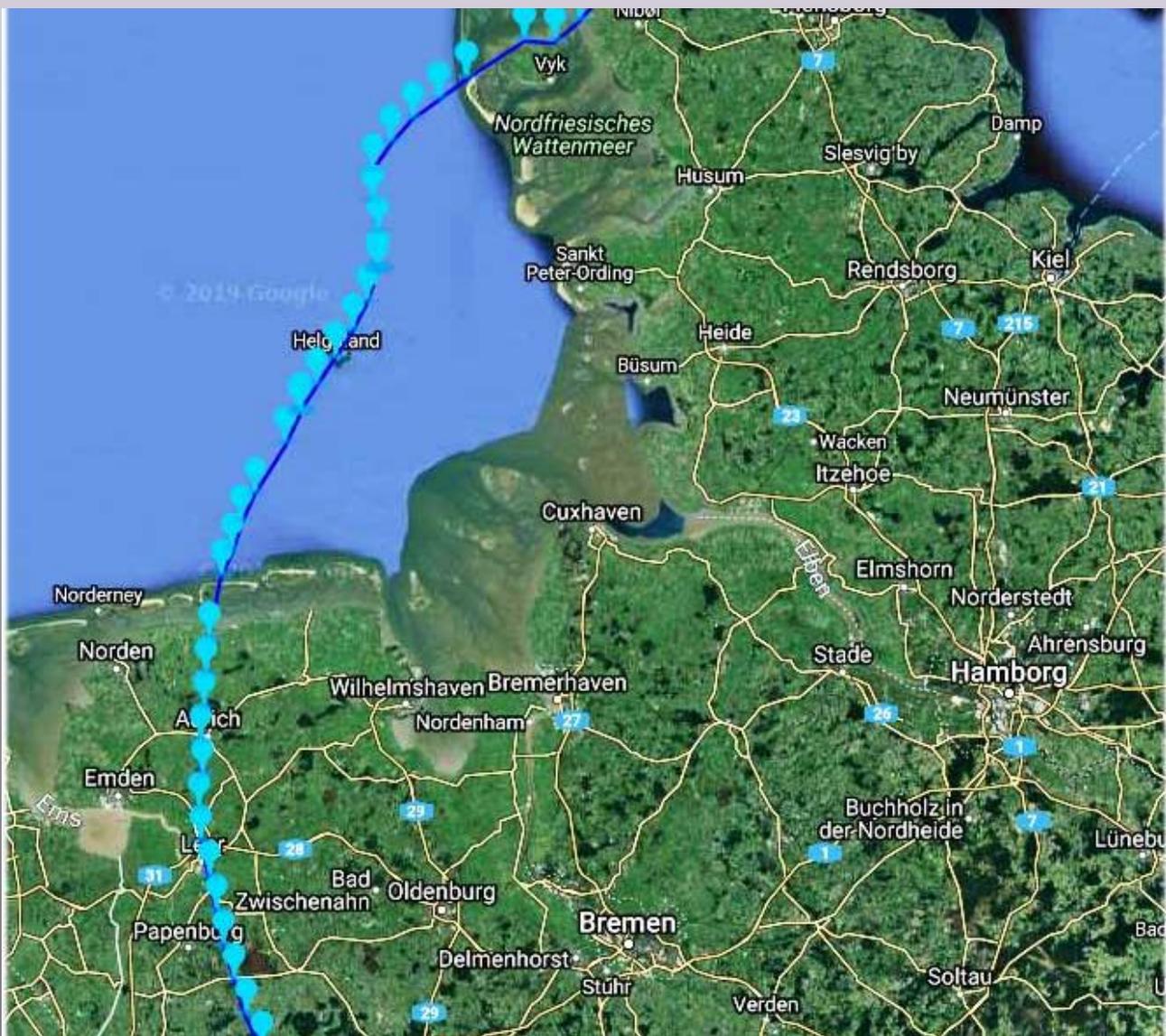


GPS in pigeon racing 2019 - 1

Ove Fuglsang Jensen



The challenge in GPS-rings

In a GPS-track one can see many exciting events of how the pigeons tackle different situations on the route home to the loft. If one can handle the Skyleader in the computer it is good, but it is also important to find the right pigeon for the job to carry a GPS-ring.

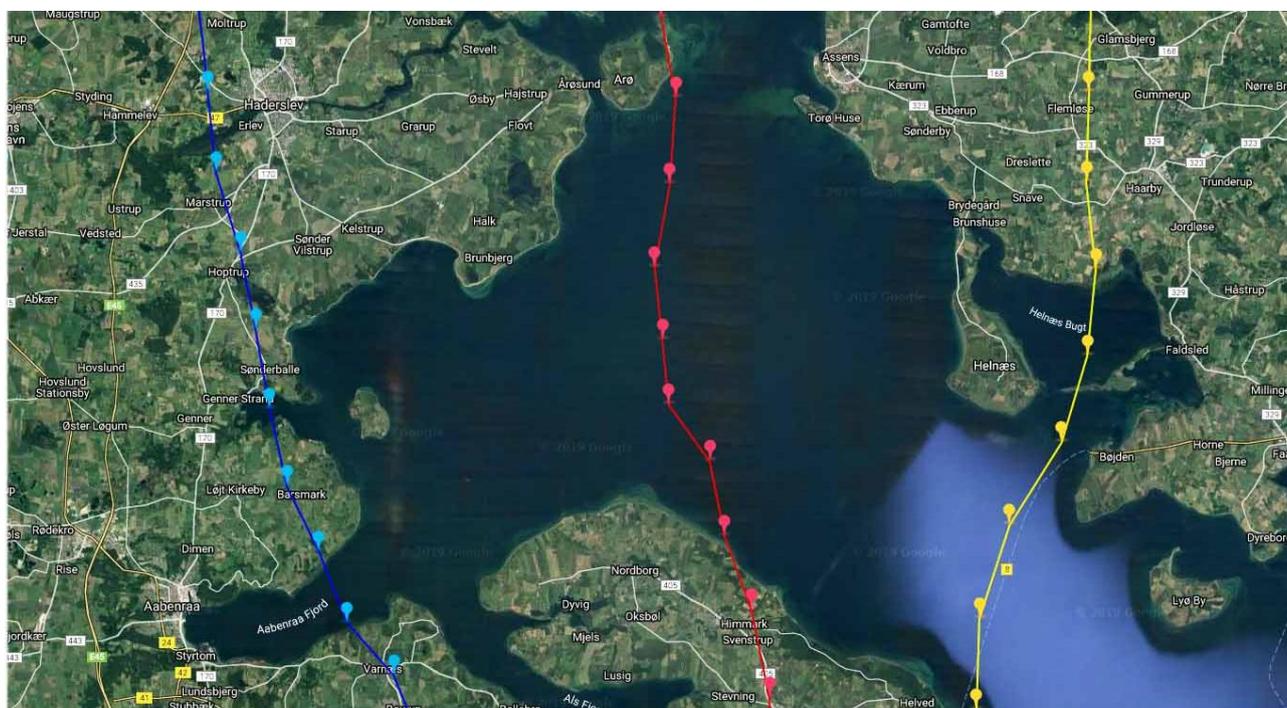
Which pigeon for GPS-rings?

