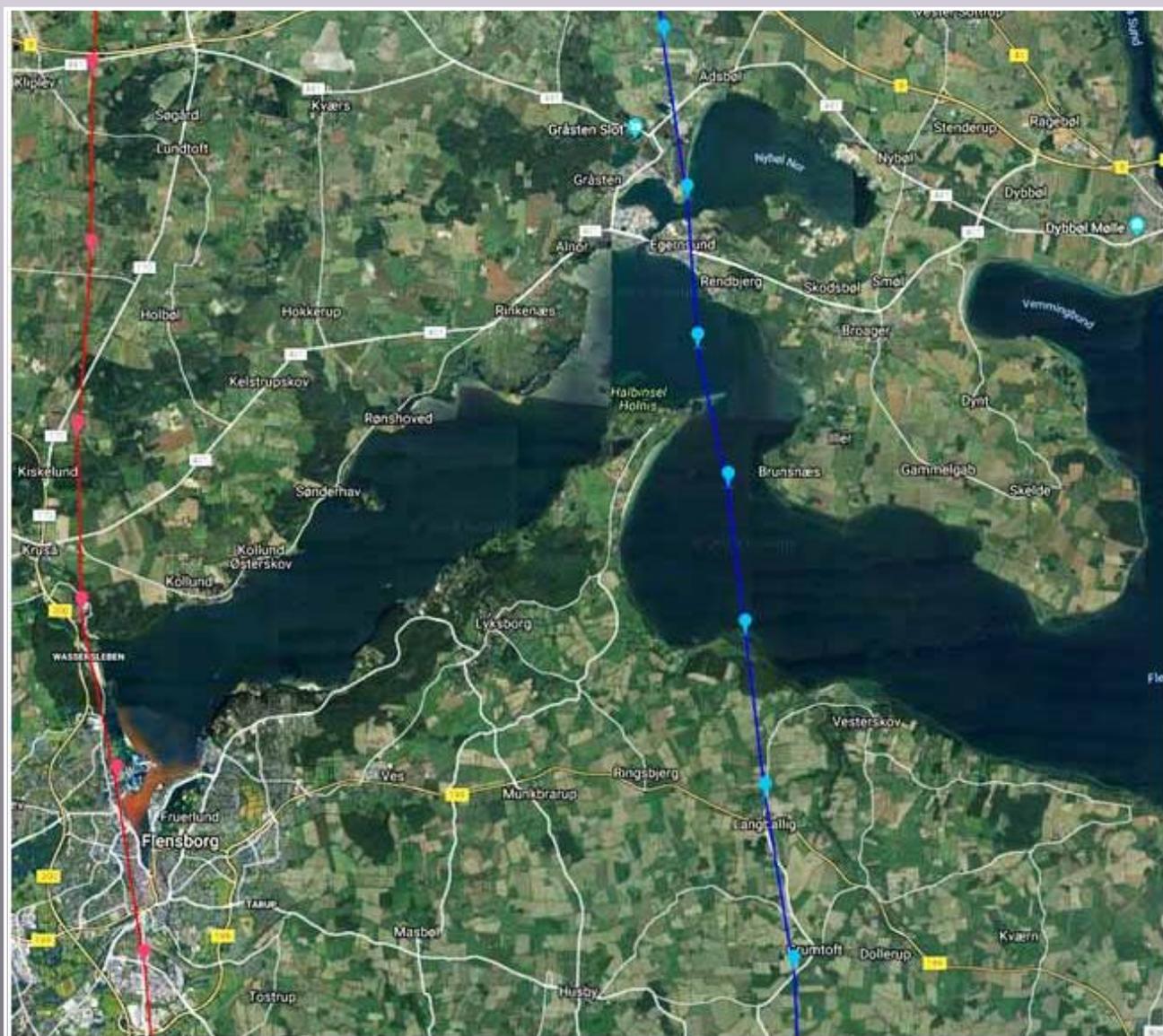


GPS in pigeon racing 2018

Ove Fuglsang Jensen ©

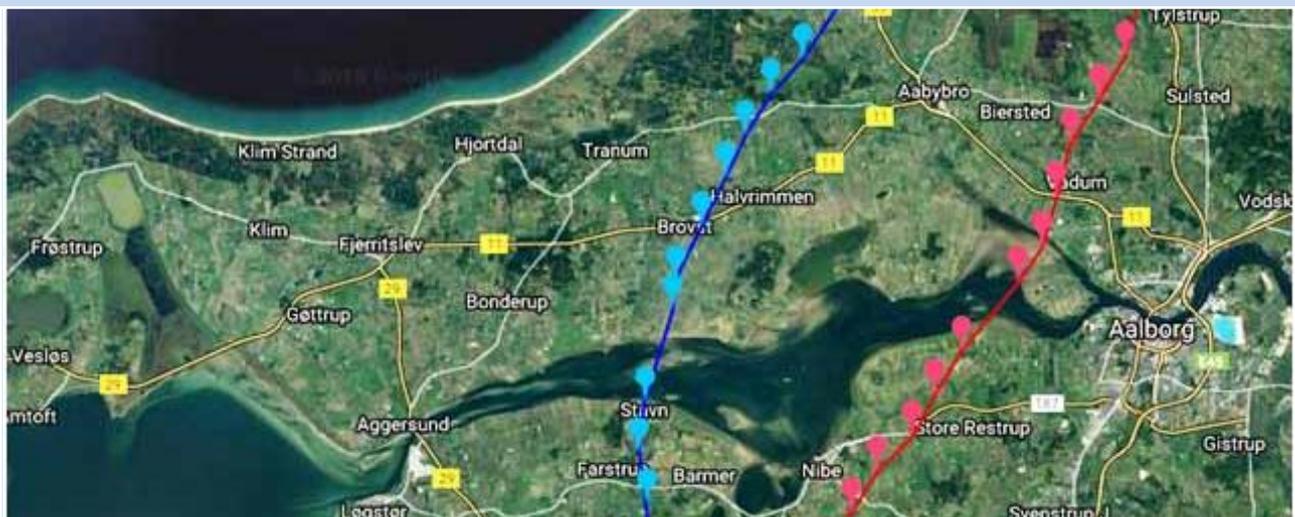


Starting project in GPS

The first GPS-flight in website, was from a loft in northern Sjælland, but there has not been many fanciers having this GPS tracking. This year there have been 9 fanciers having this GPS tracking, and that is including myself. It was the idea, that the fanciers having these GPS tracking, should succeed to make some good and exciting routes of our pigeon. In this article you will see and download some of my pigeons routes to my loft. I hope we will have the possibility to see other fanciers GPS-routes.



The GPS tracker system is called Sky-leader, and contains of a charging unit, a ring reader and 5 GPS rings with a battery to reload. There is also a program included, where you set up the rings and download them at the pigeons return. All the GPS-routes can be given a text and the data logged in under the date.



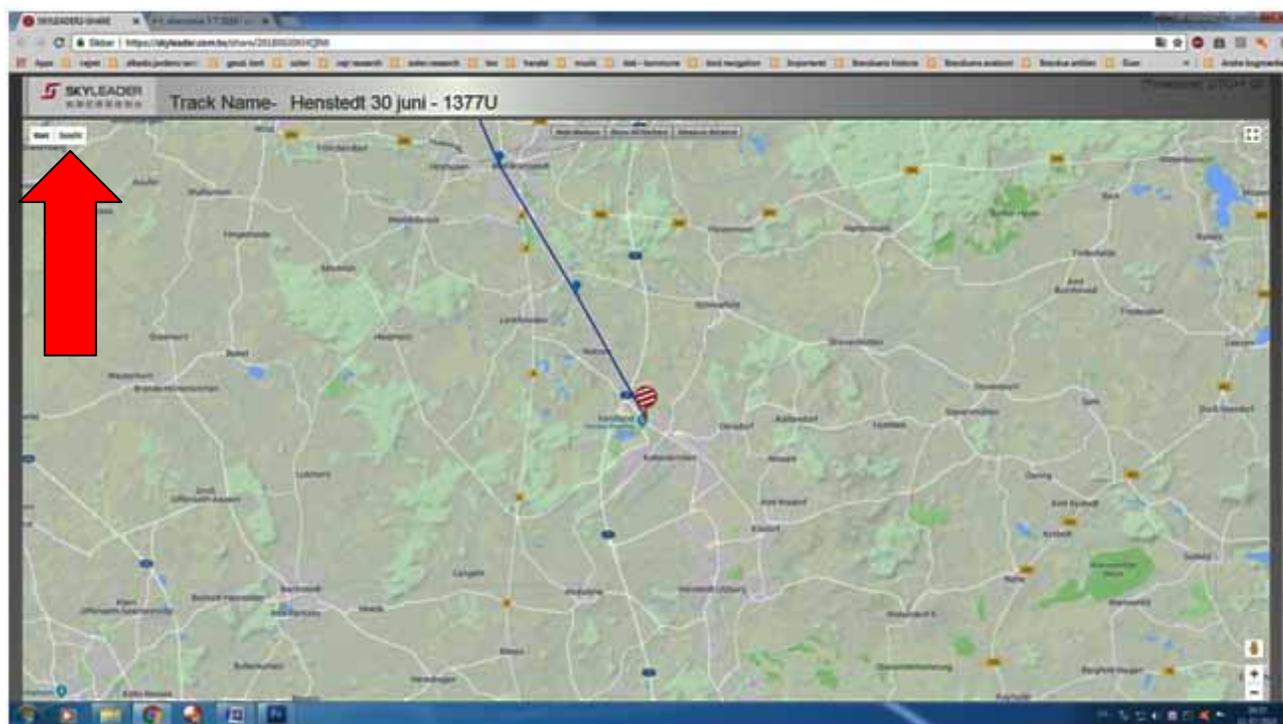
New layout of article

In the shown GPS-flight in 2017, it was only possible to show the routes in pictures and make comments to this. However there has come a new version of Sky-leader, where it is possible to paste the file and sent it in e-mail, or as it is done in this article to paste the file in a word document and convert it to an PDF, where the route can be downloaded. The GPS-system are running on Google Map, but it is not necessary to have Google Map on the computer, but just download the file.

