Navigation

Fern Hume & Rachel Lawson

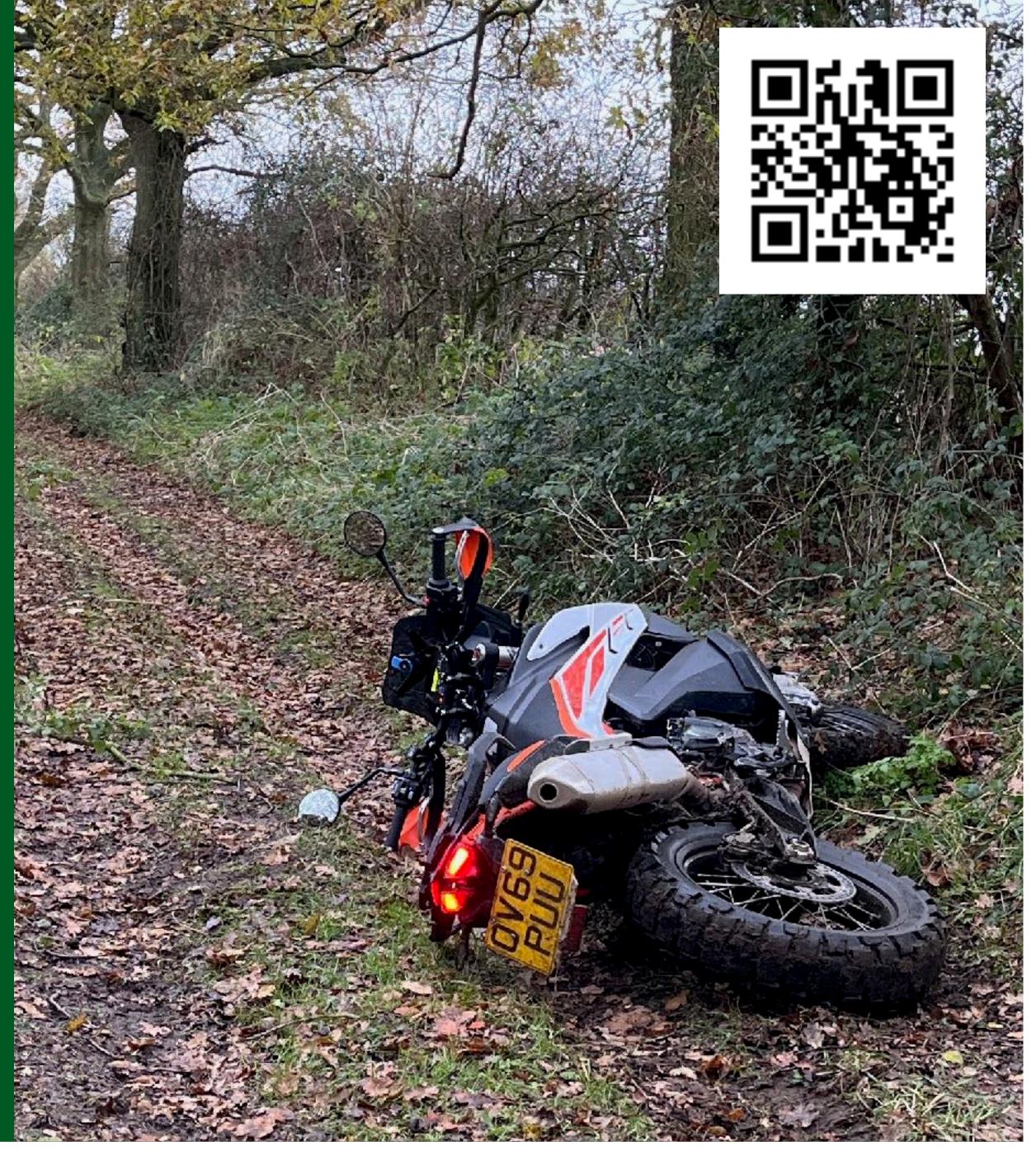
Fern Hume

- instagram.com/FernsForays/
- Admin for the TET
- Founder of UK Women Train Riders
- National Project Lead, TRF Women
- Group rep for TRF Cambs
- "Retired" overlander



