Conclusions

How should a critical geographer read and use maps? This worksheet hopefully has provided you with some tools for considering the importance of cartographic literacy.

Take some time to reflect on some of the reasons why we make maps – the answers are more complex than simply helping us to get from a to b. There are many historical examples where the commissioning of maps was closely tied to claims on power. Is this true of all maps? There are also many more reasons why we use maps.

Write your own set of conclusions reviewing what you have learned about the production and use of maps.

We have looked at a variety of maps, but the examples chosen here are by no means exhaustive. Why not compile your own list of examples of interesting maps and mapping techniques. We have only included human geography maps here. But following on from topic 1, what about maps of, say, biodiversity? The Natural England website has some very interesting maps of nature reserves, habitat schemes and management plans. You can see these for yourself at http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/