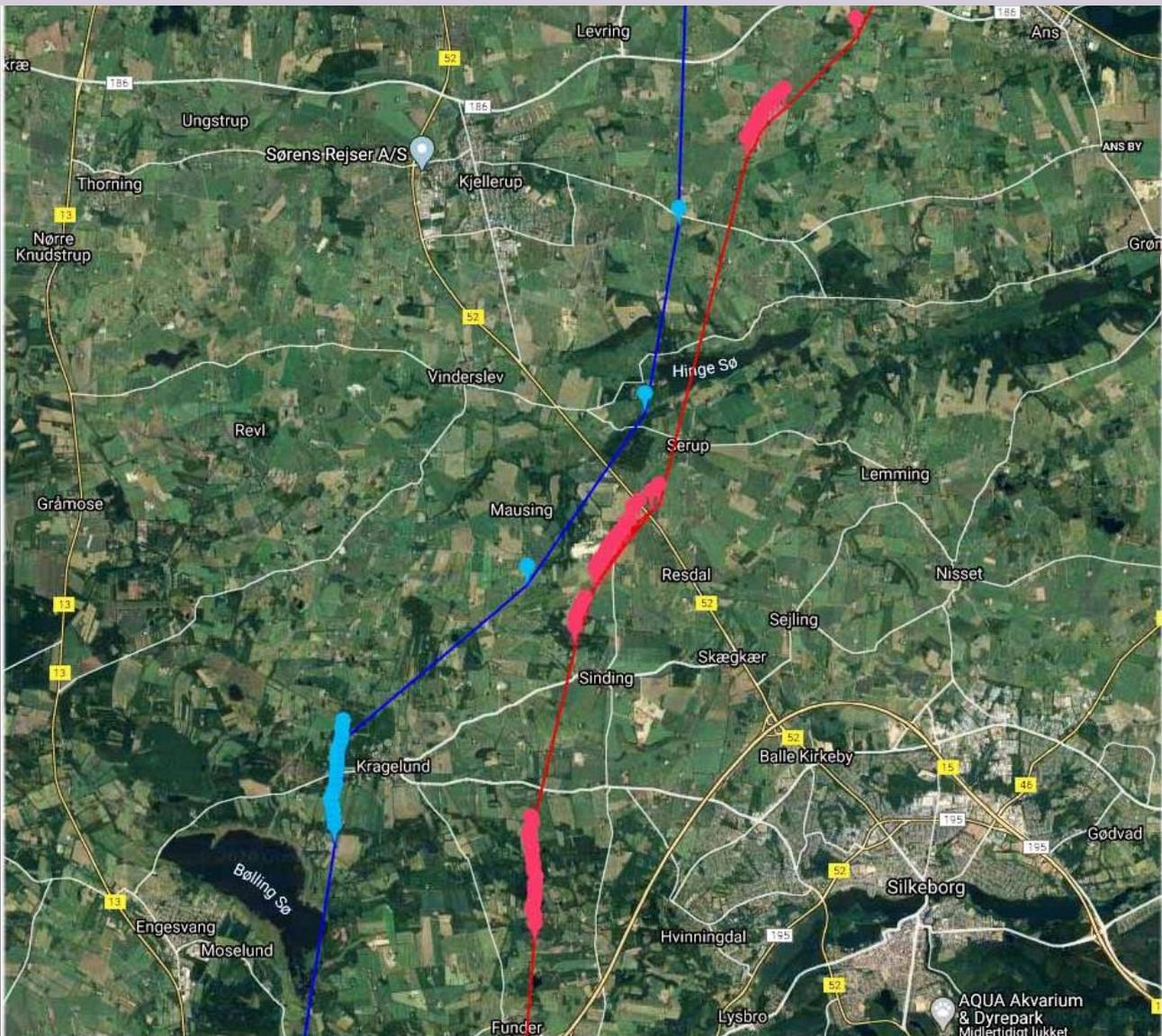


GPS in pigeon racing 2020

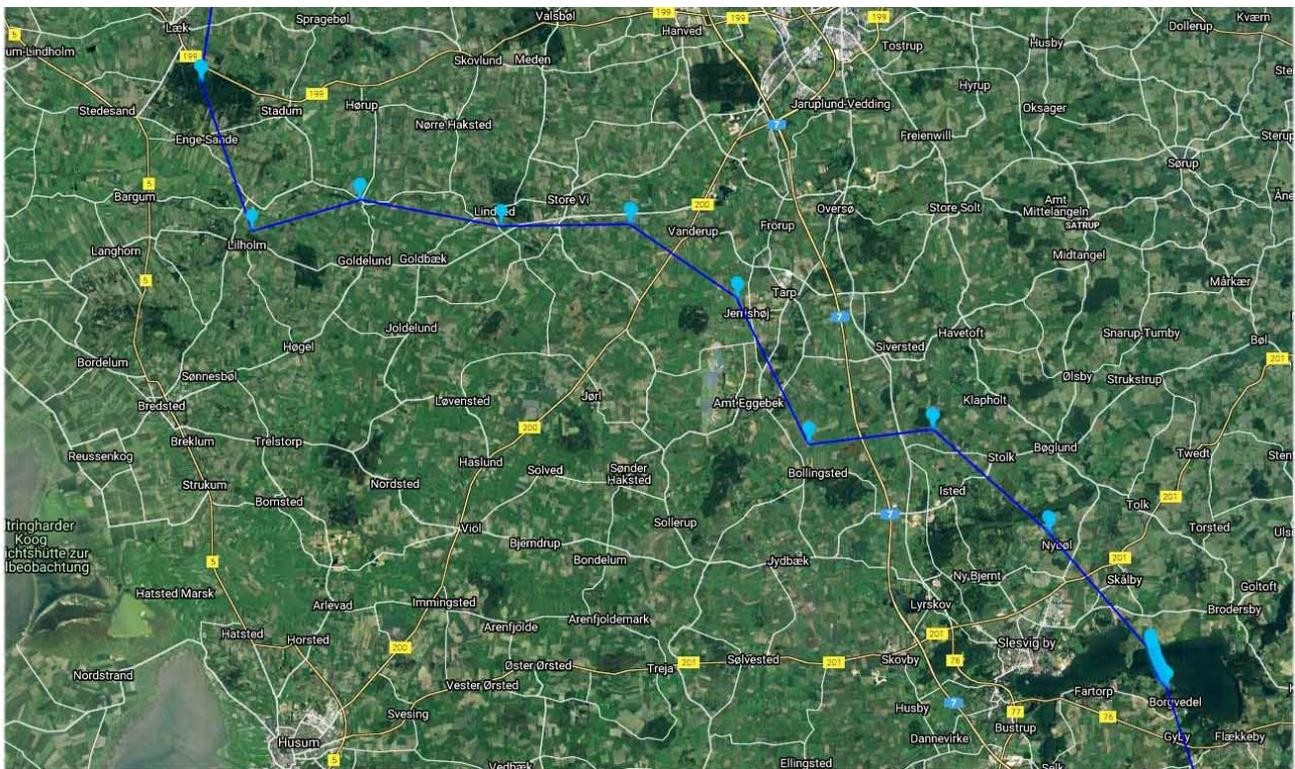
Ove Fuglsang Jensen



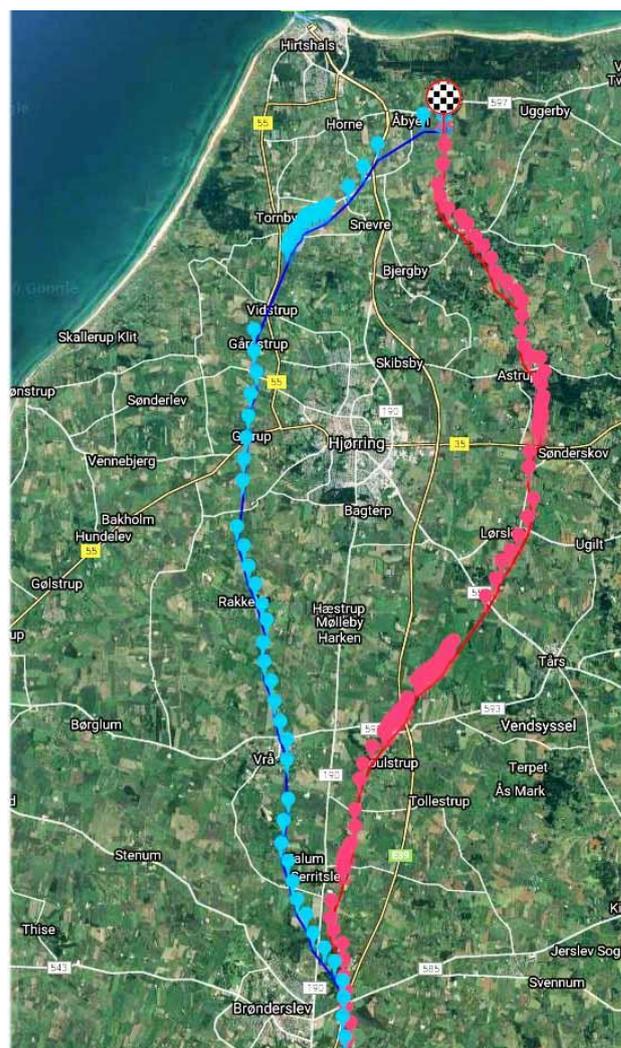
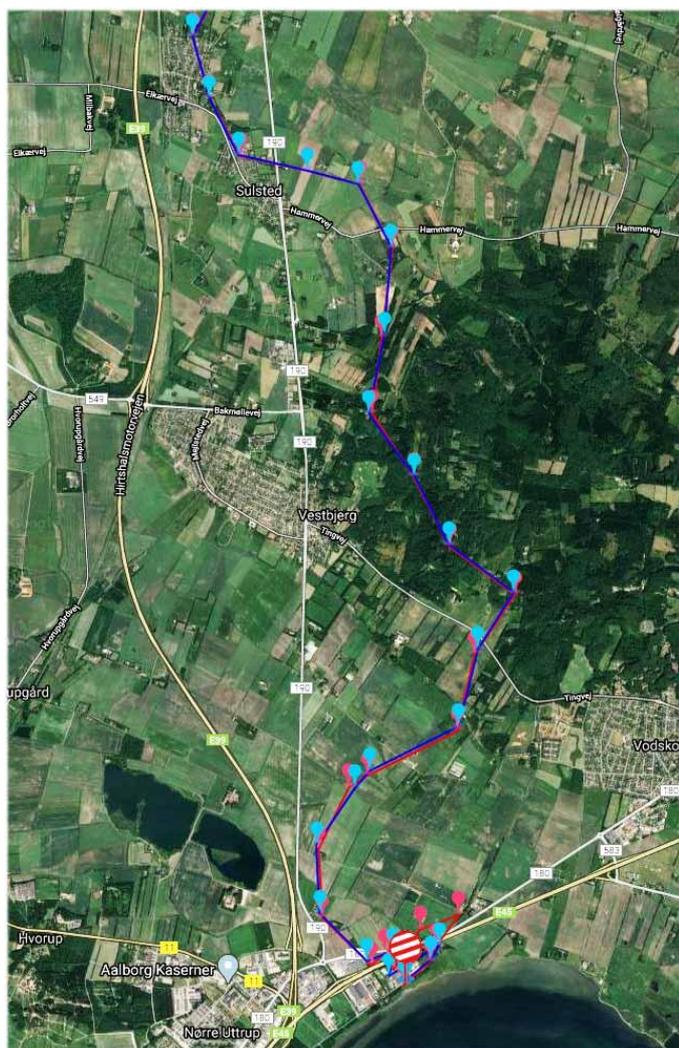
In 2020 are used a new version of skyleader