Rachel Lawson

- machelnorfolk.me
- Loads of tech stuff
- "Aspiring" overlander



What we will try to cover

Types of Mapping

Carrying Your Mapping

Ecosystem is Always Changing

Sharing is Caring

What we will try to cover

Uploading and Downloading

Creating Your Own Routes

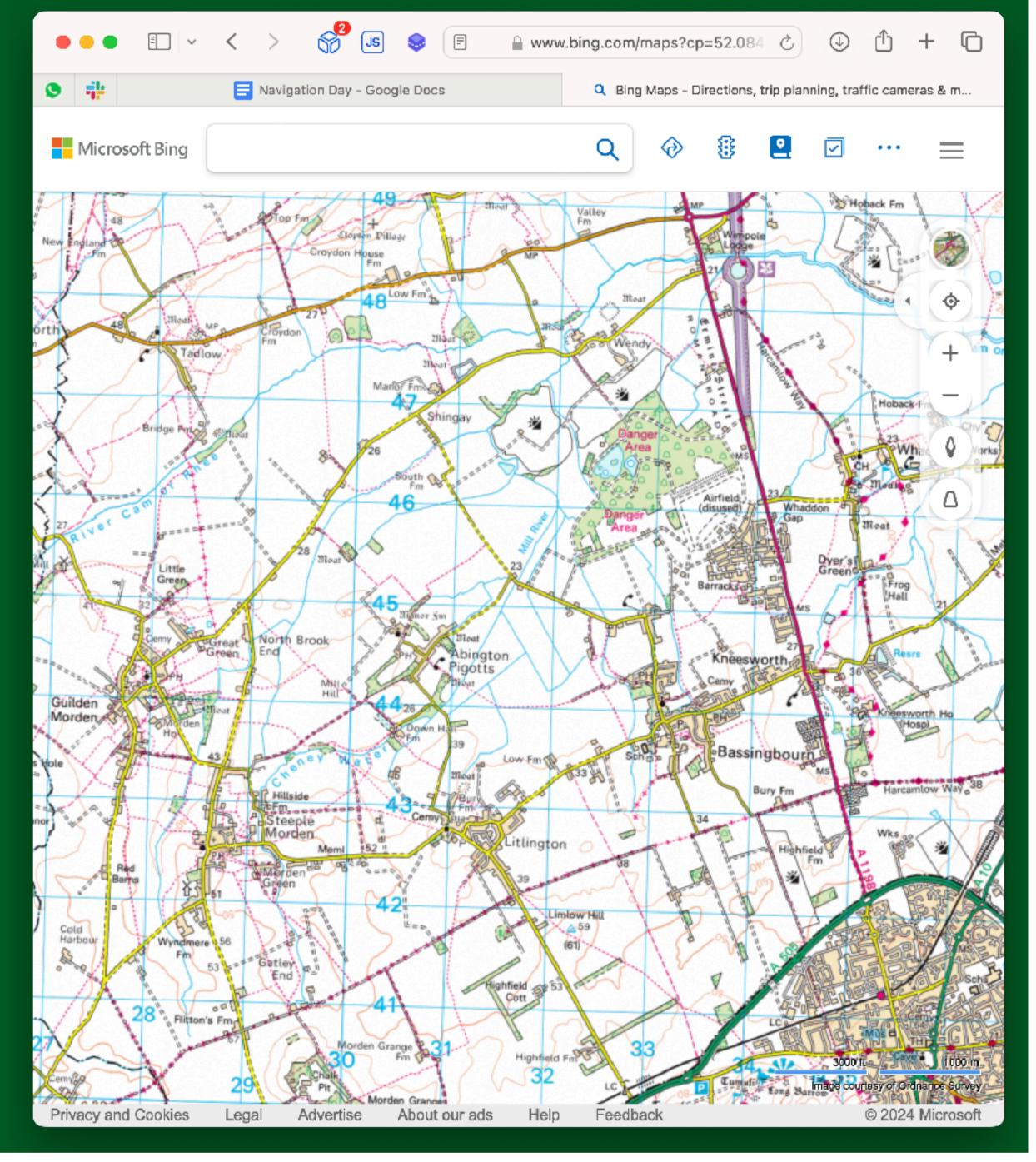
It's okay to get lost

Types of Mapping

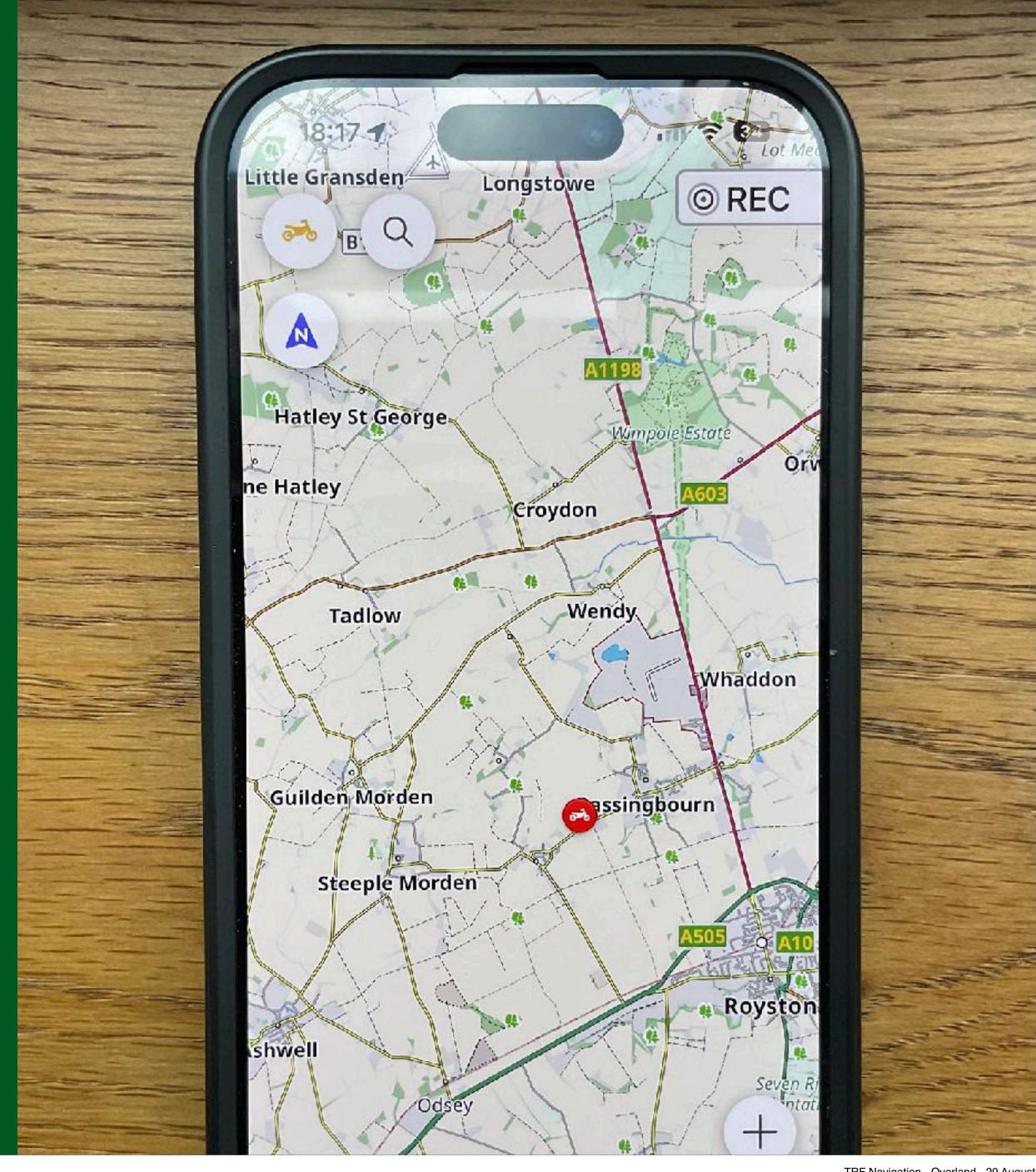
