

**A super quick guide on taking an idea of a route
on paper.....**

through electronic routing (using MyRoute-app),



onto a GPS unit (Garmin Zumo)





You've had the idea of a route and probably put a series of dots onto your good, old fashioned, paper Road Atlas.

Now you've got to find a medium to transpose this route into a format that can get it across to your navigational unit.

Suffolk Riders has adopted MyRoute-app as it's mapping software. Let's use it here.

Let's get plotting

Using MyRoute App

BEFORE WE DO, CHECK IF THE MAP HAS DEFAULTED TO KILOMETRES. IT IS NOT IMMEDIATELY OBVIOUS HOW TO CHANGE TO MILES.

Click on the account avatar, then click on 'My Account' from the dropdown and just change the 'Unit' from Decimal to Imperial. You'll only have to do it the once.

Whilst this little series of route plotting aids is designed around Garmin (and BMW) GPS units, a good proportion of the information can also be applied to Tom Tom and its variants

Pretty obvious, this is the first click

The screenshot shows the MyRoute-app website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Route lab, Profile, Activities, Forum, Support, Academy, and Shop. A search icon, a bell icon, and a user profile picture are on the right. Below the navigation bar, a blue sidebar on the left contains a 'Friends' section with an 'Invite friends' button and a list of friends: Christopher Austin, Richard Ockelton, Suffolk Riders, David, Phil Sayer, and Martin Drury. Below the friends list are 'Groups' and 'Events' sections, and a 'Need help?' link at the bottom. The main content area features a welcome message for 'Vincent Evans' and a prompt to 'drop right back into MyRoute-app'. Below this is a row of eight blue buttons: 'Last route', 'New route', 'Roundtour', 'Upload', 'Routes', 'Tracklogs', 'Achievements', and 'Library'. A red arrow points to the 'New route' button. Below the buttons is a section titled 'Get started with MyRoute-app quickly' with three columns: 'Academy' (with a video thumbnail), 'Forum' (with a forum post thumbnail), and 'Manuals' (with a map thumbnail). Each column has a brief description of the resource.

Route lab Profile Activities Forum Support Academy Shop

Friends

Invite friends

Christopher Austin

Richard Ockelton

Suffolk Riders

David

Phil Sayer

Martin Drury

Groups

Events

Need help?

Welcome back Vincent Evans

Let's drop right back into MyRoute-app. Pick up where you left off or create an entirely new route. Use the shortcuts below to get right back on track.

Last route New route Roundtour Upload Routes Tracklogs Achievements Library

Get started with MyRoute-app quickly

Academy

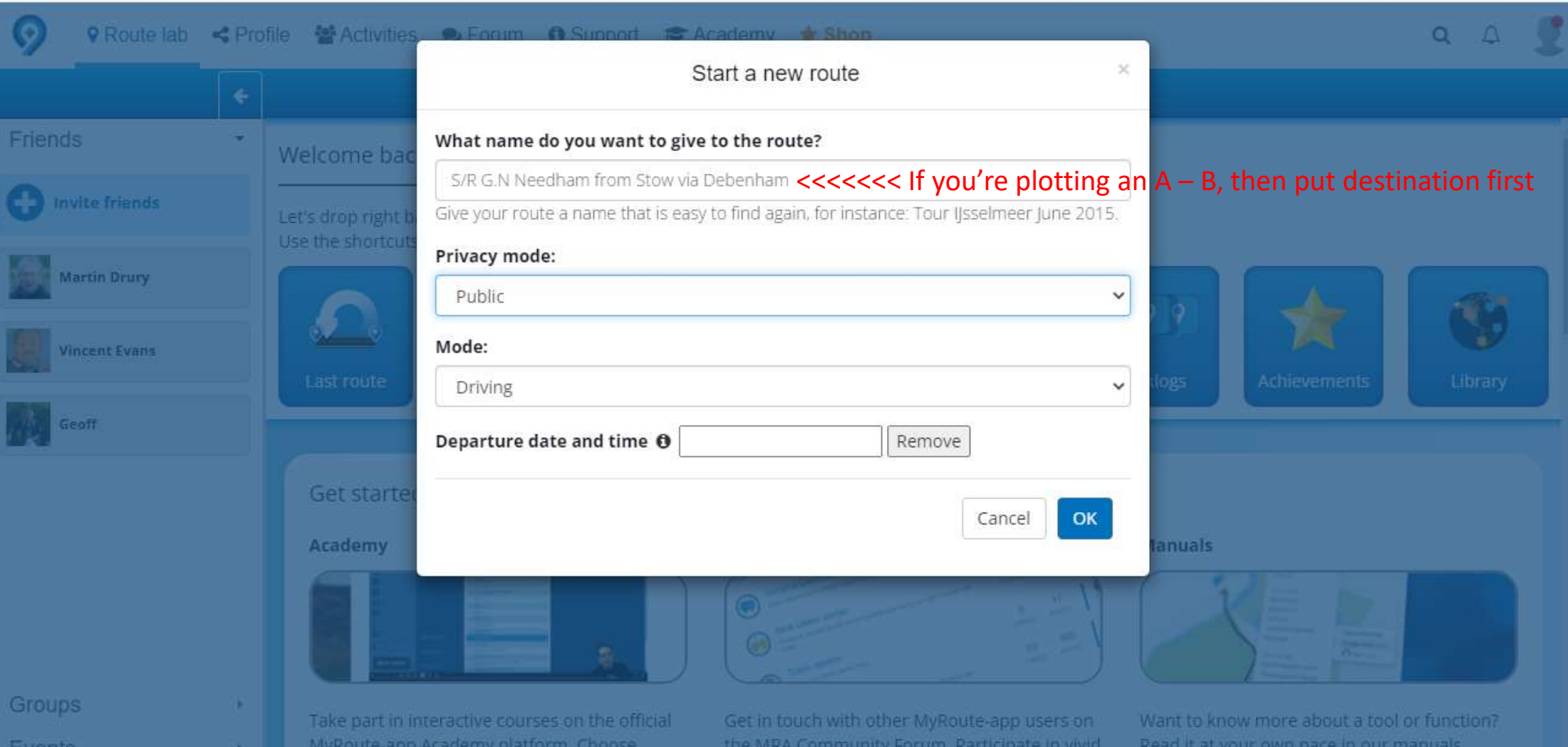
Take part in interactive courses on the official MyRoute-app Academy platform. Choose between free and premium courses given by

Forum

Get in touch with other MyRoute-app users on the MRA Community Forum. Participate in vivid discussions and contribute to solving questions

Manuals

Want to know more about a tool or function? Read it at your own pace in our manuals available in several languages written by the



Start a new route

What name do you want to give to the route?

S/R G.N Needham from Stow via Debenham

<<<<<<< If you're plotting an A - B, then put destination first

Give your route a name that is easy to find again, for instance: Tour IJsselmeer June 2015.

Privacy mode:

Public

Mode:

Driving

Departure date and time ⓘ

Remove

Cancel

OK

Route lab Profile Activities Forum Support Academy Shop

My routes / Suffolk Riders demo route Export Save as Toolkit Default (OpenStreetMap) Share

Waypoints

No waypoints found
Click on the map to add your first waypoint!

Find a place...

0h 0m
0.00 mi

30 m
100 ft

Start 0.00 mi

Click on this little box and choose from the mapping options

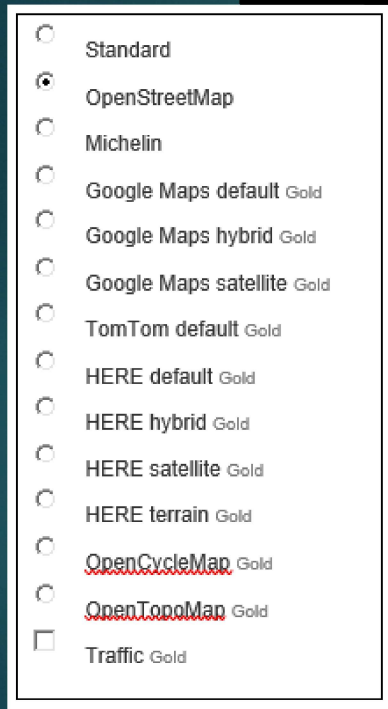
For 'Basic' users the choice is limited to:-

Standard bit naff – hardly used

OpenStreetMap . . . pretty good – my best option

Michelin fair – has its uses

'Gold' users can pick any option

A screenshot of a map selection menu. It features a list of map providers with radio buttons for selection. 'OpenStreetMap' is selected. Below the list, 'OpenCycleMap' and 'OpenTopoMap' are crossed out with red lines. A checkbox for 'Traffic' is at the bottom.

- ☐ Standard
- ☒ OpenStreetMap
- ☐ Michelin
- ☐ Google Maps default Gold
- ☐ Google Maps hybrid Gold
- ☐ Google Maps satellite Gold
- ☐ TomTom default Gold
- ☐ HERE default Gold
- ☐ HERE hybrid Gold
- ☐ HERE satellite Gold
- ☐ HERE terrain Gold
- ☐ ~~OpenCycleMap~~ Gold
- ☐ ~~OpenTopoMap~~ Gold
- ☐ Traffic Gold



Give your route a title, eg – Spalding from Stow

(When you have built up a large library it will be easier to pick out the route you want if you put the destination before the start point.)

It is safe to leave as Public.

Drag, centre and zoom the map in to where you want to start.

I mean Zoom right in. Click a point on the map close to where you want to join the main road.

In other words NOT the depths of a Tesco's car park – in case you don't actually meet/park where you thought you were going to. Garmin will try and take you back to that point first. Also, zooming in allows you to see if a road is a dual carriageway as you can then pick which side you want. The majority are marked with direction flow arrows but I can't guarantee that they all are. If you are using a tablet or smartphone you will definitely need a fine stylus.



Route lab

Profile

Activities

Forum

Support

Academy

Shop



My routes / S/R



Waypoints



Find a place



0h 0m
0.00 mi



Stow Tesco

cancel

confirm

What do you want to call this waypoint?