In the previous year I have used the old version of skyleader which is version 2. This year I have used version 4 and the GPS ring are more slim and weigh less. The pigeon have a E-ring on the left leg for the registration electronic of the pigeon, and this ring weigh 4 gram and the new GPS ring weigh 6 gram. This makes it more easy for the pigeon to carry on the flight. If one looks on the historic in electronics devices, one can see that everything gets smaller and contain even more information.

Some fanciers could ask: "Why the GPS on pigeon because I know where the pigeon routes are, and I also know that some lofts are lying a very good place, and therefore takes all the first price!". Many discussions on that topic have been heard in time! Ok! let us put on a GPS ring and see if these allegations are right! That topic was one of the reason why I wanted to put GPS ring on my pigeons. Many fanciers think that the wind blows the pigeons far away, and that can be true if the pigeons do not get a good bearing, but if the pigeon are a good one it will take a fine bearing and compensate for the wind and other errors.



Tossing Bouet 14 May



The two pigeons are in the same basket and take the same route until the town of Brønderslev where they go separate ways. One goes northwest and the other goes northeast, but the two flocks of pigeon arrive nearly at the same time. Why the pigeons choose two different ways do not seem to have an explanation.

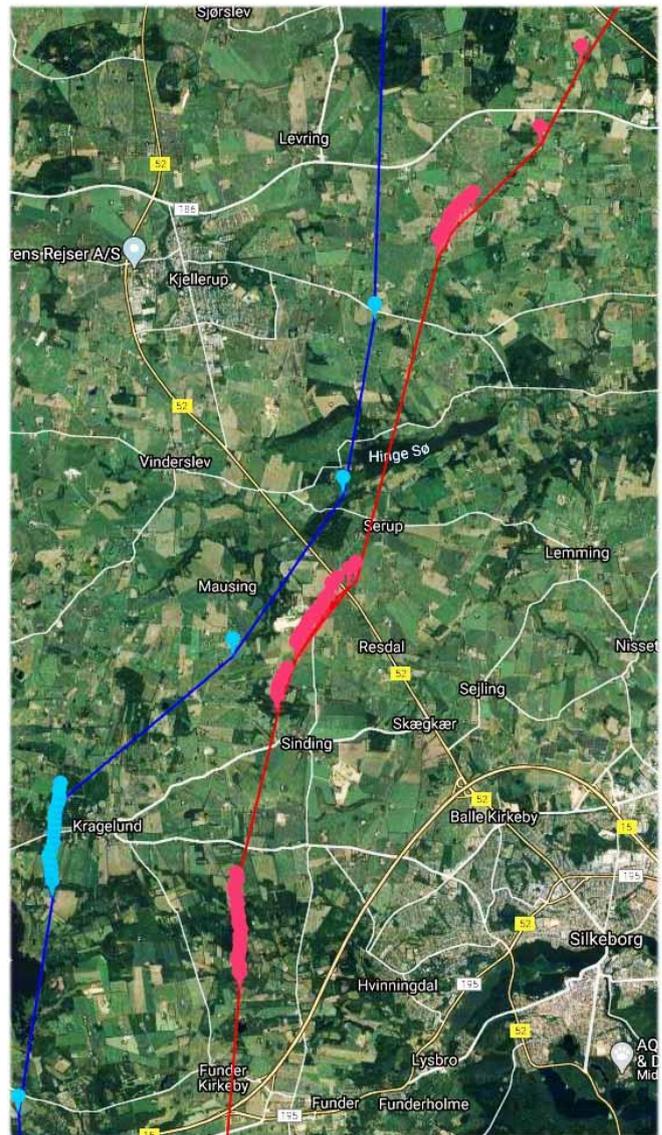
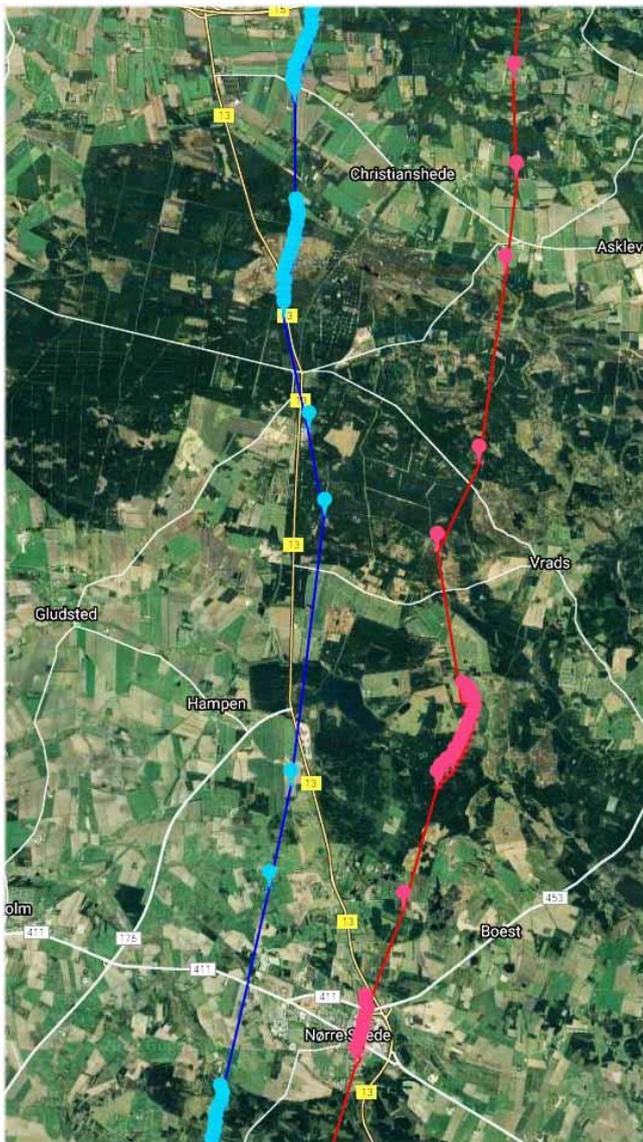
Download the two routes 14. May:

The wind are fresh from west

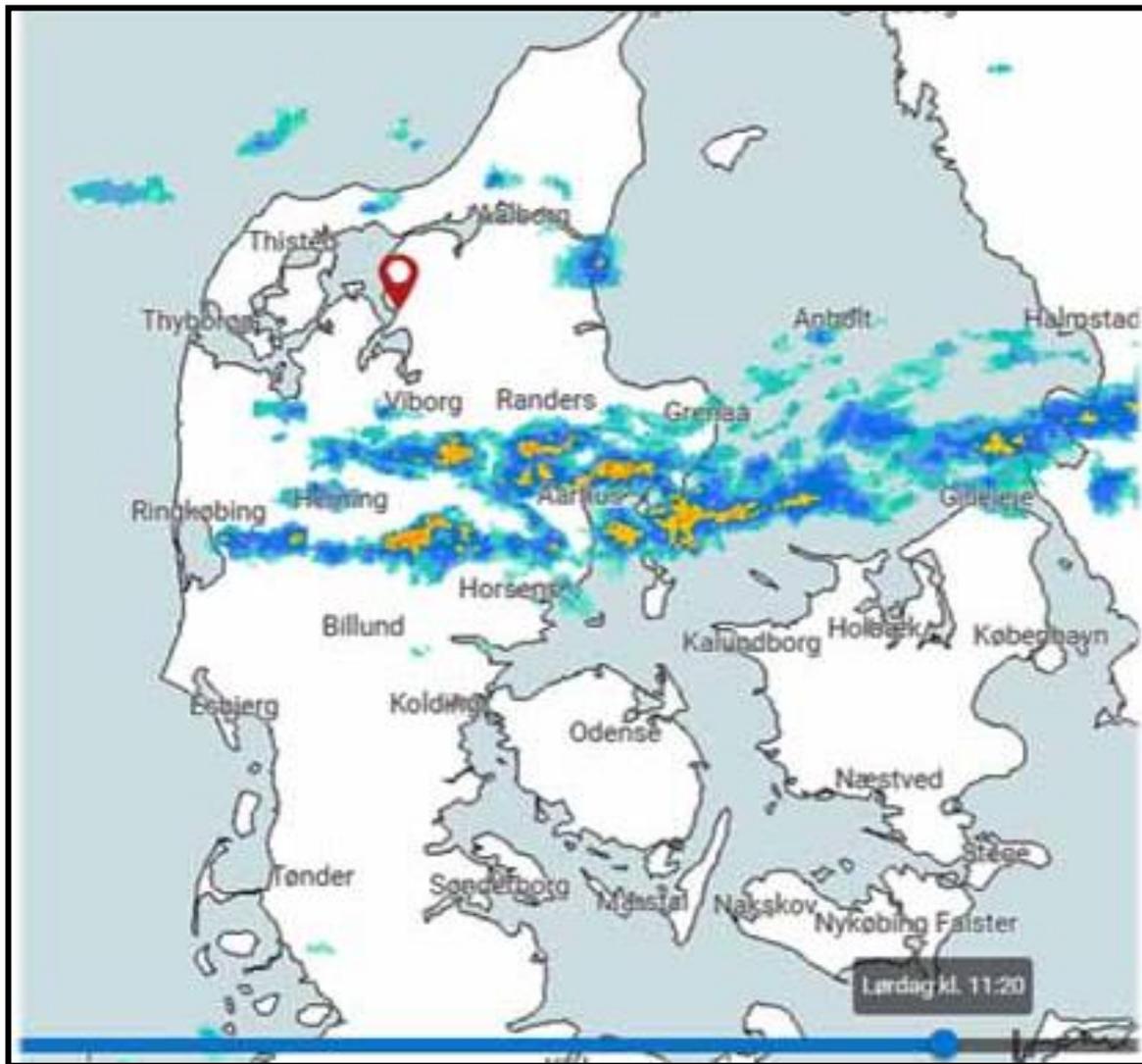
<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/2020060348qsat>

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/202006030v3Uvo>

Vamdrup 16. May



This race was not difficult apart from some rainclouds the pigeons have to pass. On the left we can see the pigeons in two flocks flying separate in two routes in a bearing to the north. Just north of the town of Silkeborg something are happening, where the blue pigeon change the route and at the same time speed up. What is happening here is the two pigeons are trying to find a "hole" or a passage through the rainclouds. After this event the two flocks of pigeons choose their own route.