Paper Maps



Online Maps



Offline Maps



Local knowledge



TRF Navigation - Overland - 29 August 2025

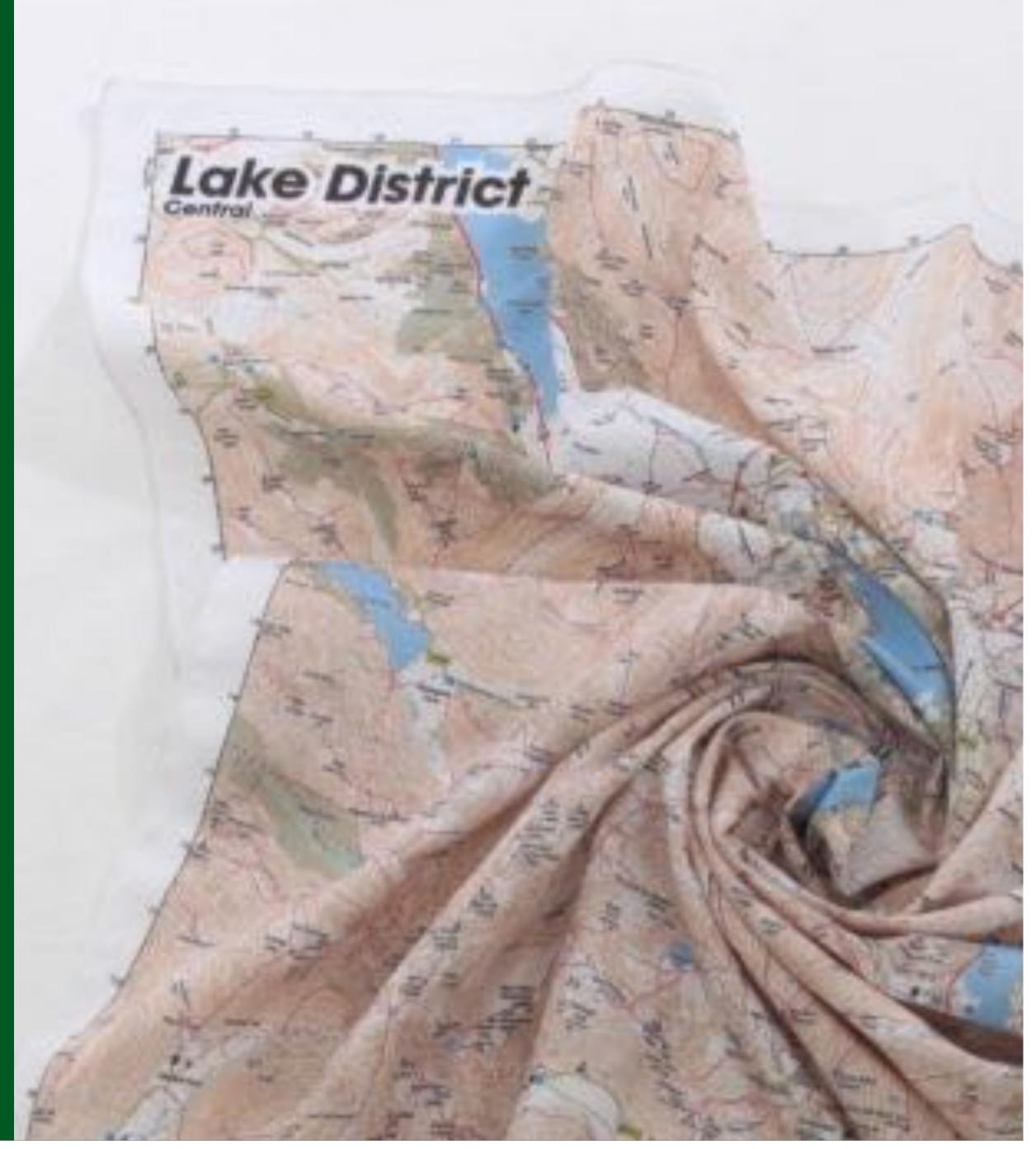
Carrying Your Mapping on the Bike

Waterproof?