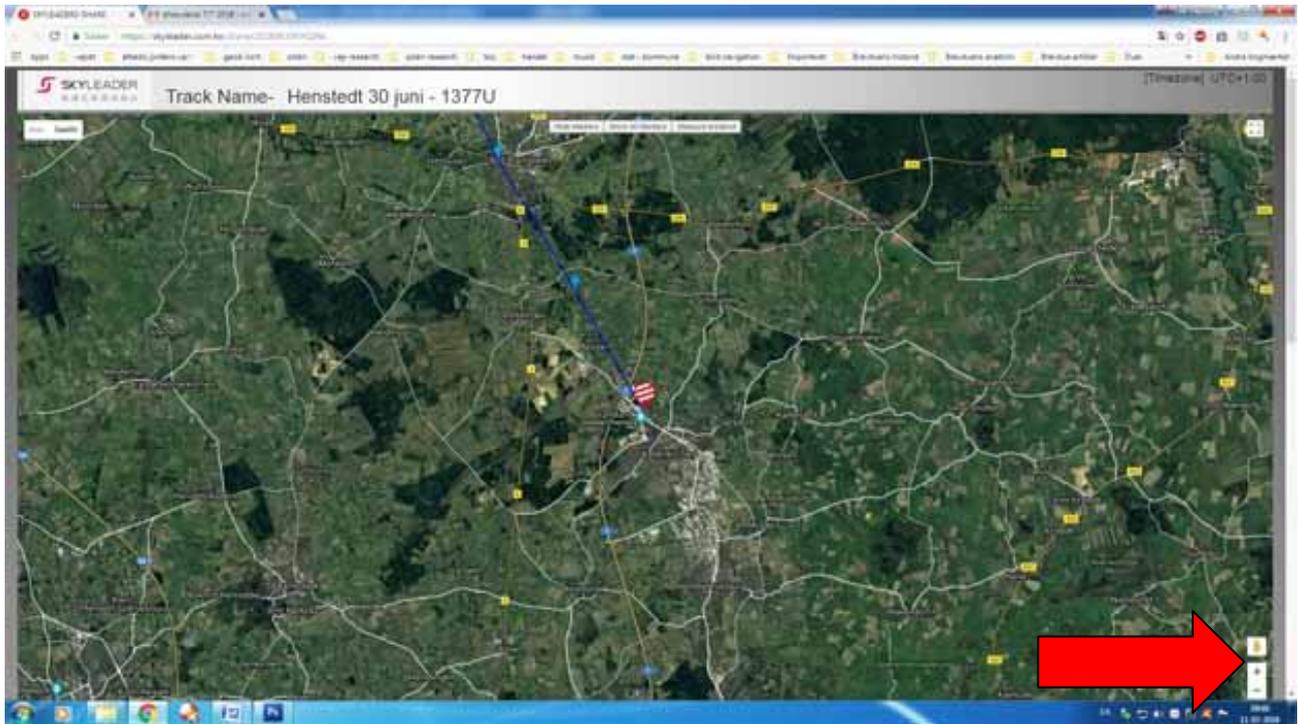
To make a good start, there is an introduction beneath. In every GPS-flight there is a picture of the pigeon, and also a briefing on the weather. There are as usual some pictures of the most interesting events in the route of the pigeons, but there are probably many more interesting details.

The start of a GPS-flight

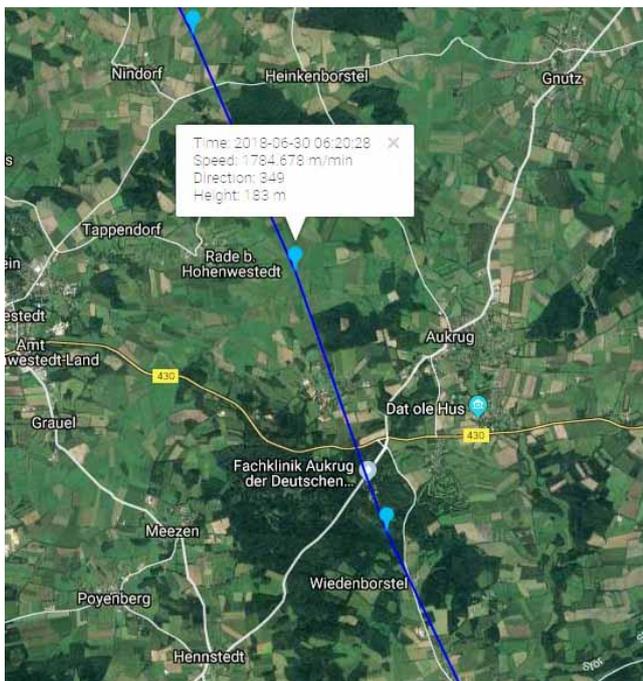
By downloading the file of the route, there will automatic open a window of the beginning of the route.



This version of Google Map looks a little pale and without detail, and you pres on Satellite in top left corner.



When Satellite are activated, you can start surfing on the route, and to zoom the picture, there are a + and - in bottom tight corner. If you want full screen, pres top right corner.

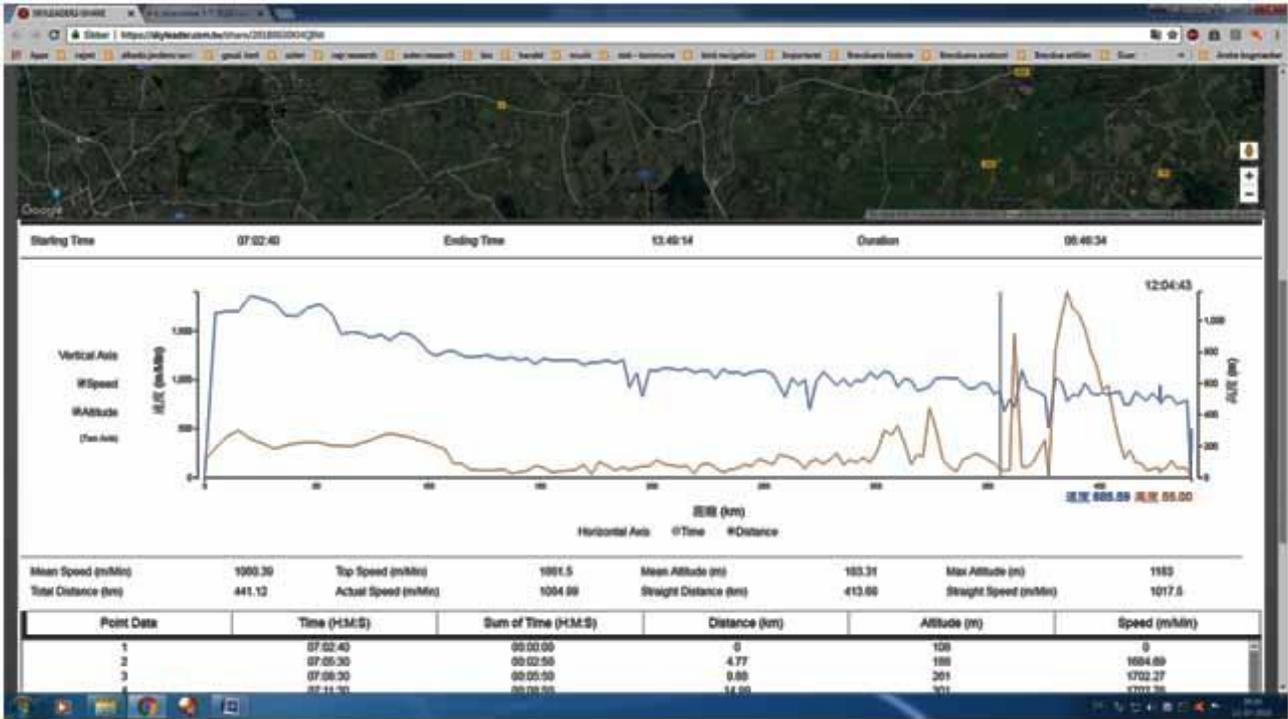


On the route there are markers when the GPS-ring receive a signal , and in this message box you can see:

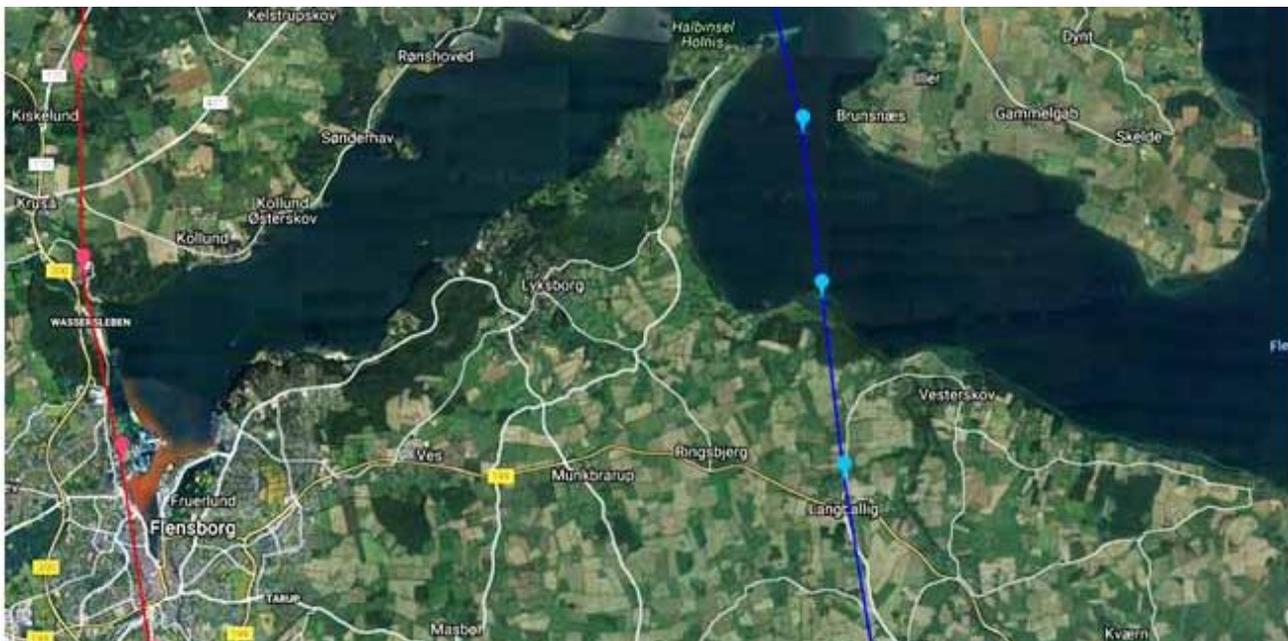
- 1. Date and time.**
- 2. Speed in meters per minute.**
- 3. Flying height.**

By studying these detail one can analyze the movement of the pigeon, and in a way one is "inside the head" of the pigeon!

The colors of the pigeon routes are made in different colors, blue, red and yellow, but when pasting the file in a document, they all become blue.



