K9 SAR APP / OFFICIAL GUIDE SERIES

SETUP & USER GUIDE

K9 SAR App Handler

Area Search

A complete illustrated guide to setting up the Handler app and recording Area Search in Training and Operational mode.

TRAINING / OPERATIONAL / REPORTS

Practical steps. Real app screens. Clear field records.

K9 SAR APP LTD

GUIDE H-AS • NOVEMBER 2026 • VERSION 1.1

GUIDE H-AS / CONTENTS

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GOOD TO KNOW Every page uses real app screens with fictional demo data. Click any page number to jump to it, and CONTENTS at the bottom of a page to come back here.

GUIDE H-AS / START HERE

Introduction to the Handler app

Your plan. Your judgement. A clear record.

Built for the dog handler

K9 SAR App Handler is the main app for planning, recording and reporting your own search work with your dog. This guide covers everything an Area Search handler needs, from installing the app to the final report.

Two separate modes

Training is for exercises: optional blind setup, an optional trainer review and Training Statistics. **Operational** is for real searches, with the missing-person briefing, risk review and handover. Operational records never appear in Training Statistics.

What the app records

Your assigned sector, your planned search route, your GPS track, points of interest (POI), trained final responses (TFR), person located, conditions, the outcome and your notes. Reports are produced as PDF, and your track can be exported as GPX.

Works with K9 SAR App Runner

The free Runner app lets the hidden person (the Runner) record their route and hide position. In Training you can import the Runner GPX, and your dog's GPS collar file, and compare them with your own track.

GOOD TO KNOW The app supports your judgement. It does not replace your training, your team procedures or the decisions of search management.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-AS / PREPARE

Before you begin

A short check before your first exercise

01 Check the phone

Charge the phone, switch on Location and make sure the date and time are correct. Use a power bank for longer searches.

02 Download offline maps

Map backgrounds need an internet connection unless you download an offline map of your area first. GPS recording itself works without mobile data.

03 Have your details ready

Your own details, your organisation or team, and each dog's identification, qualifications and health information. Record your dog's AMDR before planning, if you have it.

04 Know your mode

Choose Training for exercises and Operational for real searches. The two modes ask different questions and produce different reports.

05 Optional: Runner and dog GPS

If your hidden person uses K9 SAR App Runner, agree the exercise reference. If your dog wears a GPS collar, you can import its GPX file after the task.

06 Plan your backups

Settings → Backup and Restore saves an encrypted copy of your records. A reminder can prompt you every 30 days.

GOOD TO KNOW GPS works without mobile data, but offline maps must be downloaded before you lose connection. You will want the map to draw your sector.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-AS / GETTING STARTED

Install & first opening

Install the Handler app and choose your language

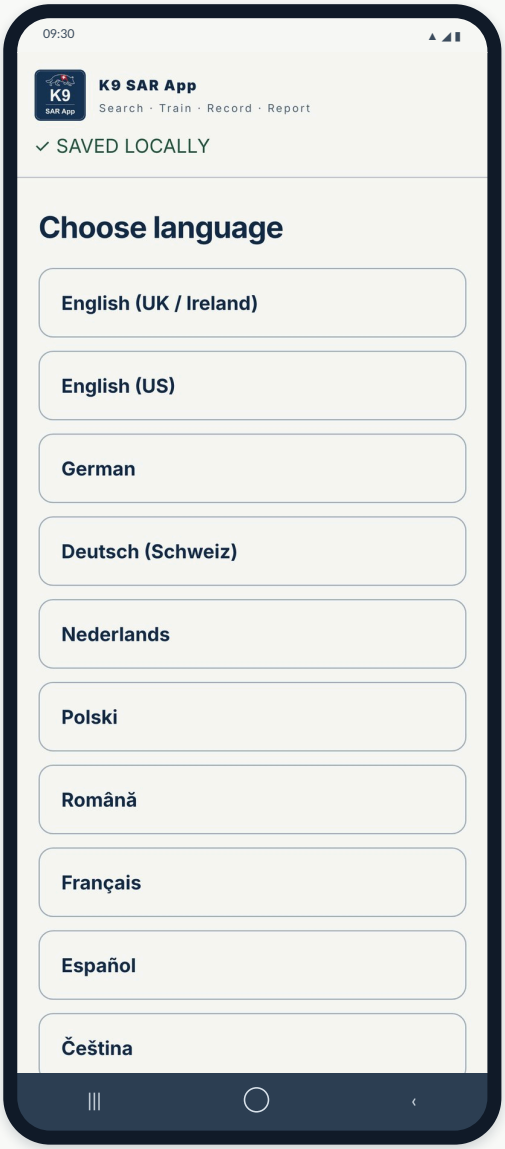
01 **Install the app**
Install K9 SAR App Handler from the official store listing on the phone you will carry in the field.

02 **Open the app**
Tap the K9 SAR App Handler icon. A short animated introduction plays before the app opens.

03 **Choose your language**
On first opening, tap your language. You can change it later in Settings.

04 **Allow location**
When Android asks for location permission, allow it. GPS recording depends on it.

05 **Continue to your profile**
After choosing a language, the app opens Handler / Dog / Logo so you can enter your details.



REAL INTERFACE / FICTIONAL DEMO DATA

GOOD TO KNOW Fourteen languages are available, including English (UK / Ireland) and English (US).

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-AS / PROFILE

Handler profile

Your personal, contact and team details

01 **Double tap to write**
Text fields open for typing when you double tap them. This prevents accidental typing in the field. Dates and choices are selected directly.

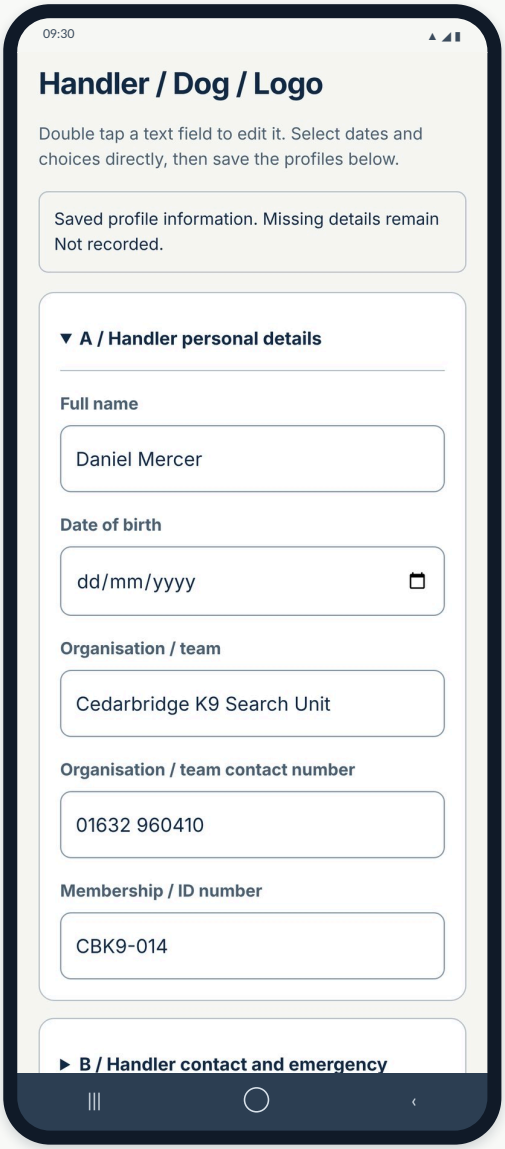
02 **A / Personal details**
Full name, date of birth, organisation or team, team contact number and membership or ID number.

03 **B to D**
Add your contact and emergency contact, your handler qualifications and your operational status.

04 **J / Equipment and identification**
Optional radio call sign, vehicle registration, vehicle type and other identification.

05 **Organisation logo**
Add a PNG or JPEG logo up to 2 MB. It appears in the app header and on your reports.

06 **Save**
Scroll down and tap SAVE HANDLER / DOG PROFILES.



REAL INTERFACE / FICTIONAL DEMO DATA

GOOD TO KNOW Anything you leave empty is shown as Not recorded. Your saved details fill in new search records automatically.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-AS / PROFILE

Dog profiles

One handler, several dogs, each with its own record

01 Add or choose a dog

Tap + ADD DOG for a new dog, or pick an existing dog in Choose dog to edit.

02 E / Dog identification

Name, call name, disciplines, trained indication (TFR), breed, date of birth, sex, neutering, colour and microchip.

03 Tick Area Search

Only dogs with Area Search ticked appear when you start an Area Search.

04 F and G / Qualifications and CT

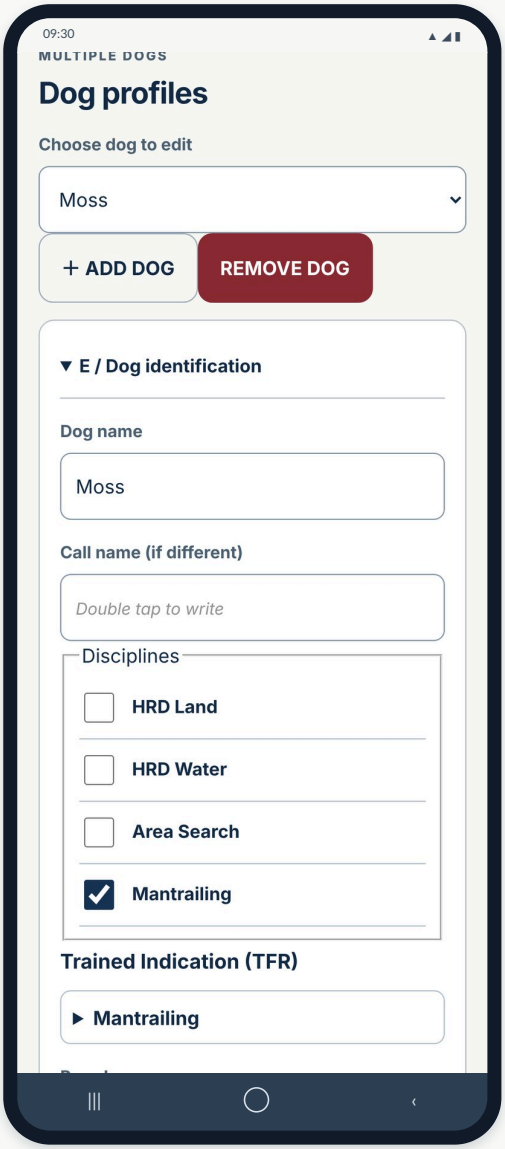
Add certificates and renewals, and Continuous Training (CT) assessments.