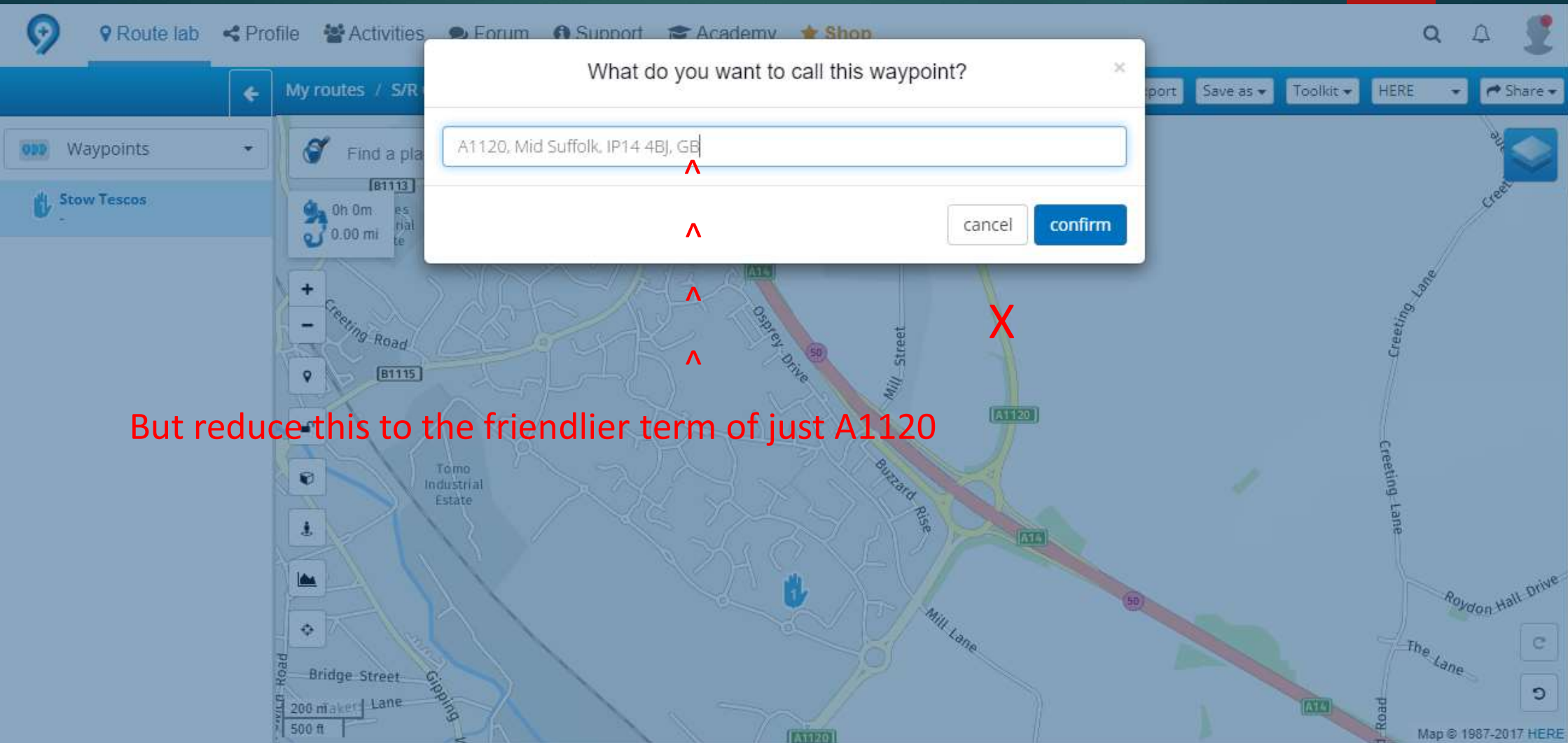


30 m


100 ft

© OpenStreetMap

And the next Waypoint



But reduce this to the friendlier term of just A1120



Why? Well, what's written in the Waypoint Title panel is relayed over your headset – all of it, even the postcode and GB. It can be really annoying after a while. This feature can be handy to make you aware of approaching hazards – sharp bends with a straight-on side road.

Now, I gather that Tom-Tom users do not get this full account over their headsets. Tom-Tom simply relates that you have reached a succession of destinations, thereby negating any advantage that 'friendly' descriptions may bring. So no need to bother changing a Waypoint title/description.

Carry on doing it Garmin tribe.

Route lab Profile Activities Forum Support Academy Shop

My routes / S/R G.N Needham from Stow via Debenham

Export Save as Toolkit HERE

Find a place...

0h 49m
20.63 mi

Waypoints

- Tescos
- mi - 0h 2m
- 's Hill
- mi - 0h 12m
- Field Road
- mi - 0h 16m
- Church Street
- mi - 0h 20m
- Street, Debenham
- mi - 0h 22m
- ton Green
- mi - 0h 25m
- field
- mi - 0h 32m
- Debenham
- mi - 0h 40m
- e Lane
- mi - 0h 44m

Map showing a route from Stow to Debenham via Needham. The route is marked with a black line and includes waypoints 10 and 11. The map displays various roads including Barretts Lane, Quinton Road, Chainhouse Road, Hargrave Avenue, Lion Lane, Maitland Road, Coddanham Road, and Flordon Road. A red line indicates a specific path or boundary.

Apart from 'early warnings' the general rule is to place a Waypoint after a junction

It just helps in forcing you to take the required direction

Now let's go back and think how you've got your SatNag set up. Hopefully it's on 'Fastest Route' not 'Shortest Route'

'Shortest Route' can take you the most direct but entail tracks with more grass than tarmac with overhanging Hedgerows that force you into riding at little more than walking pace.

'Fastest Route' though, will tend to take you on Dual Carriageways and not the scenic or flowing roads that you prefer. So, to overcome this – pepper the plotting with Waypoints.

But not too many!

You've got to find the balance

My Garmin – pre XT model - will automatically split the route if there are more than 29 Waypoints.

This is fine if you are aware of this fact, and can pick a quiet spot on the route to make the 29th Waypoint so that it's safe to change to the next part.

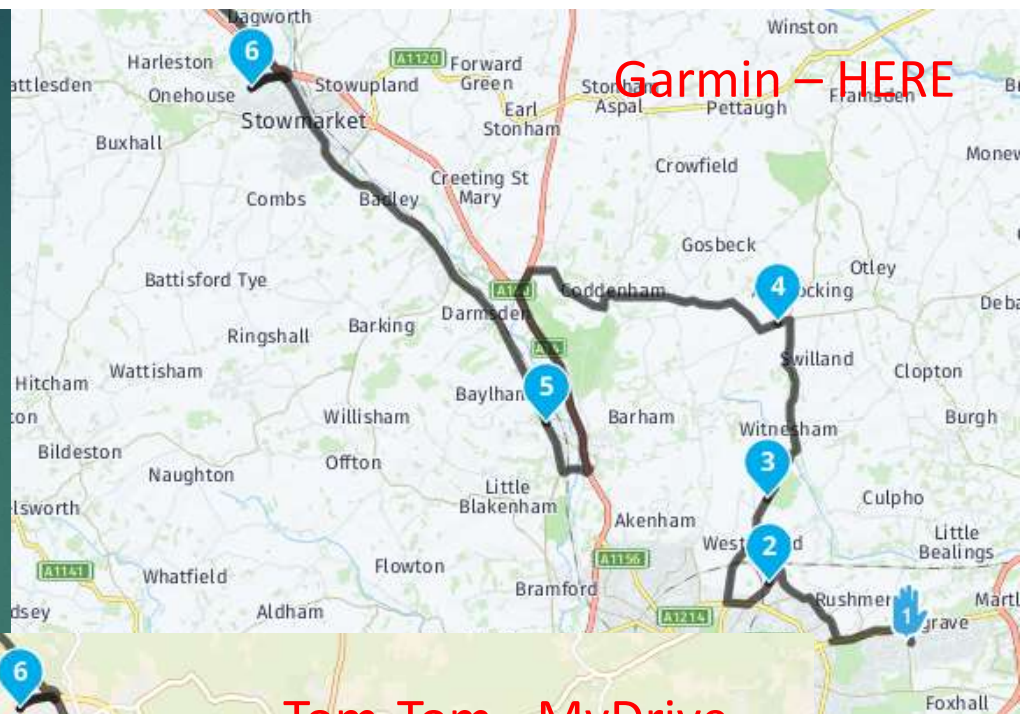
You really don't want it leaving you in the lurch at a busy junction with a myriad of Possible exit points.

No great problem, just remember it. Play with plotting a route with 40 or so Waypoints and see what your particular model does.

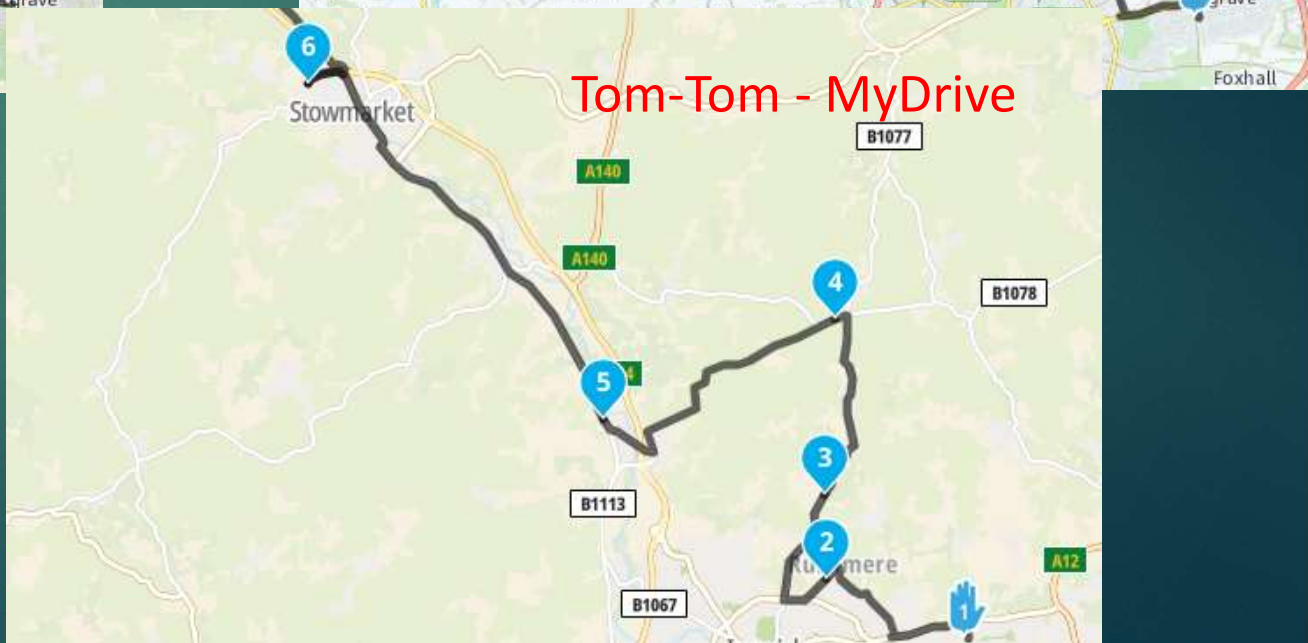
It helps to place Waypoints just (50 – 100metres) after a junction rather than on or just before it. Your unit may otherwise choose a strange loop. No obvious reason, it just sometimes does.

Remember to zoom out and check that it's taking the roads that you want. Otherwise you will have to insert additional Waypoints. You've probably got plenty in hand. Are you plotting this route just for yourself or are you likely to share it with your pals? Think of those who may have a different make of GPS unit

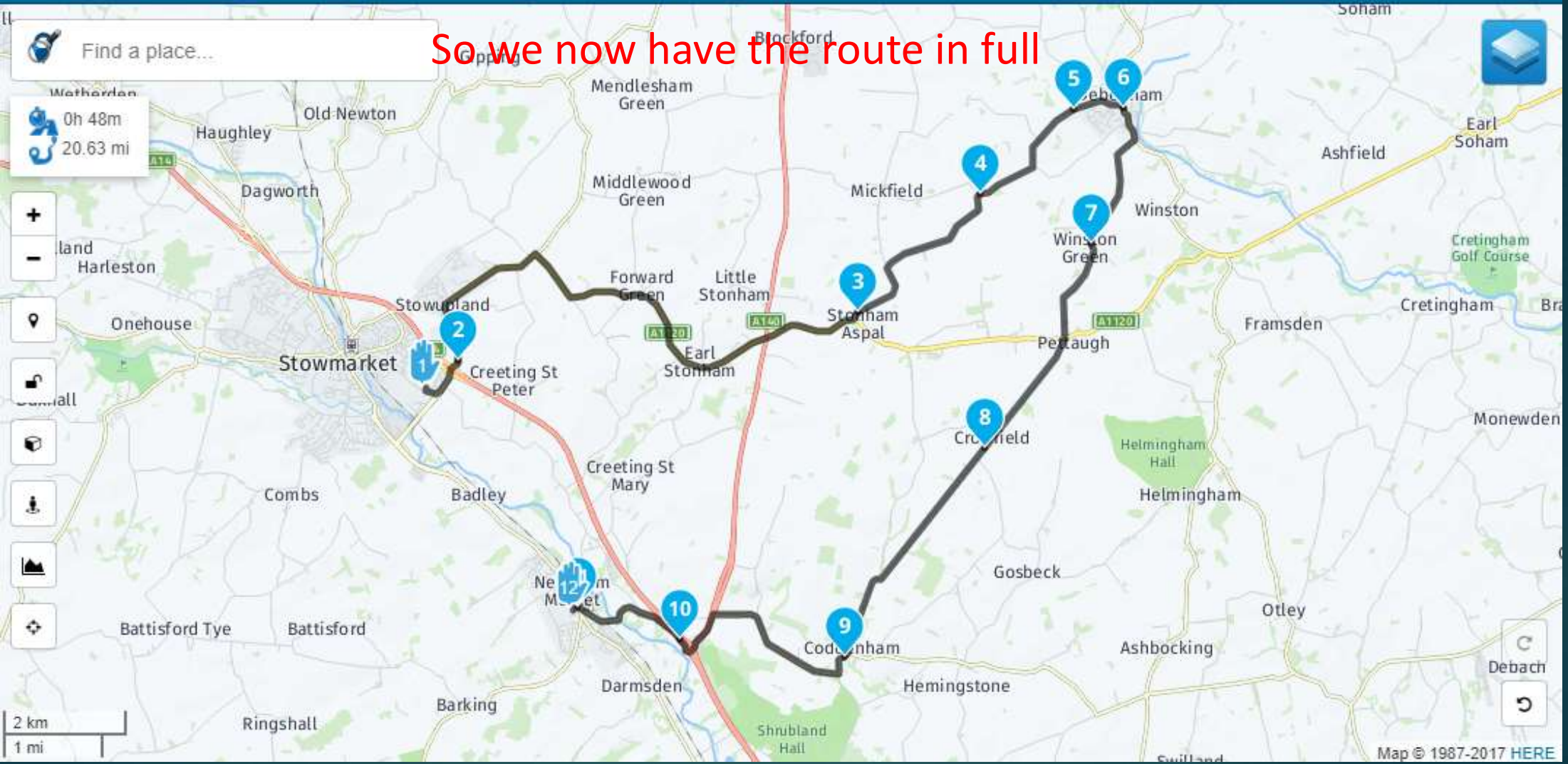
Just to illustrate, have a look at these different mapping options but using the same Waypoints:-



- Waypoints:-
1. Kesgrave Community Centre
 2. Greshams
 3. Fynn Valley
 4. Ashbocking
 5. Great Blakenham
 6. Stowmarket Rugby Club



So we now have the route in full



ps



Next is a choice of two paths we can take in order to get it across to your GPS unit


1.