Those pigeon from the racing stock, one wants to use with an GPS-ring, must have a certain size if the plan are to use a GPS-ring in 4-500 km and longer up to 750-800 km. The best are some strong cocks in a good size or if a hen the same with a good size. A small hen is not good, unless to 200 km and less.

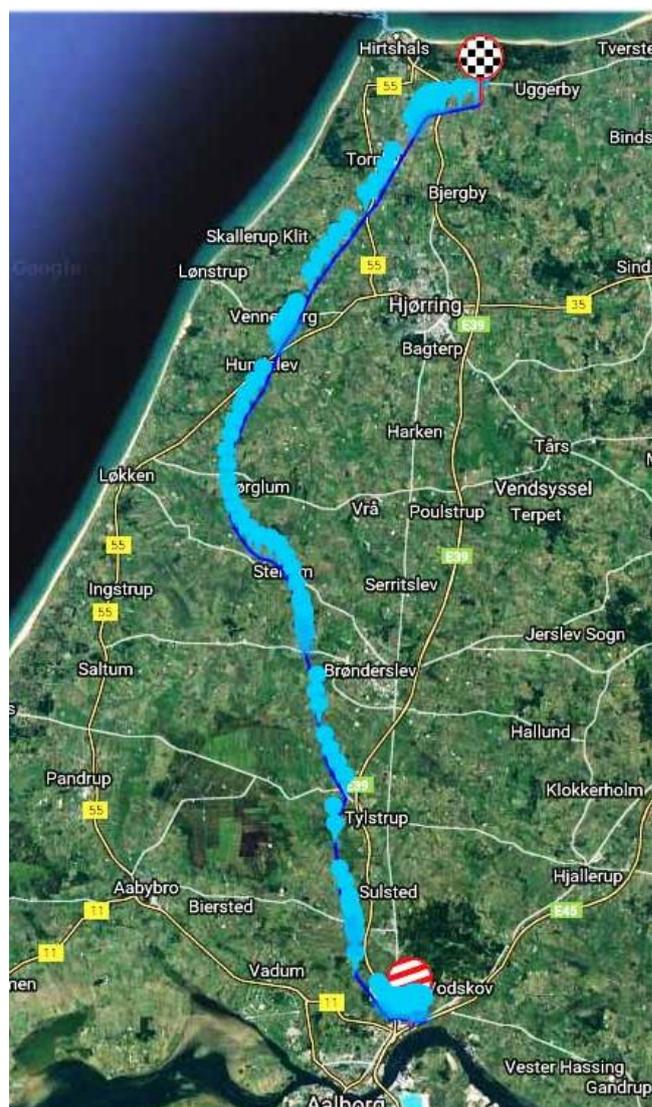
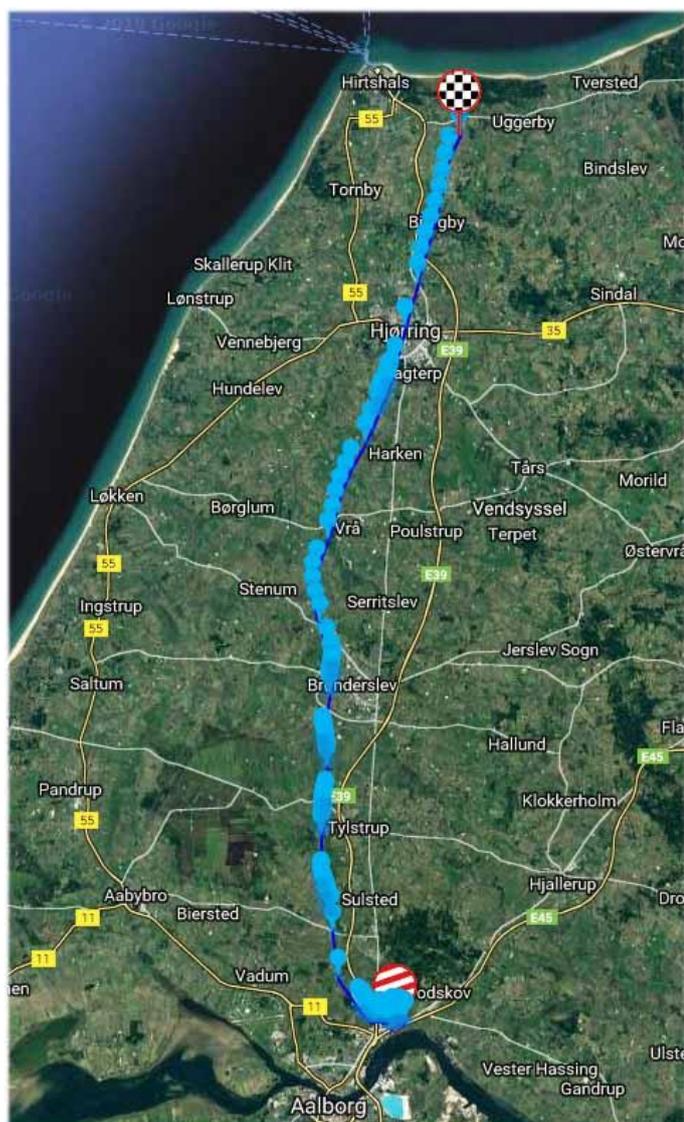
The way you make the ring ready to a race with date/time and then read the ring on the return of the pigeon, are not complicated. If a pigeon return from a longer race (7-10 hours), there can sometimes be a problem to have enough power from the battery to start the reading. One simply take the battery of and put on a fully charged battery.-

After reading the track, it is very important to write in the place of release, the date, pigeon number and the data on the wind. It is in the box left hand corner, and these data will then be shown on a race on the top.

This GPS-system are named Skyleader and are made in Taiwan. If you want to see or read about this system, you just Google Skyleader gps pigeon.



Tossing Bouet 14. og 28. May



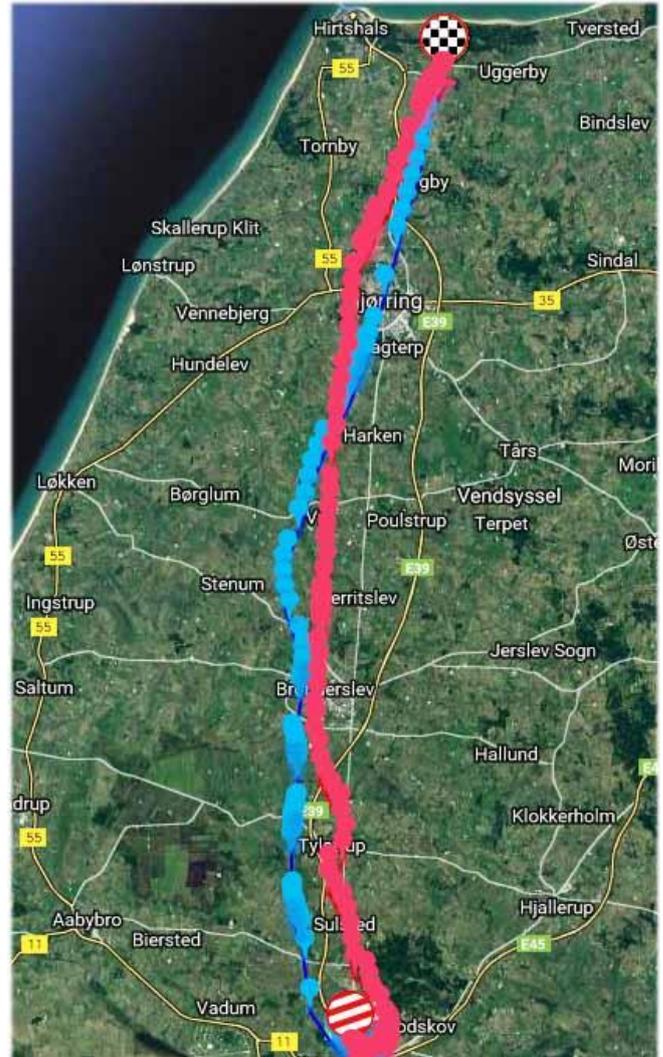
Tossing from Limfjorden. Route to the left are an old 3 year old, and the route to the right are an 1 year old. At the arrival to the loft. The 2 flocks of pigeons have 5 minutes between. The one year old and the other pigeons, turn to the left in middle of the route. The old pigeon takes the short way home