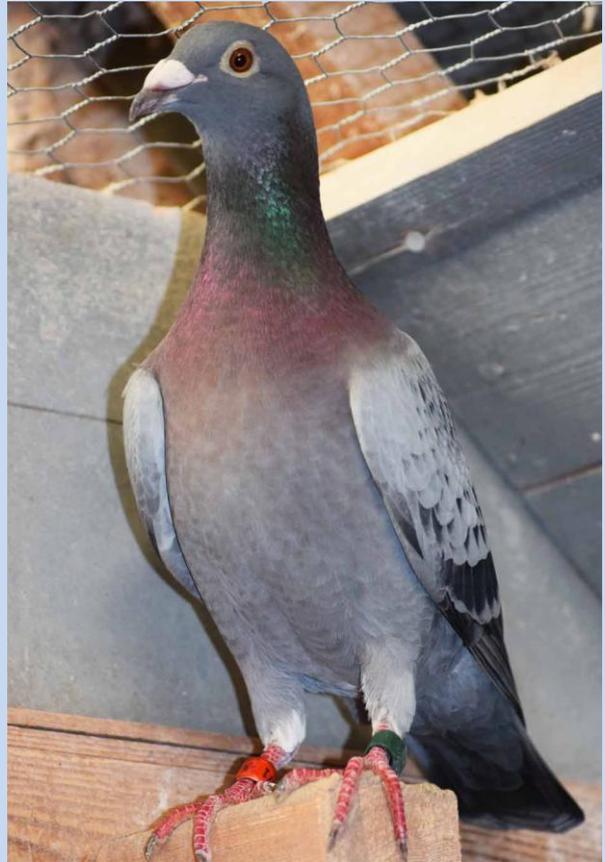
If you use the wheel on the mouse and scrolls down there will show a statistic with speed and height of the pigeon, where blue are the speed and the orange are the height of the pigeons flight. By moving the mouse over the curves, the altitude and speed are shown in numbers to the right. Underneath one can change the time to distance in kilometers, and besides that there are statistics for a lot of data: Maximum height, max. speed, length of flight, average speed and so on.



Henstedt 30. June

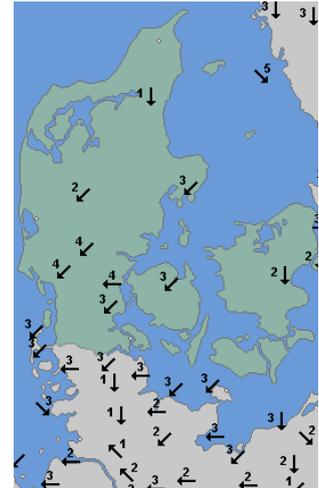
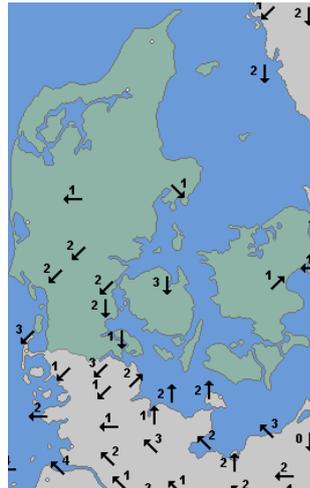
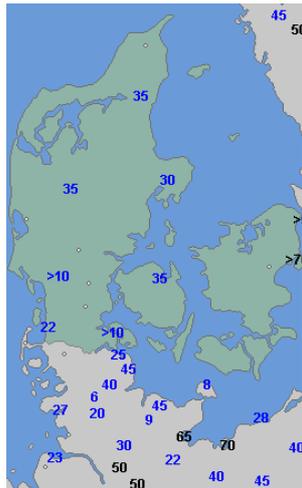
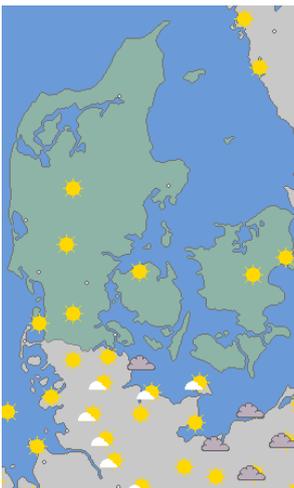


212-16-1677U. Delbar -Van Riel

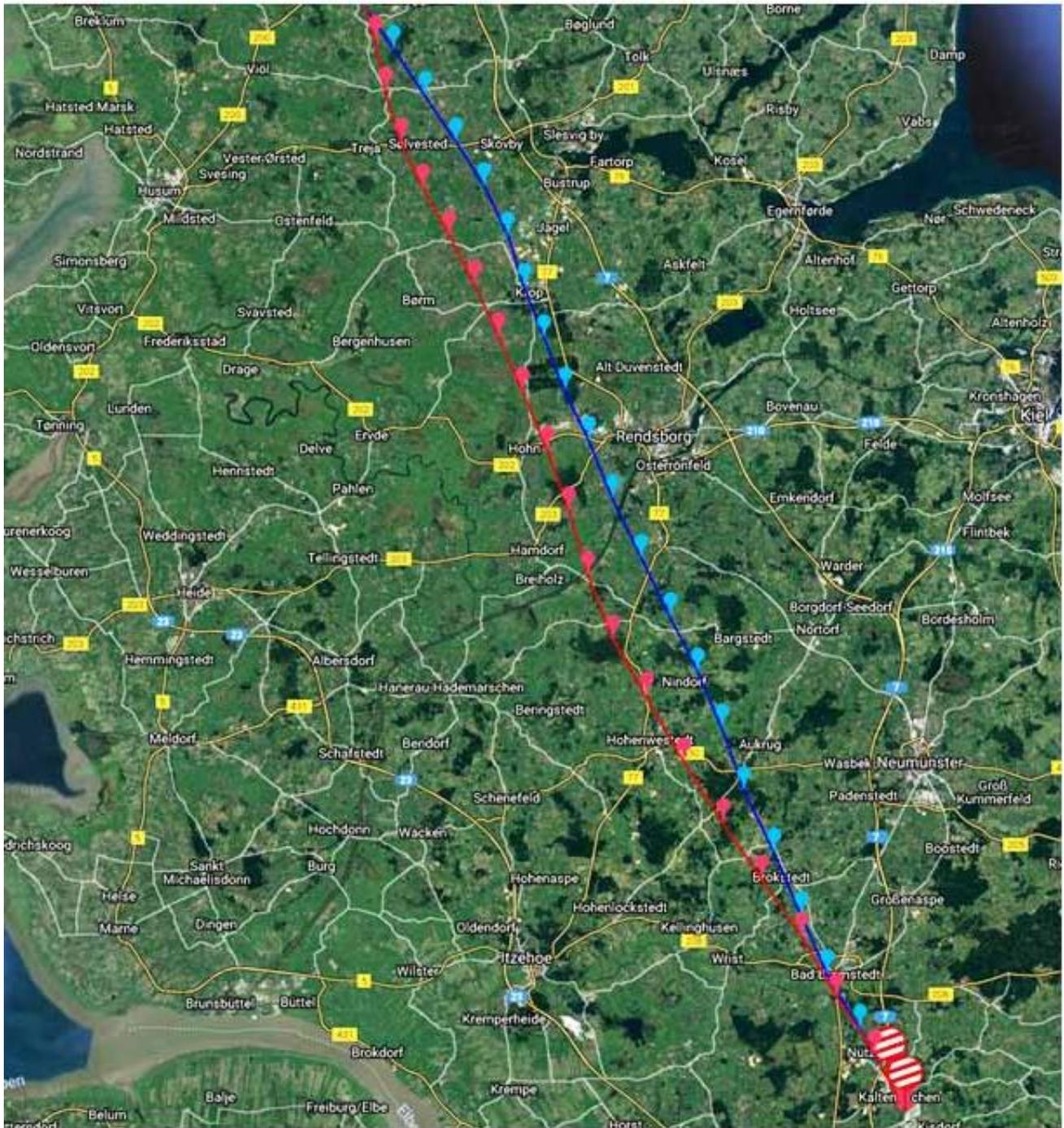


212-16-1671U. Fuglsang breed

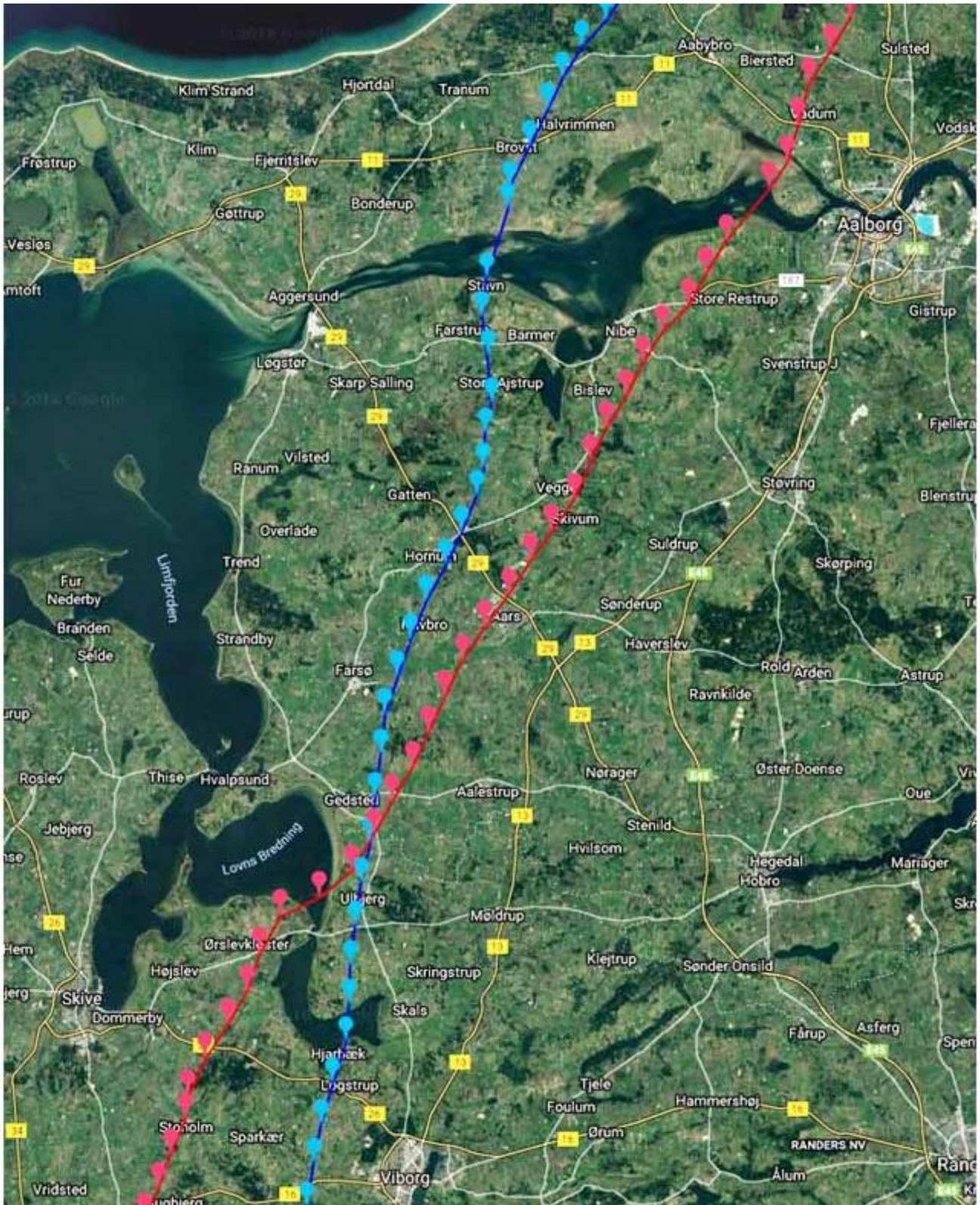
Weather data 30. juni kl.07.00



Partially cloudy, visibility good, wind Southeast light, 12am wind Northeast



The wind at the release site are from southeast, and that gives a speed for the pigeons over 1700mpm. When released from the basket, the pigeons use their white muscle for a fast start on the route. The white "speedmuscles" can be active for 15-20 minutes, and after that the red "longflying" muscles take over.