Redundancy

- Two ways to do a thing
- Every thing should have two purposes

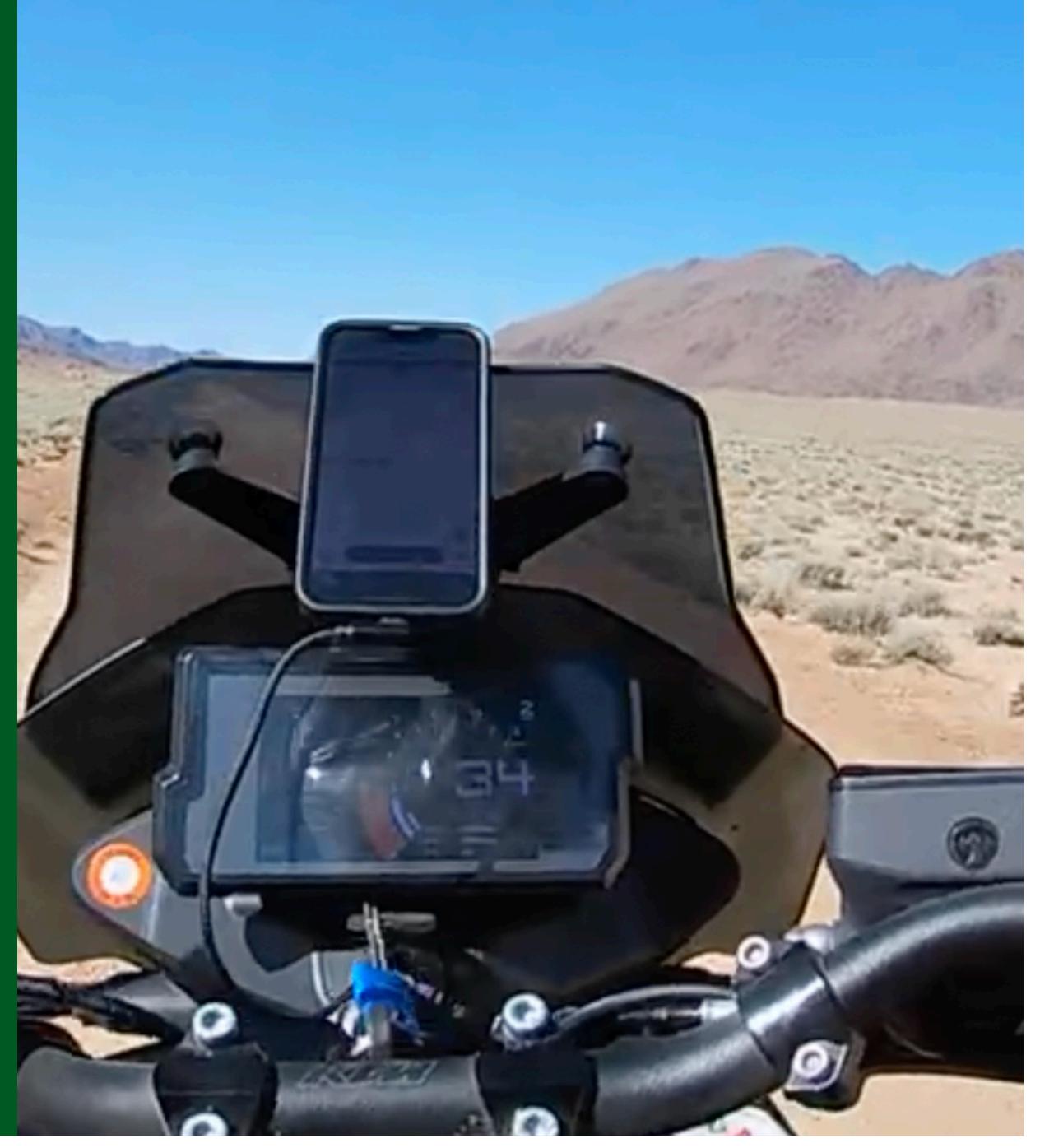


Garmin etc

Dedicated devices



Phones



CarPlay

or Android Auto, if you must...