Export it directly to the internal memory of your GPS unit

2.

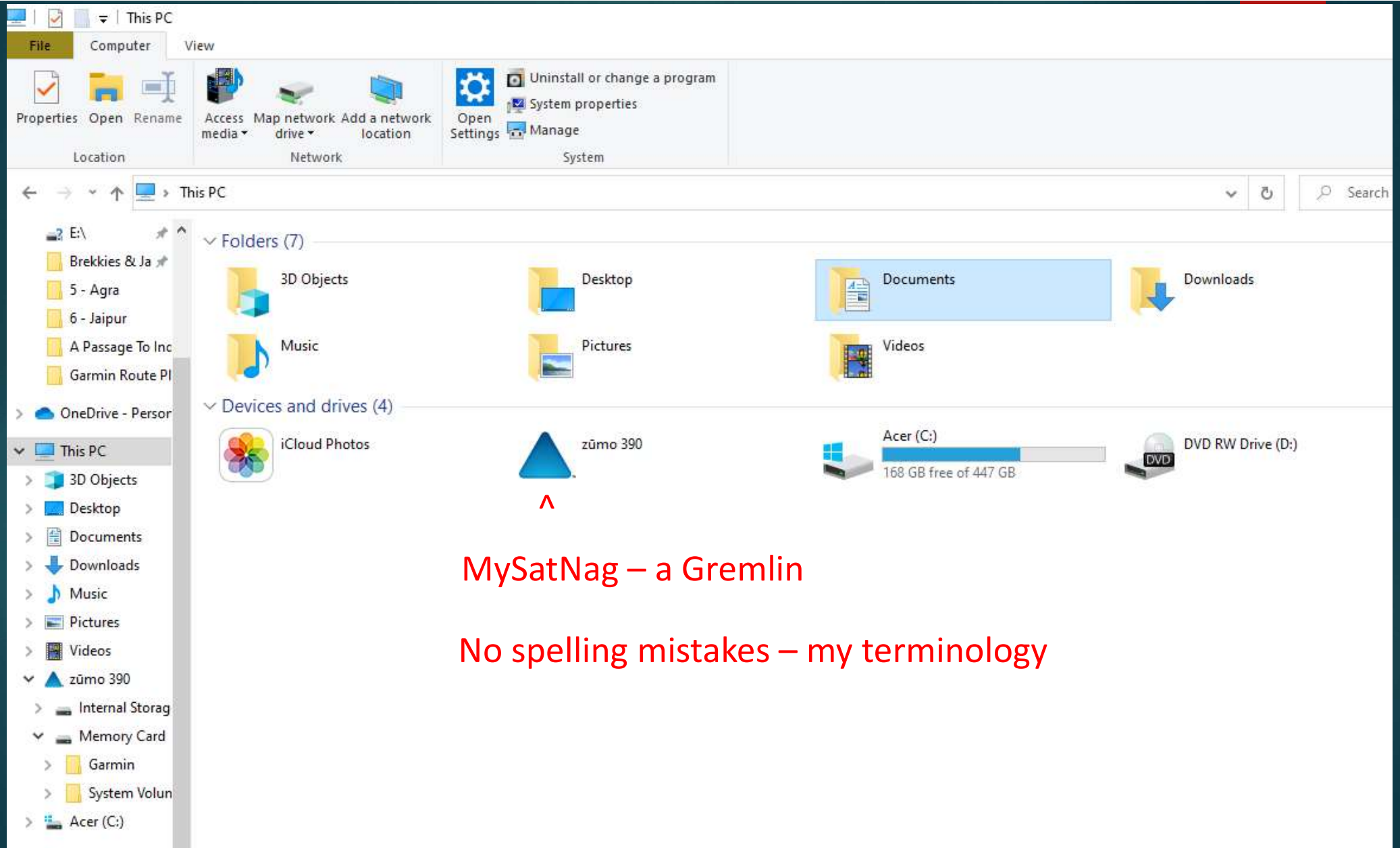
Transfer it to a micro SD card via a gpx file on your 'puter device

Obviously (???????) You now need to connect your unit to your computer with it's USB lead



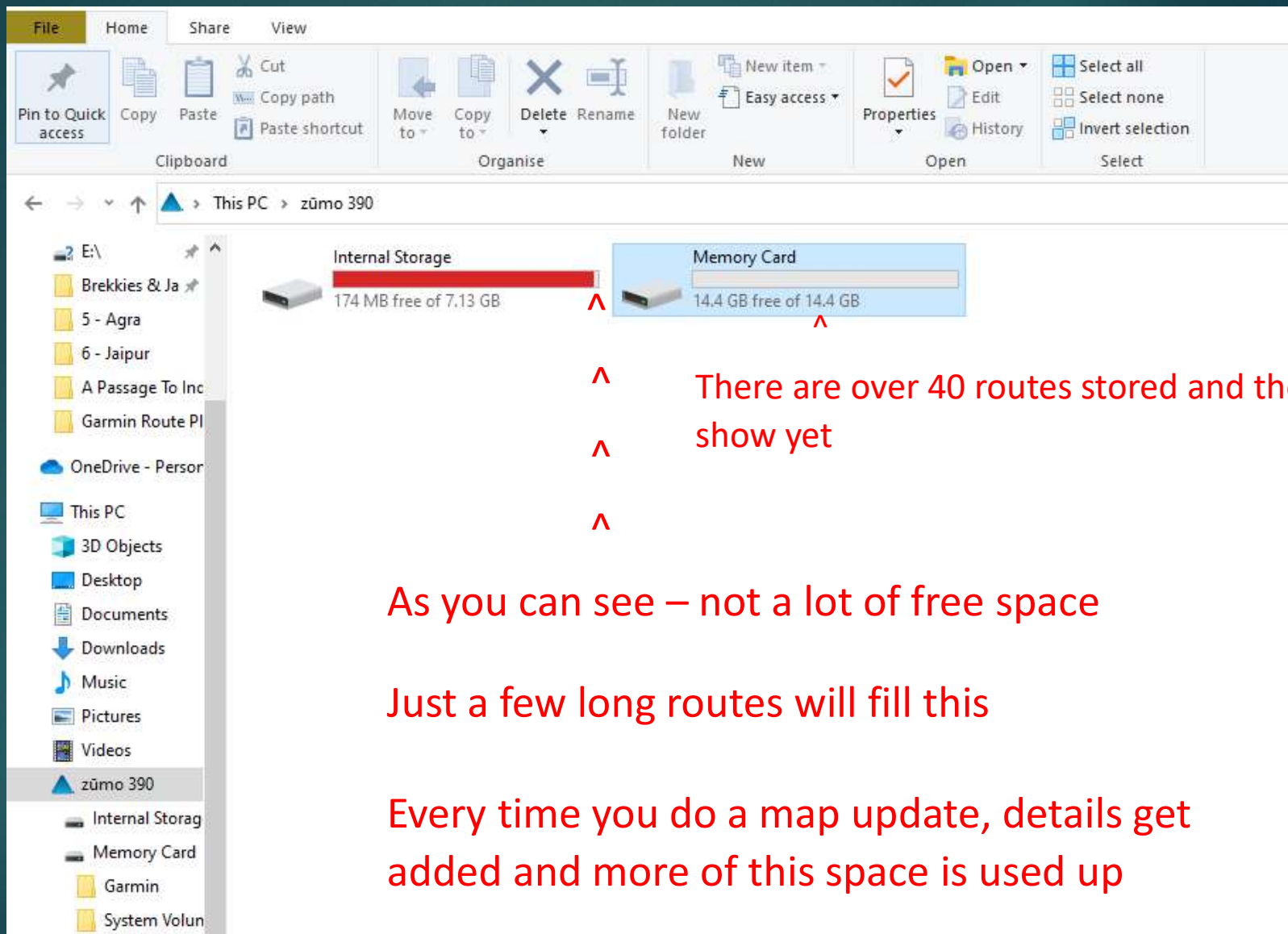
Both methods have their advantages and disadvantages. Let's start with method 1 – it seems silly to do it the other way round!

This method is ideal if you intend to ride this route on one occasion only and are happy to delete it afterwards



MySatNag – a Gremlin

No spelling mistakes – my terminology




There are over 40 routes stored and they don't even show yet

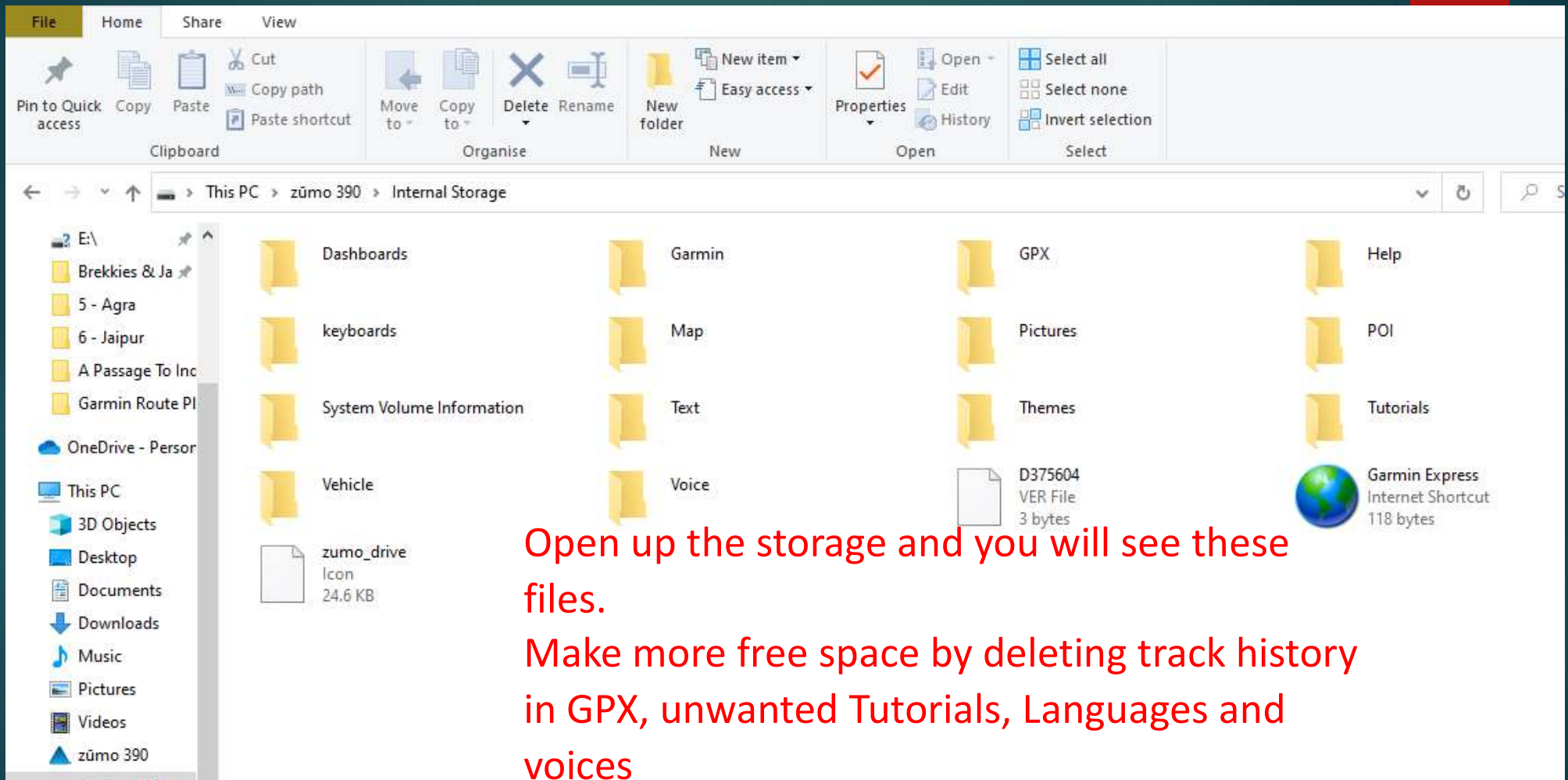
As you can see – not a lot of free space