Above is a picture of weather radar at 11.20 am, and at the GPS route we can see the pigeons making change in direction at 11.30 am. If there is rainclouds standing close on the pigeons route, they can always find a way to cross if the visibility are good. If one looks careful you can see a hole between the rainclouds between the towns of Viborg and Randers. However are the rainclouds standing close and the visibility are poor, it can be difficult for the pigeons to pass.

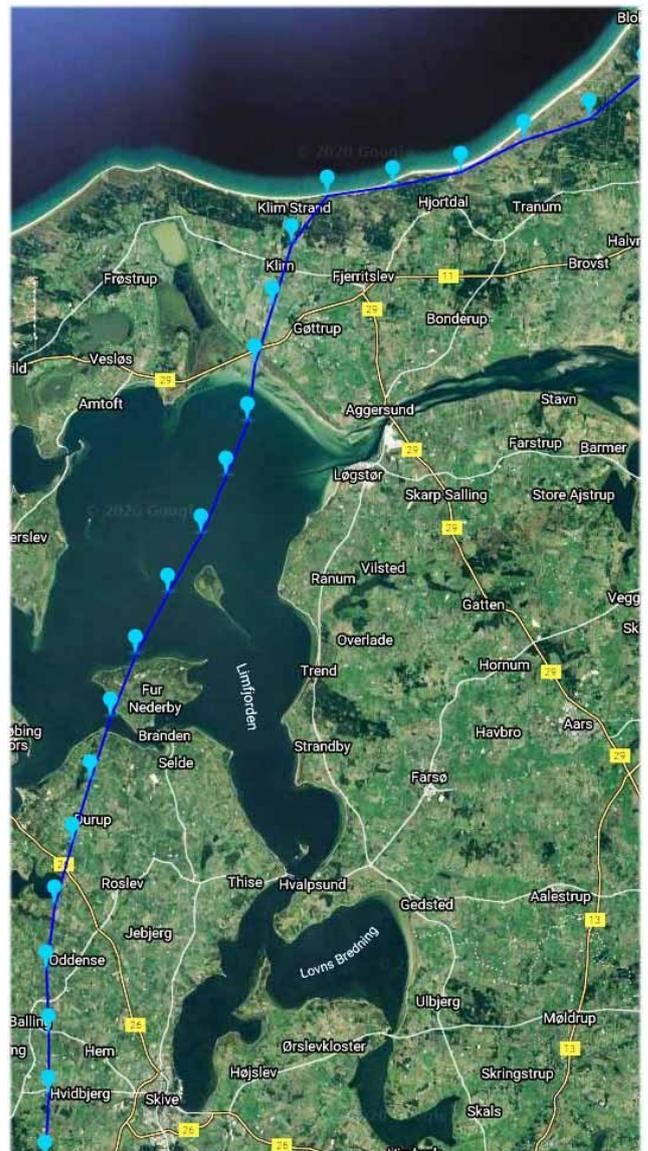
Download Vamdrup 16. May:

The wind is fresh from west

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20200603sVmMEe>

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20200603Xyvbw6>

Vamdrup 23. May

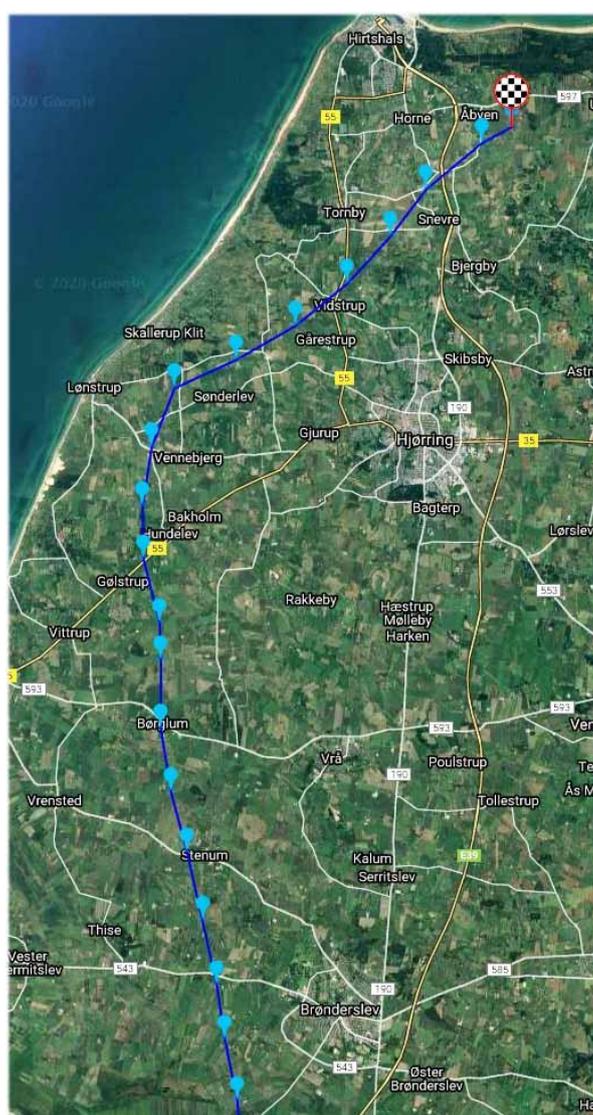
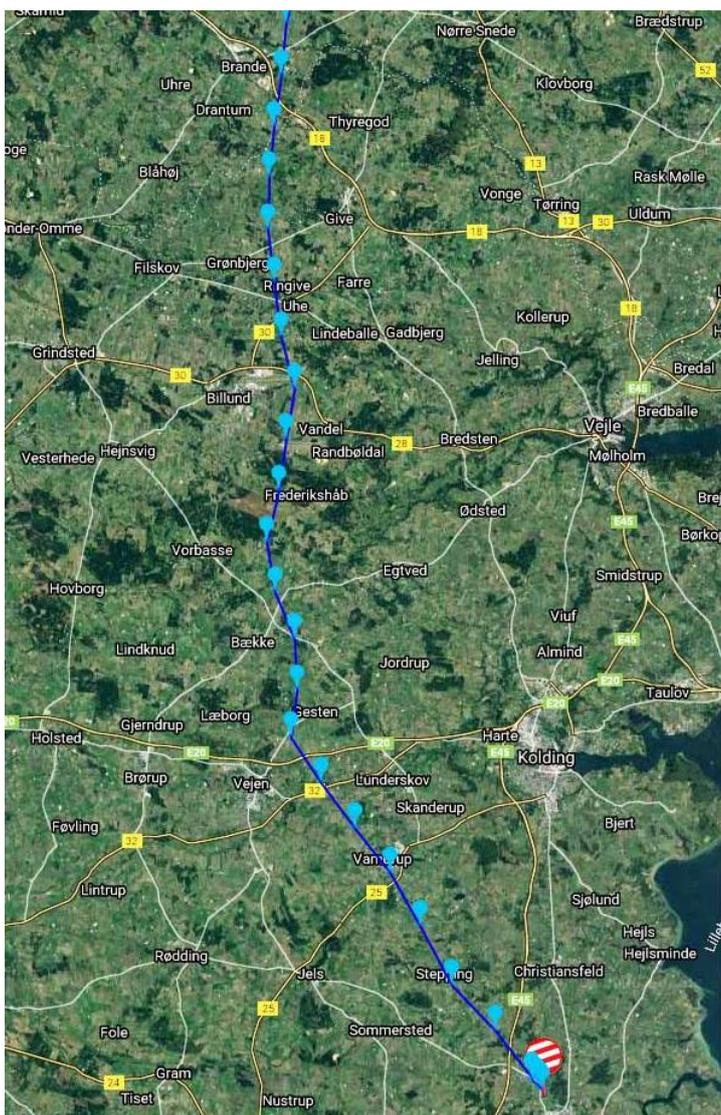


In the start from the release site, the pigeon takes a bearing to the northwest in 40 minutes, and this takes the pigeon too long to the west even if the pigeon takes a new bearing to the north. This day there was some disturbance in the earth magnetic field, and a lot one year old pigeons had problems this day to take a good bearing.