Download the routes 14. May:

The wind is weakly in South-west

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20190514bjdEj5>

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20190514GIHwMS>



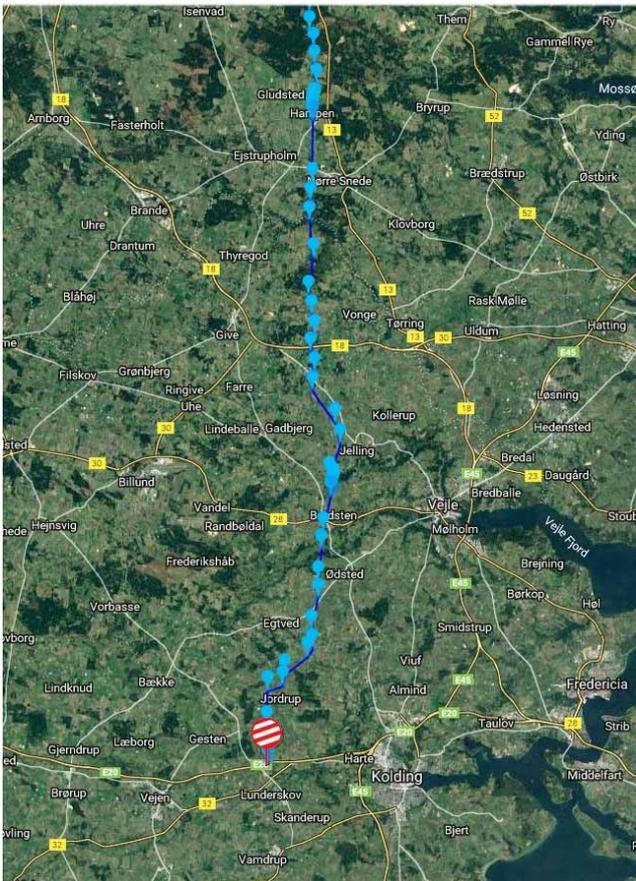
On the left are red route on 28. May, and on the right the two routes are shown together with blue route from 14. May, and red route on 28. May. The 14. of May the wind was weak from SW, and on the 28. May the wind are fresh from Northwest. One could think, that the strong wind from west the 28. May, would press the pigeons on a route more easterly, but this is not the case. In a distance of 50 km or more, the old pigeons knows the landscape very good, and remember every detail in the landscape.

Download the route 28. May:

The wind are fresh to hard from Northwest.

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20190722hCW0sB>

Vamdrup 18. May

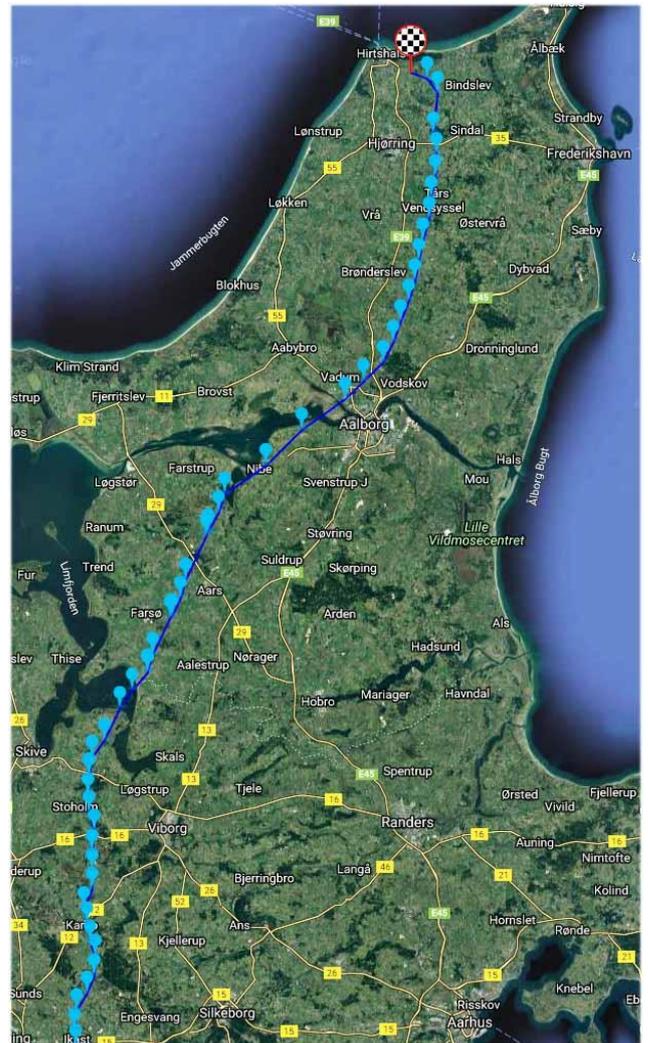
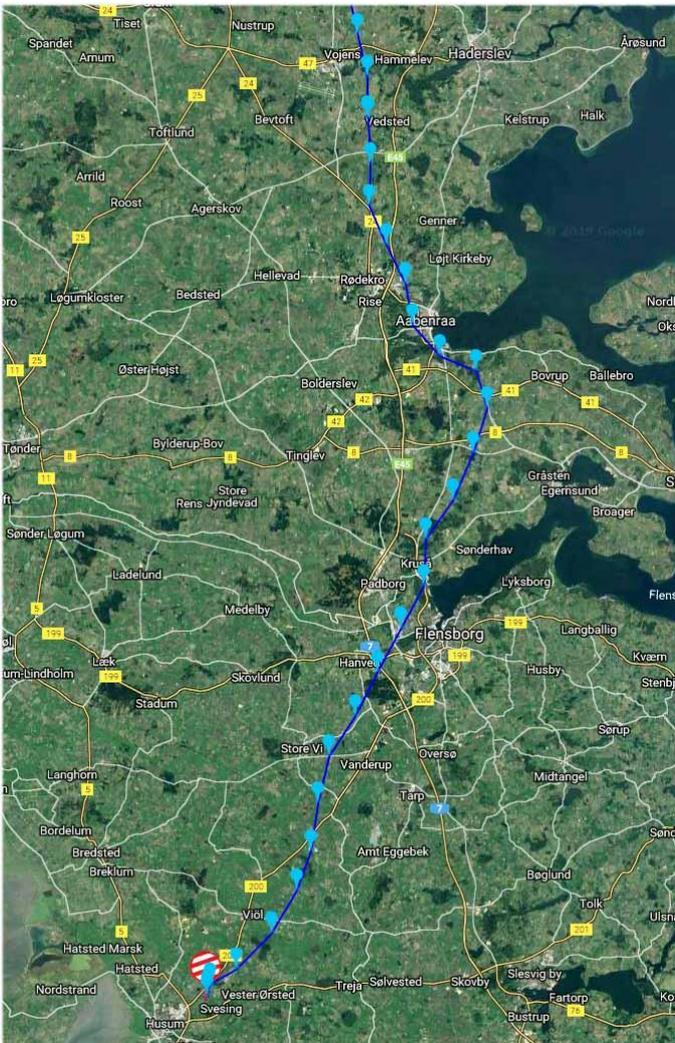