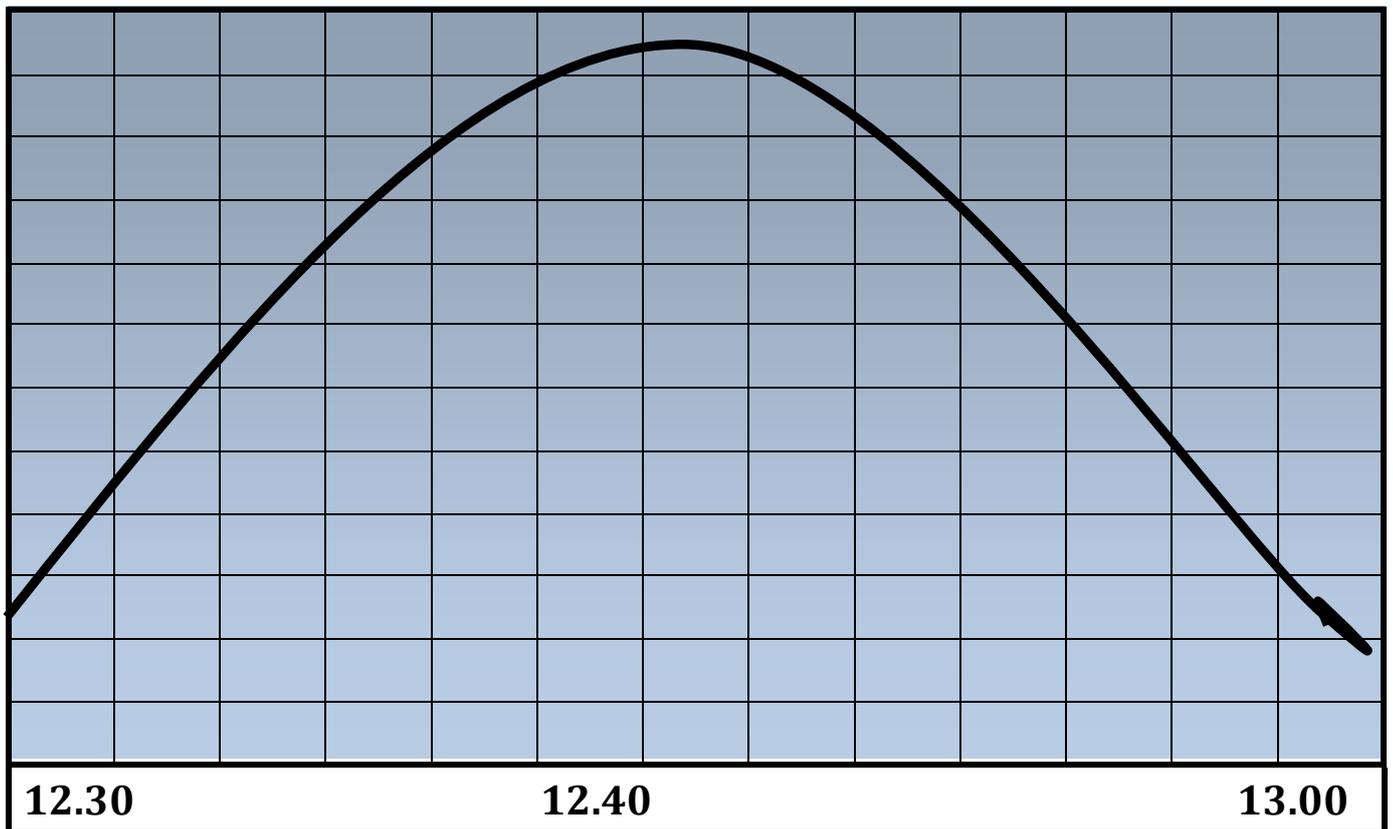


The routes of both pigeons are passing Viborg, but red pigeon goes northeast, whereas the blue pigeon goes more in direction of north.

Ascent to greater heights by 1677U



Past the Limfjord, 1677U begins a climb to 1183 meter. Start of climbing starts at the red arrow in the bottom and ends at red arrow in top.



The ascending of 1677U begins at 12.30 and it takes 10 minutes to reach the height of 1183 meter from 240 meters, and thereafter 20 minutes to go down again. The route here are against northeast, and the wind are even from northeast, and this trip up and down are against the wind. While doing this maneuver, the pigeon are losing speed down to 750-900mpm.

Download the routes Henstedt 30. June

Blue route 212-16-1677U:

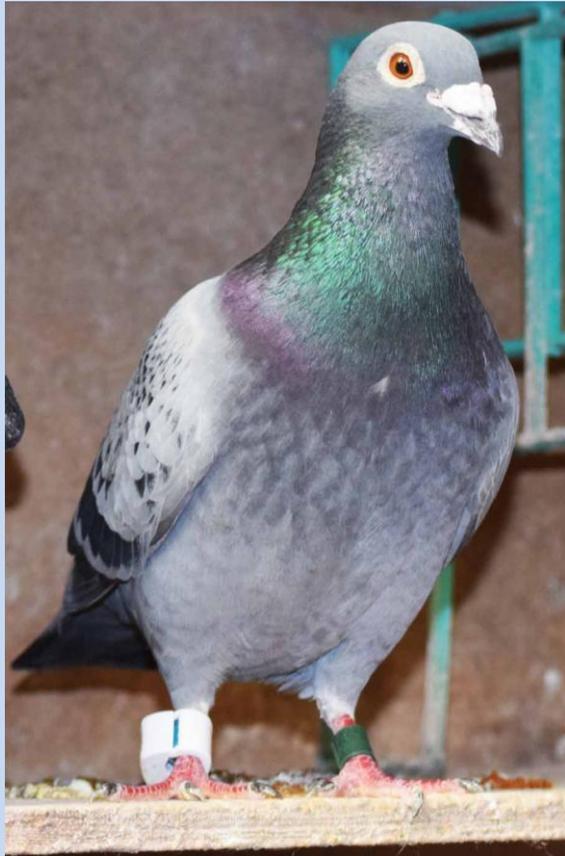
<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20180630KHQINT>

Red route 212-16-1671U:

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20180712yn2H0g>

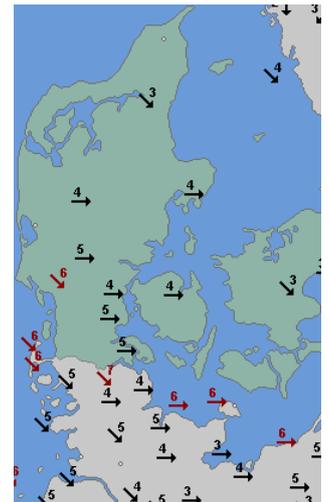
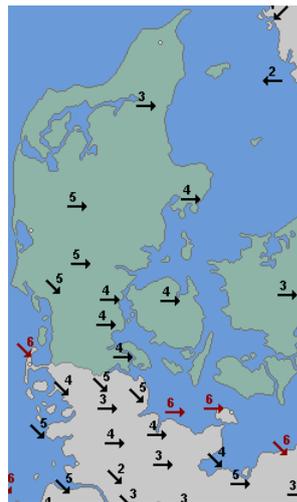
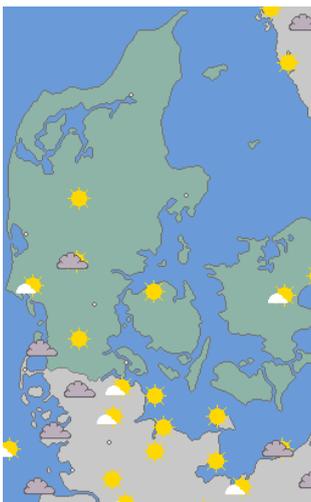
It is not possible to show blue and red routes together