Download Vamdrup 23. May:
The wind are easy from south/southwest

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/202006033dFLTXX>

Haderslev 30. May



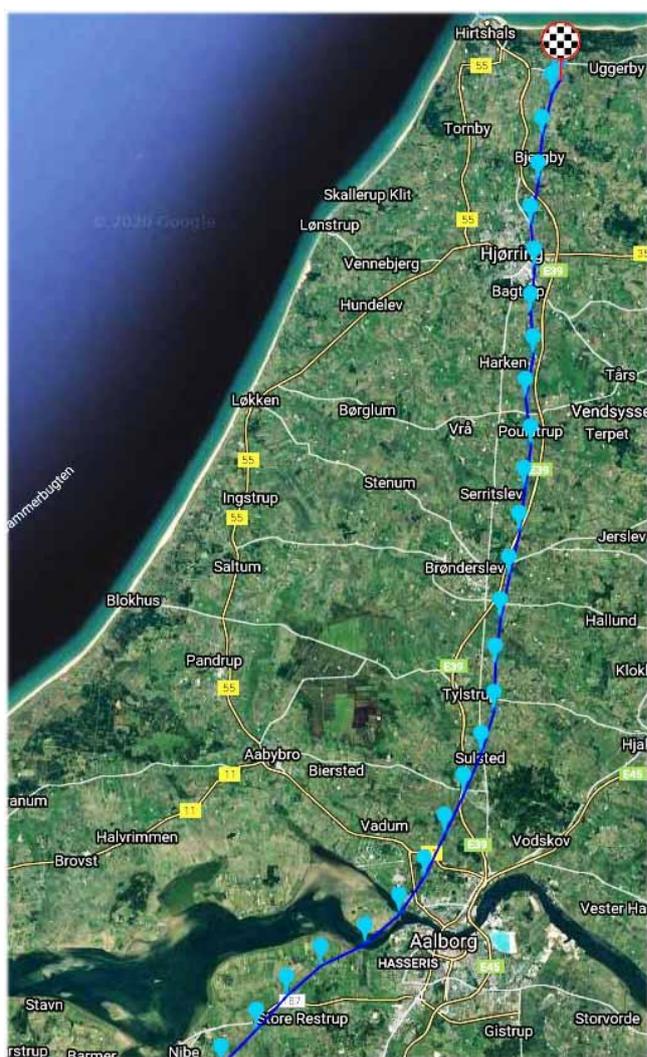
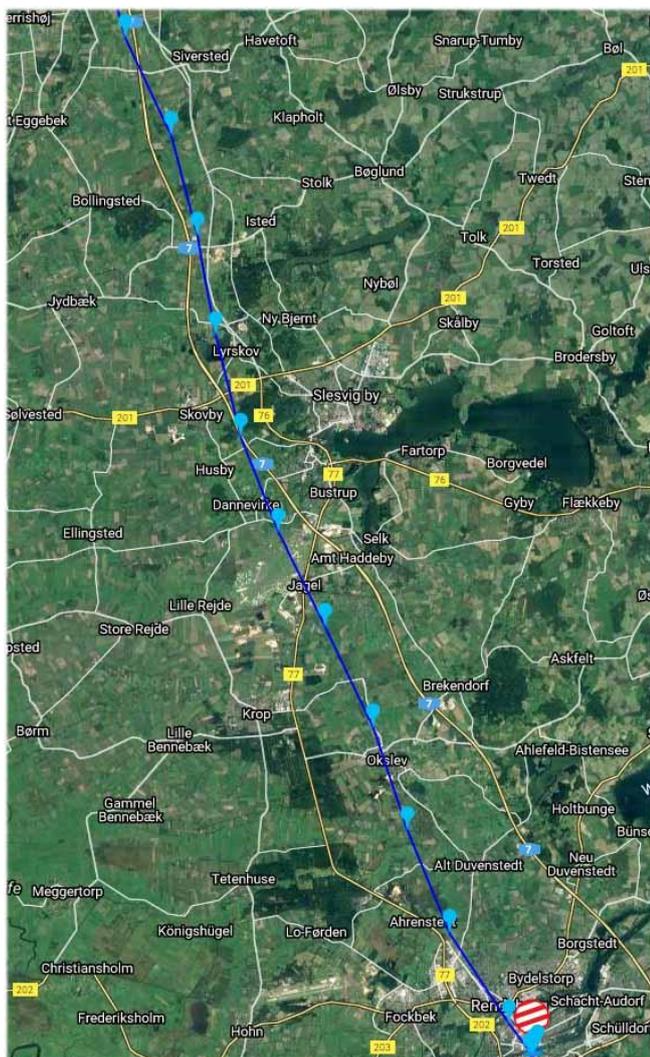
After release takes a bearing to the northwest in 20 minutes, but then takes a new bearing to the north. Again this day there was a disturbance from earth magnetic field, and not all pigeons takes the shortest way home. After Ålborg there are turn to NNW, and maybe the pigeon are in a flock to the northwest.

Download Haderslev 30. May:

The wind are easy from the north.

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20200604kYBA3>

Rendsburg 30. May



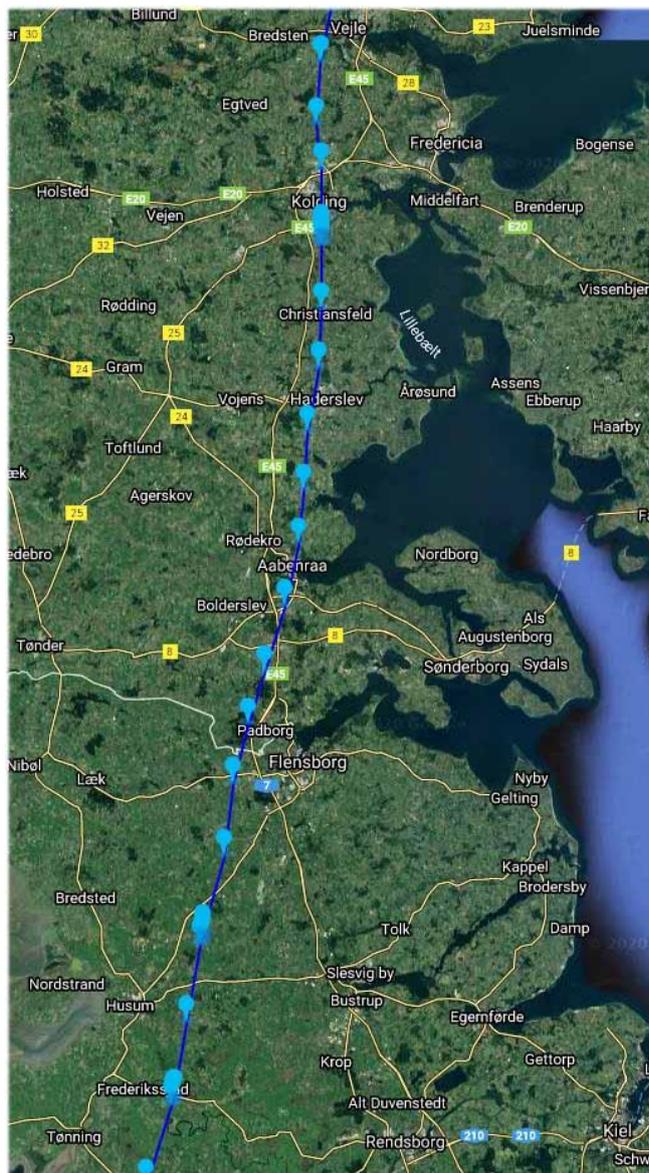
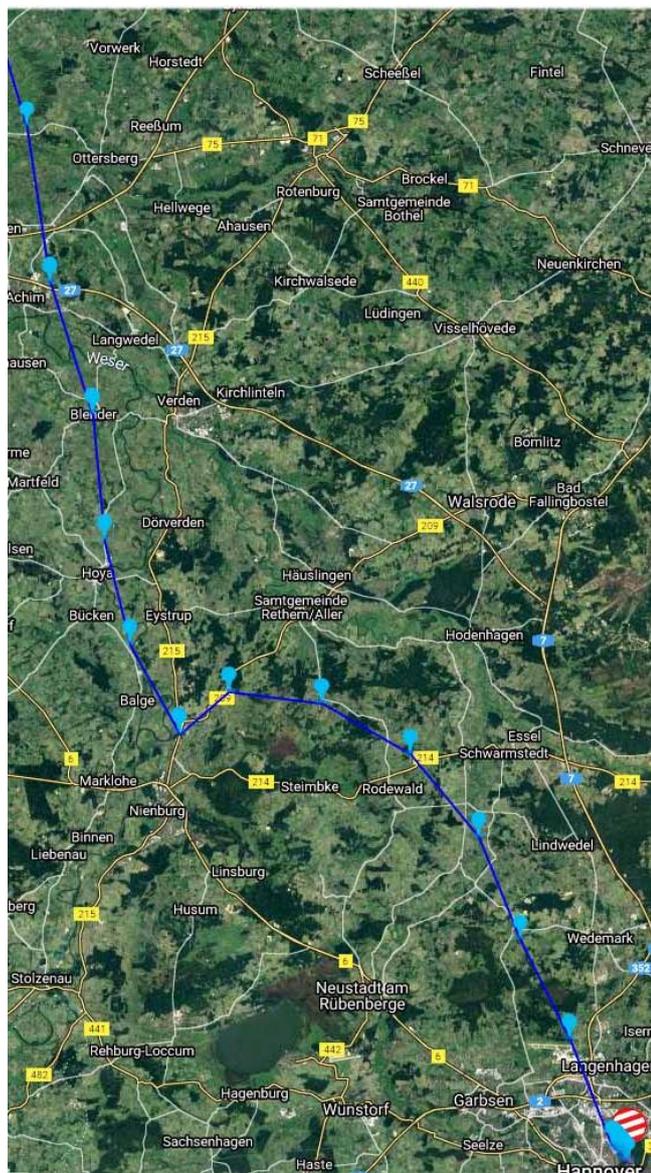
In Rendsburg the pigeon are release in the middle of the town, which can be seen by zooming in. After release the pigeon takes a good bearing and the route home seems to be shortest one. South of Ålborg the pigeon goes over the town of Ålborg, properly with pigeons from this area.

