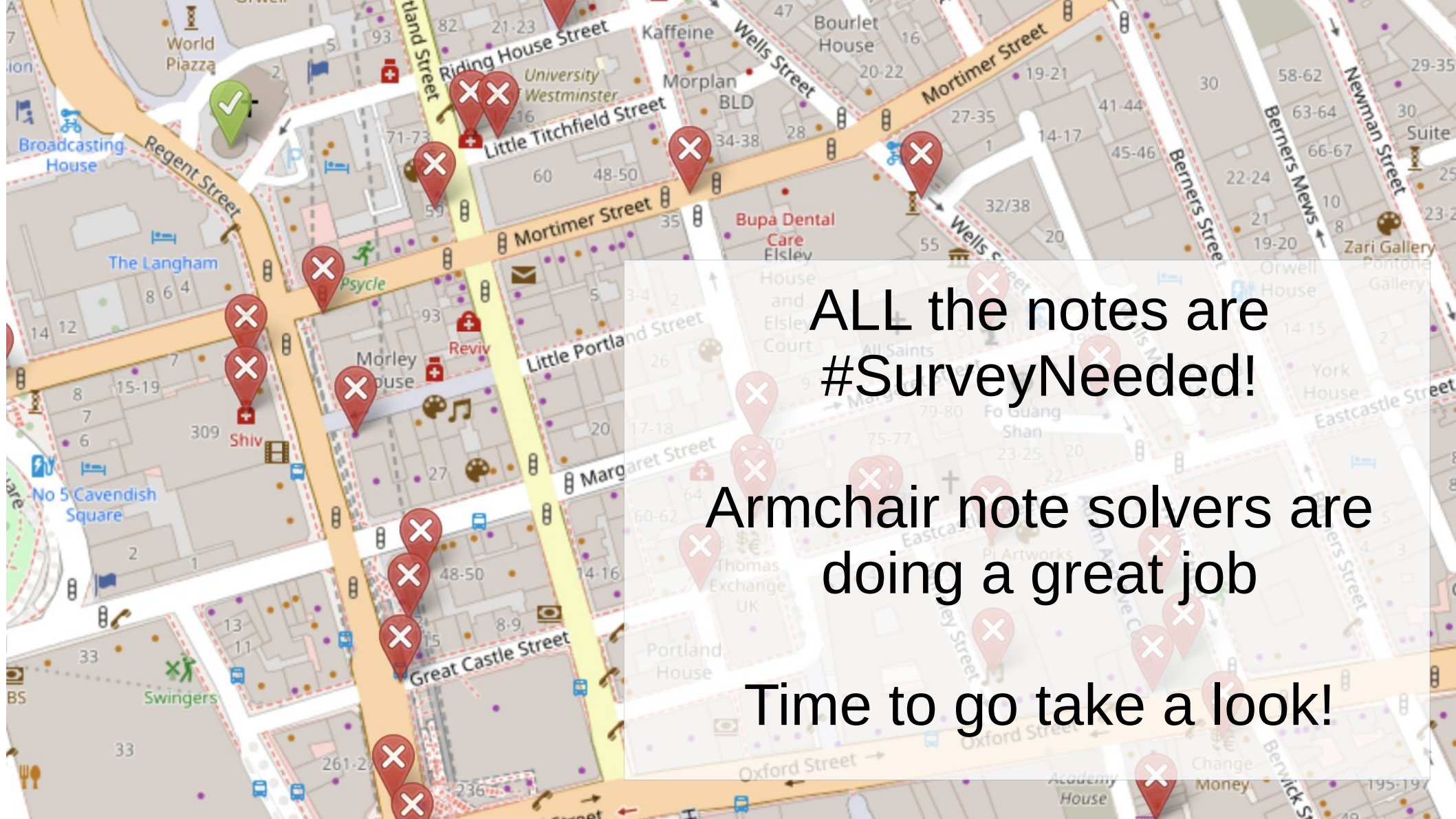
Survey Fix

Tracking note

Difficult to fix

Clarifying comments. Remote refinement





ALL the notes are
#SurveyNeeded!

Armchair note solvers are
doing a great job

Time to go take a look!

Good practice for opening / refining

- More description the better
- Use photos
- Link changesets when fixing
- Link objects when discussing
- Mention datasources
- Describe data and imagery as it currently looks

....Or not. Keep it simple!