This race are in easterly winds, and here we could expect the route are going to the west, but the pigeons takes the midst of Jylland without going too far to the west. On arrival to Limfjorden, the pigeons are too much to the west an goes along the west coast.

**Download Vamdrup 18. May:
Easy wind from east-southeast**

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/201905232trt0a>

Husum 25. May



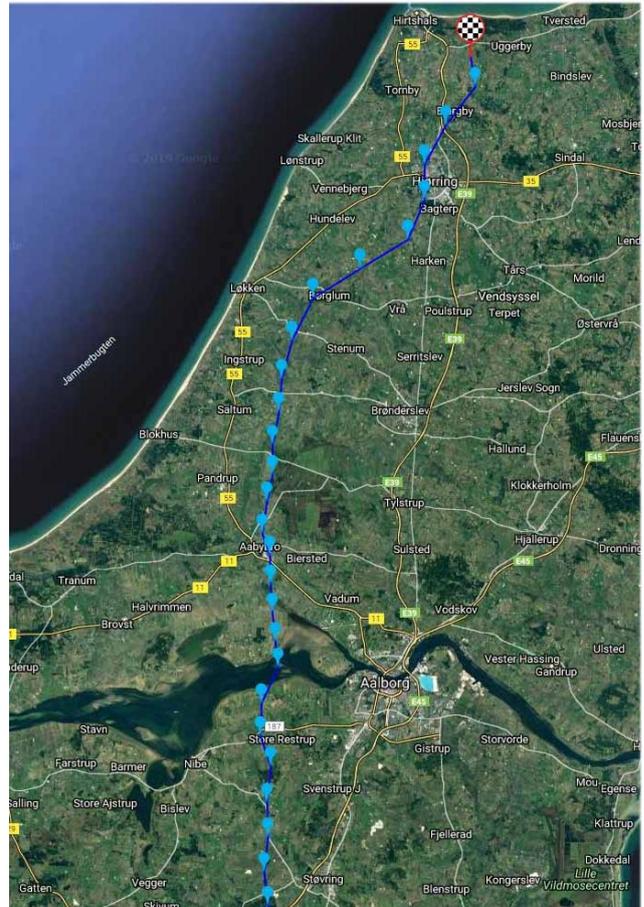
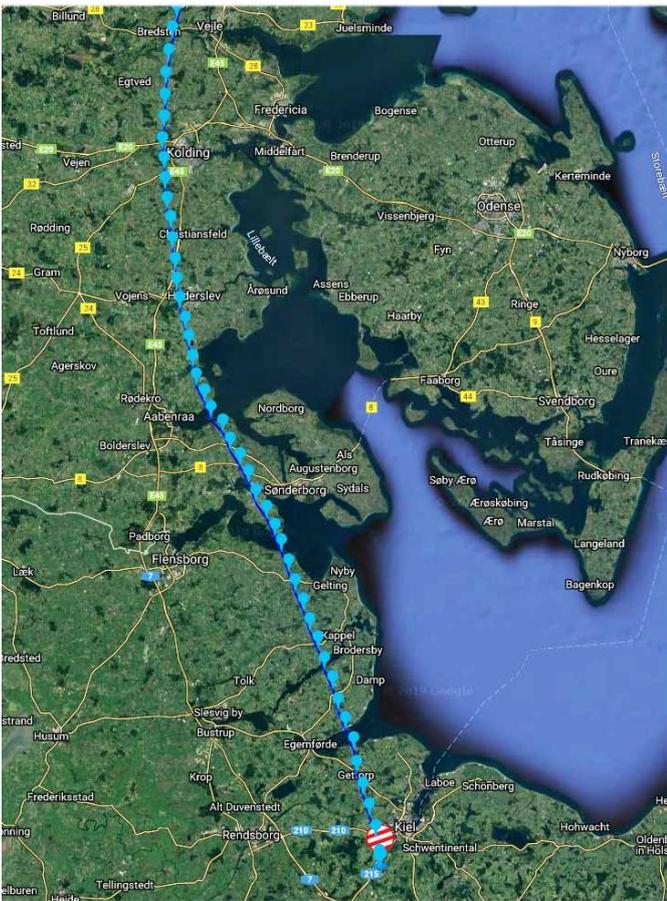
This day the wind is fresh from the west also in Husum, and maybe that is why the pigeon goes northeast end in Flensburg. At the town of Åbenrå, the pigeon goes northwest into middle of Jylland. It seems that this pigeon are in a flock of pigeon going to the west, because suddenly it turns the bearing to northeast and goes to the big town of Ålborg. When the race is on, the individually pigeons flies in a bigger or smaller flock.

Download the route Husum 25.May:

The wind are fresh from west all the way home

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20190722gzNZHC>

Kiel 1 June



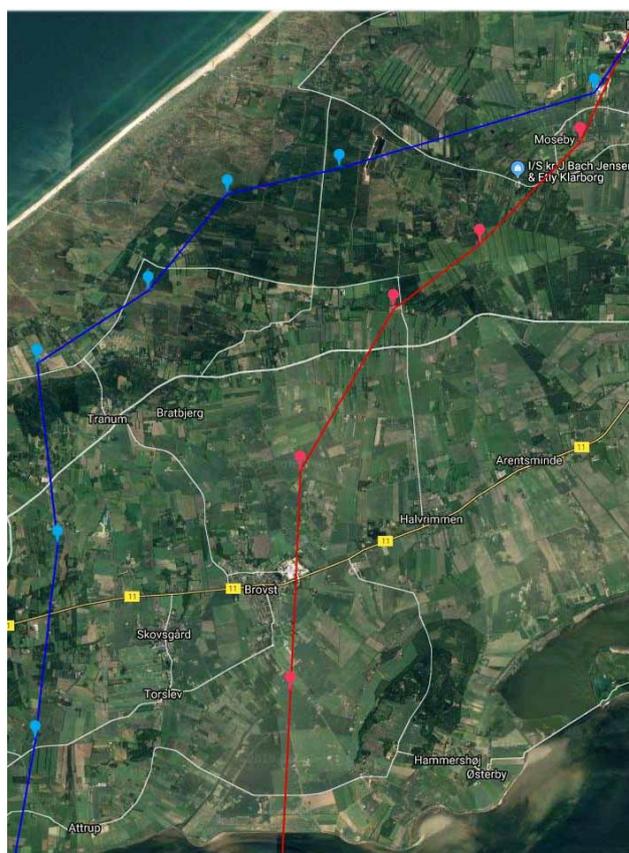
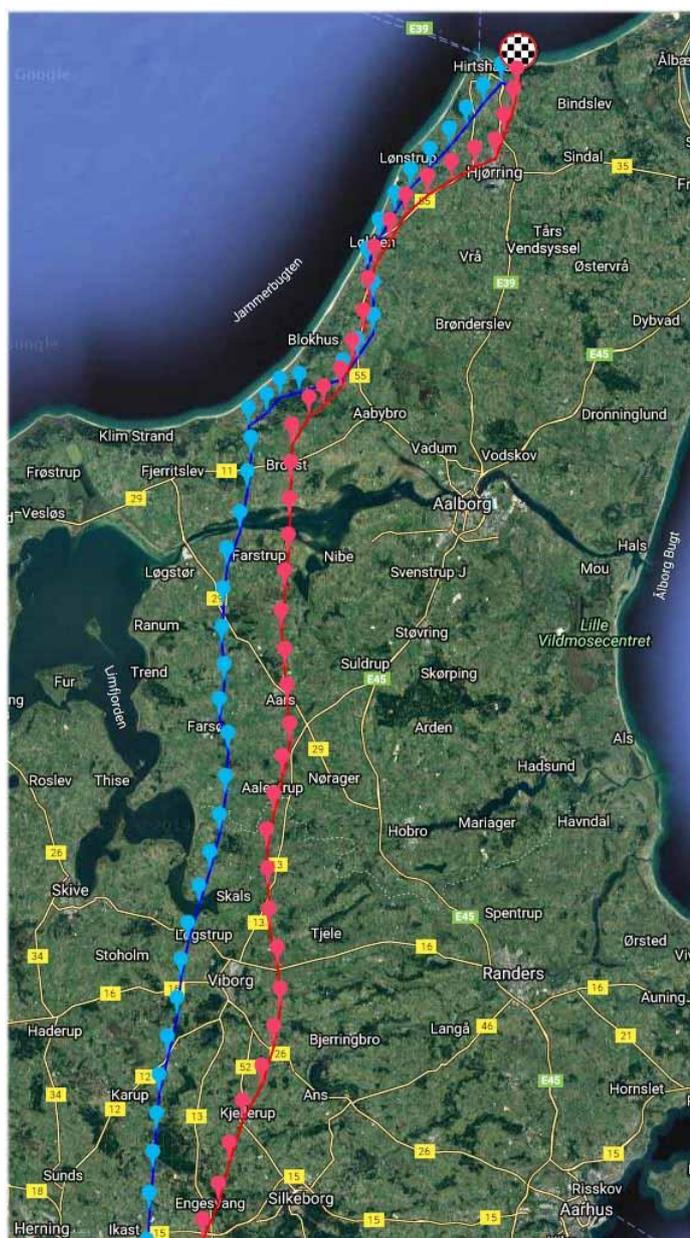
Some fanciers think the pigeons have difficulties with passing some water on the way. Are there a fjord or a curved coastline on the route, it is no problem for the pigeons. At a point on the route, the pigeon take a bearing to the north and hold the bearing. In north just south of Hjørring, the route takes a bend an cross the town, and that must be the small pigeon flock this pigeon are together with.

Download Kiel 1. June:

The wind are fresh from southwest

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20190722SmABuo>

Vamdrup 8. June



Looking at the start after release in south/southeasterly wind, the pigeons quickly gain a top speed on 1951mpm (117km/per hour) and flying height 500 meter.

Both pigeons goes north, but red pigeon (1694) take a bearing northeast, while the blue pigeon (1367) goes straight north. When

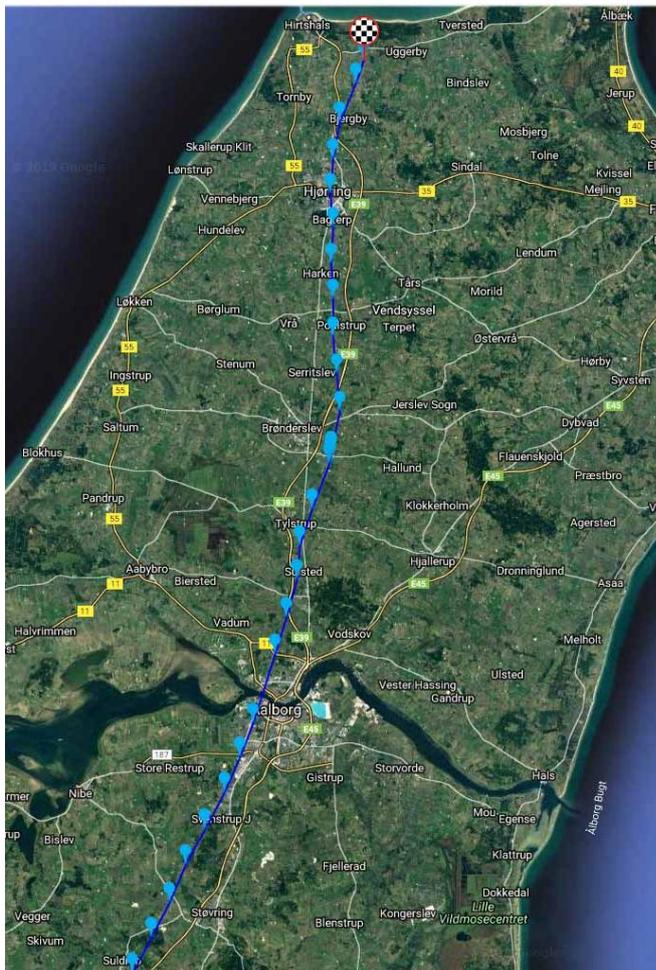
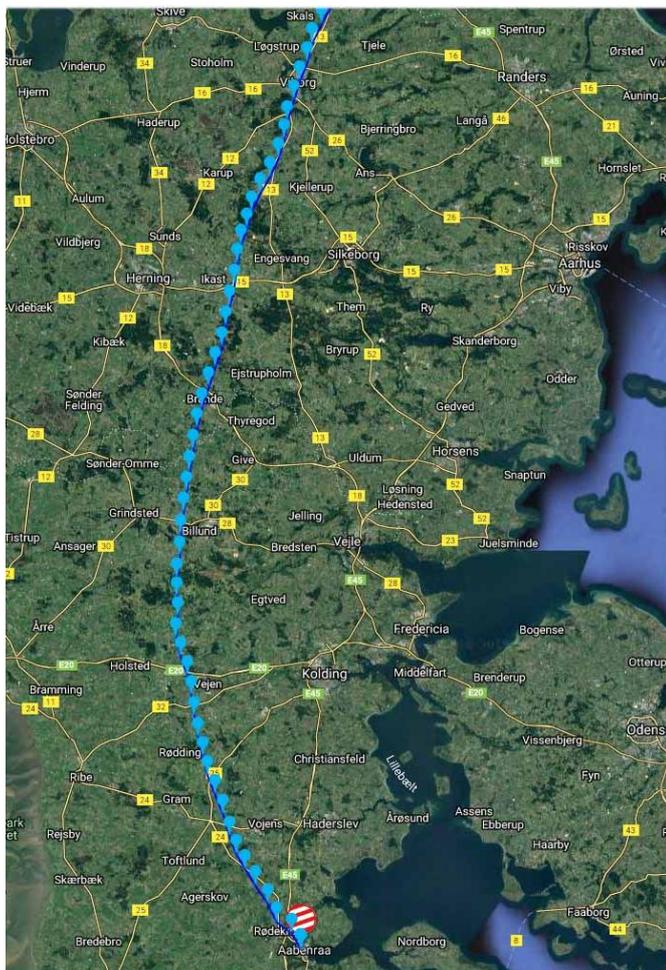
both pigeons hit the west coast, the blue pigeon are too much to the west. If we take a look on the small picture both pigeons hit the same route, but now the blue pigeon are 8 minutes behind the red pigeon.