Tablets

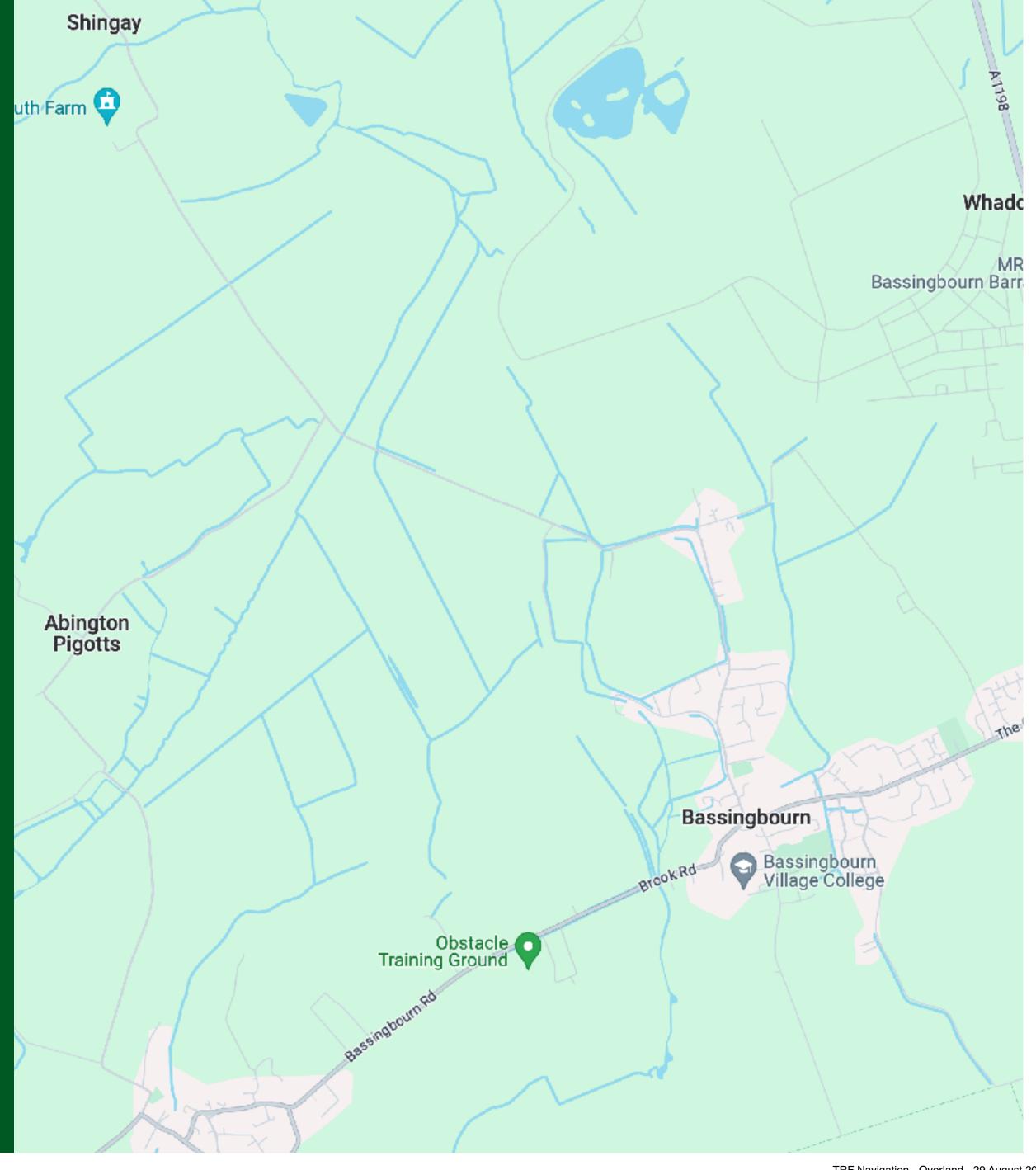


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Ecosystem is Always Changing