Saying “Thanks”

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Resolved note #760136

Description

All these buildings throughout Arrowbear lake need to be "squared"

(using the built in squaring tool in iD or the orthogonalize feature in JOSM <https://josm.openstreetmap.de/wiki/Help/Action/OrthogonalizeShape>)

Created by [Harry Wood](#) about 9 years ago

Resolved by [dannmer](#) about 7 hours ago

Location: [34.2103293, -117.0831925](#)

Discussion

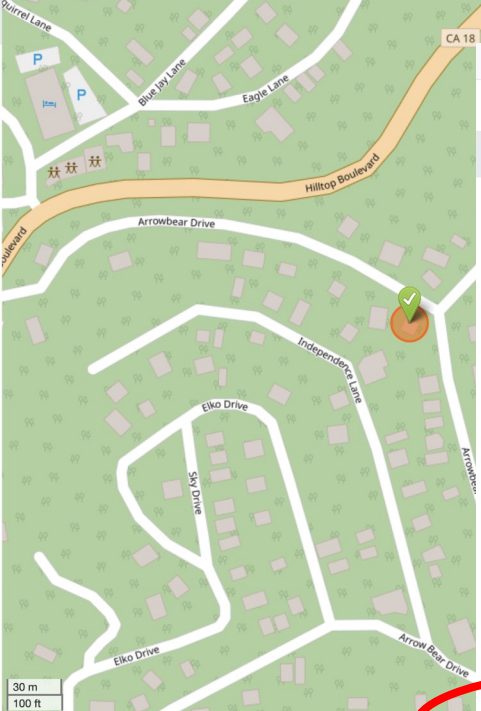
[Unsubscribe](#)

Comment from [CurlingMan13](#) almost 2 years ago
no kidding, they still need to be squared.

Resolved by [dannmer](#) about 7 hours ago
updated

[Reactivate](#)

This resolved note will disappear from the map in 7 days.



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Changeset: 174553814

squared building outlines

Closed about 7 hours ago by [dannmer](#)

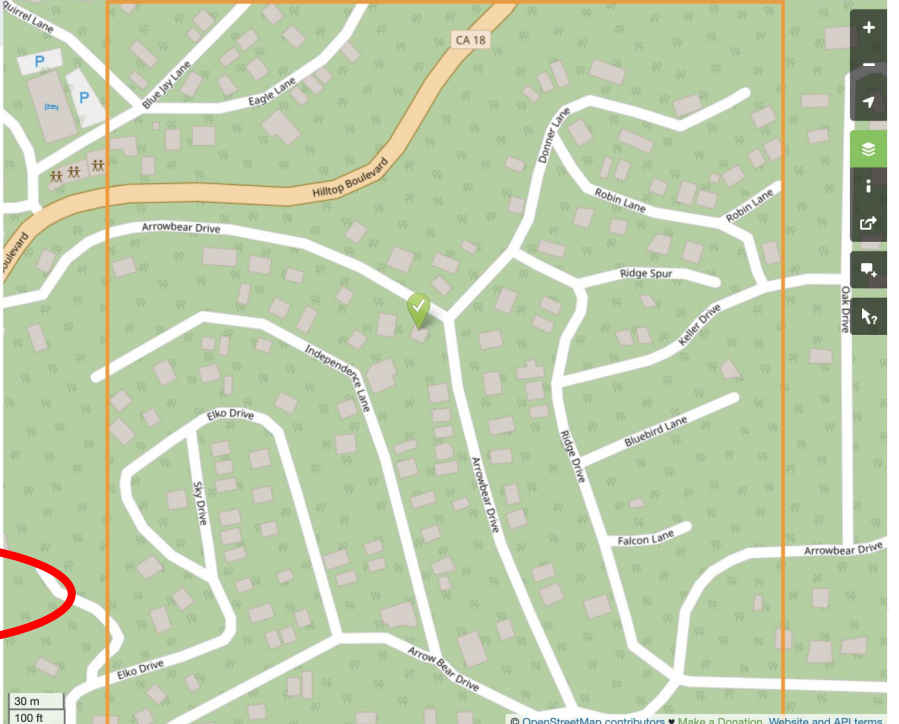
Tags

changesets_count	9126
closed:note	760136
created_by	iD 2.37.3
host	https://www.openstreetmap.org/edit
imagery_used	Bing Maps Aerial;San Bernardino County Orthoimagery (2024)
locale	en-US
source	aerial imagery;osm notes

Discussion

[Unsubscribe](#)

Comment from [Harry Wood](#) less than 1 minute ago [🔗](#)
Thanks! osm.org/note/760136



And on that note...

Thanks for listening!

Check out `harrywood.co.uk/maps/notes`

Enjoy improving your notes free radius!