Download Rendsburg 30. May:

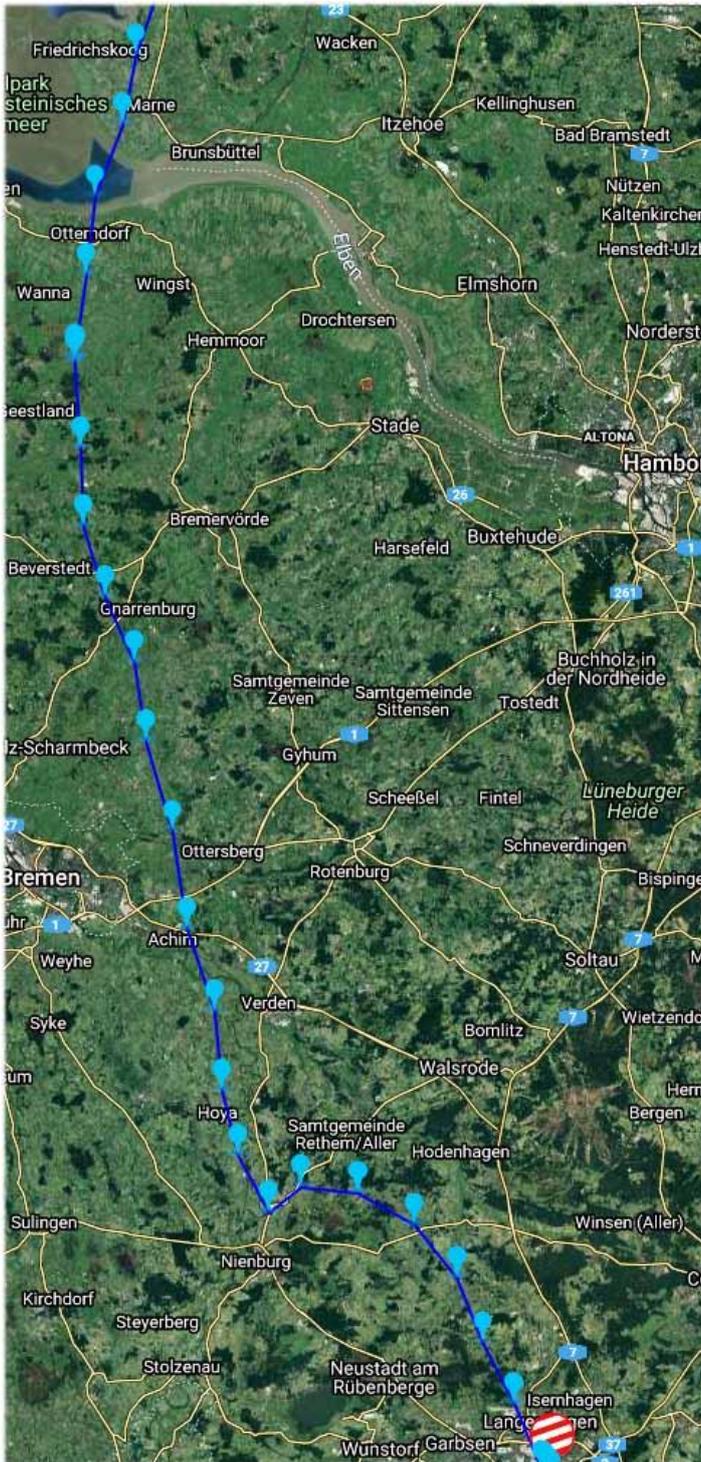
The wind are easy from the north

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20200604t20oFc>

Hannover 6. June

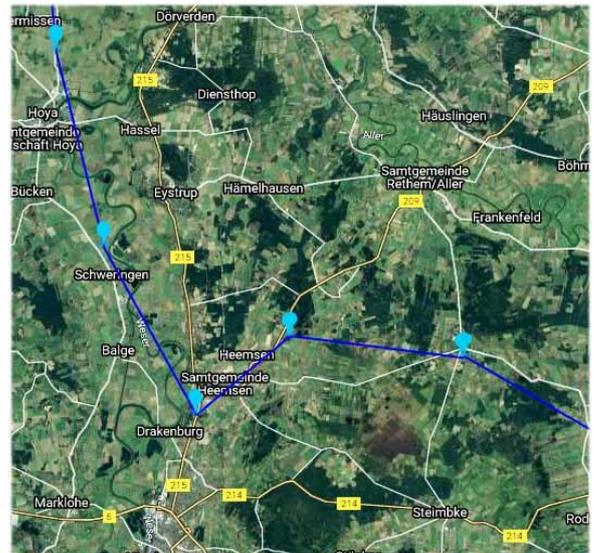


After 15 minutes flying the pigeon turns west but change then to the north. After ½ hour the high of flying goes to 248 meters and the speed goes to 1998 mpm. but after this the height of flying falls to 79 meters and the speed goes to 2049 mpm. (123 km/hour), and after this a speed of 17-1800 mpm. in 100 meter. It seems that the pigeon wants to have "a look" higher up. Arriving to Denmark at the town of Åbenrå, the pigeon goes up to 748 meters, and the rest of the route goes at a speed of 1600 mpm. in 5-800 meters height. The highest point of flight are 885 meter.



Looking at the start of the route the best way home are just west of Hamburg instead of taking the big bend to where the river Elben runs into the sea. However north of Elben the pigeon takes on great speed of 17-1800 mpm.

The route in Jylland, Denmark are also fairly fast with average speed of 1600 mpm. and also fairly high in flying height on 500-800 meters. As a one year old pigeon it has taken this route many times and know the way home.

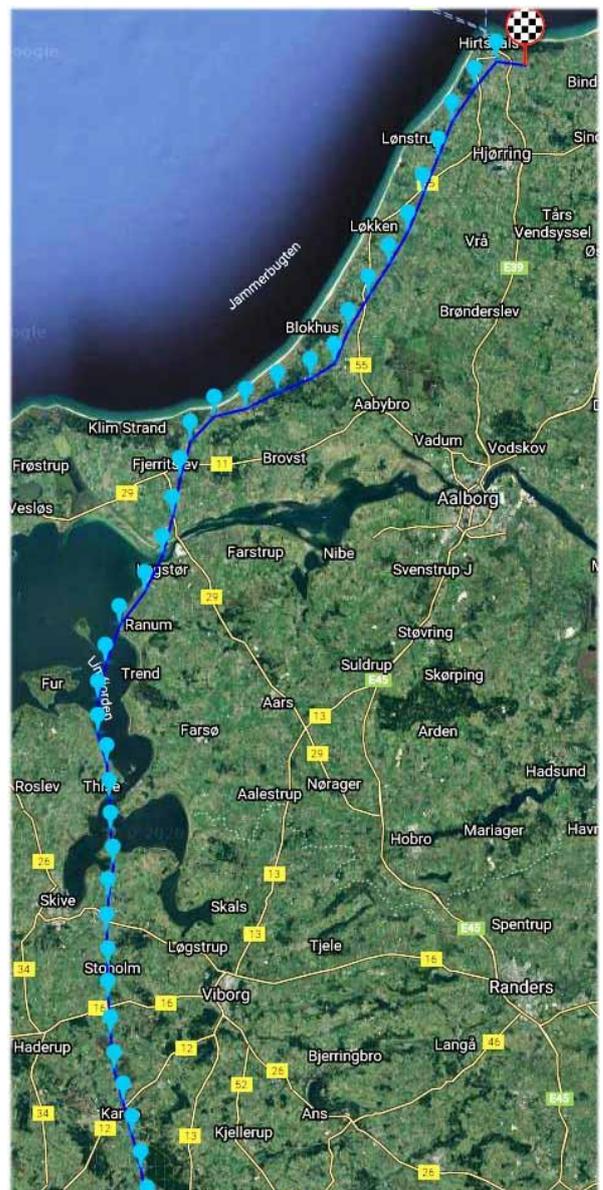
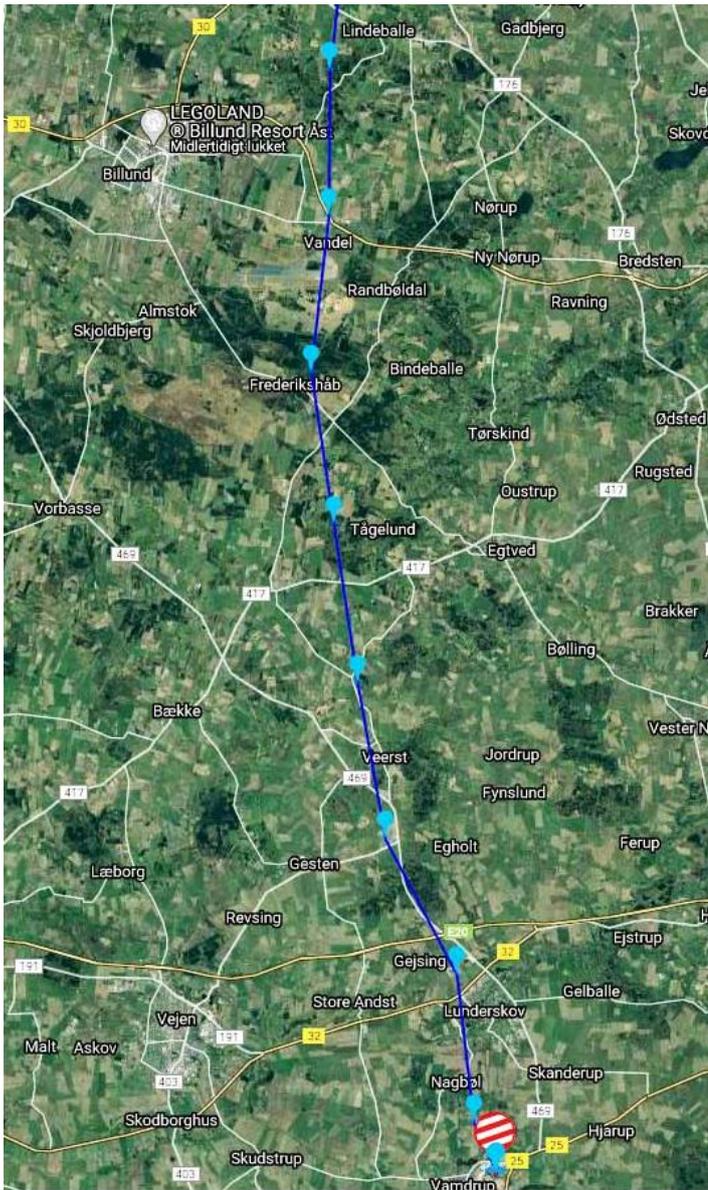


Download Hannover 6. June:

In release point easy wind from southwest - later fresh wind southwest

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20200608noh3of>

Vamdrup 7. June



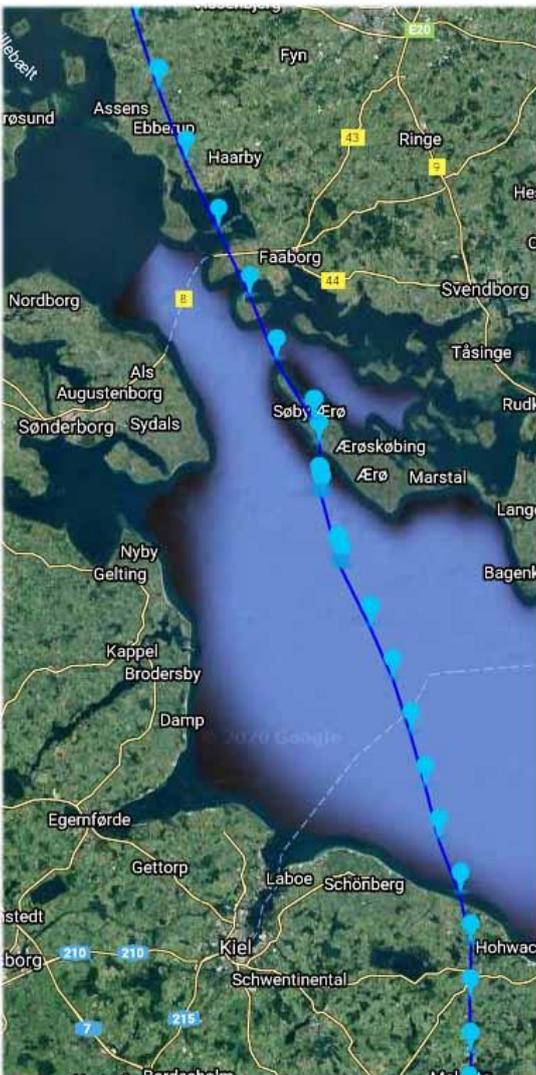
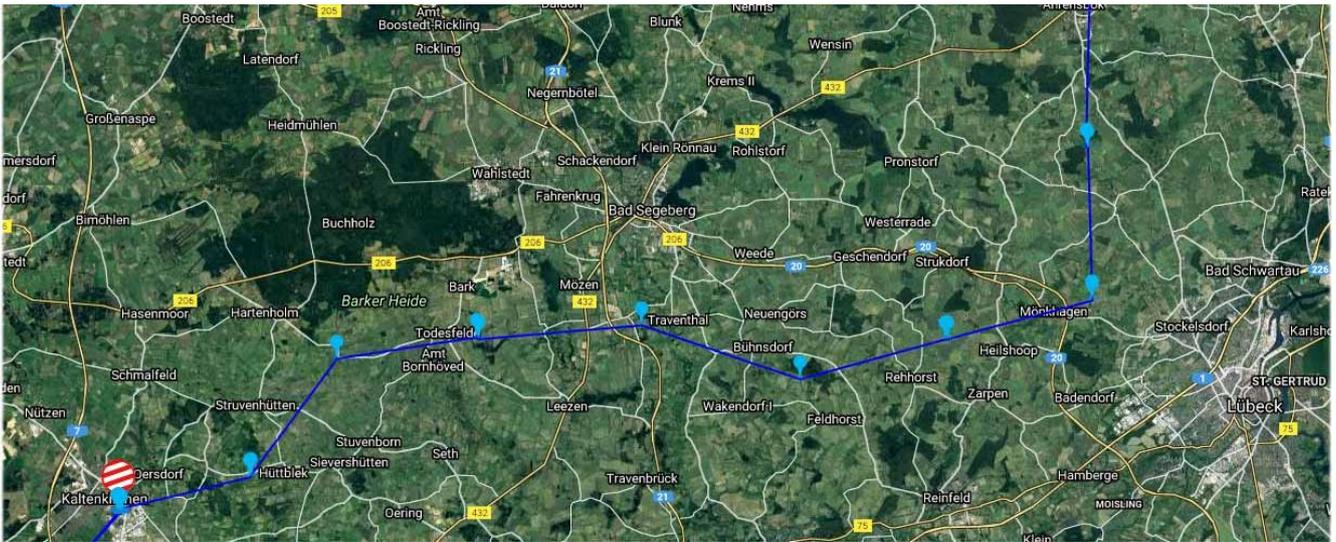
The wind is from the south and after 15 minutes the speed are 1765 (105 km/hour) in a height of 175 meters. Furter north the average speed are 15-1600 mpm. in 3-500 metrs height. In the north the route are a little too much in the west , but the speed of the pigeon make this error small.

Download Vamdrup 7. June:

The wind is even from the south

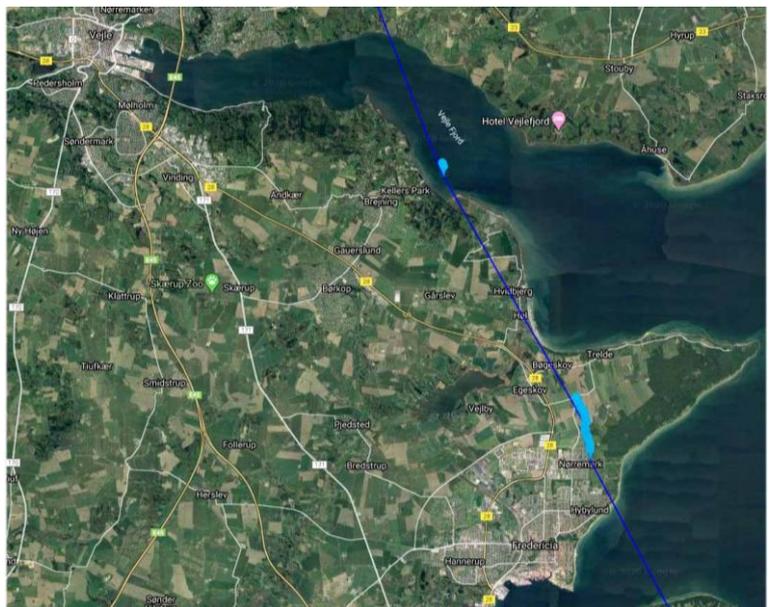
<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/202006104zWzZh>

Henstedt 14. June

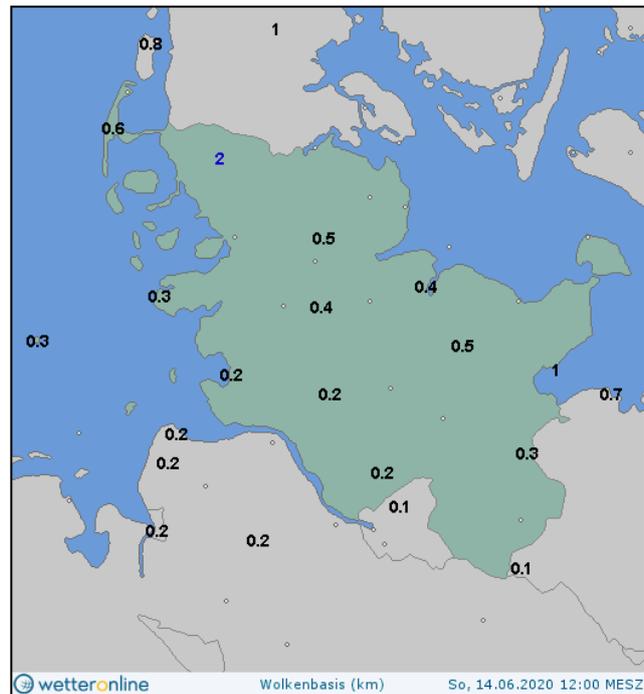
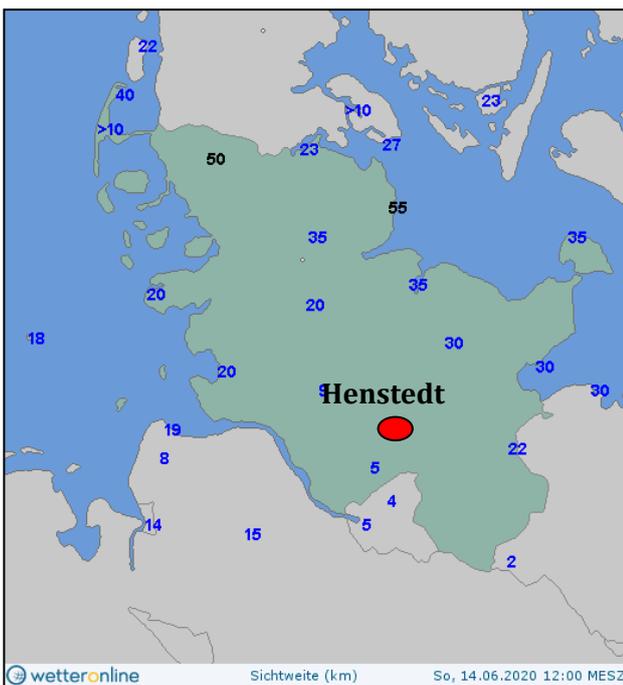
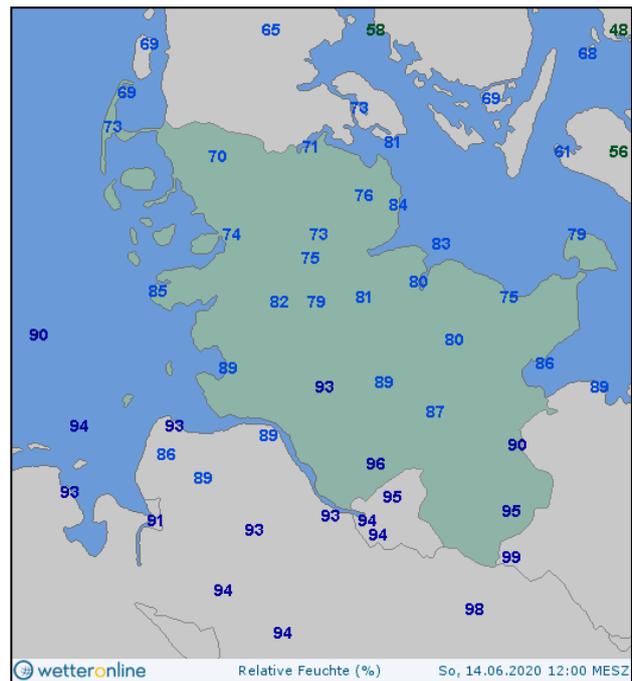
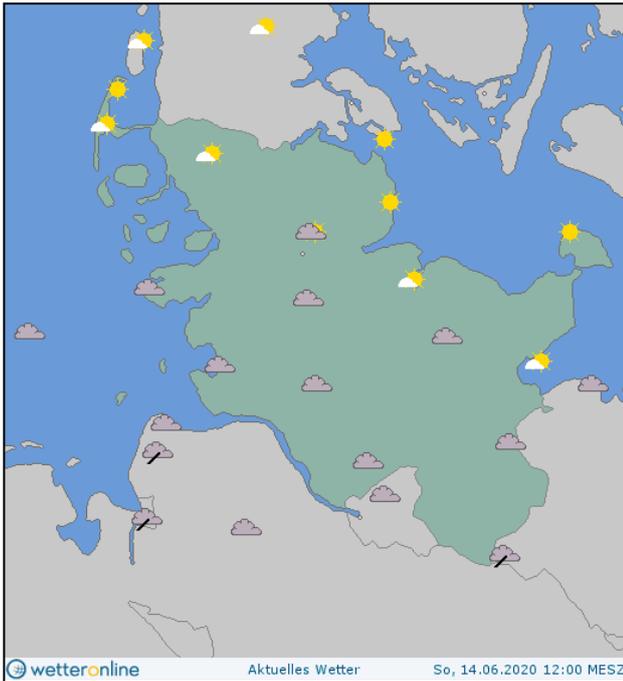


Firstly one see this route from Henstedt it looks strange in the start, where the pigeon goes to the east, and then suddenly goes north over the sea to island of Fyn.