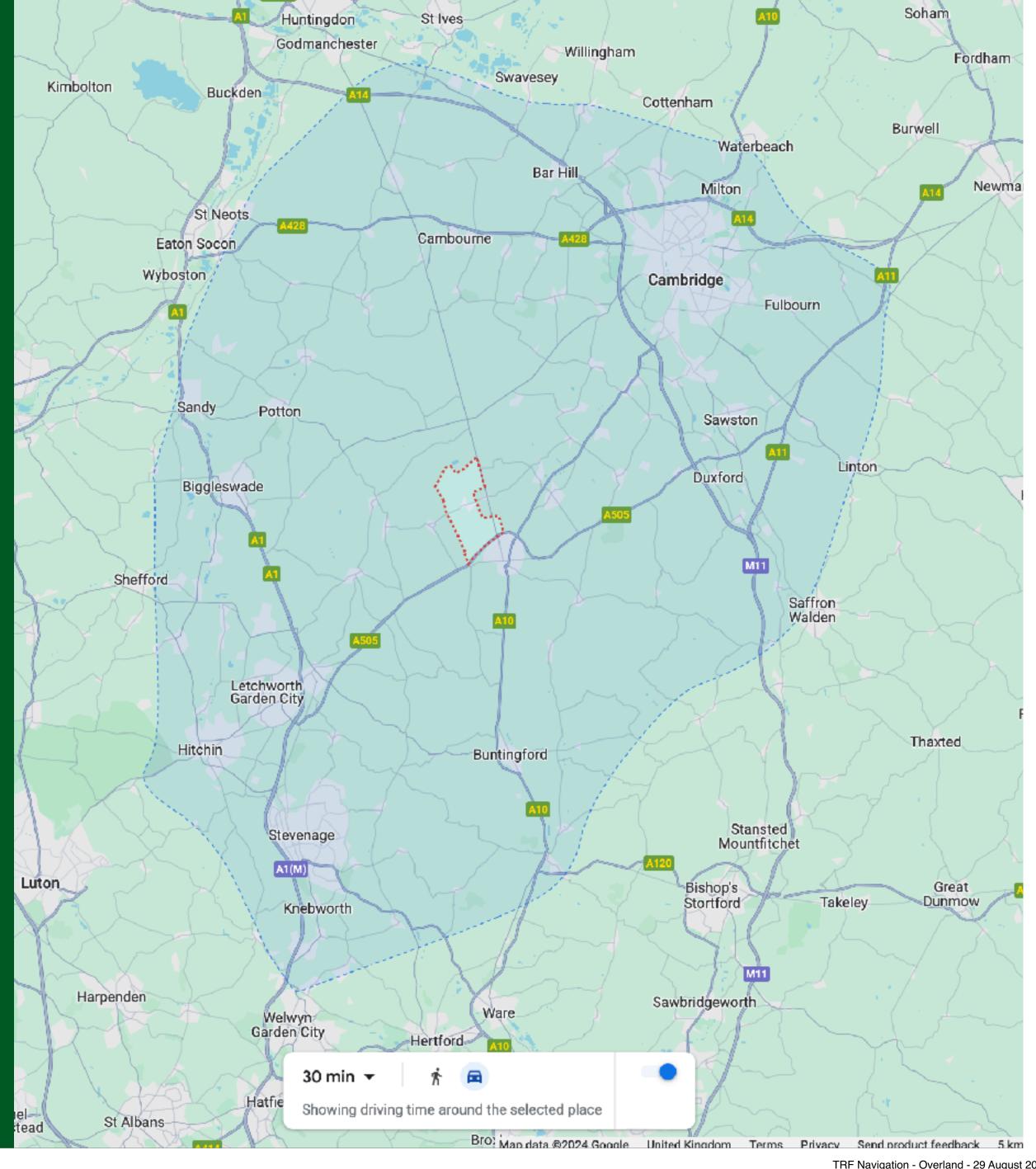
Google Maps is new

- is less than 20 years old!
- it has changed all our lives in that time
- what will be next?



Learn the principles

- Always best to learn the principles than what buttons to press
- Experiment!
- Be part of the change