Download Vamdrup 8. June:

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20190723cIuvPV>

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20190723N4fvs6>

Åbenrå 22. June



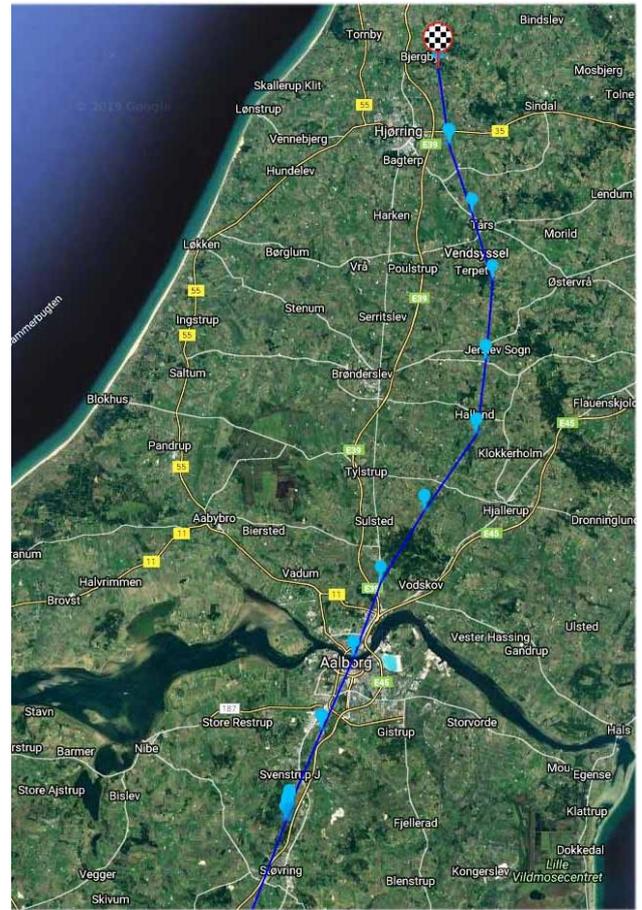
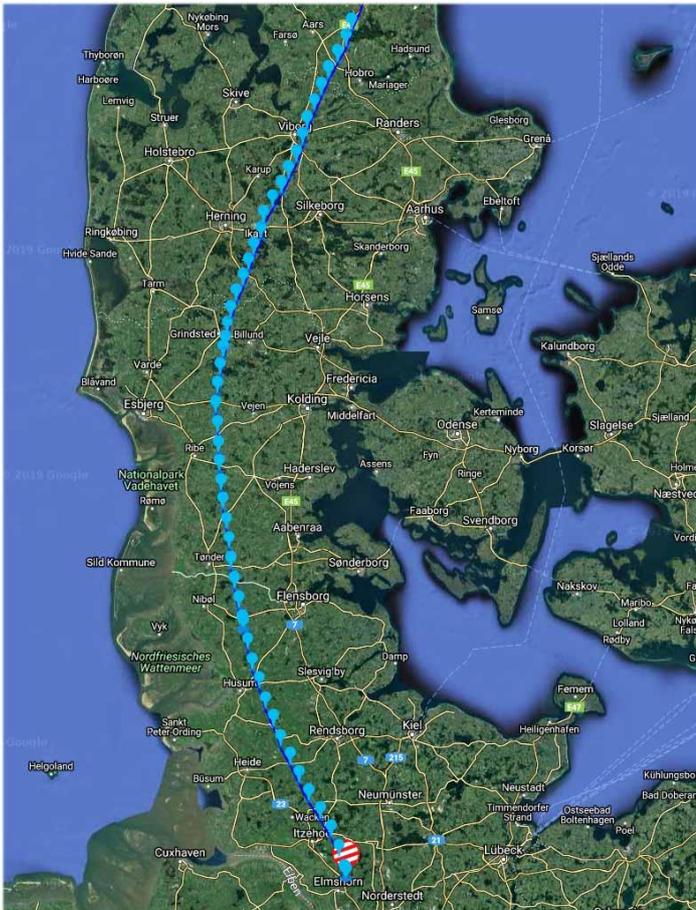
The start from release goes in a steady speed (1250-1300mpm) and the route goes northwest against the wind. At the town of Vejen, the pigeon takes a turn to northeast, which are a wise decision. This route goes to the town of Ålborg where it seems the pigeon are in known area and goes straight north. The wind cannot have a great influence on this pigeons route as the pigeon takes a bearing rather in the south .

Download Åbenrå 22. June:

On the release site the wind are from north/northwest - later west

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20190730qoHdIA>

Altona 22. June



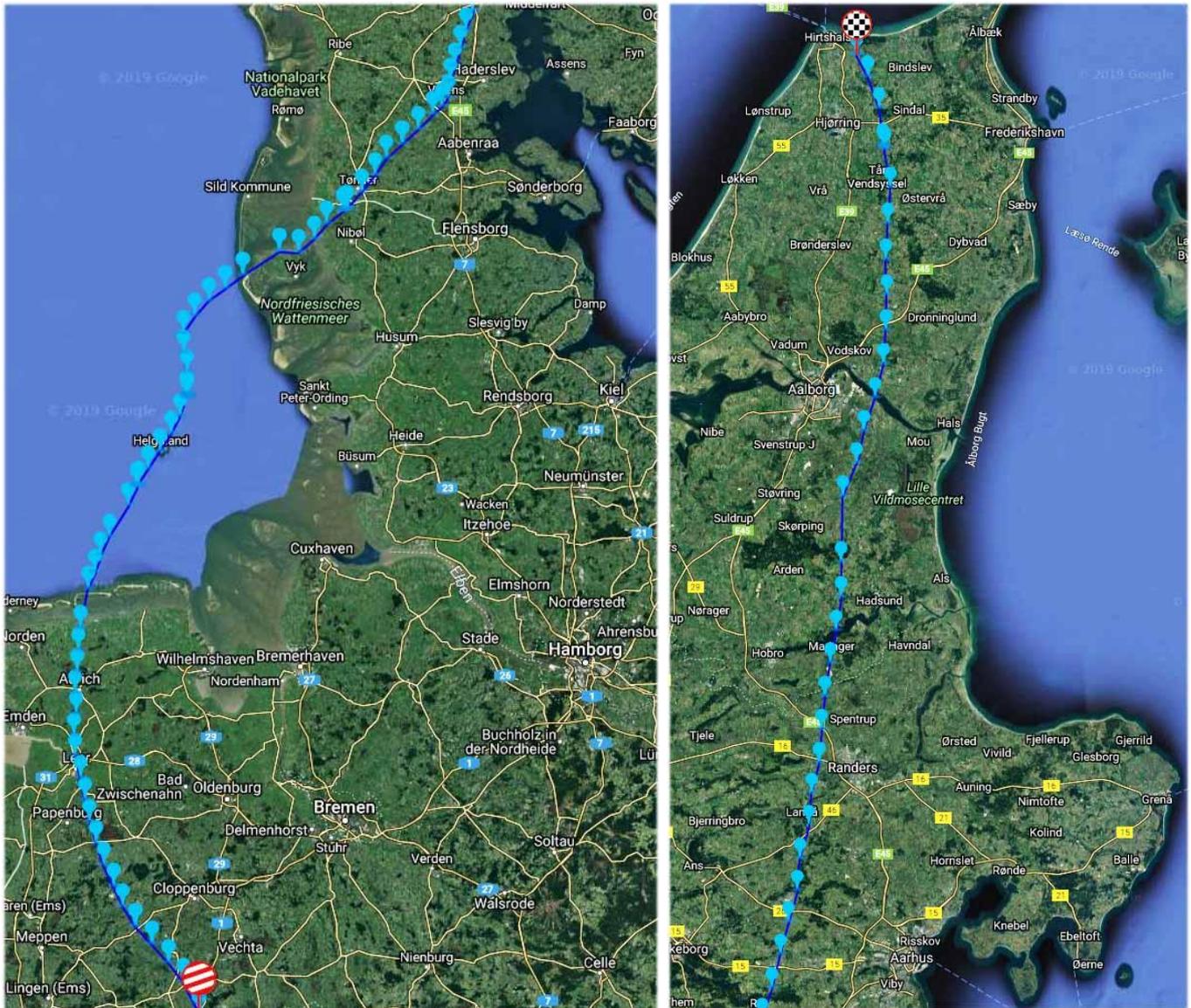
The first 20-30 km after release goes in greater speed, but thereafter the speed are more moderate. When the pigeon reached on level to the town of Esbjerg, the bearing are north east, and this leads the pigeon to the town of Ålborg.

Why the pigeon takes this bearing from the start and later made a correction to the better, are in no way to analyze the reason. The wind in Hamburg are easy wind from northeast, and later in north wind from west. Looking on other GPS-tracks, it is not possible to see the wind have an influence on the bearing the pigeon are taking. This cock 1694 has been used in a lot of GPS-tracks, and are a steady pigeon in the bearing.

Download Altona 22. June:

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20190730J1dByY>

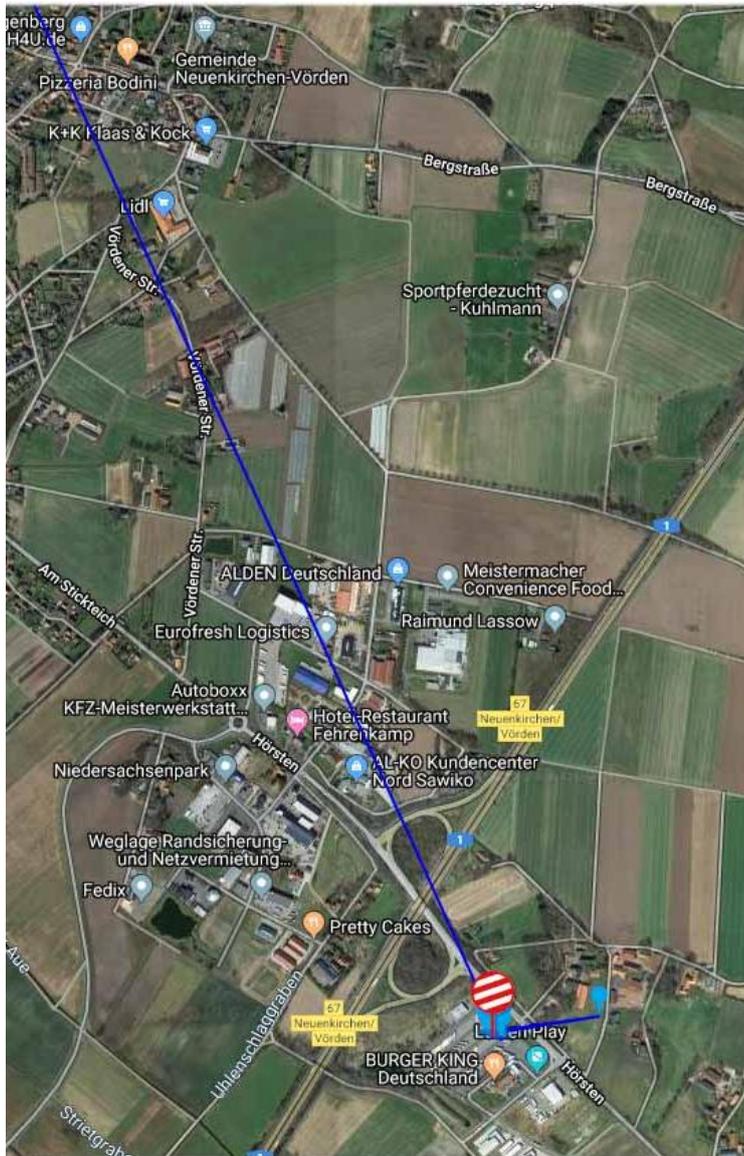
Osnabrück 22. June



In the release area the pigeon do not circle to find a bearing, but take a route to the northwest in a speed of 1100-1200mpm. Near the coast the pigeon goes north, and the height of flying are low over the landscape, but over the sea it rise to 250-300 meter, and after passing the isle of Helgoland the height of flying rises over 400 meter. When crossing the marshlands, the height of flying are still up to 400 meters, but at the town of Åbenrå the pigeon goes down to a more normal height under 100 meters. As soon a pigeon falls unsafe on the route home, it is always gaining height to have a visual over the landscape or sea and islands.

Osnabrück a bad release site?

In the sport of racing pigeons, there have been some incident where the result of a release have been in a bad way. It is therefore necessary to find another site for release. Some fanciers are of that believe that Osnabrück are a bad place to release.



If we put on a GPS-ring, we can see how the pigeons are taking a bearing after release, and if the pigeons takes a lot of curves which takes 20 minutes or ½ hour to get a bearing, there must be something wrong. Now! - sometimes the pigeons do not leave the site in a good manner, but there are simply so many things to go wrong, that could be a coldfront, an inversion some disturbs from the sun. As one of many things to disturb the pigeons, could be the place of release.