Just a few long routes will fill this

Every time you do a map update, details get added and more of this space is used up

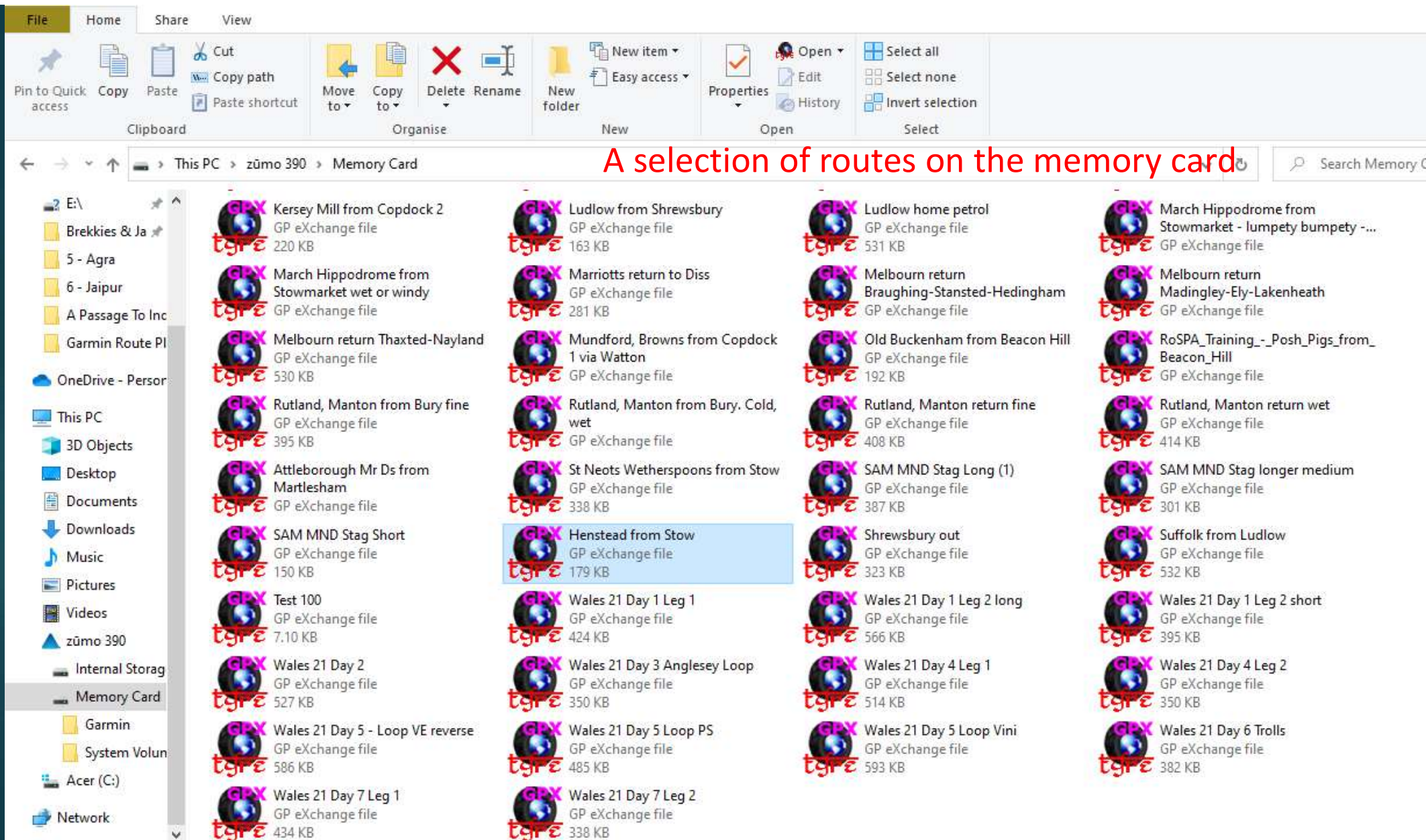


'Lifetime' maps may not have much useful life after all. Seven, eight(??) years down the line there probably won't be enough room left to import the routes for a days riding.





But..... delete these items via your computer when hooked up to your unit.
Deleting them from your unit itself will only move them to an internal Archive so still using up space.



Where were we? To transfer the route direct to the unit.....Export

RouteLab interface showing a route from Stow to Debenham via Needham Market. The route is marked with 12 numbered waypoints. The left sidebar lists the waypoints with distances and times. The top navigation bar includes links for Route lab, Profile, Activities, Forum, Support, Academy, and Shop. The top right bar has buttons for Export, Save as, Toolkit, HERE, and Share. A red arrow points to the 'Export' button.


Waypoints:

- 1 Stow Tesco's
- 2 A1120 (0.69 mi - 0h 2m)
- 3 Scott's Hill (6.33 mi - 0h 12m)
- 4 Mickfield Road (8.27 mi - 0h 16m)
- 5 Gracechurch Street (9.79 mi - 0h 20m)
- 6 High Street, Debenham (10.33 mi - 0h 22m)
- 7 Winston Green (11.62 mi - 0h 25m)
- 8 Crowfield (14.13 mi - 0h 32m)
- 9 Coddensham (16.74 mi - 0h 40m)
- 10 Kettle Lane (19.13 mi - 0h 44m)

Route Summary:

- Distance: 20.63 mi
- Time: 0h 48m

Map Labels: Stowmarket, Needham Market, Debenham, Crowfield, Hemmingstone, Ashbocking, Otley, Framsdon, Cretingham, Earl So, Ashfield cum Thorpe, Mendlesham Green, Old Newton, Haughley, Harleston, Onehouse, Great Finborough, Combs Ford, Combs, Battisford, Battisford Tye, Barking, Gosbeck, Hemingstone, Pettaugh, Winst Green, Little Stonham, Forward Green, Creting St Peter, Creting St Mary, B1113, A140, A1120, B1078.



Whichever option you choose to use for saving – it can be either, depending on the circumstances at the time – a communicator add-on will be required. That is ‘Garmin Express’ to let your gps unit talk to your computer device and the MyRoute-App Connector.

Remember, a good basic rule of thumb is that if you ‘Save’ then you can move your route to the memory card. If you upload direct from your mapping/routing programme then the route will go straight to the internal memory of your gps unit.



The 'Garmin Express' window is open, displaying the 'Bike SatNag' device status as 'Connected'. It includes a 'You're up to date!' message with a 'Last Checked: Just Now' timestamp and a 'Software Version: 4.20'. Below this, there are two main sections: 'Tools & Content' with a wrench icon and the text 'View settings, manuals & purchased content.', and 'Store' with a shopping cart icon and the text 'Get content and accessories for your device.' The window title bar shows 'Garmin Express' and standard Windows window controls.



Now is the time to open 'Garmin Express'

Export to device

Installation

The connector enables you to put routes directly onto your navigation system through USB. Before being able to use this convenient tool, the program must be installed.

Install the connector



Windows



macOS

Click here

Use the connector

- 1 Through the "Open route"-button, the connector is started.
- 2 Connect your navigation system through USB.
- 3 Click on the "Export" button. Your navigation system is now ready for the trip!

 Help with navigation system

Open route

MyRouteApp - v4.9

Route: SR GN Needham from Stow via Debenham

MyRoute-app CONNECTOR

Select your device:
TomTom (ITN)

<<<<<<< Select your make from the dropdown
<<<<<<< then simply click this

Export Save as Toolkit HERE

1 Stowmarket
2 A1120 0.69 mi - 0h 2m
3 Scott's Hill 6.33 mi - 0h 12m
4 Mickfield Road 8.27 mi - 0h 16m
5 Gracechurch Street 9.79 mi - 0h 20m
6 High Street, Debenham 10.33 mi - 0h 22m
7 Winston Green 11.62 mi - 0h 25m
8 Crowfield 14.13 mi - 0h 32m
9 Coddanham 16.74 mi - 0h 40m



And, as if by magic, the route Should now be available on your unit.

Of course it will always go right first time.....Won't it?

Cough – cough!



Now for option 2.

This one is best if you want to keep a selection of routes available and ready for use.

It's handy if you are out for a pre-determined run and you want to then go on or link up to another route

From your route map header select 'Save as' then click on gpx 1.0

(Later model Garmins have extra features on gpx 1.1 and 1.2 but it's simpler to start on 1.0 – you can progress later)

The screenshot shows the RouteLab website interface. The top navigation bar includes links for Route lab, Profile, Activities, Forum, Support, Academy, and Shop. The main header displays 'My routes / S/R G.N Needham from Stow via Debenham'. A red arrow points to the 'Save as' button in the top right corner. A dropdown menu is open, showing various export options. On the left, a sidebar lists waypoints for the route, including Stow Tesco's, A1120, Scott's Hill, Mickfield Road, Gracechurch Street, High Street, Debenham, Winston Green, Crowfield, Coddensham, and Kettle Lane. The main map area shows a route starting at Stowmarket and ending at Debenham, with various landmarks and roads labeled. A scale bar at the bottom left indicates 2 km and 1 mi.