05 H and I / Status and health

Dog status, availability for task selection, vet details, allergies, medication, restrictions and vaccinations.

06 Save

Tap SAVE HANDLER / DOG PROFILES. Use the Handler / Dog info PDF for a printable copy.



REAL INTERFACE / FICTIONAL DEMO DATA

GOOD TO KNOW Availability is shown when you select a dog for a task, so you can see straight away if a dog is marked Unavailable.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-AS / SETTINGS

App settings

Units, coordinates and language

01 **Distance units**
Kilometres / metres or Miles / yards.

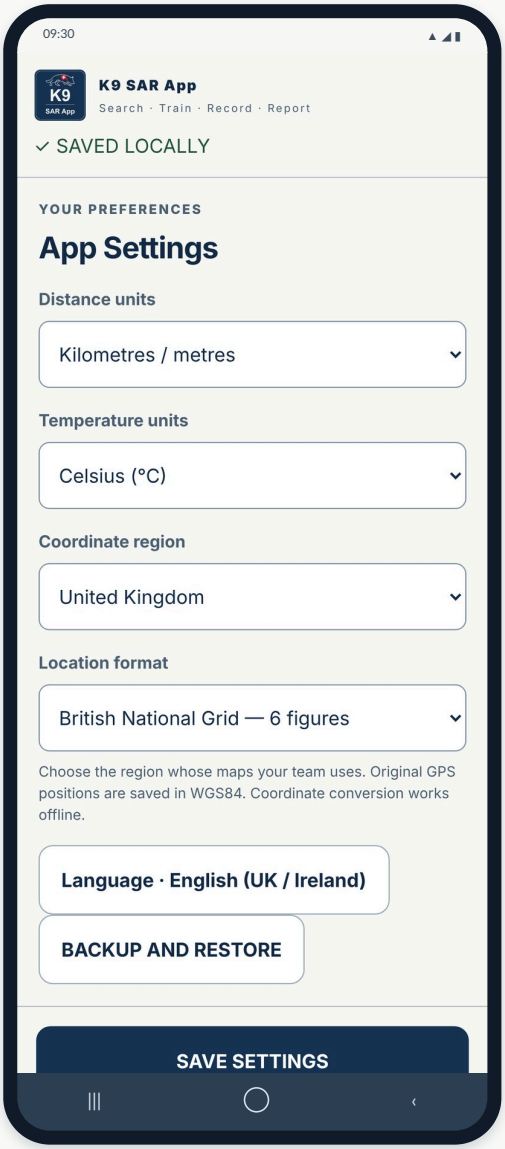
02 **Temperature units**
Celsius (°C) or Fahrenheit (°F). Temperatures are shown in the unit you choose.

03 **Coordinate region**
Choose the region whose maps your team uses, for example United Kingdom.

04 **Location format**
For example British National Grid, Decimal Degrees, UTM or MGRS. Original GPS positions are always saved in WGS84.

05 **Language and backup**
Change the language, or open Backup and Restore.

06 **Save**
Tap SAVE SETTINGS.



REAL INTERFACE / FICTIONAL DEMO DATA

GOOD TO KNOW Coordinate conversion works offline, so grid references are available without a mobile signal.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-AS / HOME

The Home screen

Your dogs and everything you need to start

01 **Your dogs**
Each dog card shows its disciplines and photo. Tap Add photo or Change photo to set the picture.

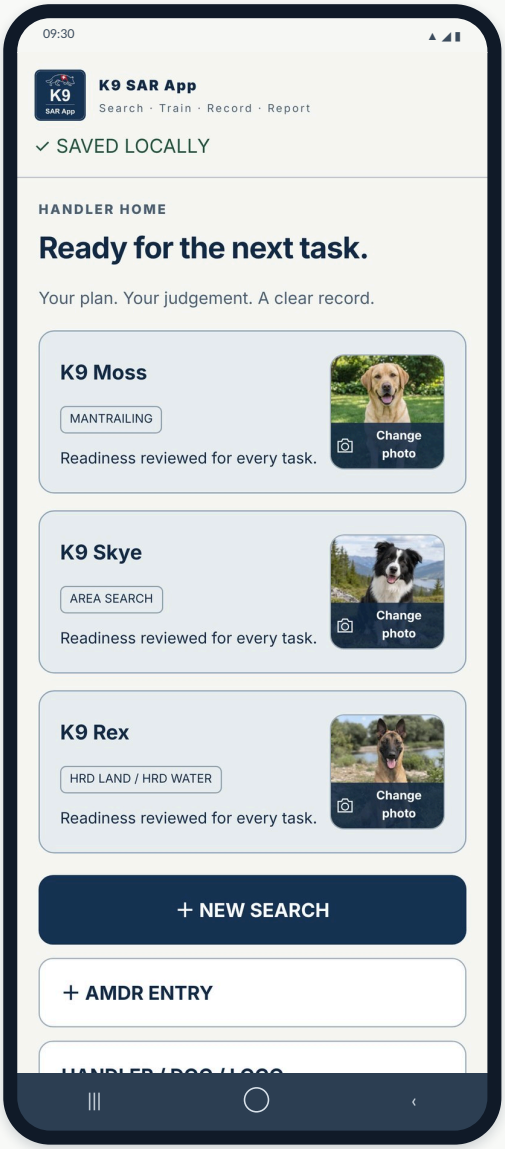
02 **+ NEW SEARCH**
Starts a new Training exercise or Operational search.

03 **+ AMDR ENTRY**
Records your dogs' AMDR (Average Maximum Detection Range) assessments.

04 **Handler / Dog / Logo**
Opens your profiles.

05 **Statistics and History**
Training Statistics for each dog, and all saved Training and Operational records.

06 **Display and Settings**
Switch between Day and Night display, and open App Settings.



REAL INTERFACE / FICTIONAL DEMO DATA

GOOD TO KNOW The status under the app name shows ✓ SAVED LOCALLY when everything is stored on the phone.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-AS / START HERE

How Area Search works in the app

Sector, plan, search, findings, debrief

01 Your sector

You mark the whole area you were given, corner by corner, on the map. This polygon stays your task from start to finish.

02 Your AMDR

Average Maximum Detection Range. The app uses your dog's saved AMDR to size the start area and the estimated coverage.

03 Your plan

You set your Initial Planning Point (IPP) and draw your own search route. The app never plans the search for you.

04 The search

The app records your GPS track. You record points of interest (POI), a trained final response (TFR) and person located.

05 The debrief

Called Area Debrief in every discipline. Area means your dog's working space for this task, from start to finish.

06 Honest maps

Planned is not searched. Estimated AMDR coverage is not proof of clear ground. Reports describe recorded work only.

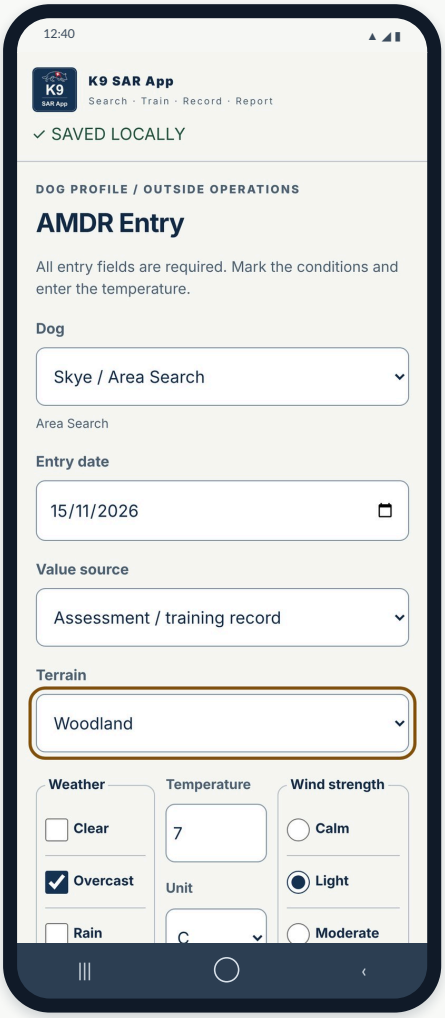
GOOD TO KNOW A green sector on the map means the area you were given. It never means the area has been cleared.