Altona 7. July



212-15-1367A V Wegen/Vermote 212-16-1694A Fuglsang breed

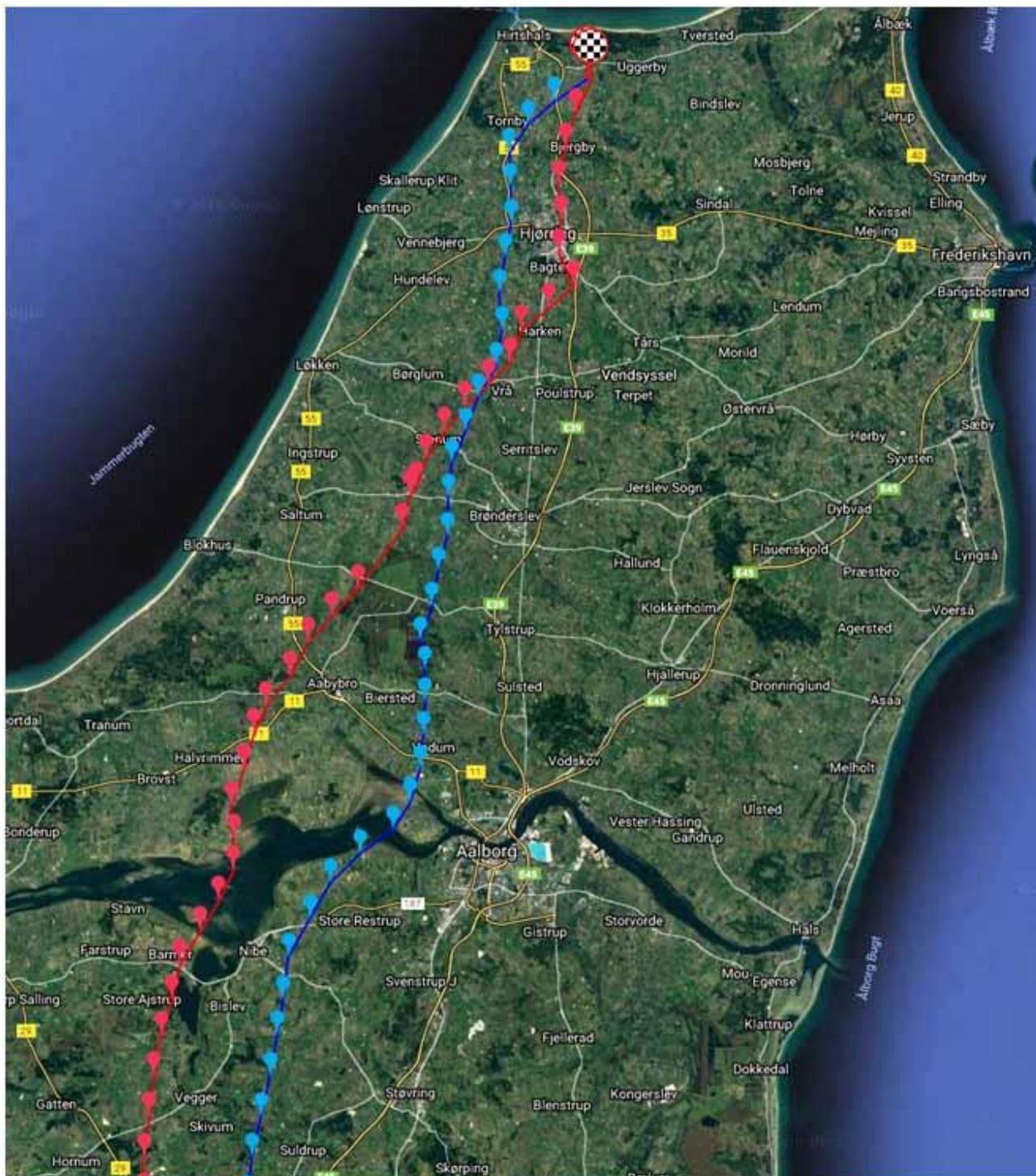
Weather 7. July 7.00am



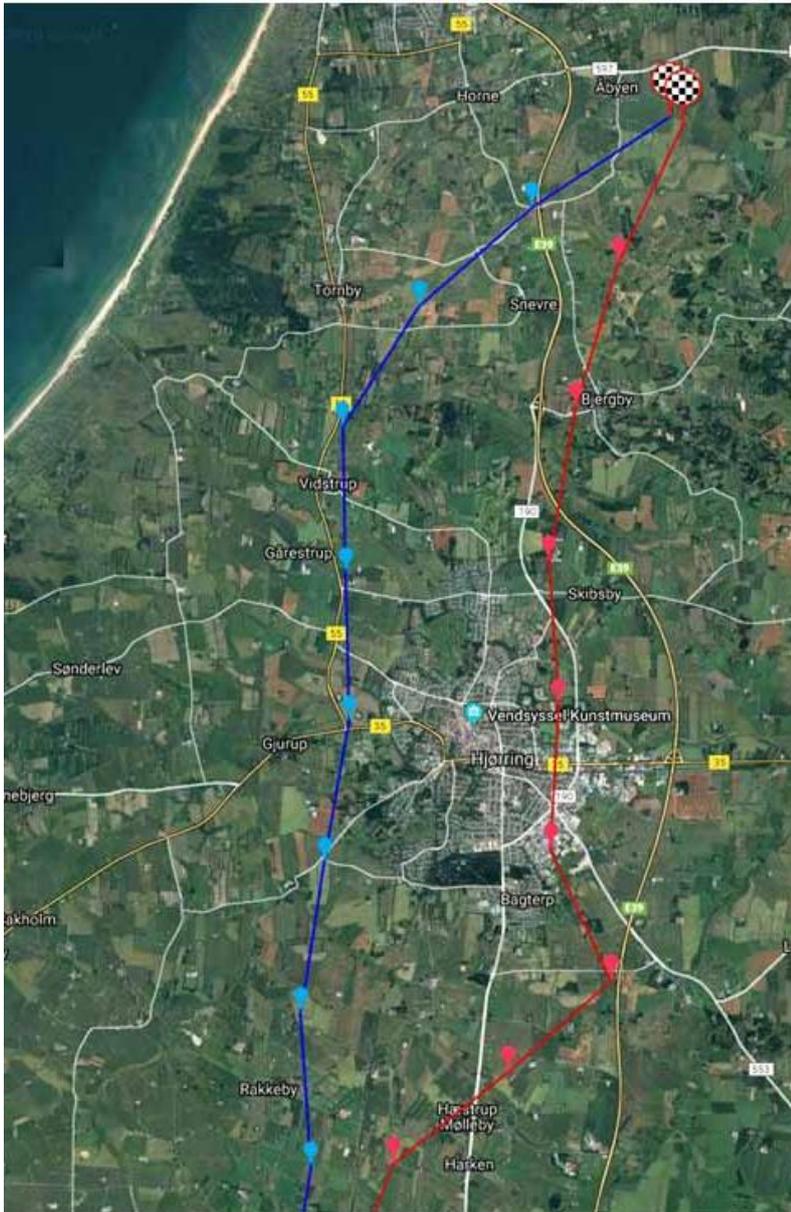
Partially cloudy, visibility fairly, light wind west, 12am fresh west



Crossing at Flensborg and Åbenrå, blue pigeon takes a route easterly over the water, while the red pigeon takes a route right over the two towns.



At the end of the route, the routes of the pigeons are crossing. The red pigeon are flying over the town of Hjørring, properly following a flock of pigeons with their lofts in Hjørring.



It can be of important in a race, what flock of pigeon the individual pigeon are in. As seen on the picture, the blue pigeon seems to go alone to the loft, whereas red pigeon seems to be in a flock of pigeon to the larger town Hjørring, and after this the red pigeon goes alone to the loft. The blue pigeon arrived before the red pigeon.

Download the routes Altona 7. July

Blue pigeon 212-15-1567A:

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20180712eMhcEx>

Red pigeon 212-16-1694A:

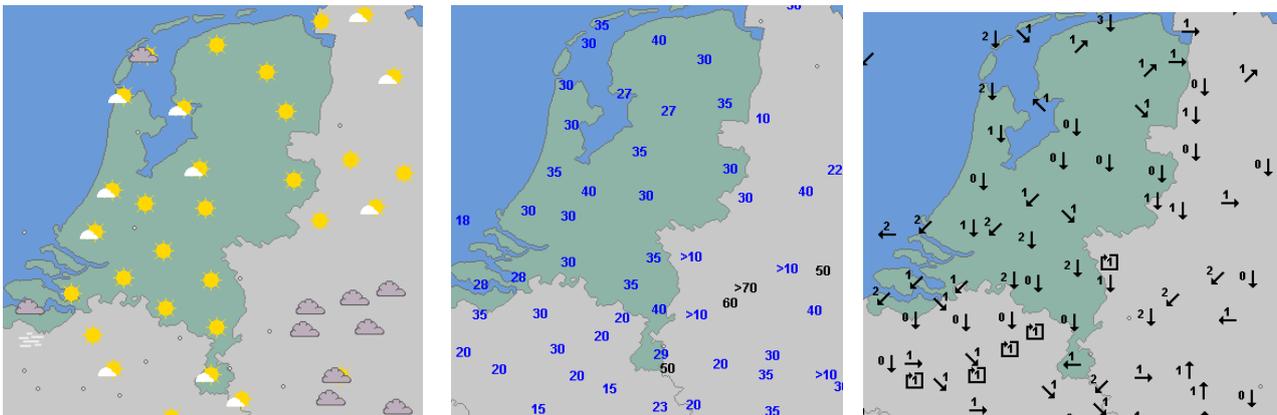
<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/2018071236xUde>

Antwerpen 7. July



212-15-1354A "Vandflyveren". Delbar - van Riel/Dan Kristiansen. This pigeon are a mix of the old well proved Delbar van Riel and a super long-distance breed.