Waypoints

- Stow Tesco's
- 2 A1120
0.57 mi - 0h 1m
- 3 Scott's Hill
6.27 mi - 0h 12m
- 4 Mickfield Road
8.27 mi - 0h 16m
- 5 Gracechurch Street
9.63 mi - 0h 20m
- 6 High Street, Debenham
10.16 mi - 0h 22m
- 7 Winston Green
11.71 mi - 0h 26m
- 8 Crowfield
14.12 mi - 0h 32m
- 9 Coddensham
16.71 mi - 0h 40m
- 10 Kettle Lane
19.10 mi - 0h 44m

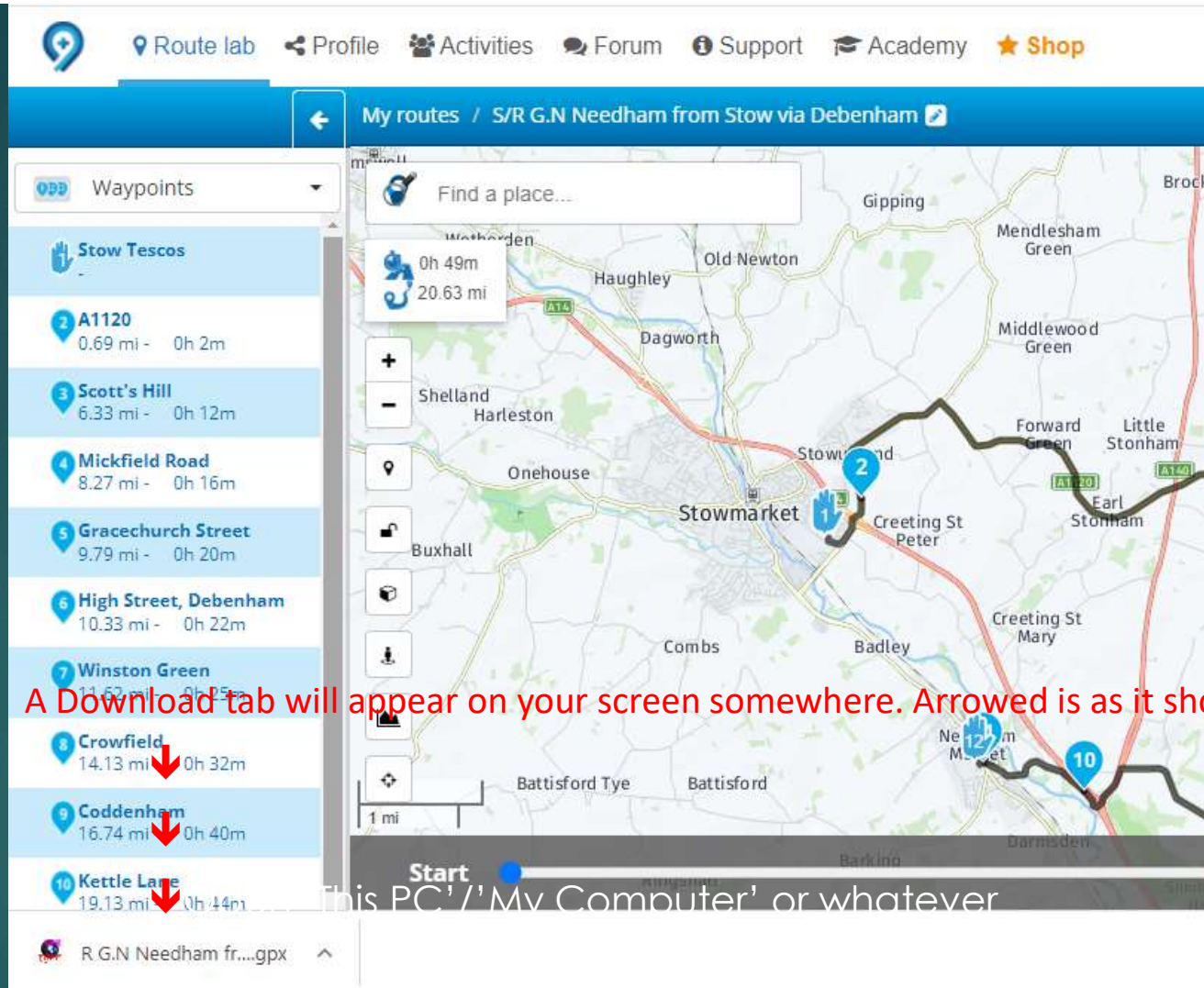
Find a place...

0h 48m
20.63 mi

Export Save as Toolkit HERE Share

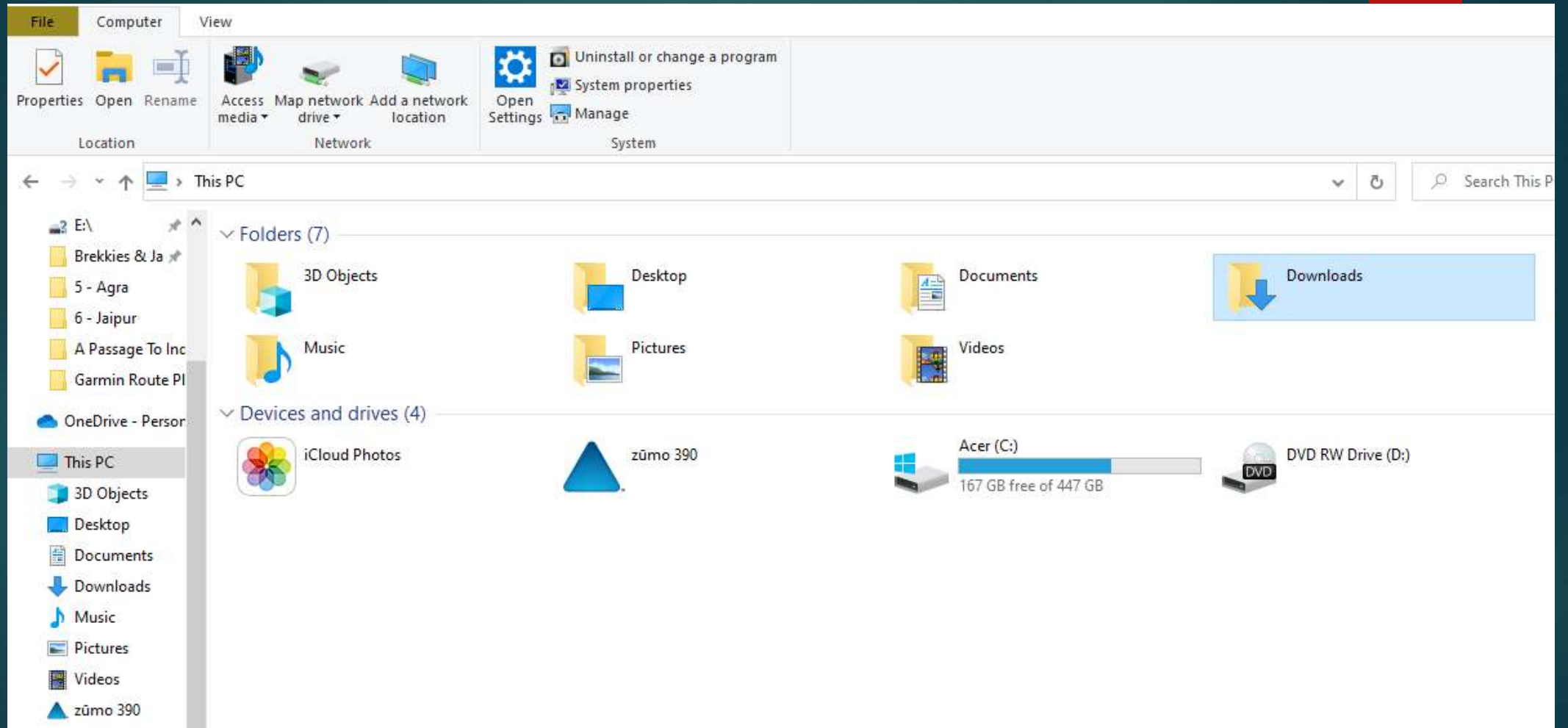
- .gpx 1.1 (route, track, POI)
- 📄 .gpx 1.2 (route, track, POI)
- .gpx 1.1 (track, POI)
- .gpx 1.0 (route, track, POI)
- .itn (route)
- .tpf (route)
- .trf (route)
- .kml (route)
- .kmz (route)
- .ov2 (POI)
- .csv (POI)
- .tar.gz (route)
- .pdf
- HD Boom Box 2019 (track)
- HD Boom Box pre 2019 (route)
- 📄 Help with navigation system
- Email route
- TomTom MyDrive

Map © 1987-2017 HERE

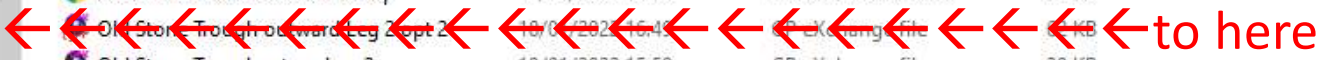



Now another choice! You can either.....

Open 'This PC'/'My Computer' or whatever



And open 'Downloads'





Or, if it suits, you can have a 'gpx' file/folder.

I need to do this because I have yet to fathom how to export from one cloud based system to another. Our friends in SAM have adopted 'Mappite' as their route publishing medium and, as I plot their routes for them as well, I need a third party routing option on my hard drive to be able to perform a double jump across.

For this, I use 'Tyre2Navigate'.



Tyre

File Waypoint Garmin View Tools Help



Version 8.32
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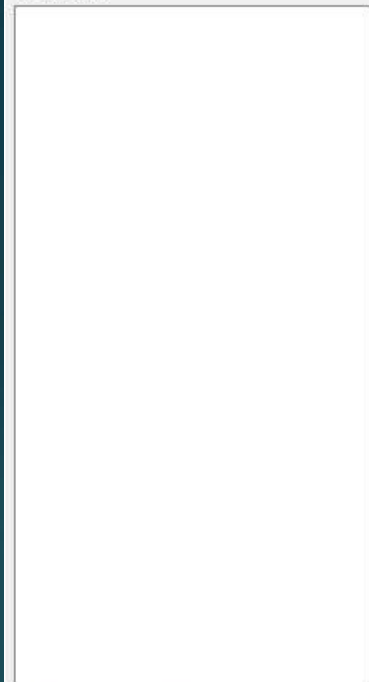
Consider a donation to support
Tyre:



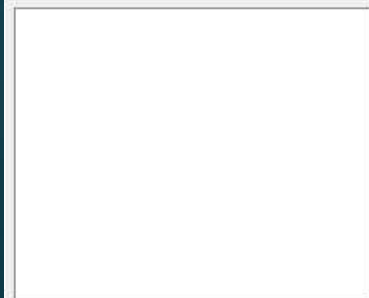
Waypoints:

0 mi

New File



Favorites (Default):



Google Road Map

Import

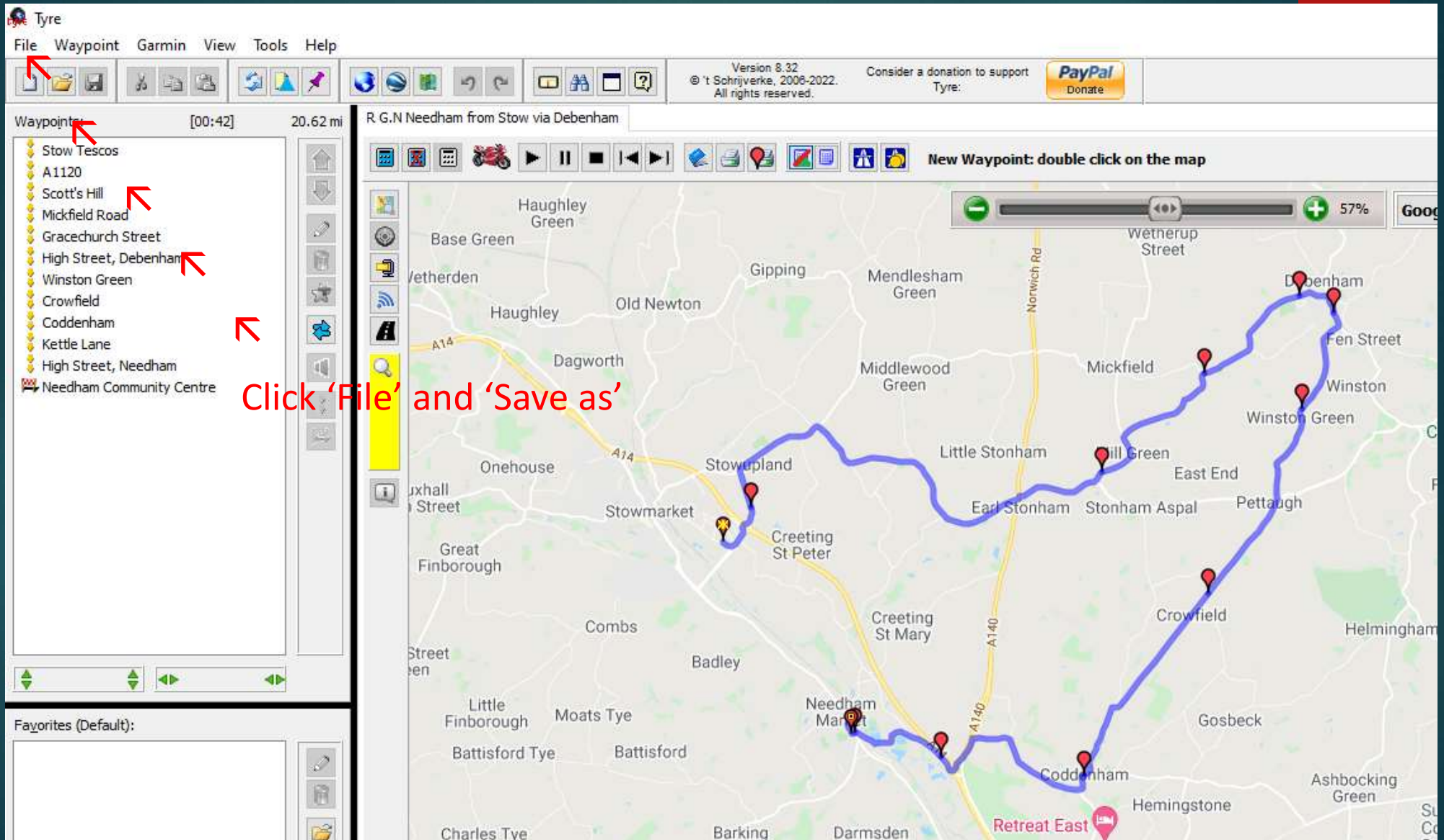
Import:

☐ Favorites

☒ Waypoints

☐ Route tracks

OK Cancel



File Home Share View

Pin to Quick access Copy Paste Cut Copy path Paste shortcut Move to Copy to Delete Rename New folder New item Easy access Properties Open Open Edit History Select all Select none Invert selection

Clipboard Organise New Open Select

← → ↶ ↷ This PC > Documents > Biking > Rideouts > Tyre GPX > Brekkies & Jaunts Search Brekkies & Jaunts

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
North Weald from Bury	20/11/2021 13:40	GP eXchange file	331 KB
North Weald from Copdock easy	30/11/2021 16:27	GP eXchange file	369 KB
North Weald from Copdock via Steeple B...	29/11/2021 20:38	GP eXchange file	425 KB
North Weald twiddly from Copdock	20/11/2021 15:52	GP eXchange file	419 KB
Old Buckenham from Beacon Hill	18/10/2021 19:59	GP eXchange file	193 KB
Return from Sheringham	20/03/2020 13:01	GP eXchange file	425 KB
Rutland return	01/12/2020 14:04	GP eXchange file	389 KB
Rutland Wellies to Rutland Whitwell	03/12/2020 20:17	GP eXchange file	50 KB
Rutland, Manton from Bury fine	11/12/2021 19:03	GP eXchange file	396 KB
Rutland, Manton from Bury. Cold, wet	11/12/2021 19:05	GP eXchange file	363 KB
Rutland, Manton return fine	11/12/2021 18:43	GP eXchange file	409 KB
Rutland, Manton return wet	11/12/2021 18:50	GP eXchange file	415 KB
SR Events Oct 20	30/09/2020 09:56	GP eXchange file	234 KB
SR G.N Needham from Stow via Debenha...	05/02/2022 12:57	GP eXchange file	101 KB
Stamford GC from Bury via Cottenham, ...	26/01/2022 12:46	GP eXchange file	426 KB
Stamford GC from Bury via Earith, Ramsey	26/01/2022 11:56	GP eXchange file	377 KB
Stamford GC From Bury via Wisbech, Bo...	26/01/2022 11:27	GP eXchange file	409 KB
Stamford long return to Stow	29/09/2020 19:57	GP eXchange file	632 KB
Stow -Stamford Garden Center v2020	07/11/2020 17:43	GP eXchange file	455 KB
Stradishall, Cafe 33 from Beacon Hill via ...	14/12/2021 17:40	GP eXchange file	292 KB
Stradishall, Cafe 33 from Copdock via Ha...	27/11/2021 12:53	GP eXchange file	341 KB
Stradishall, Cafe 33 from Stowmarket via ...	27/11/2021 14:31	GP eXchange file	231 KB
Wakes Colne Railway from Stow via Elms...	08/01/2022 15:28	GP eXchange file	190 KB
Woolpit Stag from Copdock via Sudbury,...	28/11/2021 12:30	GP eXchange file	320 KB
Woolpit Stag from Martlesham via Debn...	28/11/2021 12:32	GP eXchange file	293 KB
Woolpit Stag from Martlesham via Strad...	19/01/2022 14:40	GP eXchange file	295 KB