CONTENTS

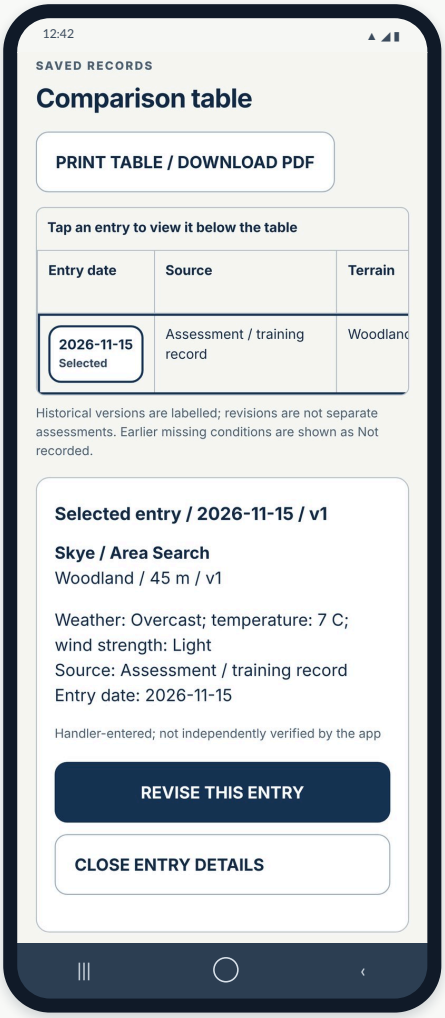
GUIDE H-AS / AMDR

Record your dog's AMDR

Home → + AMDR ENTRY



AMDR ENTRY



COMPARISON TABLE

01 **Choose the dog.** Pick the dog and discipline, for example Skye / Area Search, and the date of the assessment.

02 **Value source and terrain.** For example Assessment / training record, and the terrain it was measured in, such as Woodland.

03 **Conditions and result.** Tick the weather, enter the temperature and wind strength, then the AMDR result in metres, for example 45.

04 **Save and compare.** Tap SAVE AMDR ENTRY. Every entry is kept in the Comparison table; REVISE THIS ENTRY keeps the history.

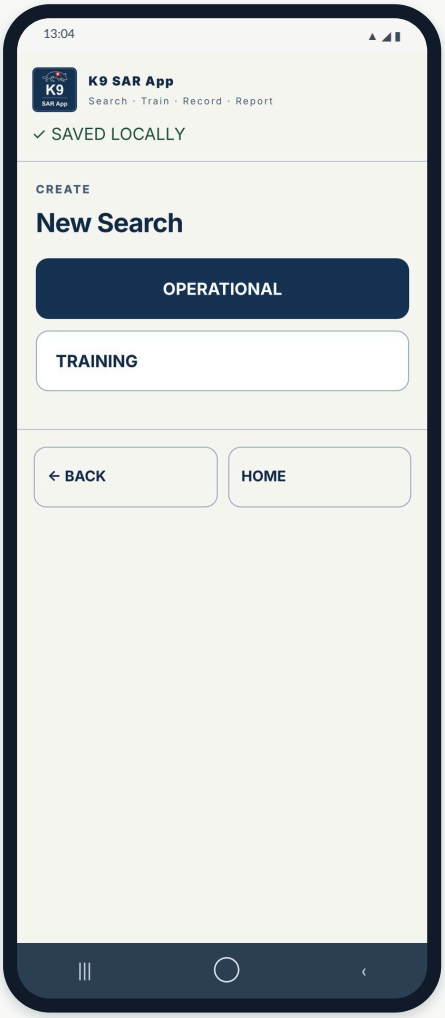
GOOD TO KNOW All AMDR entry fields are required. The app does not calculate or learn an AMDR for you: it uses only the values you enter.

CONTENTS

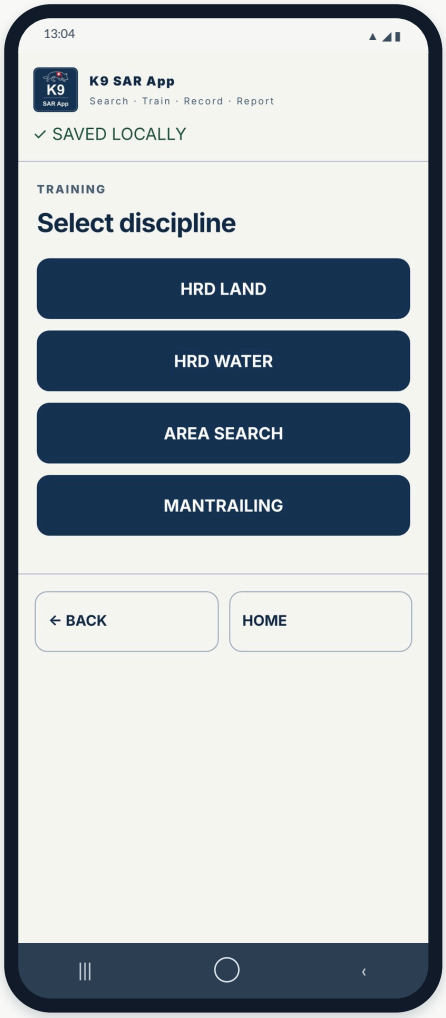
GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH TRAINING

Start an Area Search exercise

New Search → Training → Area Search



REAL INTERFACE



REAL INTERFACE

01 **Tap + NEW SEARCH** on the Home screen, then tap **TRAINING**.

02 **Tap AREA SEARCH** to choose the discipline for this exercise.

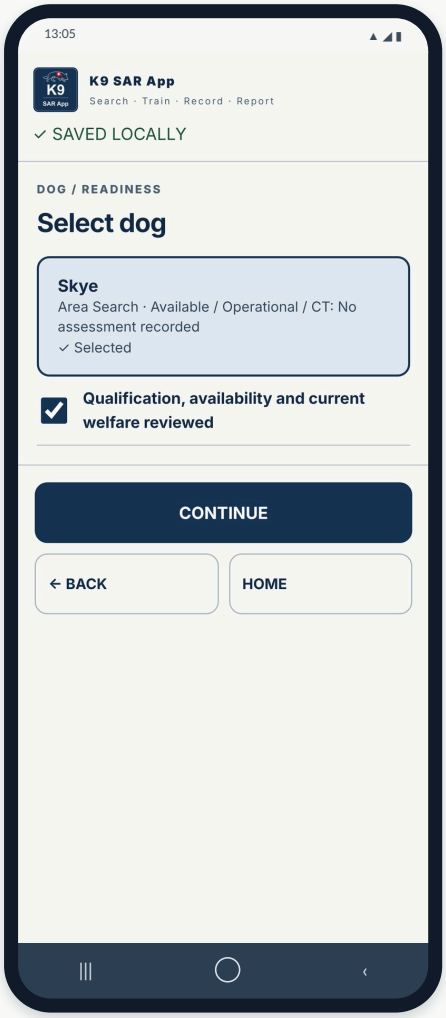
GOOD TO KNOW Choose OPERATIONAL instead for a real search. Operational Area Search is explained later in this guide.

CONTENTS

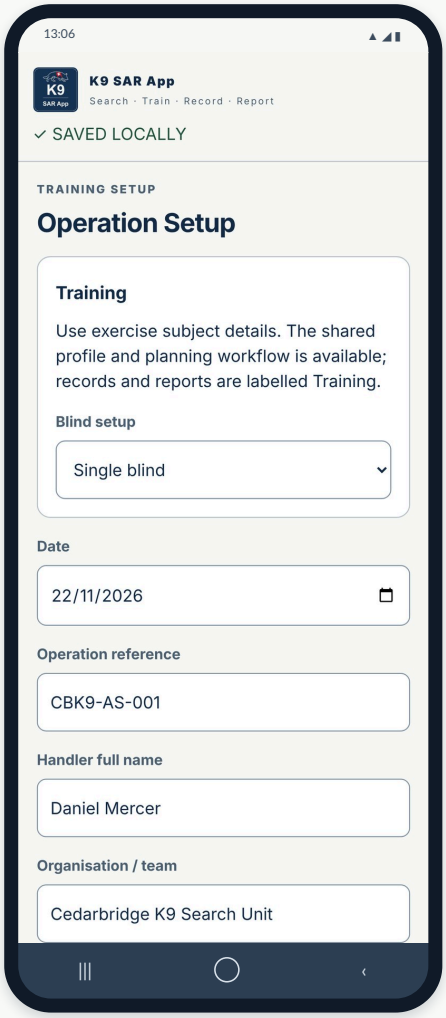
GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH TRAINING

Select your dog & Operation Setup

Readiness, then the exercise details



SELECT DOG



OPERATION SETUP

01 **Choose the dog.** Dogs with Area Search in their profile are listed with availability, status and CT. Tick the readiness review and tap CONTINUE.

02 **Blind setup.** Not recorded, Open, Single blind or Double blind. It appears in the debrief and the report.

03 **Reference and objective.** For example CBK9-AS-001 and Find one hidden person in a woodland sector of about 9 ha. Use the same reference as the Runner.

04 **Continue.** A Missing Person Profile is optional in Training. Tap SUPPORT TEAM, add support people if you have any, then continue to the task.

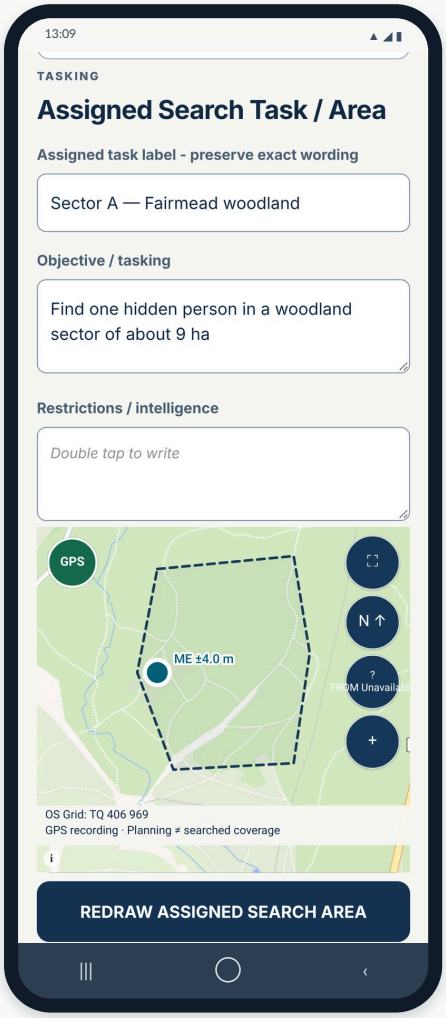
GOOD TO KNOW Training records and reports are labelled Training, so they are never confused with real searches.