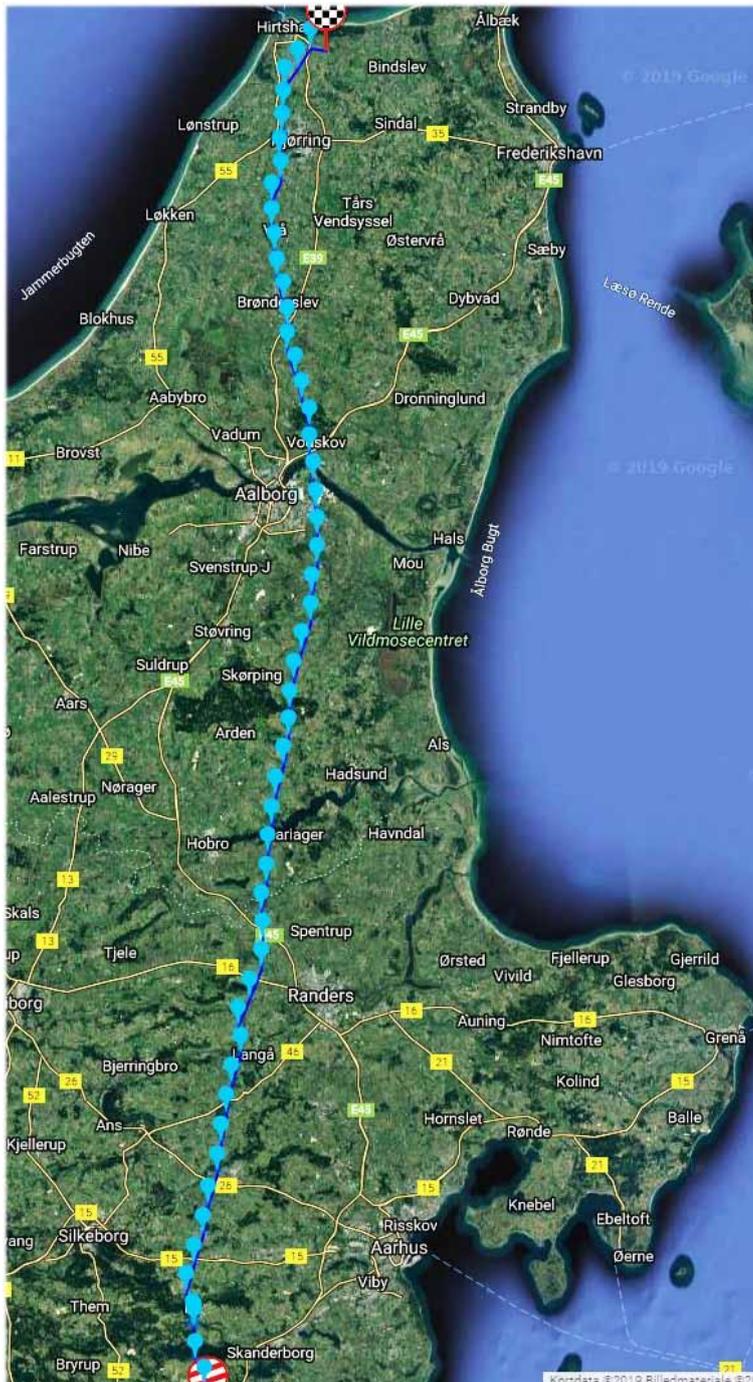
If we look on the picture on the left, the pigeon do not curve for 20 minutes or more, but goes straight in a bearing to northwest. The route shows, that the route to northwest should have been north-northeast. This error brings the pigeon over the sea at the island of Helgoland

Download Osnabrück 22. June:

Wind at release easy from northeast - bay of Helgoland north - Jylland easy northeast shifting to northern fresh wind

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20190730VRCUXD>

Horsens 7. July



The normal place of release for most racing are Vamdrup, Haderslev and Åbenrå. Seen as east/west, these towns are lying on a line, and when the pigeons goes into the air, the routes of the pigeons will be nearly the same. The town of Horsens are more easterly, and one could therefore ask which route the pigeons will take to the north. Looking at the route it is obvious that the pigeons goes more to the east. When a race are starting and the pigeons are out of the baskets, they will take a bearing home, and are the site of release more to the east, the route will of course also be more to the east. The wind will of course have a certain influence on the route, but the pigeons will always try to adjust the bearing home to the loft.

The wind are an easy wind from northwest.

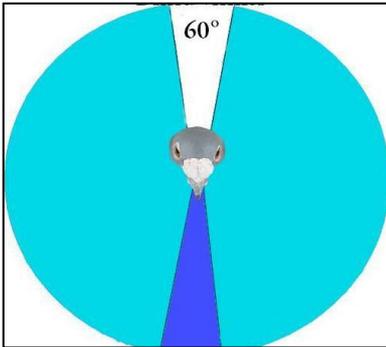
Download Horsens 7. July:

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20190731QwMOPM>

Make yourb own analyze

Make your own observation

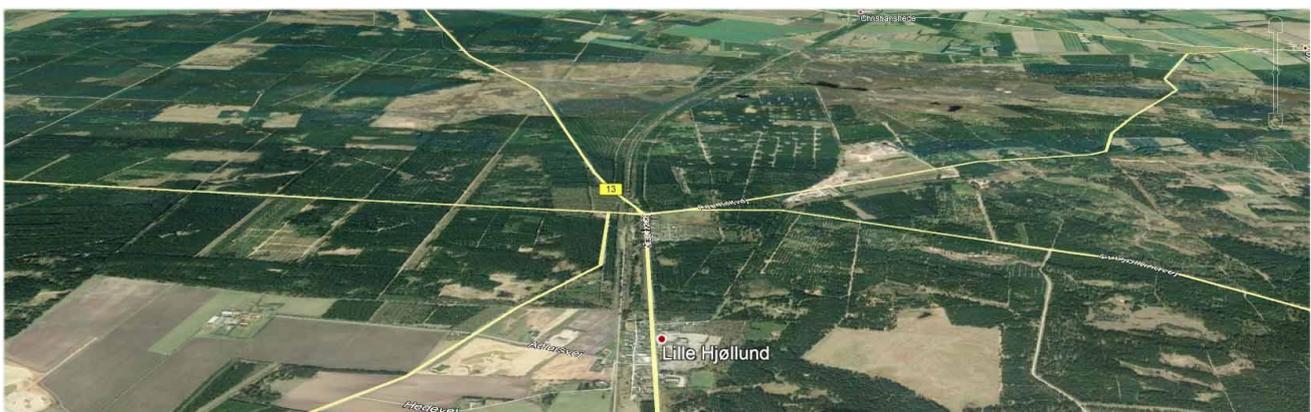
This article are made with some comments to the routes of the pigeons, and in this respect it is only a broadly overview on the different routes. In many GPS-tracks, there are many more exciting details of how the pigeons handle the different obstacles.



When you take "a trip along" the different routes, it is important to remember, that a pigeon has a much wider view of the horizon than we as human has. Looking at the picture on the left, it shows that a pigeon has a 300 degree view of the horizon. Together with the pigeons sharp eyes, this makes the pigeon able to "scanning" the landscape it is passing on the way.

When you follow a GPS-route, there are some markers where the GPS-ring takes a position, and here you can pop up a sign with information of speed and height. By checking these markers, one can see how the pigeon moves in the landscape. Sometimes the pigeons goes very low, because there are no trees, or there is a big forest, where the flying height goes up to 80-100 meters. How are the pigeon behaving crossing water?

It is important to make clear, that our pigeon are not flying zombies, but are a rather advanced species of bird, that have an extraordinary ability to take not only a bearing at release, but also have the ability to navigate in any sort of landscape. This GPS-system with Share Track, makes it possible for anyone to make a trip out in the landscape with a pigeon!



What way to go to the loft?