Into your favoured location

Again you can Drag and Drop if you wish

SO

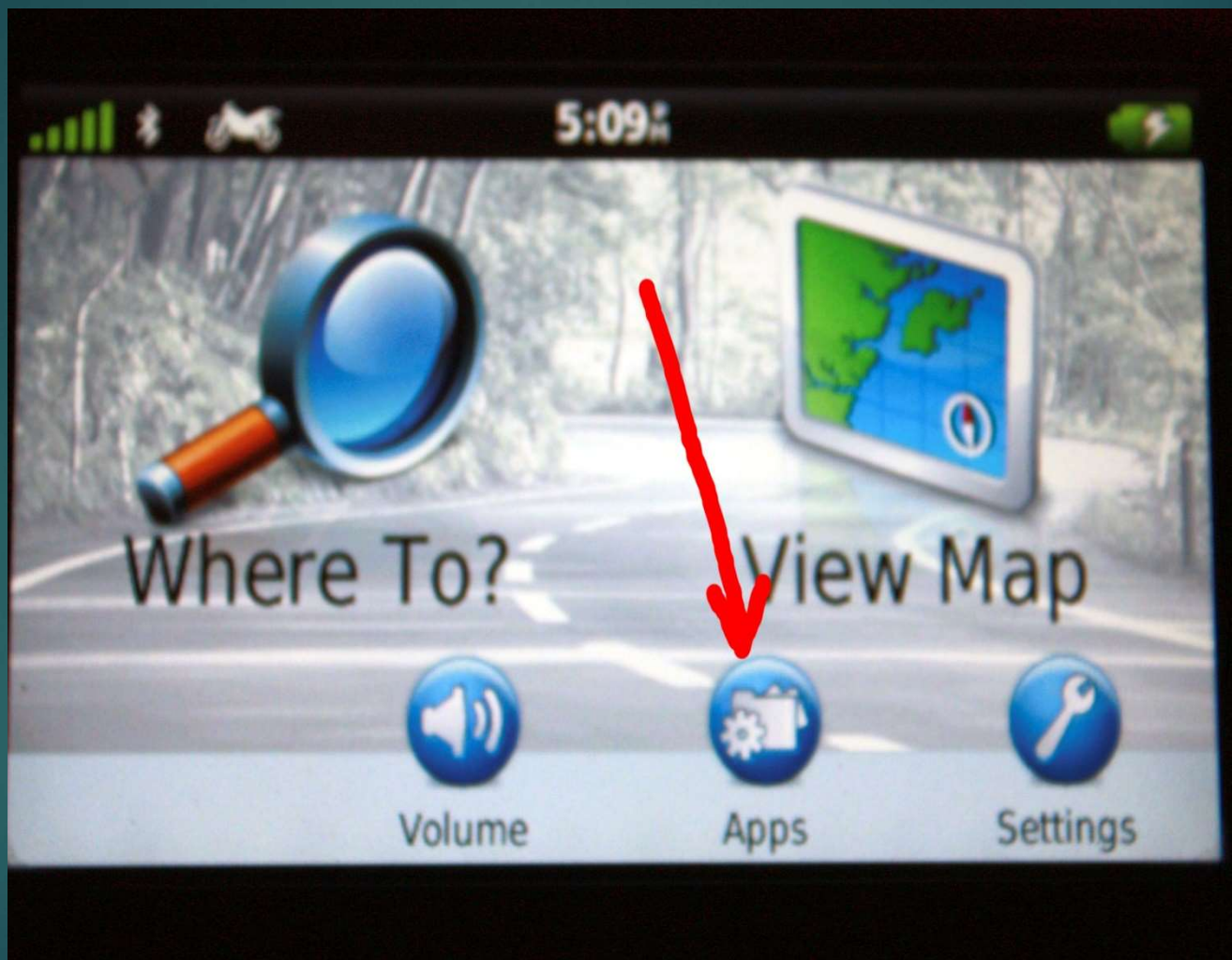
We've dreamt up a route

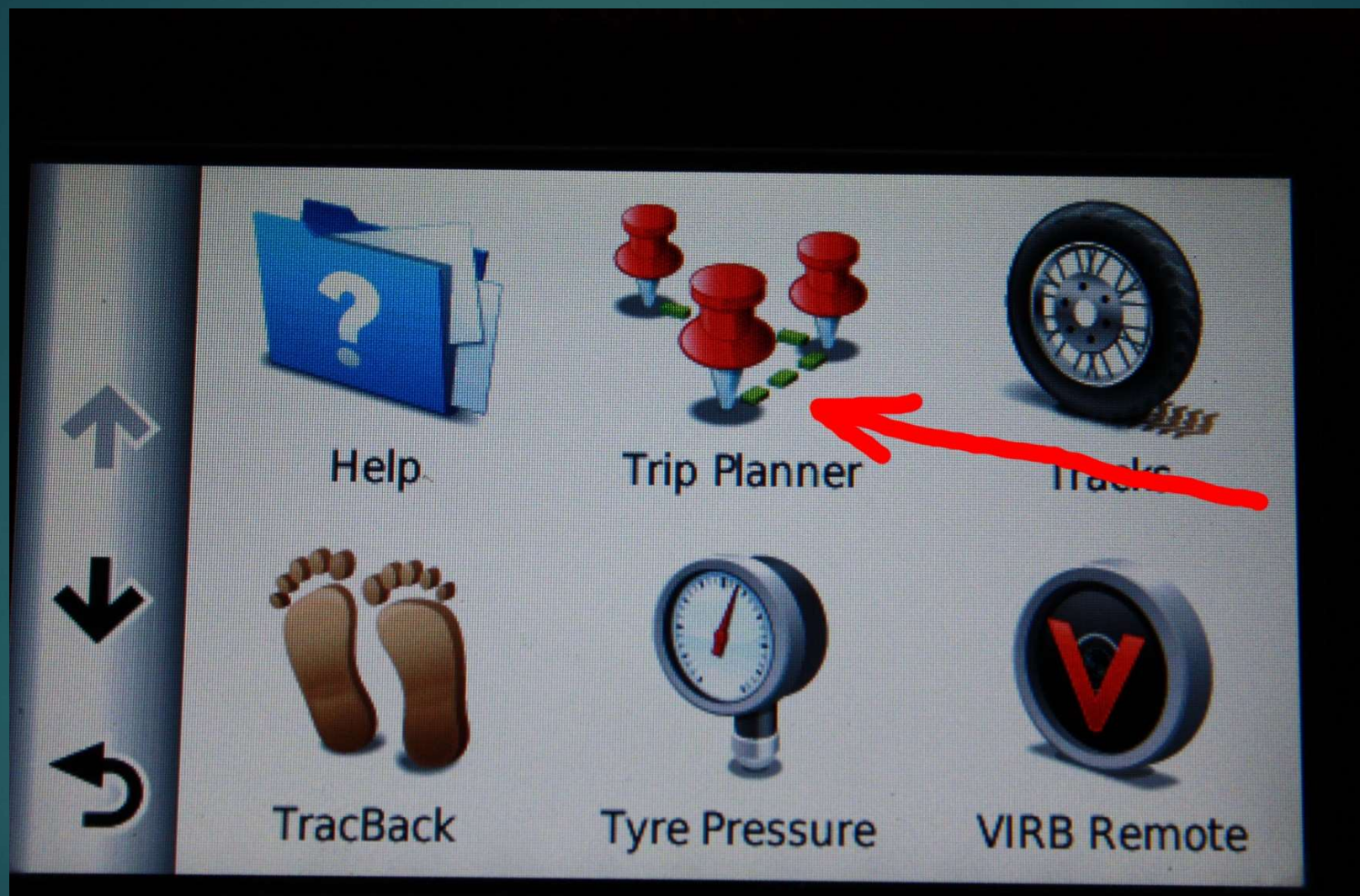
Plotted it on our software

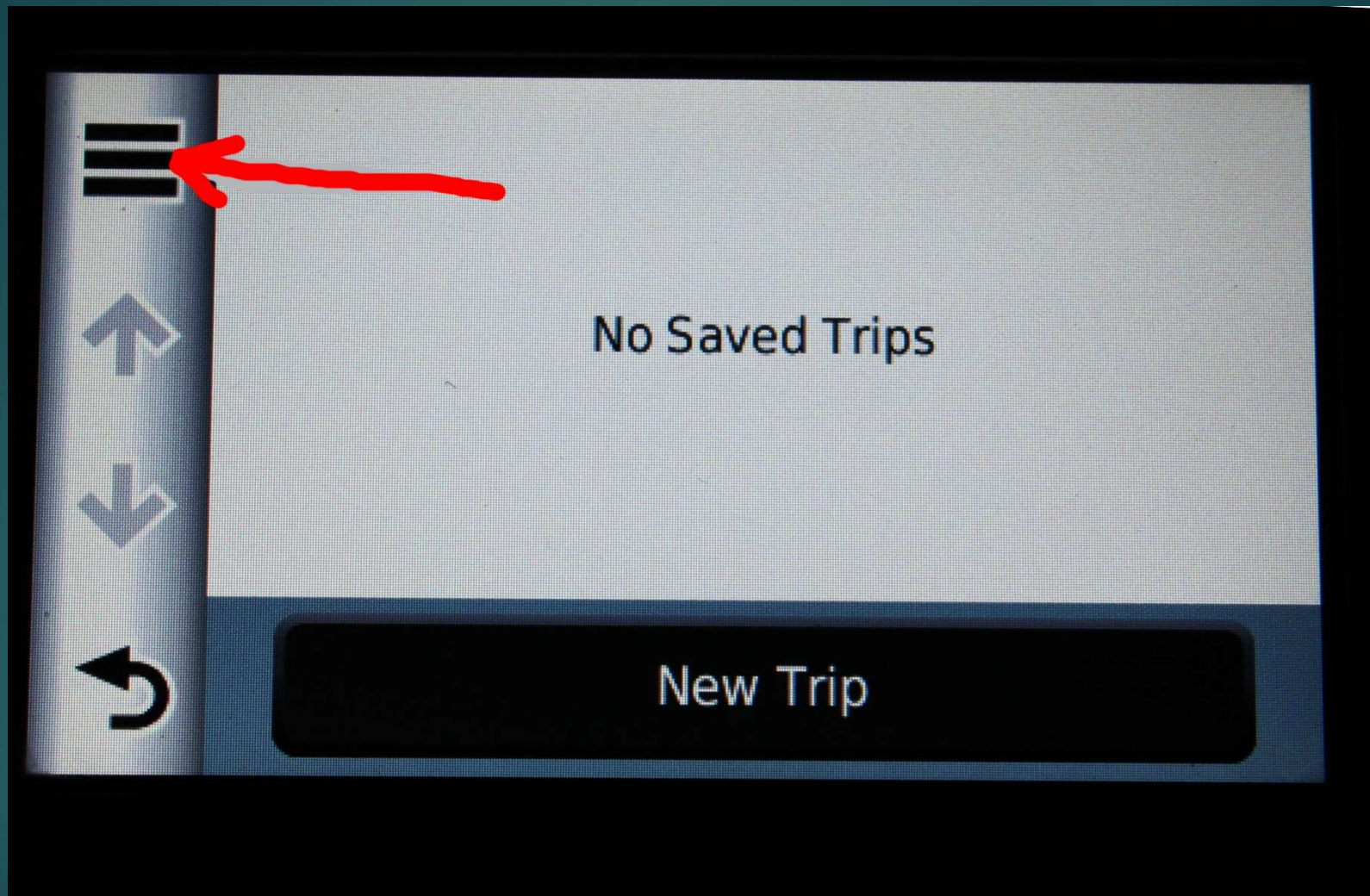
Transferred it to our GPS Unit

Anything else?

Check it!