CONTENTS

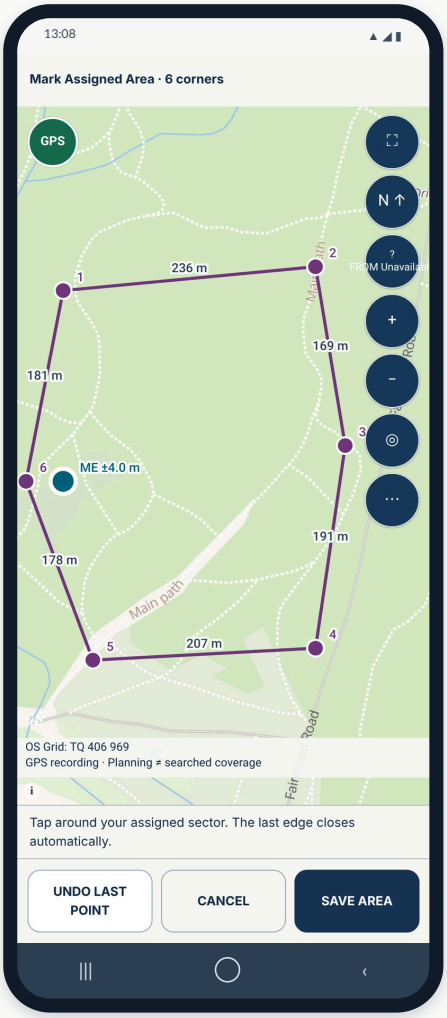
GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH TRAINING

Mark your assigned sector

Assigned Search Task / Area



REAL INTERFACE / DEMO MAP © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS



MARK ASSIGNED AREA

01 **Task label and objective.** Type the label exactly as given, for example Sector A — Fairmead woodland, and the objective.

02 **Restrictions.** Anything you were told to avoid or report. In Operational searches this appears on the DRA as a Task restriction.

03 **Draw the sector.** Tap MARK ASSIGNED SEARCH AREA and tap each corner in turn. Side lengths are shown as you go. UNDO LAST POINT removes a mistake.

04 **Save and confirm.** Tap SAVE AREA. The last edge closes automatically. Tick Tasking and assigned boundary reviewed, then tap CONDITIONS / WIND.

GOOD TO KNOW Mark the whole sector you were given. Planned routes inside it never reduce the task: the whole polygon stays your task.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH TRAINING

Conditions & wind

Current local observation

01 **Wind**

Tap WIND. Choose the direction the wind comes FROM and its strength, for example FROM E / Light.

02 **Temperature**

Optional, in the unit chosen in Settings.

03 **Terrain**

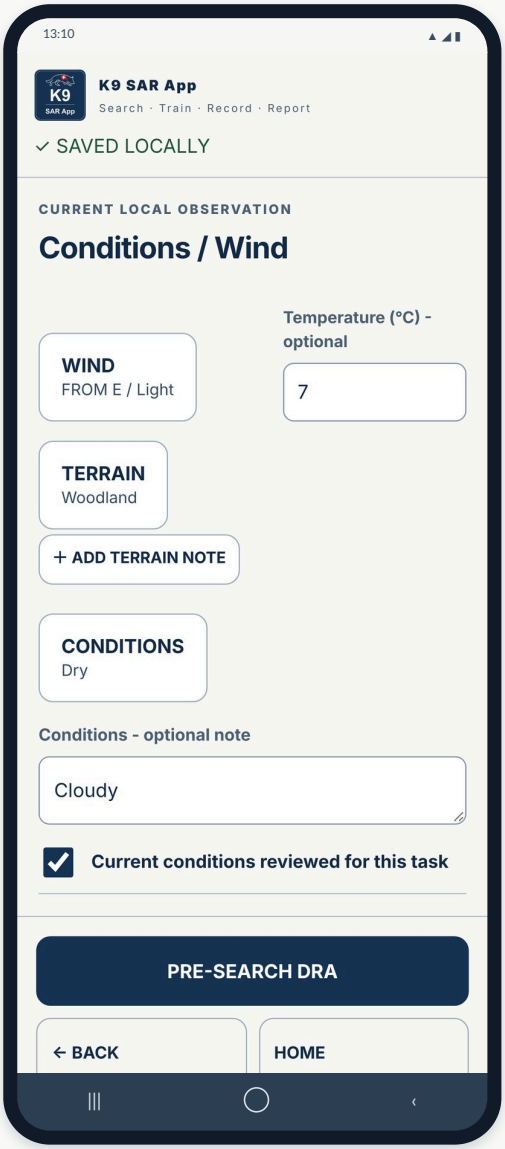
Tap TERRAIN and tick every type in the sector, for example Woodland. + ADD TERRAIN NOTE for detail.

04 **Conditions**

Tap CONDITIONS, for example Dry, and add an optional note.

05 **Confirm**

Tick Current conditions reviewed for this task, then tap PRE-SEARCH DRA.



REAL INTERFACE / FICTIONAL DEMO DATA

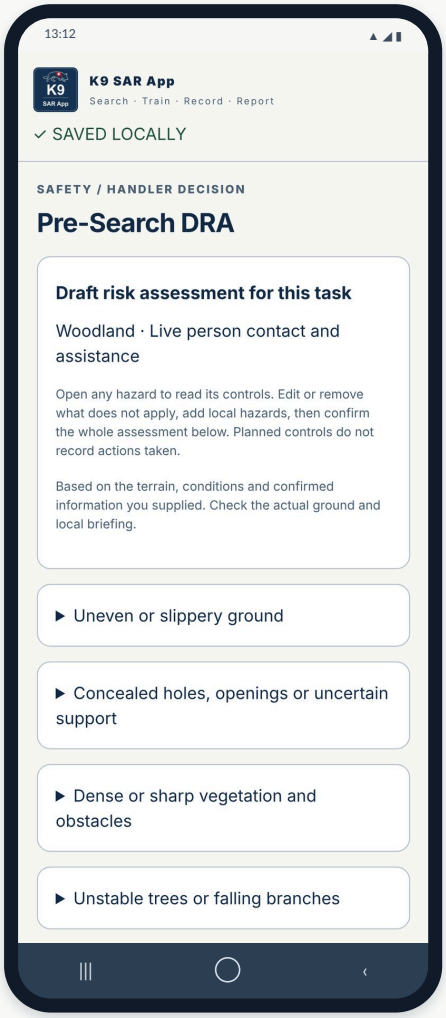
GOOD TO KNOW Wind matters most in Area Search: the app uses it for your wind button and for the estimated AMDR shape after the search.

CONTENTS

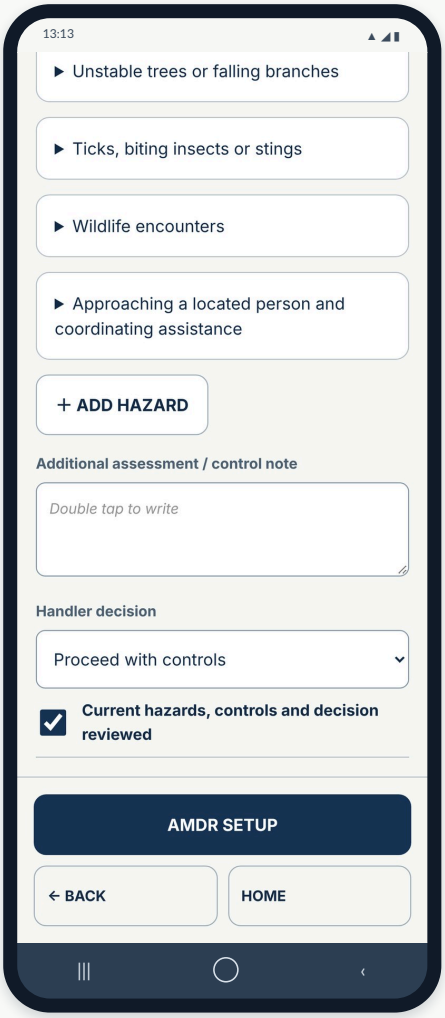
GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH TRAINING

Pre-search risk assessment (DRA)

Check the hazards before you plan



DRAFT ASSESSMENT



HANDLER DECISION

01 **Read the draft.** The app drafts likely hazards from the terrain and conditions you entered, for example Woodland · Live person contact and assistance.

02 **Make it yours.** Open each hazard to read its controls, edit or remove it, and tap + ADD HAZARD for anything local.

03 **Choose a decision.** Proceed with controls, Hold / seek instruction, or Withdraw. Add a control note if needed.

04 **Confirm.** Tick Current hazards, controls and decision reviewed, then tap AMDR SETUP.

GOOD TO KNOW Planned controls are a plan. They do not record actions taken.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH TRAINING

AMDR Setup

Choose the planning value for this task

01 **Saved AMDR**

The app shows the saved AMDR for this dog, for example 45 m, with the terrain, date and conditions it came from.