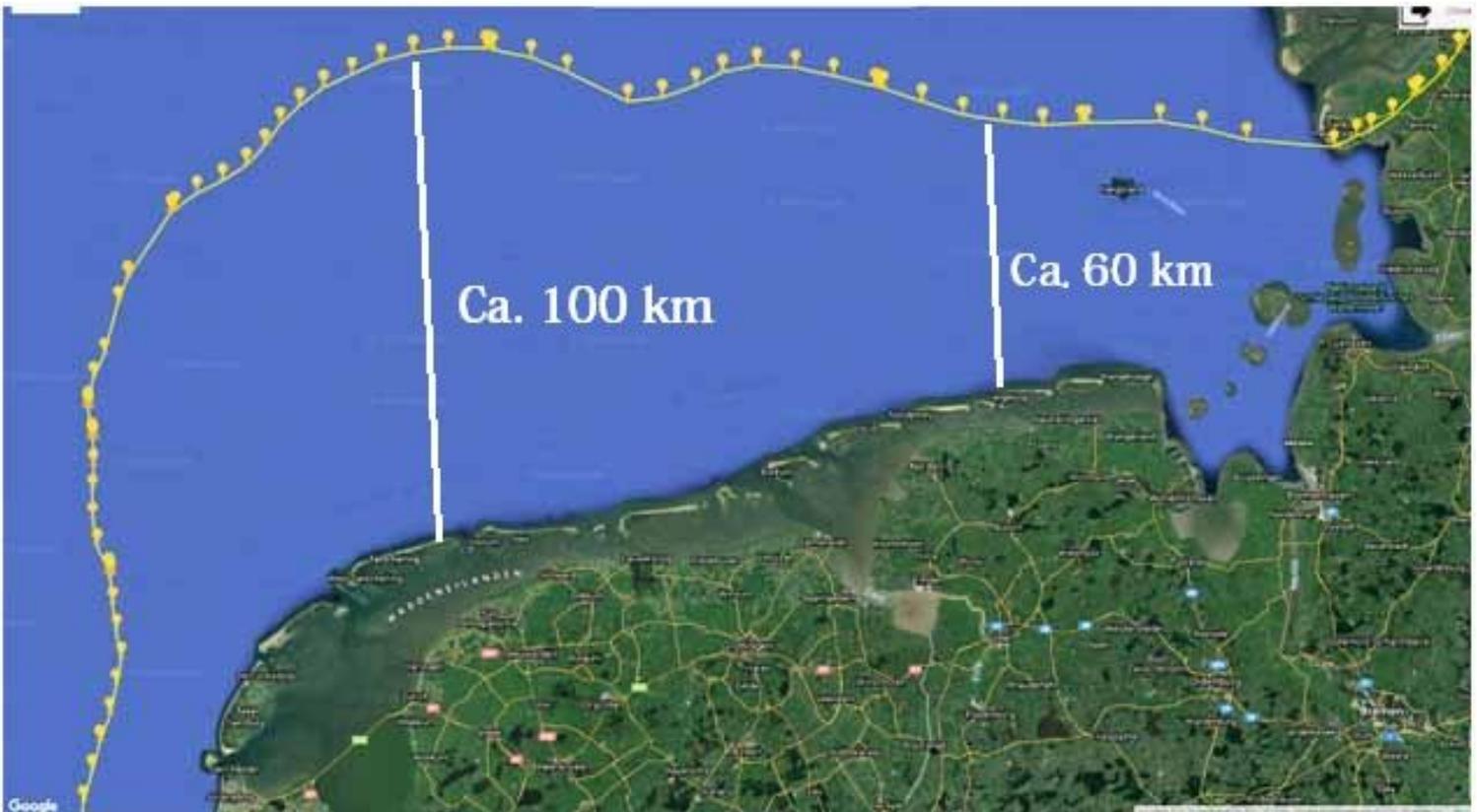
Weather 7. July. 6.00am Holland/Belgium



Partially cloudy, low humidity gives good visibility, low wind changing

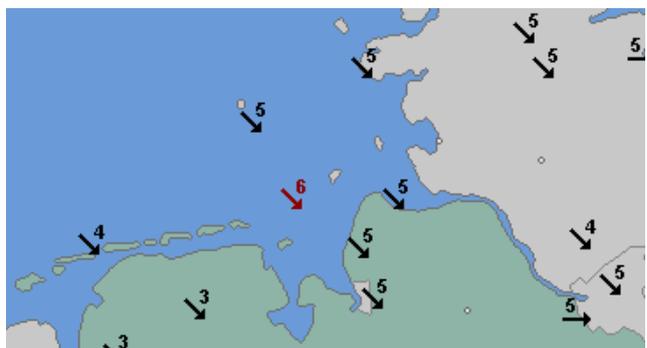
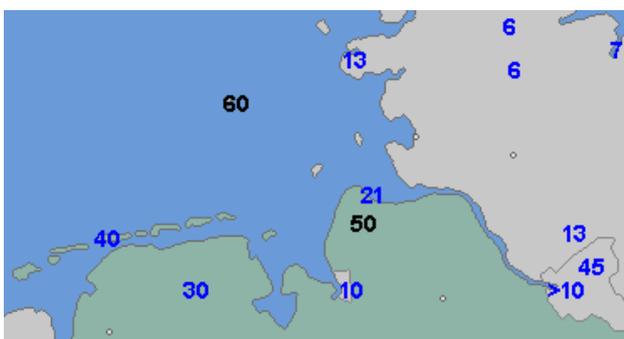


That flock of pigeons 1354A are in, goes northwest/north, and leave land for the sea where the river Rhine ends in the sea. The pigeons have a steady distances from the coast, and fly 3-400 meters over the sea. In one place pigeons are 829 meters above sea level, and have a speed of 1875mpm (112km/hour).

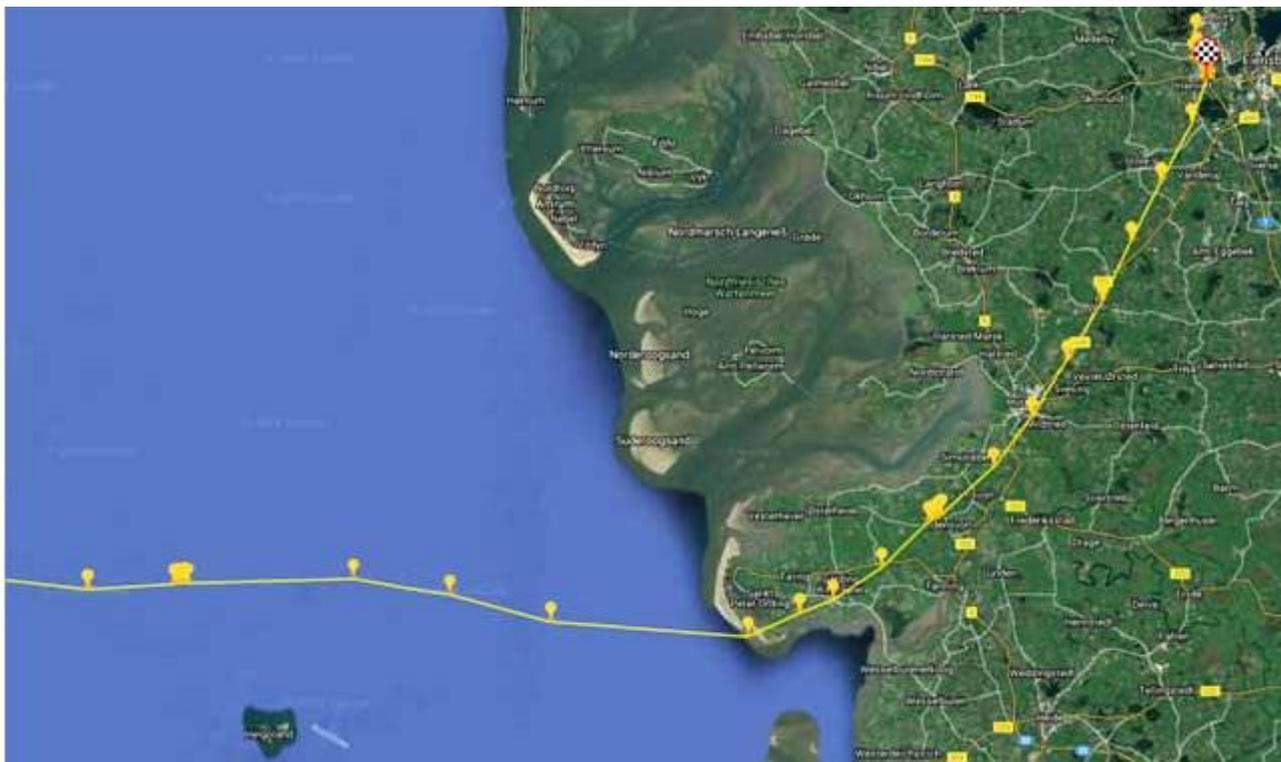


The first time one see this route over the Northsea, one thinks: "*What is happening here?*" The speed/hight over the sea, are generally 12-1300mpm, in a hight of around 300 meter. When the pigeons are near the small island of Helgoland, the speed goes up to 14-1500mpm and the hight of flying goes down. Some markers over the sea do not work proper, and are showing strange numbers.

Why are this pigeon flock making this big turning over the Northsea? The answer must be, that the flock of pigeons can see the coast of Holland, and they are up in 300 meters where they can see the coast! Look at the maps underneath where there are a "super-visibility" on 40-60 km. A pigeon can in this visibility see 100 kilometers.



Weather 12am: Visibility Helgoland 60 km. and at the coast 40-50 km. Wind fresh from northwest. The pigeons has the wind on the tail.



The pigeons go ashore north of Heide and proceed quietly to Flensburg, where at least 1354A are staying until Tuesday. In the picture on the left, one can see the pigeon seeking water and food. The battery runs out on 8. July at 14.15am. and have here lasted 39 hours. From release at 6.00am until landing in Flensburg, the pigeon has been in the air for 700 kilometers, and of which 530 km. are over the sea. No wonder that the pigeons do not go the rest of the way to the loft 320 km. away, but want a rest.

Download the route Antwerpen 7. July

Yellow route for 212-15-1354A:

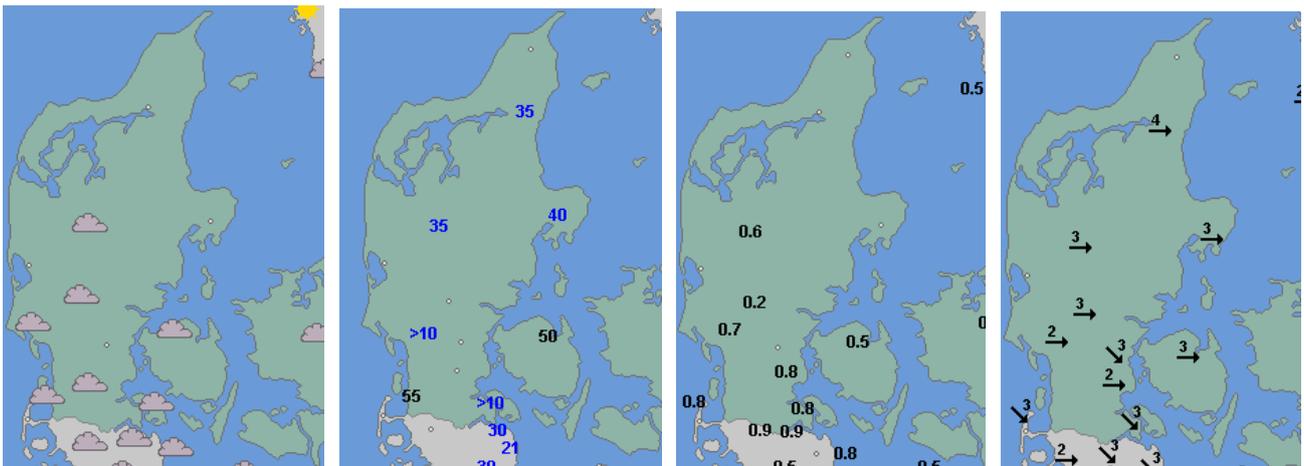
<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20180710FMoSSJ>