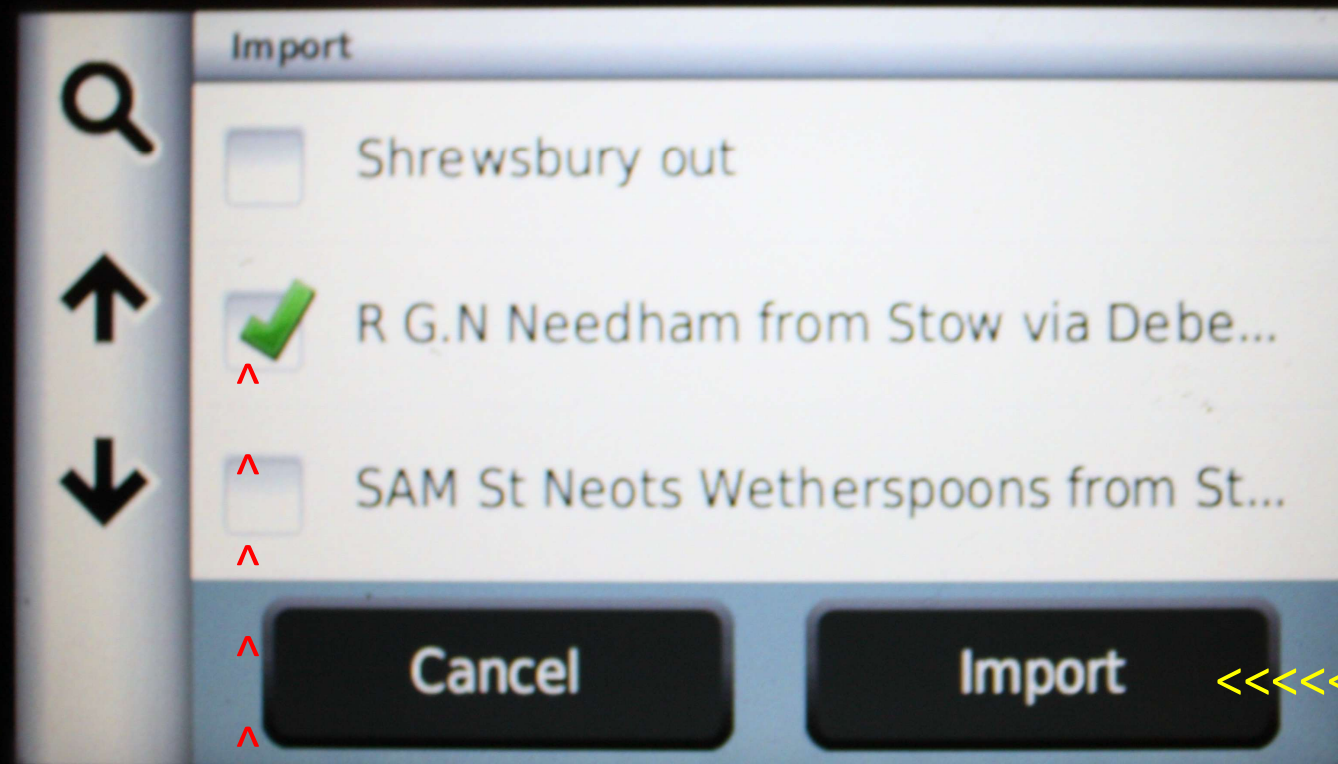






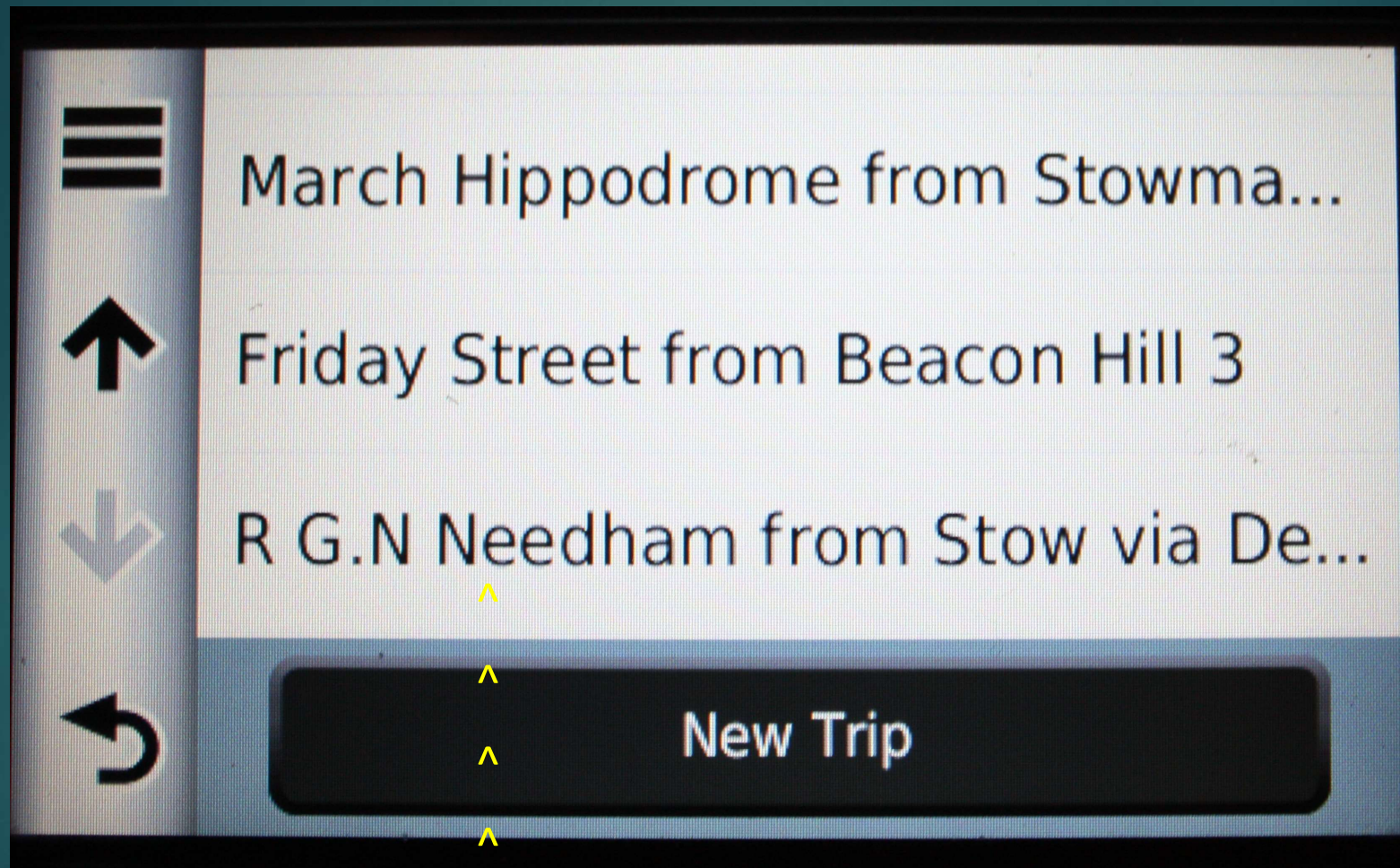


Scroll down through the list



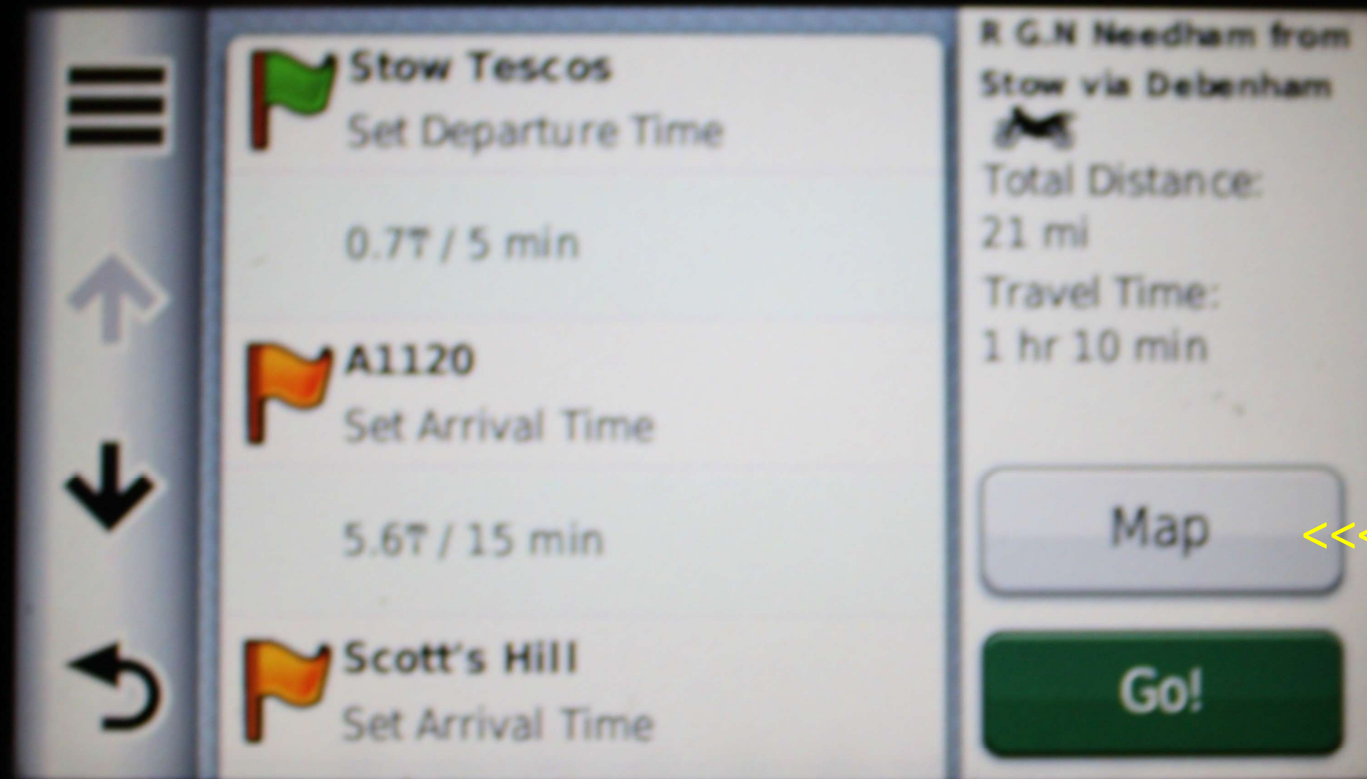
<<<<<<<Then click 'Import'

Tick the route that you want



And it imports to the 'routes available to view' screen

Sorry about the focus

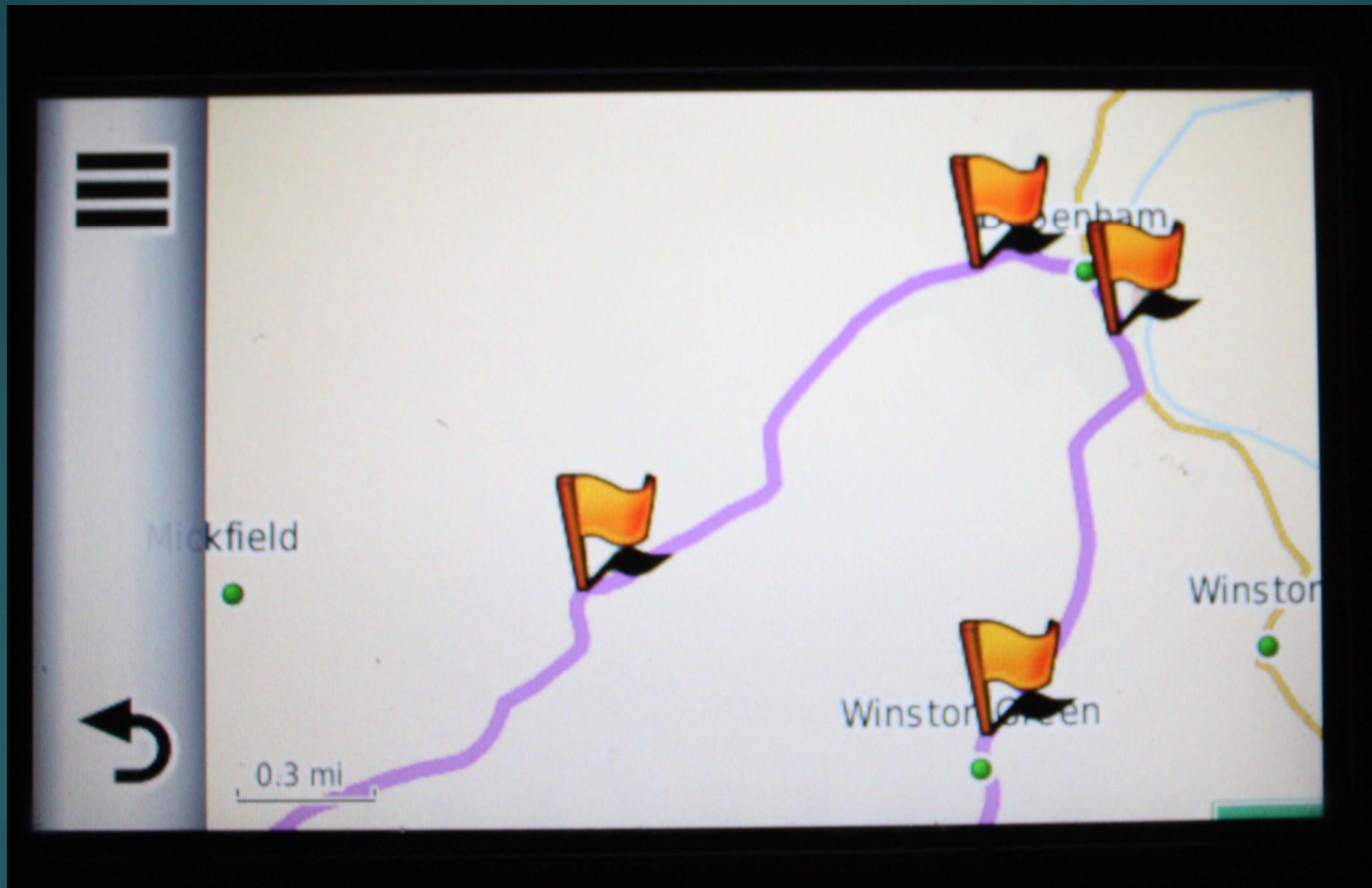


<<<<<<<Click on 'Map'

Then zoom in



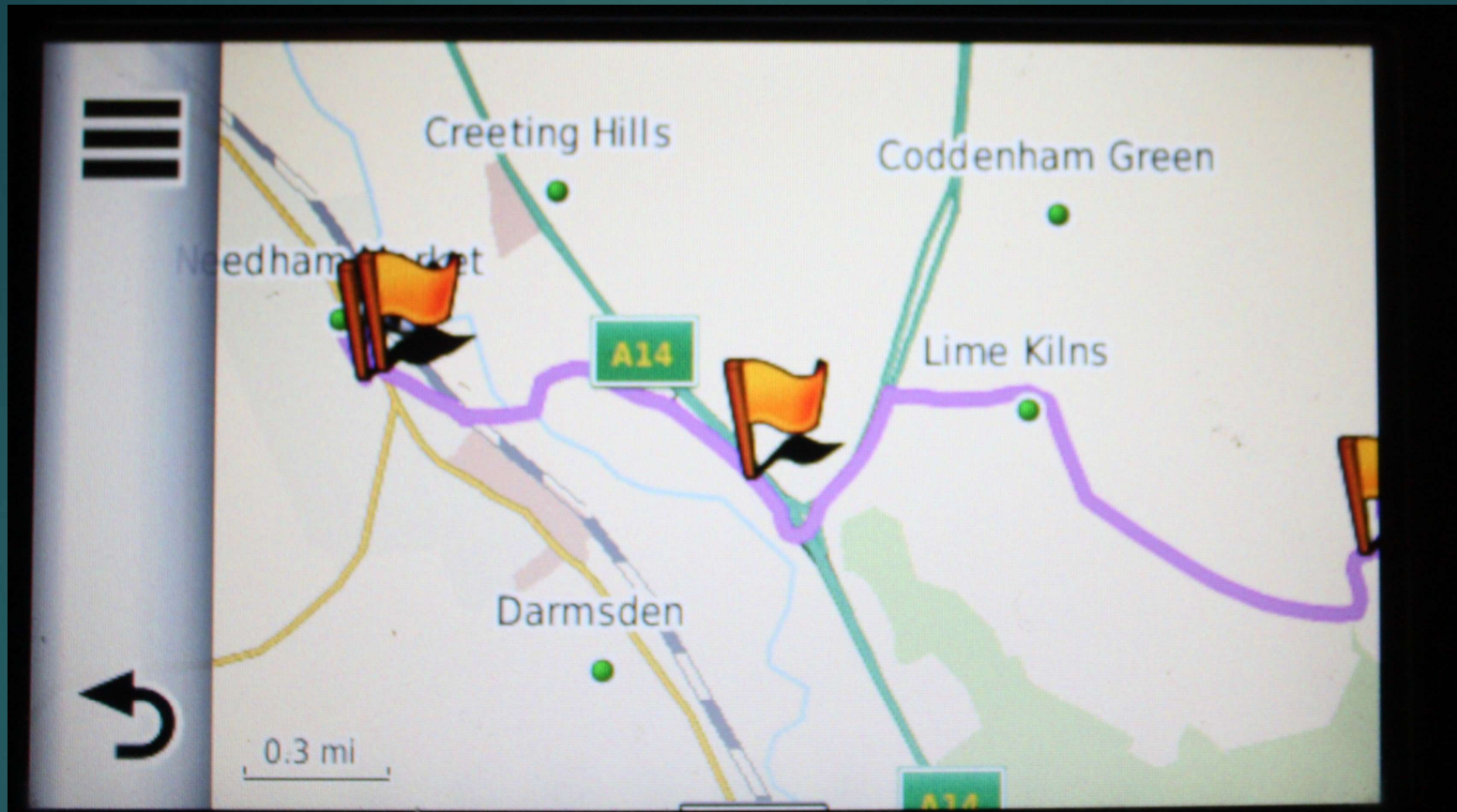
Finger Drag around the route



.....just to check that it's as you want it

If not – go back and adjust!

If all is good then we're ready to roll



That's it!




And this should see you started.

Perhaps **YOU** can be an improver (or already may be) and deliver the next advancement stage of tutorial.

How about it?

Thanks and goodbye. Don't get lost on the way home!



OOOH! I do have another 54 slide presentation on Hints and Tips on a Garmin for when things don't go quite as they should.

(Probably those with a Tom-Tom will tell me that things never go awry - Huh!).

There's not enough time for it tonight, but I'll enquire if it's possible to get it on 'our' website



Websites that you will/might need:-

Garmin Express	https://www.garmin.com/en-US/software/express/windows/ <i><u>A connector/communicator that allows your computer to 'talk' to your device</u></i>
MyRoute-App	https://www.myrouteapp.com/en <i><u>My favourite route plotting programme – saves to cloud</u></i>
Mappite	https://www.mappite.org/ <i><u>SAMs current format used on the forum - Events</u></i>
Tyre2Navigate	https://tyre2navigate.com/download/ <i><u>Hard Drive based software for route plotting – saves gpx files (API Key required for GoogleMaps)</u></i>
Microsoft GPX viewer and recorder	<i><u>A free App for Windows 10 available from Microsoft Store – as it says, opening and storing</u></i>
One.Network	https://one.network/ <i><u>For roadworks, closures and diversions</u></i>