02 **Use it**

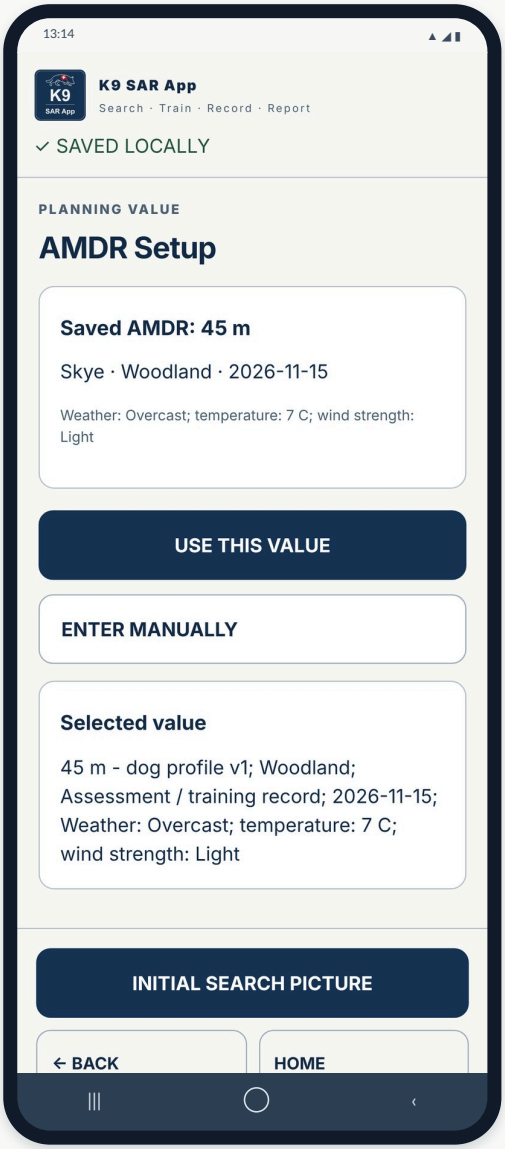
Tap USE THIS VALUE if it suits today's ground and conditions.

03 **Or enter manually**

Tap ENTER MANUALLY to use a different value for this task only. Your saved entries do not change.

04 **Selected value**

Check the summary, then tap INITIAL SEARCH PICTURE.



REAL INTERFACE / FICTIONAL DEMO DATA

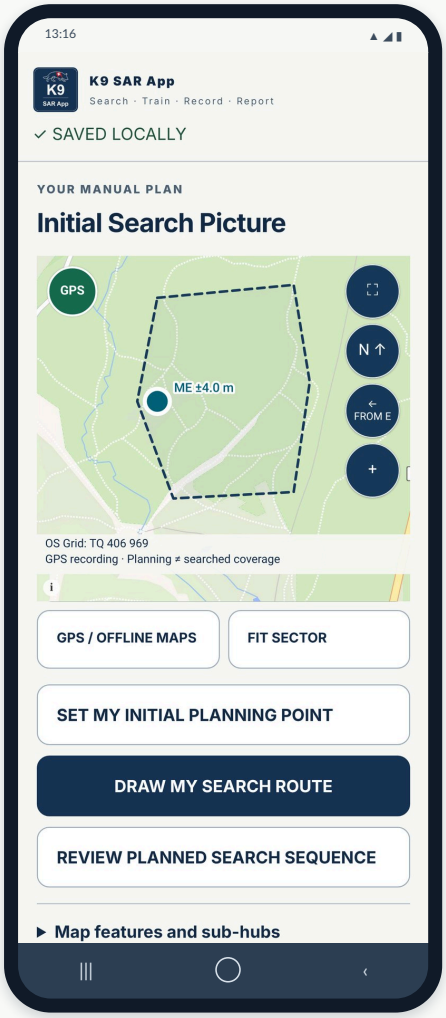
GOOD TO KNOW The selected AMDR sizes your start area: a 90 m radius is 2 × 45 m. Only the part inside your sector is used.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH TRAINING

Initial Search Picture

Set your IPP, then draw your route



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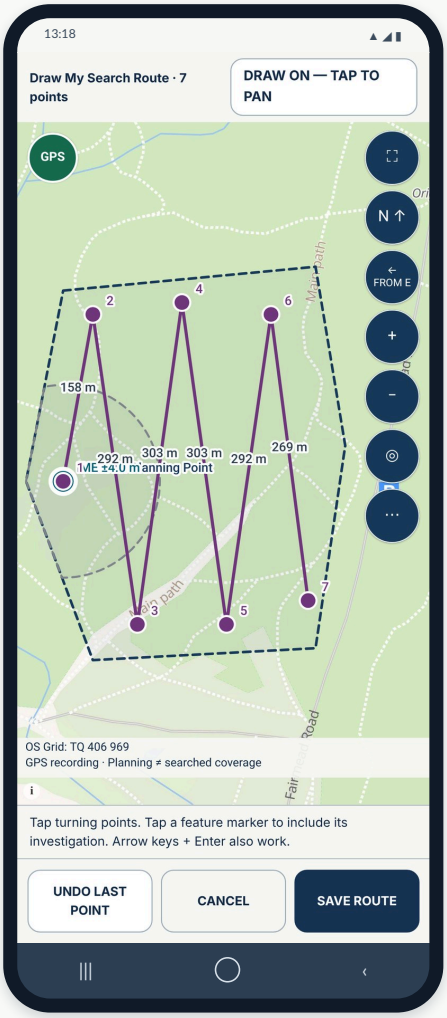


DRAW MY SEARCH ROUTE

01 **Initial Planning Point.** Tap SET MY INITIAL PLANNING POINT, then tap the map or use your GPS position. It is marked H1.

02 **Start area.** The app draws a dashed start area around H1, sized from your AMDR and kept inside the sector.

03 **Draw your route.** Tap DRAW MY SEARCH ROUTE and tap each turning point in order. Each leg shows its length.

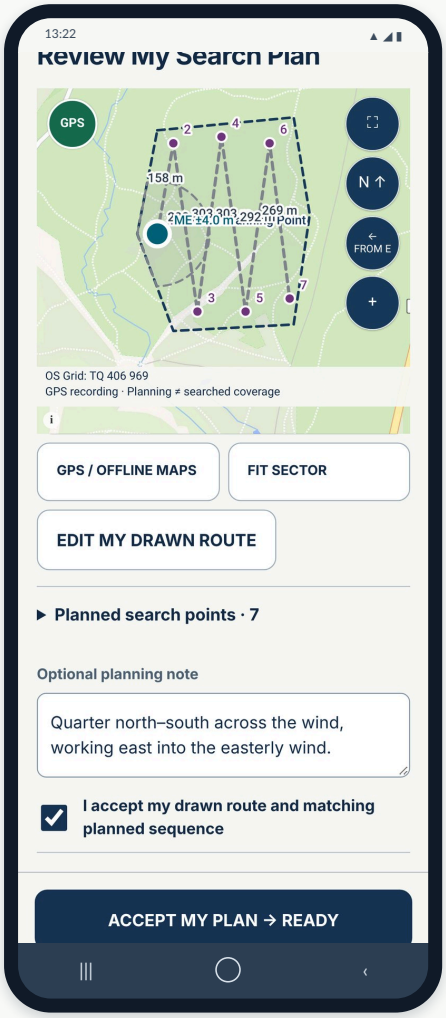
04 **Save.** Tap SAVE ROUTE. DRAW ON — TAP TO PAN switches between drawing and moving the map.

GOOD TO KNOW Draw the route you intend to work, for example quartering across the wind. You can redraw it at any time before you start.

CONTENTS

Review your plan & get ready

Review My Search Plan → Ready to Search



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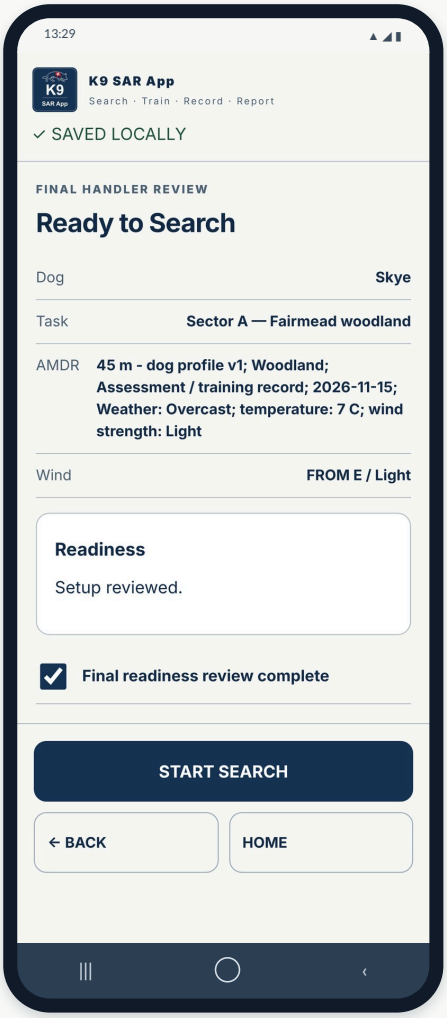


READY TO SEARCH

01 **Check the plan.** Grey dashed lines are your planned route; numbered points are your turning points. Open Planned search points · 7 to see each one.

02 **Planning note.** Optional, for example Quarter north–south across the wind, working east into the easterly wind.

03 **Accept.** Tick I accept my drawn route and matching planned sequence, then tap ACCEPT MY PLAN → READY.

04 **Ready to Search.** Check the dog, task, AMDR and wind. Tick Final readiness review complete and tap START SEARCH.

