

NHRG e-Walks Supplement

Introduction

The North Herts Ramblers Group introduced e-Walks (<https://ewalks.nhrg.org.uk/>) to enhance the walks for our members who want to use handheld GPS devices and walk around our area. The e-Walks are derived from tracks recorded when our NHRG Leaders walked on previous walks from our programme.

You do not need to have a GPS to use e-Walks. All walks can easily be printed with the track clearly marked, so anyone that can read an OS map can follow and enjoy the walk.

You can view a selected track overlaid on an Ordnance Survey map, a Bing aerial map or on OpenStreetMap. From a view of one of these maps you can download a copy of the map for printing to take with you on a walk, and download a copy of a track for use on a GPS device or in a suitable smartphone app.

Recent Updates

During 2020-21 the NHRG web site team used some of their spare time to add new features to the maps available via the NHRG web site. Along with the introduction of the UK Walks on the web site, this supplement describes some of the recent updates and what can now be achieved when viewing the map of a walk track:

One such enhancement for smartphone users is to be able to show your position on a map of a track when out walking just using a web browser accessing the NHRG web site.

Note that the map details are downloaded as required via the NHRG web site (<https://nhrg.org.uk>). Thus a data connection is required if using a mobile device away from a wi-fi or home network.



Car Parking

The Car Parks information aiding planning your walk now features more prominently on the NHRG web site, and the overview and individual car park maps now support several of the features described in this supplement e.g. selecting different map types and showing a pop-up containing position information.

What do the buttons on the maps do?

On a map showing the purple track of a walk from the e-Walks or UK Walks pages:

The start of the walk is shown with a green dot with an initial pulsing red circle to highlight it, and a red dot appears for the end of the walk if it is away from the start position



Moving the slider up and down zooms in and out (e.g. on a device without a touchscreen). Alternatively clicking/pressing the + - buttons zooms in and out



Download a copy of the track to save and use on your computer/device



Download an image of a track for printing via a suitable program on your computer/device



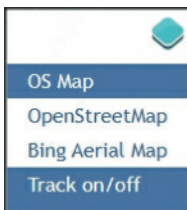
Click/touch the Location mode button to step through different modes



Click/touch the profile button to show the altitude profile of the walk



Show the map in full screen mode, and use the  button to exit full screen mode



Click/touch the Layer Switcher button to show the track on a different type of map, and turn the track on and off to view the map detail underneath the track

Click/touch the Overview button  to toggle the display of an overview map of the area shown in the main map



How to use the map buttons

Rotating and Zooming the Map

On all maps the view of the track may be rotated and zoomed by:

- pressing the Shift key whilst moving the mouse on a computer
- using two fingers on a touch device such as a smartphone and pinching/separating and rotating them on the screen
- double clicking the map on a computer with/without the Shift key also controls the zoom

After rotating the map, click/touch the arrow button  to reset the map orientation.

Location Mode



Click/touch the Location Mode button sequentially to enter:



Locate mode (indicated by a yellow button) to show a green marker  at your current location which is updated periodically. This can be helpful when out walking and you want to check that you are still following the track on the correct foot path.

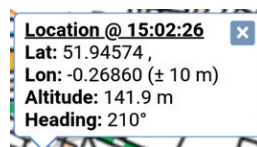
Note if your position is away from where the track is shown on the map you will need to move the map to find the green marker.



Track mode (indicated by a red button) to show a green marker  at your current location with the map moving automatically to keep it centred on your location. This can be helpful for tracking your position wherever you are located - but note the OS map type only covers the UK.

Clicking/touching the button again in Track mode turns off the feature.

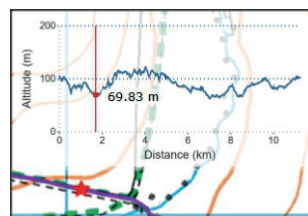
Clicking/touching the green location marker shows a pop-up with your position details which are periodically updated. The content of the pop-up may not show all the data if your device does not provide it. Click on the small X to close the pop-up.



Altitude Profile of the Walk



Click/touch the profile button and move the cursor across the profile graph. A moving red star is displayed on the track corresponding to the position on the graph. Click on the profile button again to close the graph.



How to use the map buttons (contd)

Changing the Map Type



Click/touch to open the Layer Switcher button which allows you to:

- show the track on an Ordnance Survey Map, OpenStreetMap or Bing aerial map. Click on the name of the map type you would like to see the track displayed on. The latter two map types provide worldwide coverage.
- turn the track off and on when trying to see map details beneath the track. Click on **Track on/off** to toggle the display of the track on the map.

Displaying Position Information

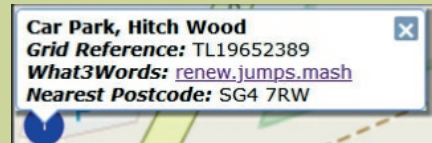
Right click/long press anywhere on the map of a track or car park to show a pop-up containing position information including grid reference, a What3Words reference as an active link and the nearest postcode. These can be helpful, for example, when planning your journey to the start of a walk.



Click on the small X in the pop-up to close it.



Similarly, clicking/touching a blue car park marker displays a pop-up showing information about the car park to aid navigation to its location. If a blue marker shows 2 or more then zoom in until 1 is shown.



Further Assistance

If the FAQs on our web site at www.nhrq.org.uk/e-walks/e-walks-faq-x.html don't address your query then for further assistance with the mapping features described here, or more generally with navigation advice or finding a walk, please submit your enquiry using the form at www.nhrq.org.uk/support.html or via email at support@nhrq.org.uk

Summer 2021