This way of behavior makes me go to the meteorological facts to investigate on why the pigeon behave like it did.



Meteorological facts 14. June 12 am.



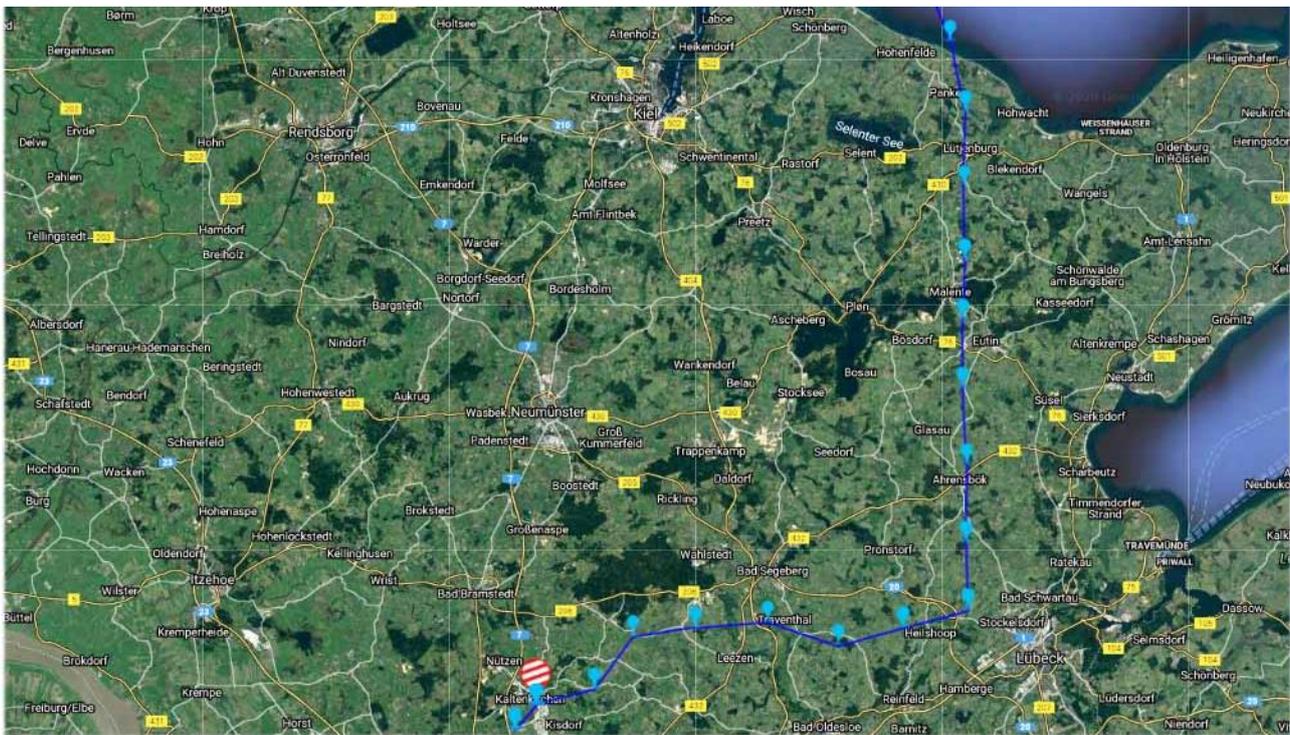
On weather map: Bottom right one can see clouds 1-200 meters. Top right you can see humidity on 95-96 which gives a visibility on 4-5 km. Top left we see good weather in the north and east with a visibility of 35-50 km. It must be added that there have been some rain in the night and morning in Hamburg and that gives a high humidity and very low visibility.

The pigeons reaction on the bad weather

This pigeon race gave a poor result where only few pigeons were over 1200 mpm. and some over 1000mpm. but the most were under 1000mpm. The reason for this bad race are the start of the pigeons at the point of release, where the high humidity and low visibility makes an impact on the pigeons ability to navigate.

On the start of the pigeon with GPS ring, it is obvious that the hen 184 goes very wrong by going east, but when she comes to the blue sky and a visibility on 35-50 km. she can have a good navigation and goes to the north. Racing pigeon wants on release fairly low humidity and with this a good visibility, and very good will be blue sky and sunshine.

This pigeon race are a good example on why it is good to have a GPS ring on a pigeon because we in this way can have a lot of information of a race if things goes wrong.

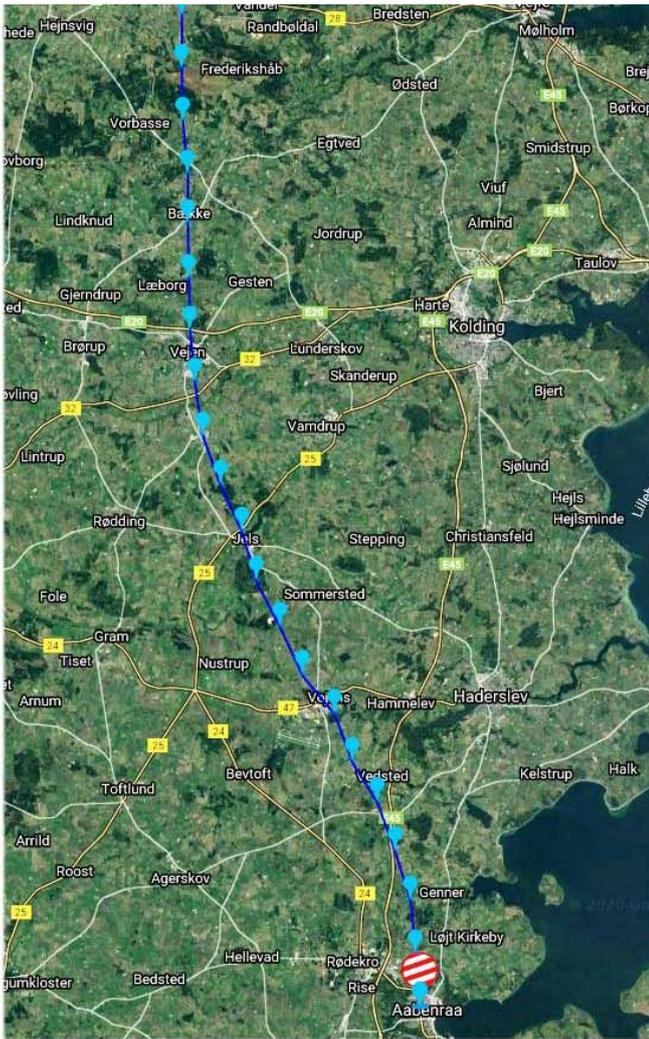


Download Henstedt 14. June:

Wind at point of release easy from east

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20200615ThPDCf>

Åbenrå 21. June



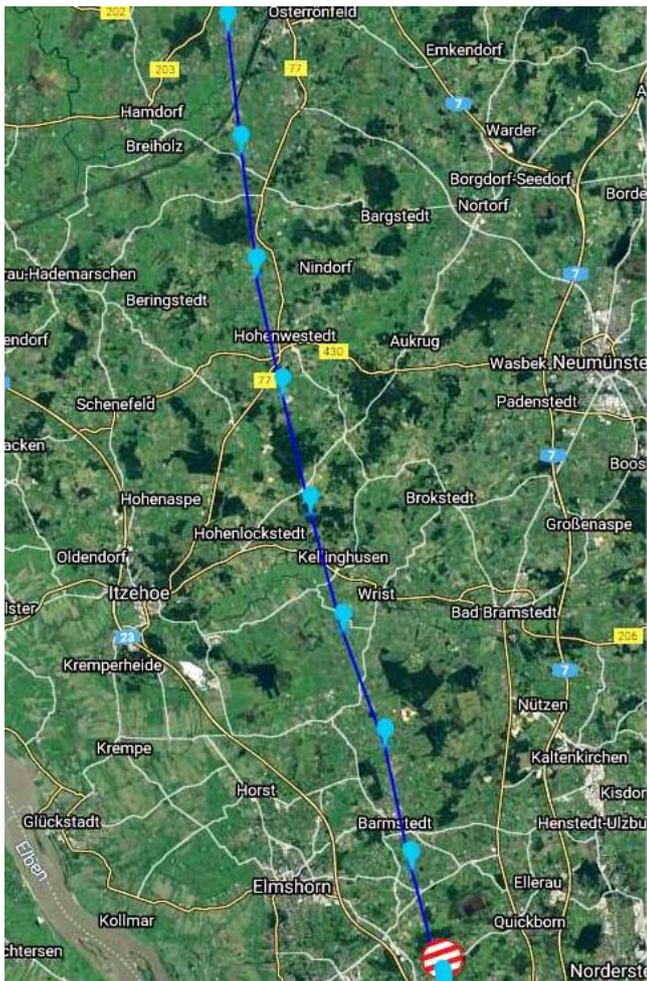
There is a fine start from releasesite, apart from the direction is a little to the northwest which takes 40 minutes and that can cost some minutes in the race. It is interesting that the pigeon at arrival to the water of Limfjorden, rise to 165 meter and later on to 350 meter and in this way to have a overlook on the landscape. Interesting is also that the pigeon at the town of Hjørring goes to a loft at the south of the town and then north again.