Sektionsflight Vamdrup 14. July

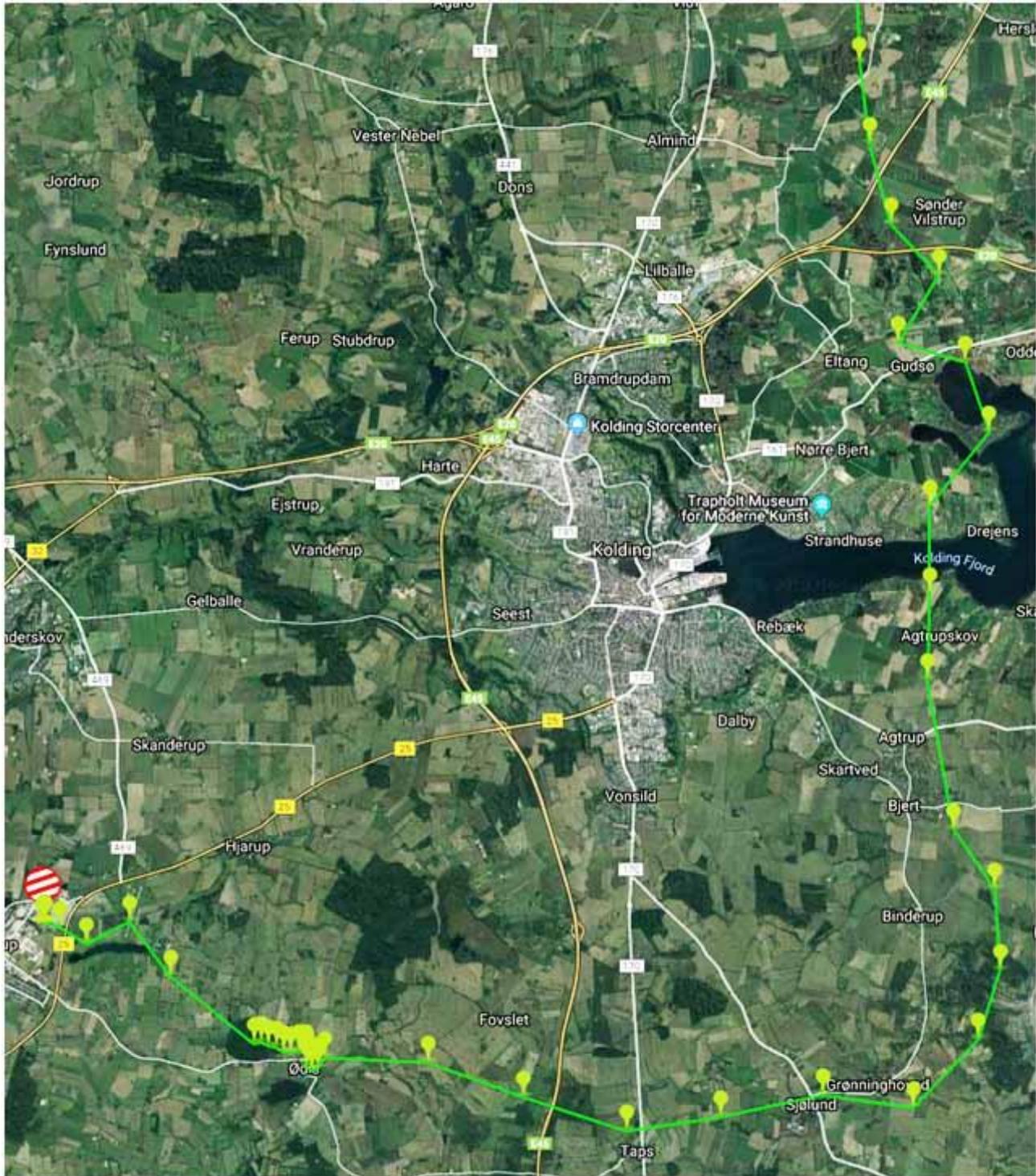


212-16-1917U -
Father are out of
Koopman in line of
Bullit - Mother are
inbred Vermote

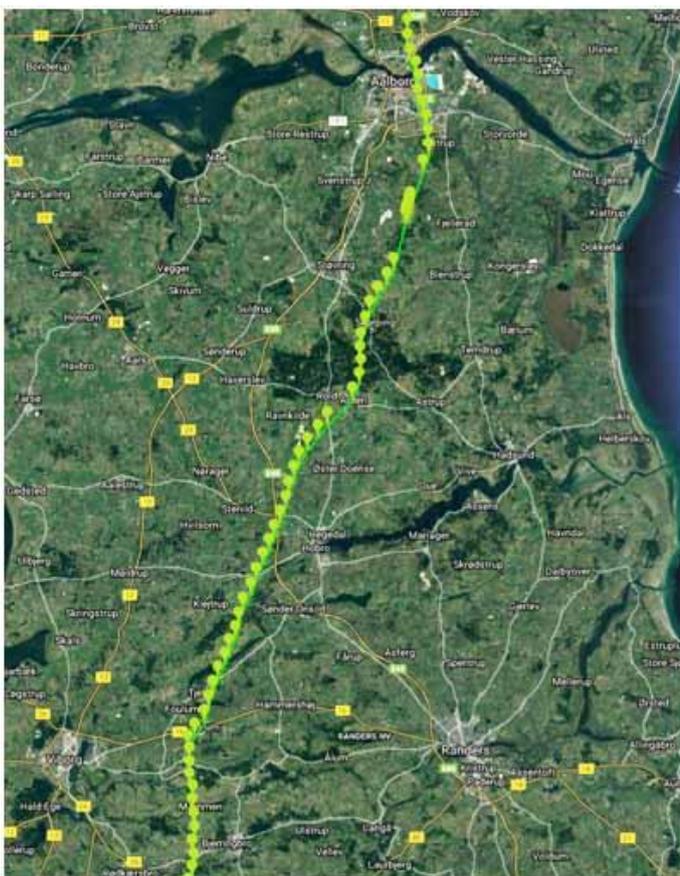
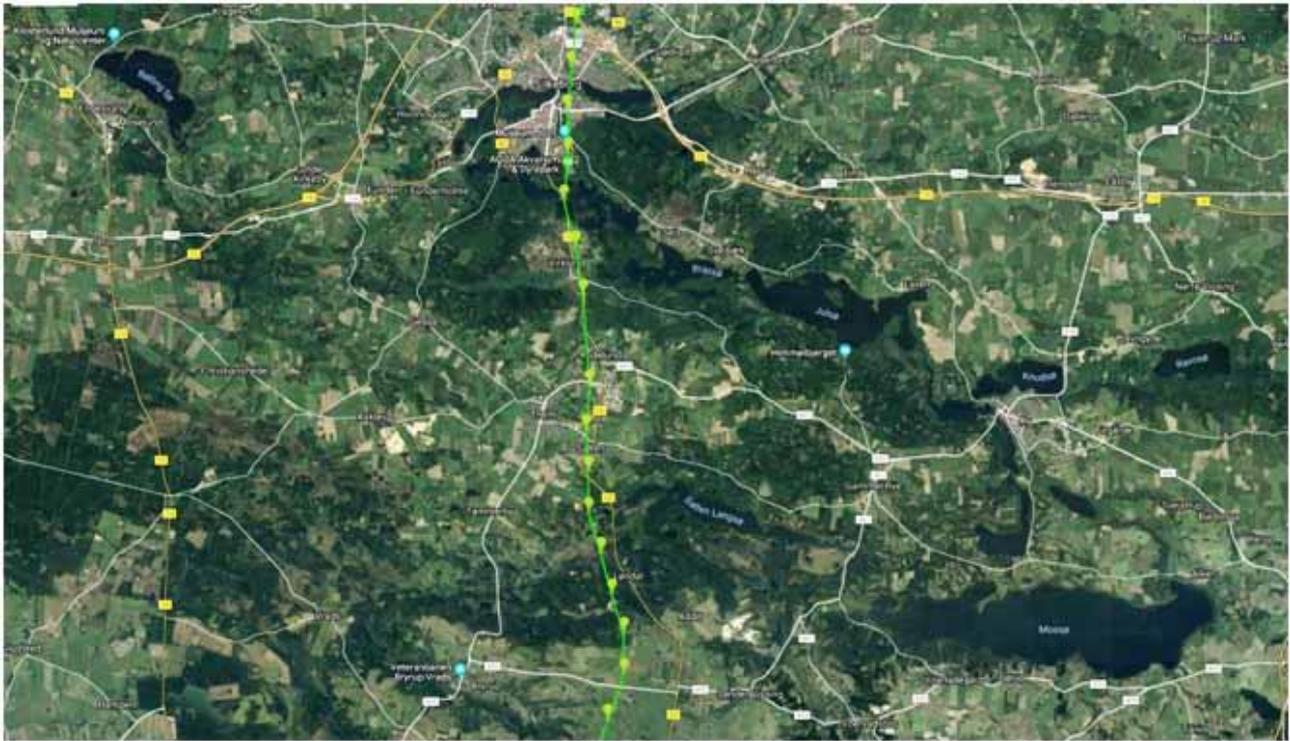
Weather 7.00am 14. July



Weather cloudy, visibility good, height clouds 2-800m, wind light/even west

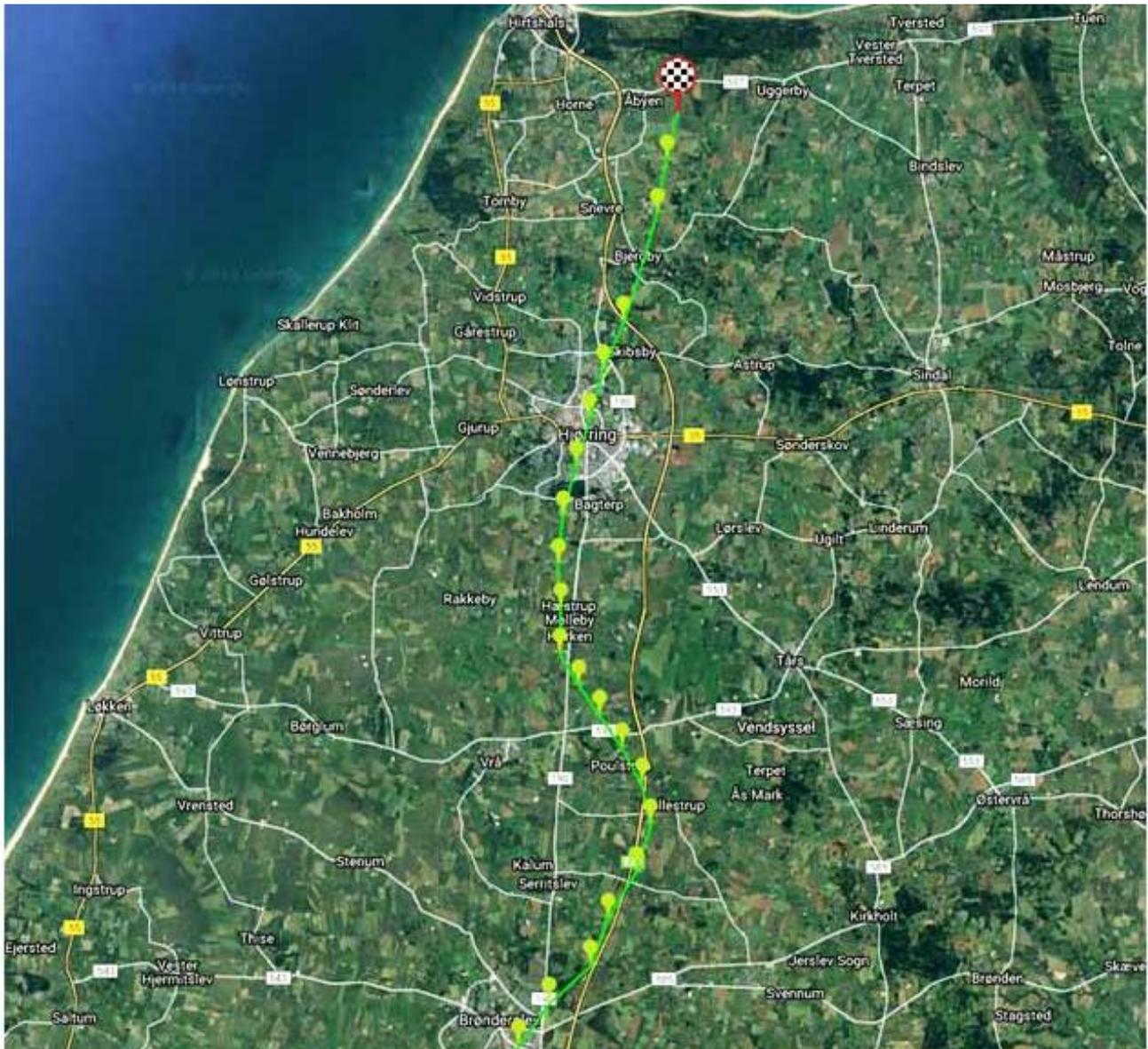


Start after release are going in the usual manner, and few kilometers from release site the speed goes up to 16-1700mpm. and further on goes down to 13-1400mpm. The wind are westerly, and the pigeon flock follow the wind until they get a bearing and turn north before the coast of Lillebælt.