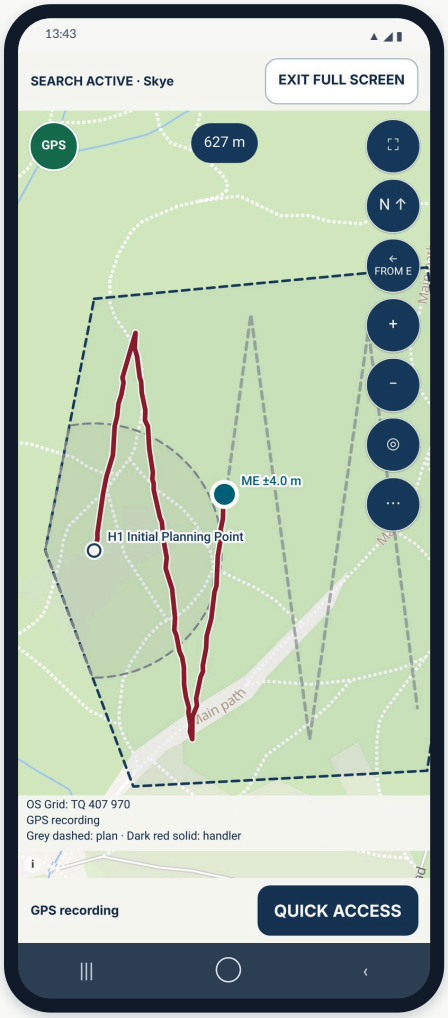
GOOD TO KNOW The status strip always says Planning ≠ searched coverage. A plan is never counted as ground searched.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH TRAINING

Searching your sector

Full screen map and the search screen



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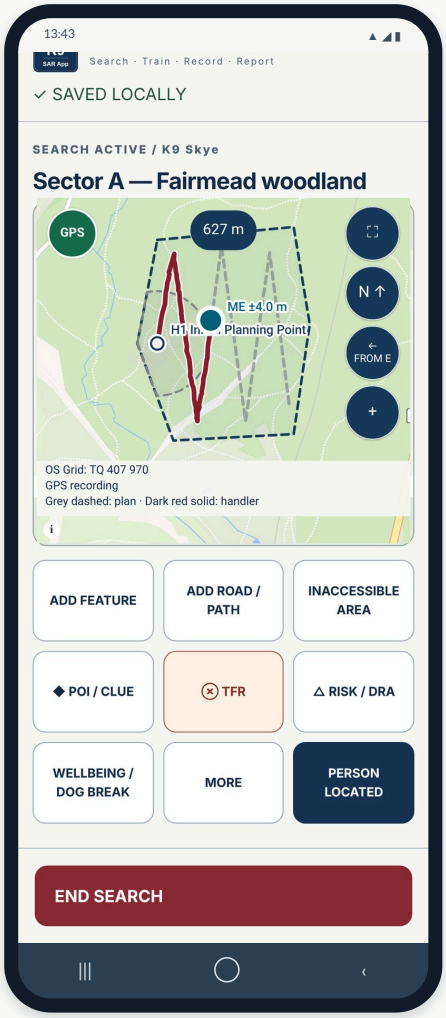


REAL INTERFACE / DEMO MAP © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS

01 **Your track.** The dark red line is your GPS track over the grey dashed plan. The badge at the top is the distance you have walked.

02 **Map buttons.** Full screen, North up, Wind, zoom + and −, centre on me (◎) and ··· for GPS and offline maps.

03 **Leave full screen.** Tap EXIT FULL SCREEN to reach the search buttons. QUICK ACCESS in full screen opens the same buttons.

04 **Search buttons.** ADD FEATURE, ADD ROAD / PATH, INACCESSIBLE AREA, POI / CLUE, TFR, RISK / DRA, WELLBEING / DOG BREAK, MORE and PERSON LOCATED.

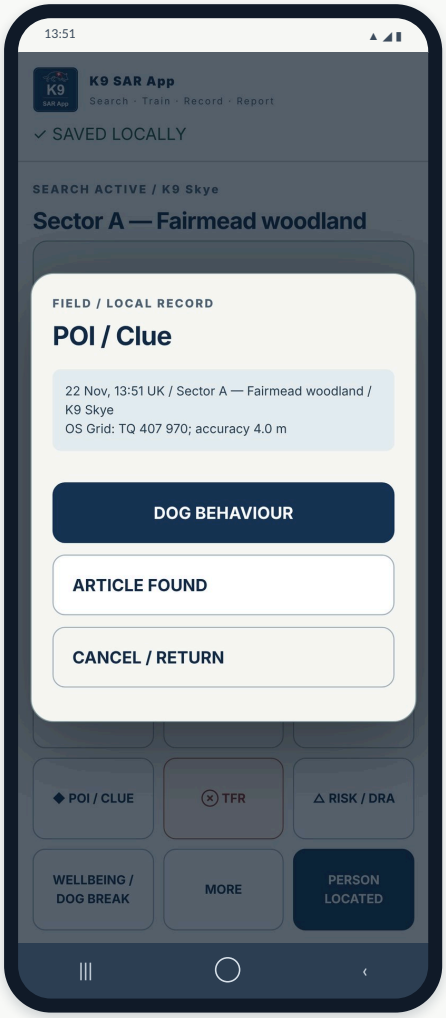
GOOD TO KNOW Use INACCESSIBLE AREA to mark ground you could not enter, so it is never mistaken for ground you searched.

CONTENTS

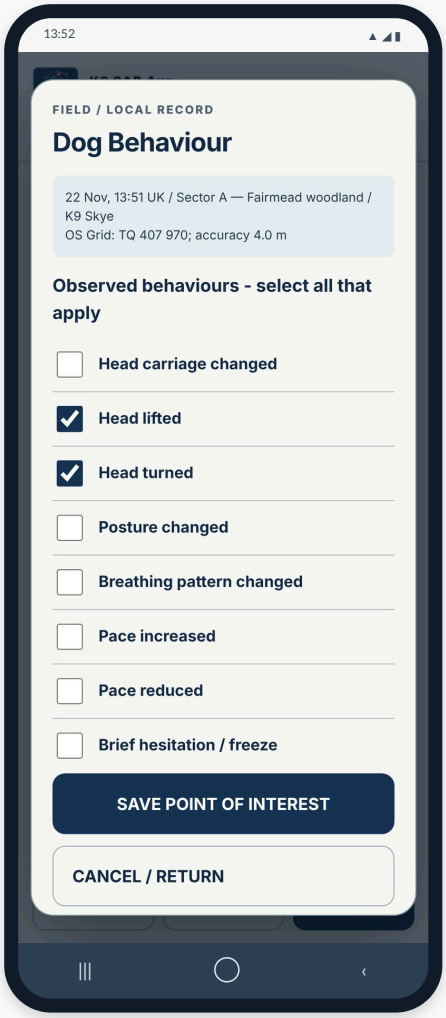
GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH TRAINING

Record a point of interest (POI)

POI / CLUE → DOG BEHAVIOUR



POI / CLUE



DOG BEHAVIOUR

01 **Tap POI / CLUE where it happens.** The time and your GPS position are captured straight away, for example 13:51, OS Grid TQ 407 970.

02 **Choose the kind.** DOG BEHAVIOUR for a change in your dog, or ARTICLE FOUND for an object.

03 **Tick what you saw.** For example Head lifted, Head turned and Air-scenting, and the action taken, such as Continued planned route.

04 **Save.** Tap SAVE POINT OF INTEREST. It appears on the map as POI-01 with a small planned sub-area around it.

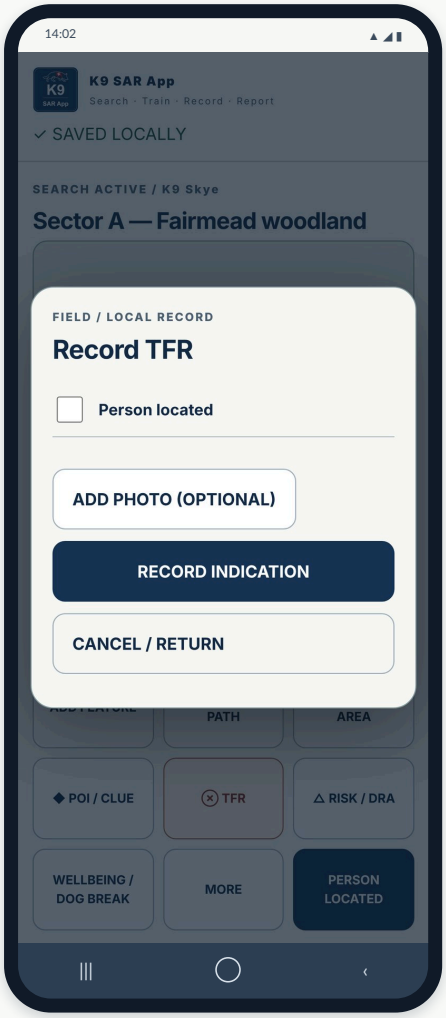
GOOD TO KNOW Record what the dog did, not what you think it means. The report keeps your observation separate from any conclusion.

CONTENTS

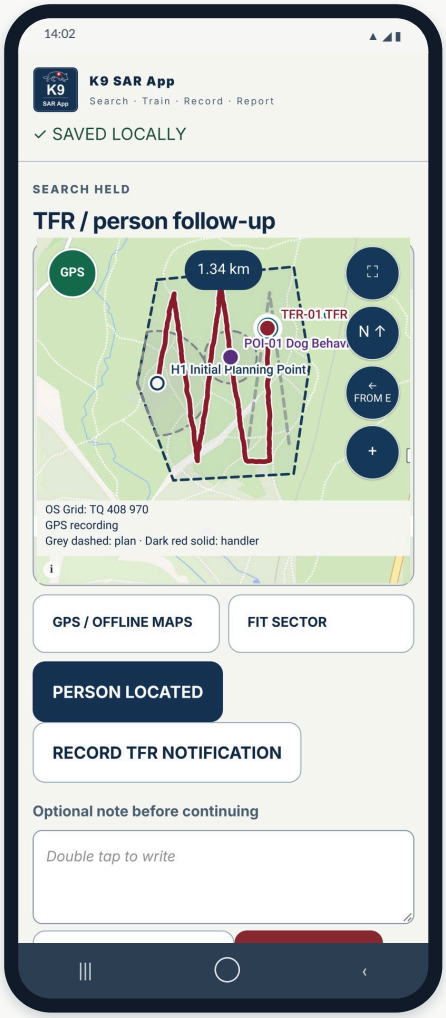
GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH TRAINING

Trained final response (TFR)

TFR → RECORD INDICATION



RECORD TFR



REAL INTERFACE / DEMO MAP © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS

01 **Tap TFR when your dog indicates.** Record TFR opens with the time and position. Tick Person located if the person is found at the indication.