Sharing is Caring

Sharing Locations

- Latitude & Longitude
- What3Words
- WhatsApp location / inReach etc

Latitude & Longitude

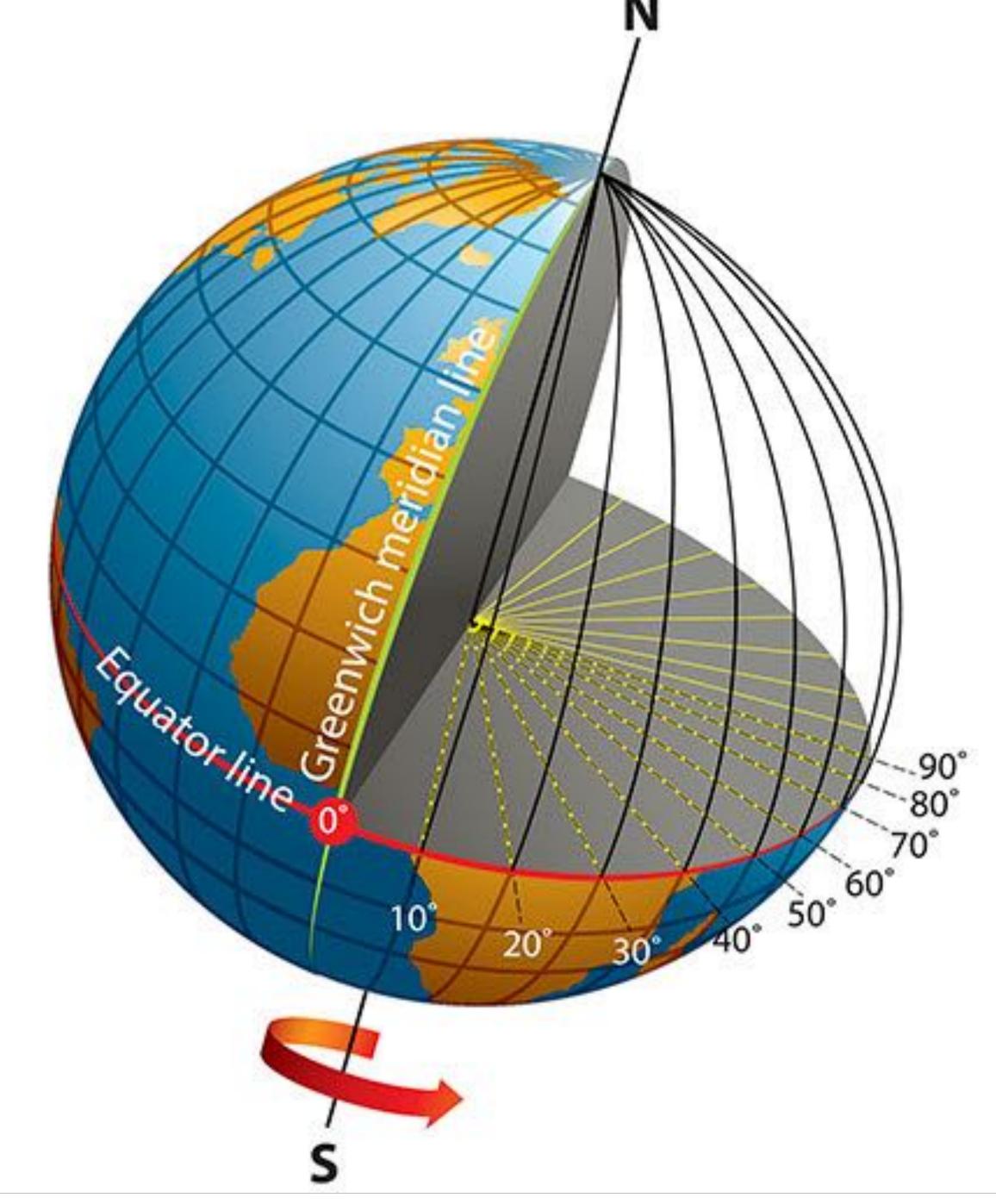
Different ways to write it down

54.146210, -2.047360

is the same as

54° 8' 46.356" N, 2° 2' 50.496" W

 Will be understood by everything and everyone



What3Words



- "sourcing.trifle.coder" is easier than 52.073941, -0.075504
- Incredibly convenient

BUT!

- Is that sourcing or saucy?
- https://cybergibbons.com/security-2/why-what3words-is-not-suitable-for-safety-critical-applications/

WhatsApp etc

- Super useful to share your live location
- Uses battery and requires network to send location

Sharing Routes

- OutdoorActive
- Trans Euro Trail
- Facebook Groups

- Green Road Map
- WikiLoc

Sharing Experiences

- Local knowledge is the best
- Ride reports in Facebook etc

• iOverlander

• Magazines

YouTube

• Events like this!

Sharing Map Updates

- Open Street Map
- Street Complete

Sharing Education

- Pass on your skills to others
- The very best way to ensure you learn something is to teach others
- Practice, practice, practice

Uploading and Downloading

Downloading Offline Maps

Should you pay for extras?

What is a GPX file?

- It's just text!
- They can be either routes or tracks
- Highlighted
 "waypoints"

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Track or Route?

- A route describes a series of points and the device can choose how to get between each point
- A track describes every single step to take and the device won't make any decisions about how to get between each point.

Creating Your Own Routes

What to ride

- Where can you ride?
- What is worth riding?
- What is legal to ride?
 - Green Road Map by the TRF
 - Trailwise by GLASS

Have reasonable expectations

- Riding a long way is tiring
- Riding at night is kinda scary

It's okay to get lost

Limiting the consequences

- Checking location fairly regularly
- Carrying fuel, water, food, equipment to deal with the consequences
- Your vehicle can be seen better than you

Getting un-lost

- Which way is North?
- Which way to civilisation?

A More Practical Session Later...

The Mapping Game

Can you describe what you see?

- Imagine you are stood at the point marked on the map, looking west.
- What can you see?
- What conditions would you expect to meet?
- Can you write a description or draw a picture?
- Or even as interpretive dance? 🦑



Now time for your questions...