The pigeons are passing over the town of Vejle, and further north the height of flying goes up to 2-300 meters and the pigeons passes the larger area of forest around the town Silkeborg. If pigeons meet a bigger forest, they do not go around, but raise the hihgt.

In picture on the left the route passes the town Viborg and turn to northeast where the flock goes over the forest Rold Skov and the big town Ålborg. Changing the route to northeast could be the stronger wind in the north.



In this area near the loft in north, the female 1917 are speeding up and going higher to 1-200 meters and she goes over Hjørring properly with pigeons from the area, and north of the town she speeds up to 1580mpm to get quickly home to the loft!

Download the route Vamdrup 14. July

Green route for 212-16-1917U:

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20180716LOG4hb>

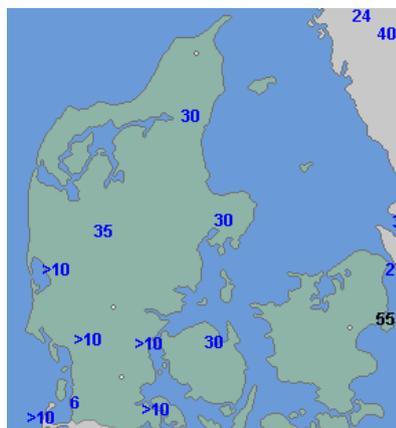
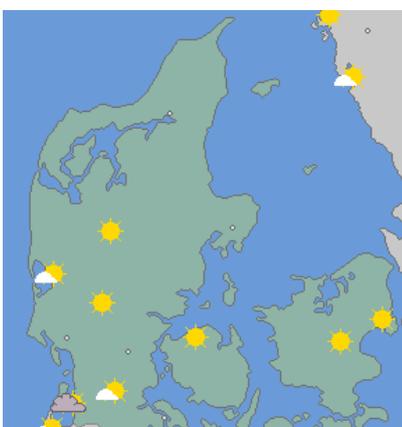
Tossing youngsters 3. July Nørresundby



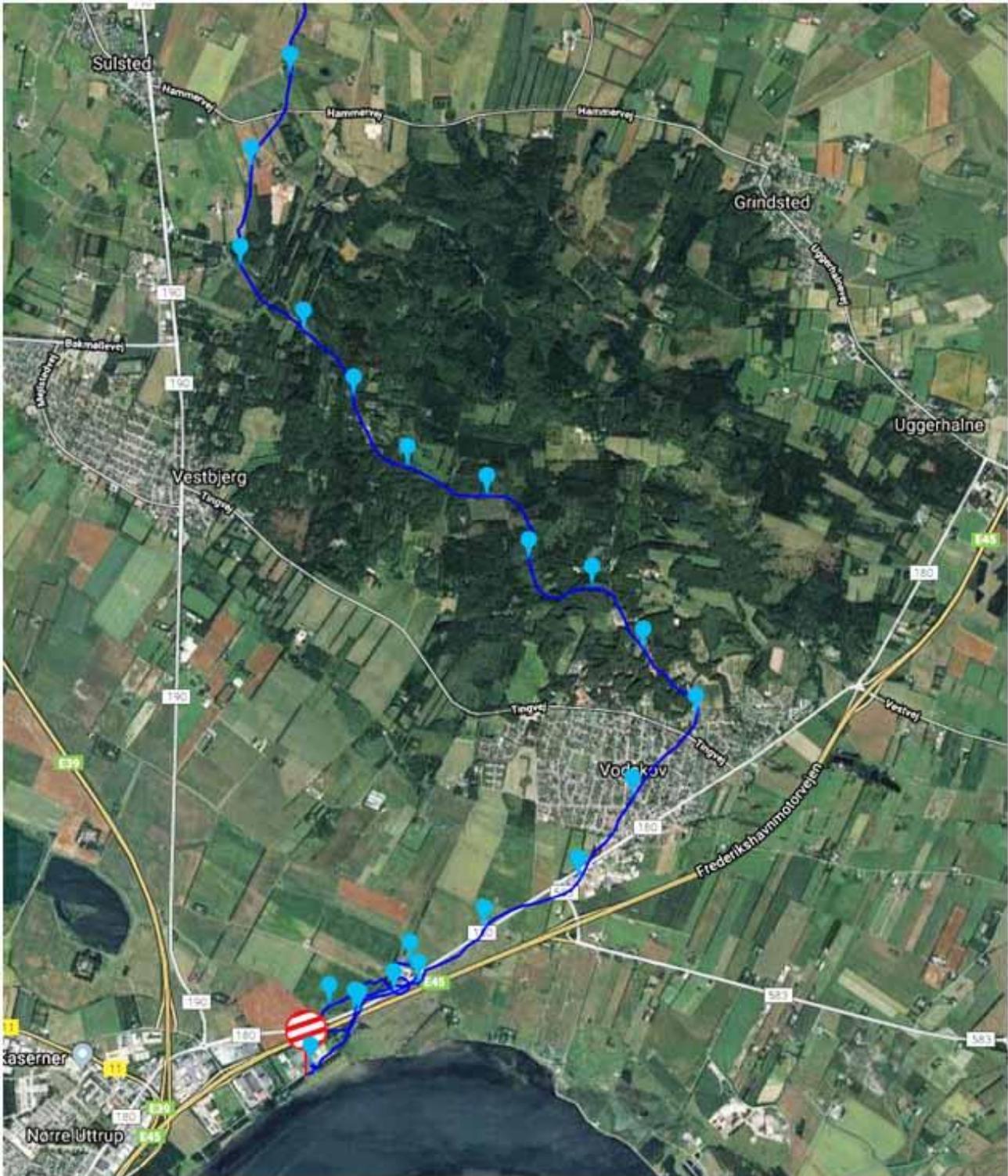
To have the GPS on in the flock of youngsters there were chosen a big black male 212-18-0161.

The black color are from Megens, which are from an old long-distance family.

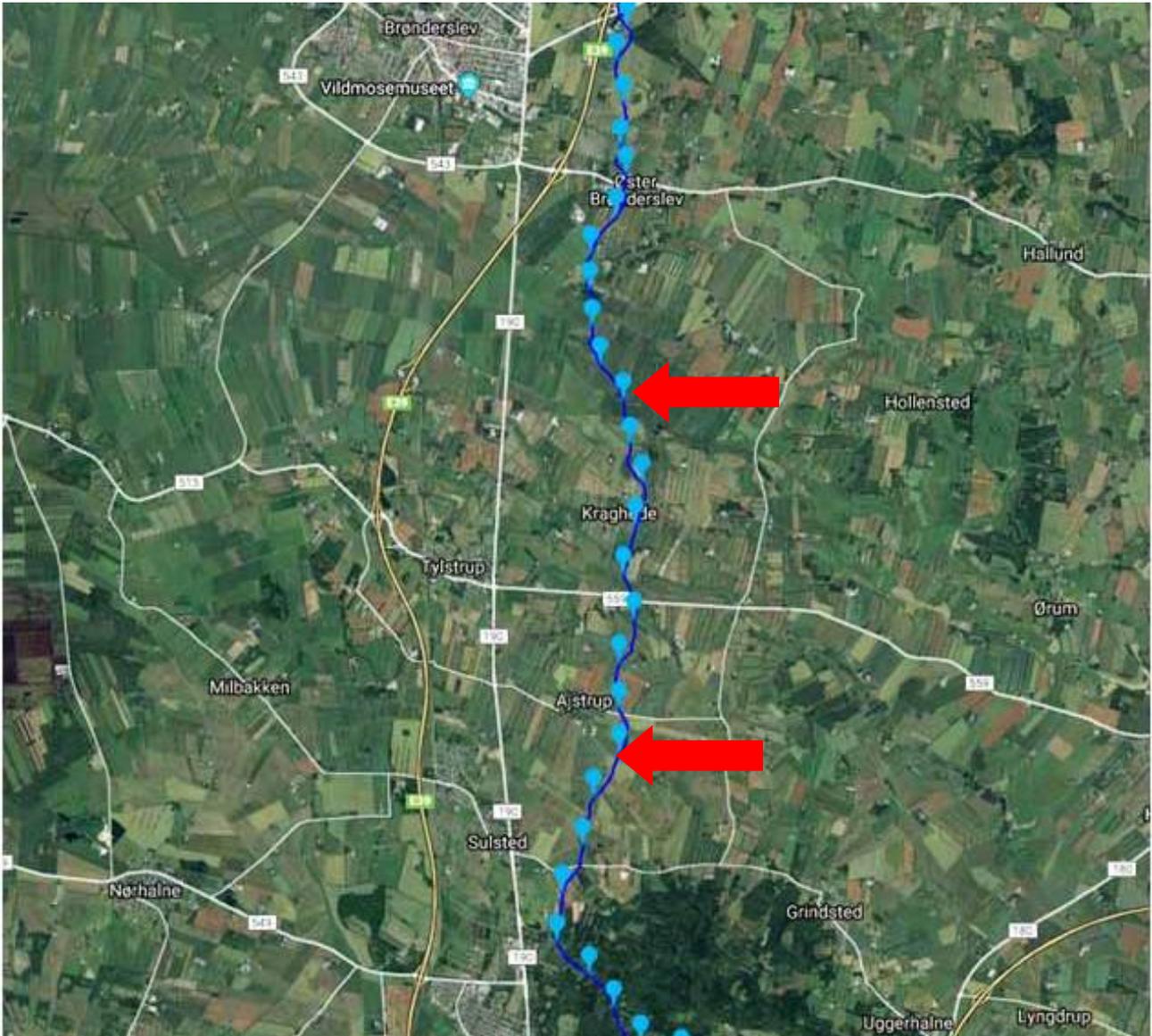
Weather 3. July 15am



Weather sunny no clouds, visibility good 30 km., wind southwest even



After release at Limfjorden, the youngsters goes fast northeast with the wind in the tail at the speed of 1579mpm. The flock finds out it has wrong direction, and turns to northwest crossing the forest Hammer Bakker at the speed of 14-1500mpm. Height of flying are 60 meters.



The trip back to the loft are going good, but notice the following events: Just north of Hammer Bakker the flock goes very low and gets the speed of 1800mpm.(100km/hour). More north the flock goes very low over the fields (2 meters)in a speed of 14-1500mpm. (red arrows).

Download tossing youngsters 3. July

Blue route for 212-18-0161:

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20180703qSvdZY>

More GPS-flights?

In this article it is only GPS-flights from my own loft, but let us hope we will see other GPS-flights from other fanciers, not only here in Denmark but from other fanciers all over the world.

Many fanciers insist that they just know where the flocks of pigeons have their route in a certain wind, but getting the pure facts from the GPS-routes one can be surprised a lot of times. On the other hand one can also be surprised how the pigeon not only navigate, but also take advantage of the landscape in which they are passing through. On the route in a race, a racing pigeon are always alert on the best position in the landscape.

