

## Finding Your Way With GPX Files

*I first put these notes together for my own benefit but, in case they are of more general interest, I offer them here. They are experimental, probably naïve and by no means complete. They may be developed over time.*

*Michael Headley – March 2011*

### Viewing a route

How to load a route onto a choice of maps.

You have a [GPX](#) file that describes a route, but how do you make sense of it? Save the file on a local drive on your computer, and remember where it is so you can find it later. Some sites may also accept [KML](#) files.

The following methods concentrate on routes displayed over a mapped background to compare their respective ease of use. Other potentially useful features may be available but are not discussed here.

#### Method 1 – Osola

Go to <http://www.osola.org.uk/rides/gpsuploader.htm>

Follow the instructions in the section headed *View UK & French GPX & KML files on OS & IGN Maps*.

UK routes are displayed on a scaleable Ordnance Survey map with an option to switch to a Google map.

For routes not covered by Ordnance Survey, choose the IGN option. You can switch to Google Maps if IGN cannot find the correct map.

#### Method 2 – Maplorer

Go to [http://maplorer.com/view\\_gpx.html](http://maplorer.com/view_gpx.html)

Use the *Browse* box to find your GPX file.

Click *View profile* to see the route on a Google Map background, and an elevation chart in blue.

Move the mouse over the blue area to see the marker move on the map. The blue area shows elevations from the start on the left to the finish on the right.

Rainbow colouring of the route indicates relative heights. The heights in the colour key to the right of the map may be misleading. If so, the grid lines of the elevation chart are nearer the mark.

Check the *auto-center* box to have the map move relative to the marker.

### Method 3 – GPS Visualizer

Go to <http://www.gpsvisualizer.com/>

Use the *Get started now* box to find your GPX file.

The drop-down list offers various mapping styles. *Google Maps* seems the most reliable. You can then choose from *view* to see your map or *download options* to save it as a free-standing HTML file.

For FAQs, go to <http://www.gpsvisualizer.com/faq.html>

### Method 4 – Where's the Path?

Go to <http://wtp2.appspot.com/wheresthepath.htm>

You may need to click *OK* a couple of times if dialog boxes appear.



Use *Import or Export GPX or KML* and select *Import from File* to browse to find your GPX file.

Scale map to the required detail.



Click the *Print out your track/route to take with you* symbol.

Use *Print Preview* in the browser menu and find the best fit for your printed page combining *Portrait* or *Landscape* view with *Scale*.

Scroll down the preview display to check walk stats etc before printing.



## Tracing and recording a route

How to use mapping software to plan, amend and save a walk.

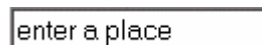
### Method 1 – Where's the Path?

Go to <http://wtp2.appspot.com/wheresthepath.htm>

Click *OK* on any dialog boxes that appear.



Use the *Select the map type* drop-down list to find *Just OS*. You may want to try other map types later.



Use *Enter all or part of a UK placename* to enter a name.



Use *Select a place* to refine your selection.

Scale map to the required detail.



Click on *Start entering route nodes*. Click on the map to fix the first node at the start of the route.

Each click from now on fixes the next route node. Try for reasonable accuracy, using the zoom feature if necessary to adjust the scale for a clearer view. You can correct any errors later. Clicking on an existing node does not create a new one. You can zoom in to create a new node near an existing one. Continue until the route is complete.

It's best to save your route before you edit it.



Use *Import or Export GPX or KML* and *Export GPX>File* to name and save your GPX file.

### Method 2 – Mapometer

Go to <http://www.mapometer.com/en/>

## **Other sites**

<http://www.sharemyroutes.com/>

<http://www.satmap.co.uk/>

<http://www.openstreetmap.org/>

<http://code.google.com/apis/maps/faq.html#hightrafficsite>

<http://ashinyworld.blogspot.com/2010/12/tracing-road-around-world.html>

<http://www.topografix.com/gpx.asp>

[http://www.topografix.com/gpx\\_resources.asp](http://www.topografix.com/gpx_resources.asp)

[http://www.topografix.com/gpx\\_sample\\_files.asp](http://www.topografix.com/gpx_sample_files.asp)