Download Åbenrå 21. June:

The wind are even from the west

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20200624YjSjNI>

Altona 21. June



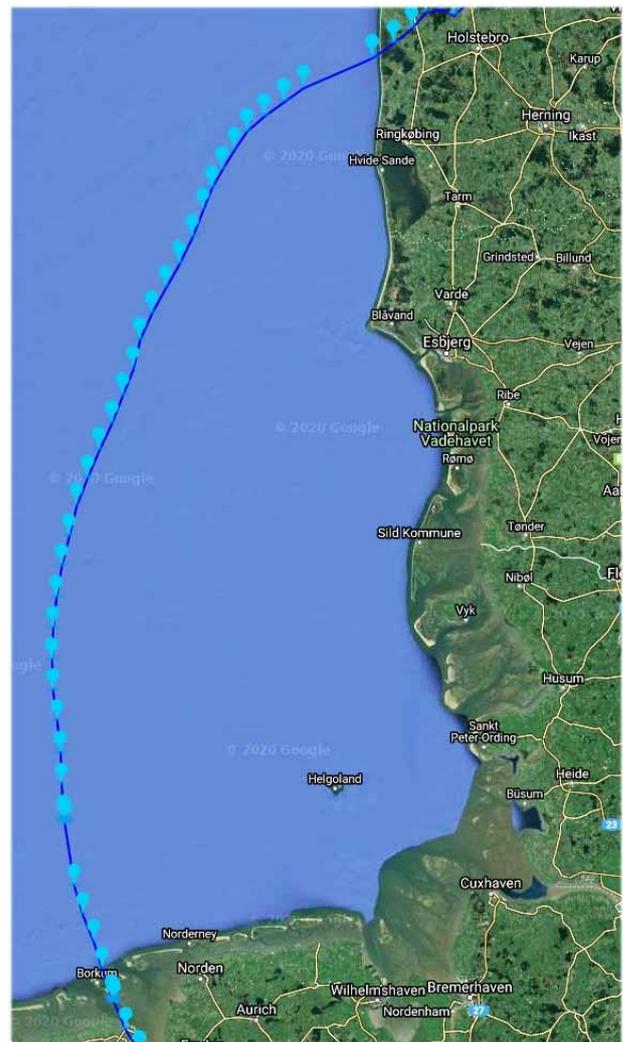
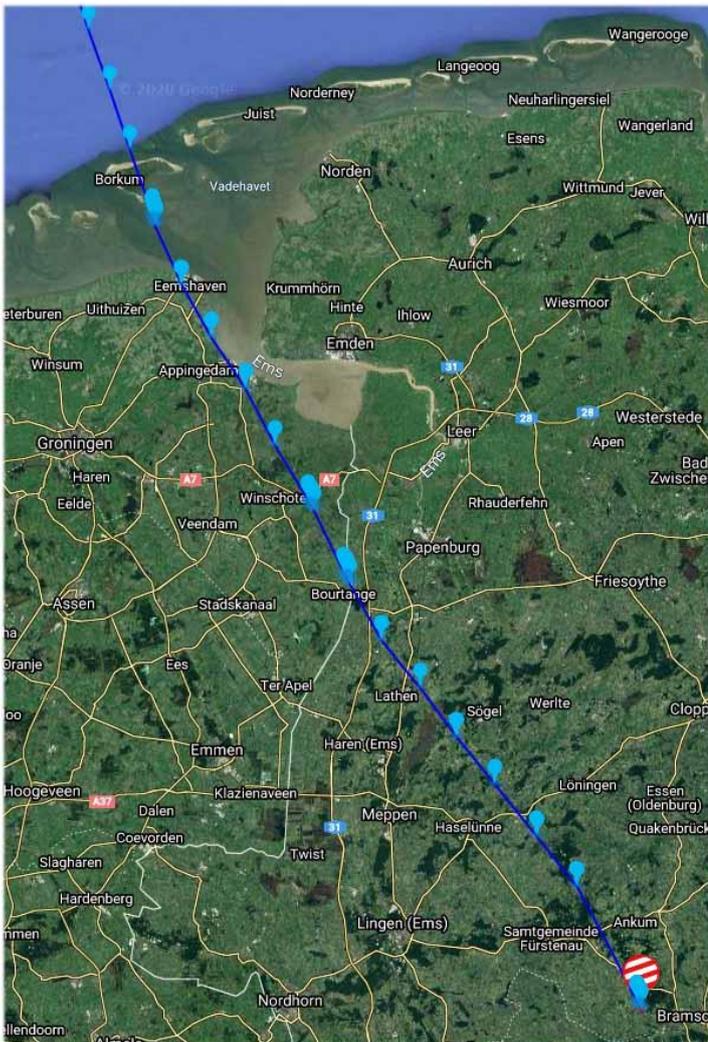
If you zooms in on the release site, it is obvious that the GPS ring are working after release, and that is because the ring cannot get in contact with the satellites while the pigeon are inside a basket in the lorry. After release the pigeon have a speed of 13-1400 mpm. in height of 30 meters. The route goes past Rendsburg where the pigeons were released some weeks before. The rest of the route is a little too much in the west in 1300 mpm. in 60 meters height. Strange enough the pigeon goes east of the loft and perhaps it was in a flock to the north?

Download Altona 21. June:

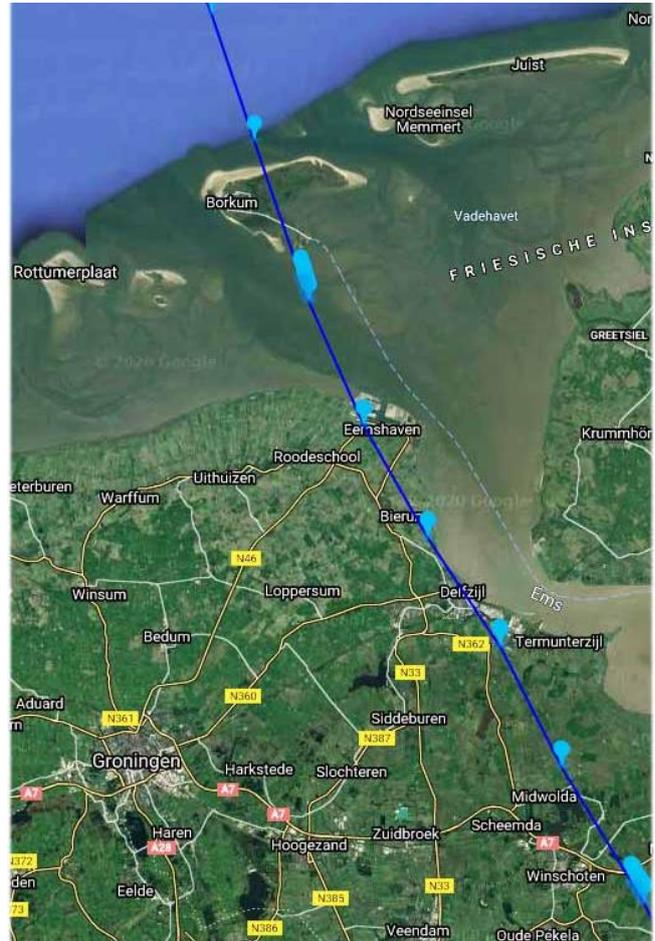
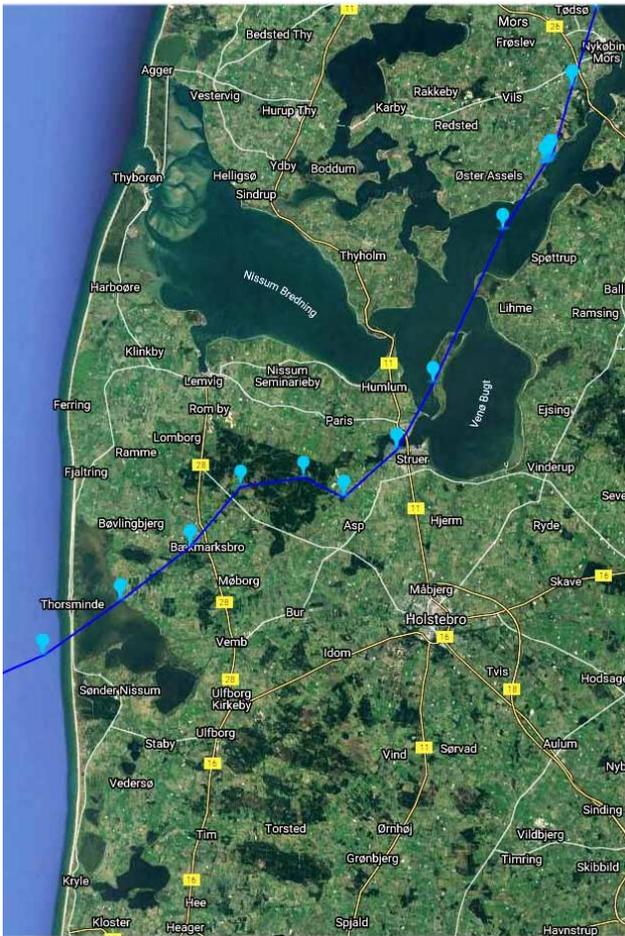
Wind at release site southwest but later in the west

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20200624QECsoE>

Osnabrück 21. June



This race is a long-distance on 580 km. and I had 4 pigeon in the race where one was number 5 in Section and the two others came one hour later. However the pigeon with a GPS ring went unfortunately over the sea! This two year old cock took a bearing to northwest and went over the sea in a bow, The time over water took 4 hours. At the point where the pigeon leaves the coast the speed goes to 1816 mpm. (109 km/hour) in a height of 150 meter. After this start over the sea the average speed is 1700 mpm. and in a height of 200-275 meters. When the pigeon are near land the height of flying rises to 749 meter and after reaching the coast the height is 500 meters. One can assume that the flock of pigeons wanted to overlook the landscape.



A long trip!

The speed inland is not so fast but still 300 meters in flying height. The pigeon goes straight to the island of Mors where there are a lot of fanciers, and my pigeon were properly in a flock to this island.

The straight distance to the loft are 580 km. but the cock 182 had flown 690 km in total, and that is over 100 km. more! The pigeon are out of Delbar van Riel/Vermote, and this type of pigeon are bred to take the long distance without problem, but this type of pigeon is not the sprinter type but its body and wings are designed to the long races.

Download Osnabrück 21. June:

Wind at release easy south - over sea southwest

<https://skyleader.com.tw/share/20200624x09P04>