02 **Photo.** ADD PHOTO (OPTIONAL) attaches a picture to the TFR.

03 **Record it.** Tap RECORD INDICATION. The search is held and TFR / person follow-up opens.

04 **Follow up.** Tap PERSON LOCATED. RECORD TFR NOTIFICATION records that you reported the TFR. CONTINUE SEARCH goes back to searching.

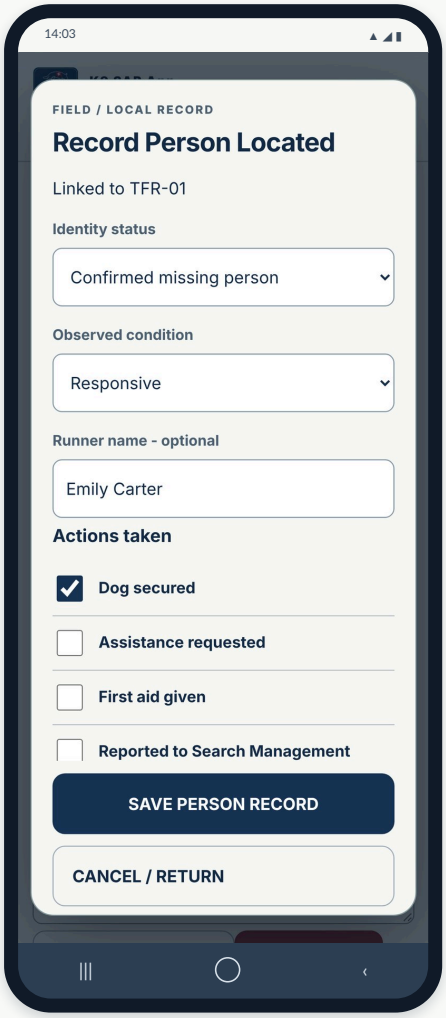
GOOD TO KNOW A TFR is not forensic confirmation. It records where and when your dog gave its trained indication.

CONTENTS

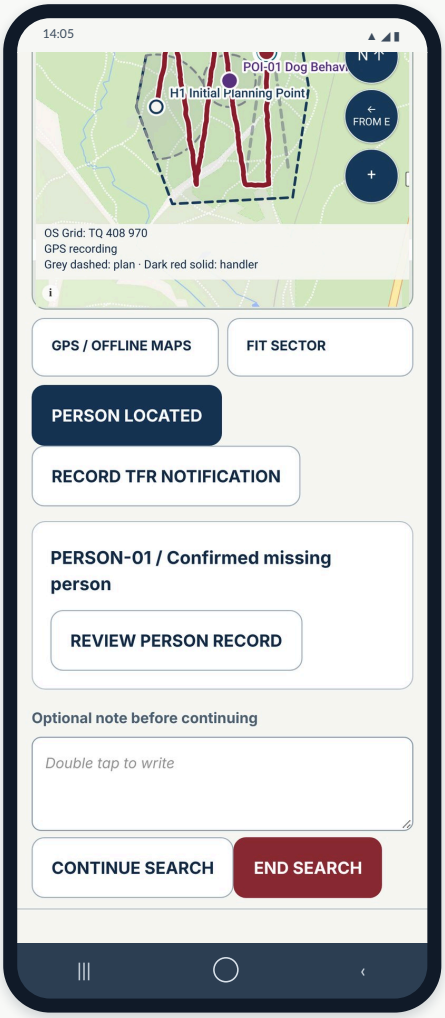
GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH TRAINING

Person located

PERSON LOCATED → SAVE PERSON RECORD



RECORD PERSON LOCATED



TFR / PERSON FOLLOW-UP

01 **Identity and condition.** For example Confirmed missing person and Responsive. The record is linked to the TFR, for example Linked to TFR-01.

02 **Runner and actions.** The Runner's name is optional. Tick the actions taken, for example Dog secured.

03 **Save.** Add a short note about how the person was found, then tap SAVE PERSON RECORD.

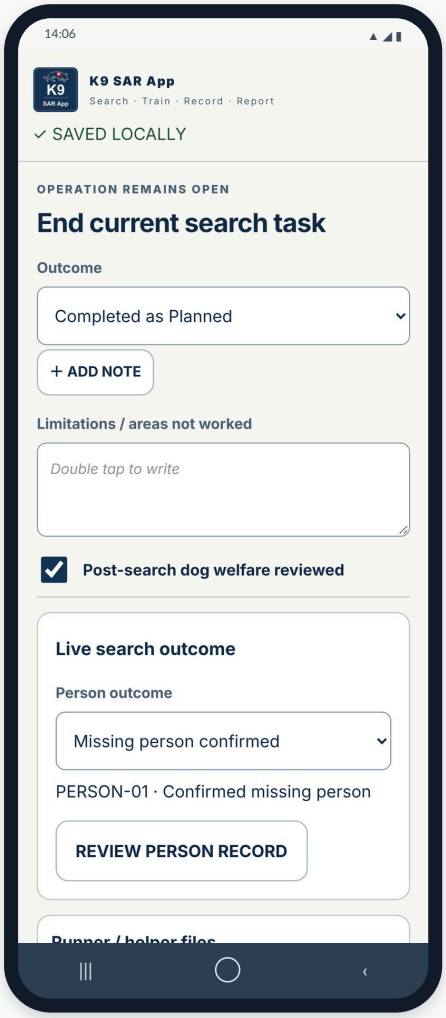
04 **End or continue.** The follow-up screen now shows PERSON-01. Tap END SEARCH to finish, or CONTINUE SEARCH if there is more to search.

GOOD TO KNOW REVIEW PERSON RECORD lets you check or correct the record before you end the search.

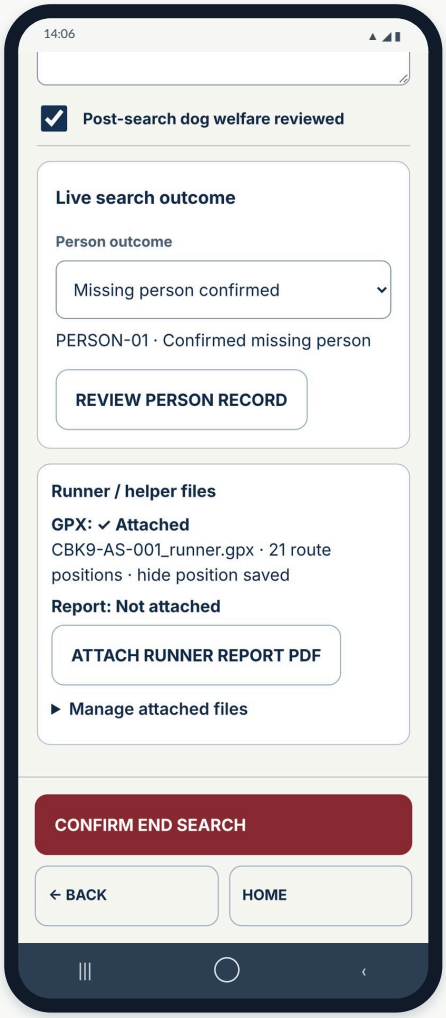
CONTENTS

End the search task

END SEARCH → End current search task



OUTCOME



RUNNER FILES / CONFIRM

01 **Outcome.** Completed as Planned, Completed with limitation, Suspended or Withdrawn. Record any limitations or areas not worked.

02 **Dog welfare.** Tick Post-search dog welfare reviewed. It is required.

03 **Person outcome.** Missing person confirmed needs a saved Person Located record. REVIEW PERSON RECORD shows it.

04 **Runner files and confirm.** Optionally attach the Runner GPX and report PDF now, then tap CONFIRM END SEARCH.

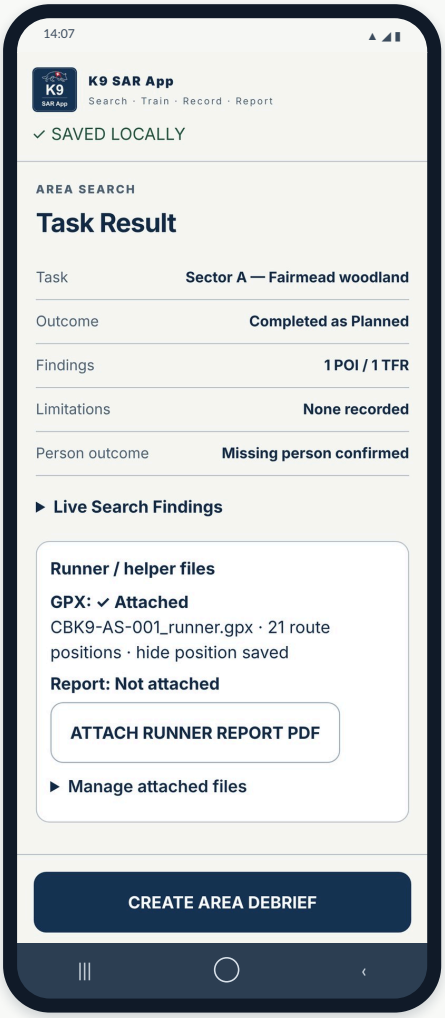
GOOD TO KNOW Recording stops when you confirm. Limitations you enter here are carried into the debrief and the report.

CONTENTS

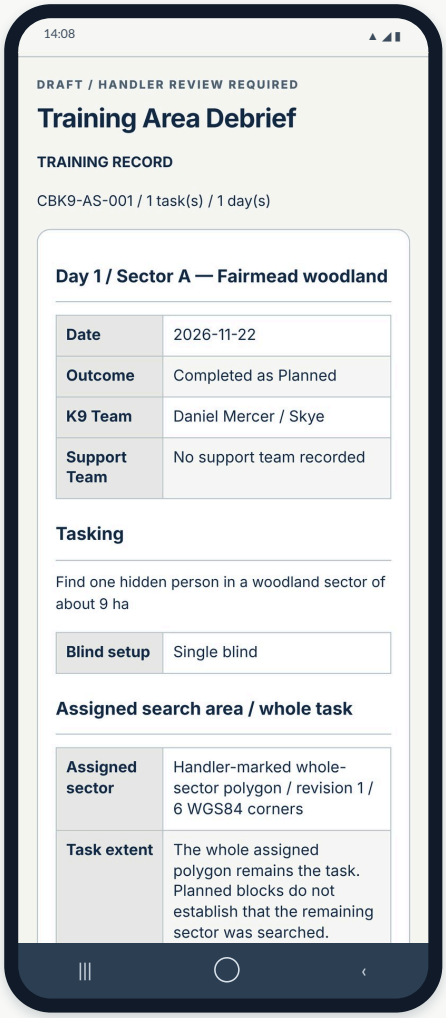
GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH TRAINING

Task Result & Area Debrief

A summary first, then the debrief



TASK RESULT



TRAINING AREA DEBRIEF

01 **Task Result.** Task, outcome, findings, limitations, person outcome and the Runner files. Live Search Findings lists each POI and TFR.

02 **Open the debrief.** Tap CREATE AREA DEBRIEF. It is a draft for you to review: DRAFT / HANDLER REVIEW REQUIRED.

03 **Day and task.** Date, outcome, K9 team, support team, tasking and blind setup.

04 **Assigned area.** How the sector, start and starting sub-hub were set, and what they do and do not mean.

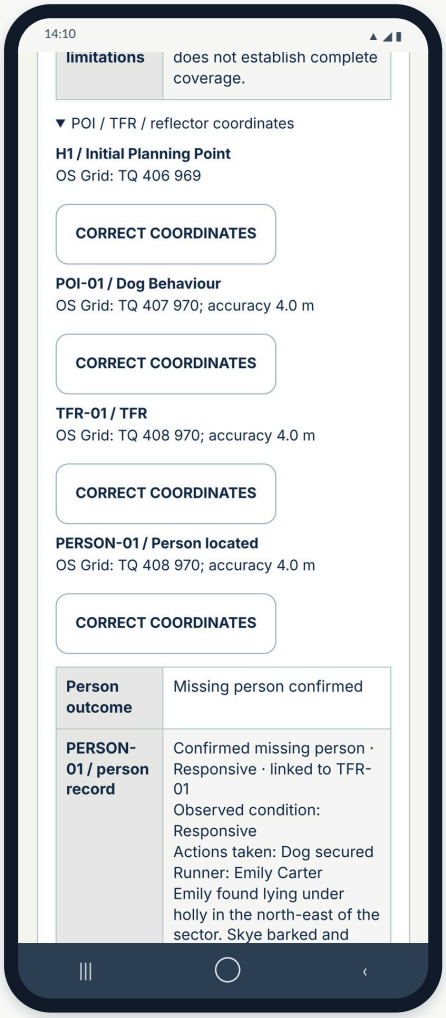
GOOD TO KNOW Area means your dog's working space for this task, from start to finish. The same name is used in every discipline.

CONTENTS

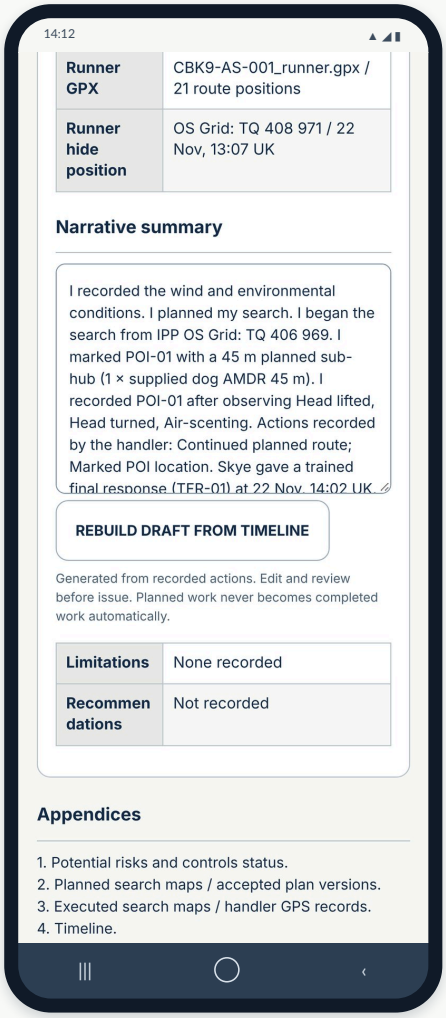
GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH TRAINING

Positions, person record & narrative

Middle part of the debrief



POSITIONS / PERSON



NARRATIVE SUMMARY

01 **POI / TFR coordinates.** H1, each POI and each TFR with its grid reference and accuracy. CORRECT COORDINATES fixes a wrong position.

02 **Person record.** The person outcome and the full PERSON-01 record, including actions and your note.

03 **Narrative summary.** A draft written from your recorded actions: your plan, each POI, the TFR and the person record. Read it and edit it in your own words.

04 **Rebuild.** REBUILD DRAFT FROM TIMELINE starts the draft again. Then check Limitations and Recommendations.

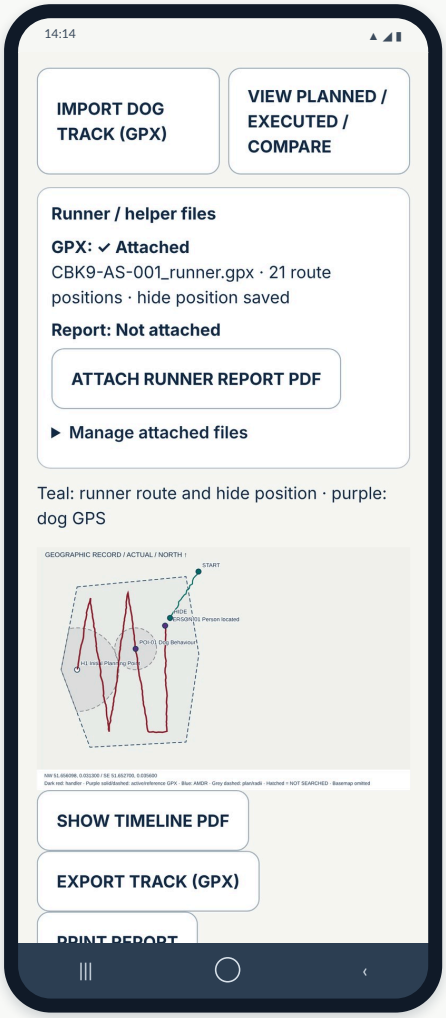
GOOD TO KNOW Check the narrative carefully. It is your statement: add anything important that the draft does not mention.

CONTENTS

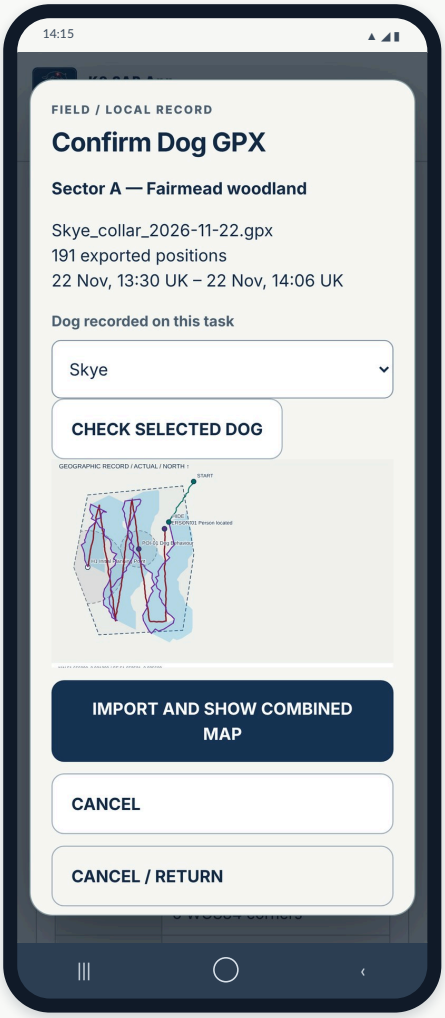
GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH TRAINING

Import your dog's GPS track

IMPORT DOG TRACK (GPX)



DEBRIEF / FILES



CONFIRM DOG GPX

01 **Import.** In the debrief, tap IMPORT DOG TRACK (GPX) and choose the file from your dog's GPS collar.

02 **Check the file.** Confirm Dog GPX shows the file name, the number of positions and the time span, for example 13:30 – 14:06.

03 **Confirm the dog.** Choose the dog recorded on this task and tap CHECK SELECTED DOG. The preview shows the dog track over your sector.

04 **Combine.** Tap IMPORT AND SHOW COMBINED MAP. Runner files are attached in the same part of the debrief.

GOOD TO KNOW Only positions inside the active search time are used for the estimated AMDR. Positions outside it are kept as reference only.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH TRAINING

Search Maps: planned, executed, compare

VIEW PLANNED / EXECUTED / COMPARE

01 Three views

PLANNED shows your sector and route; EXECUTED shows what was recorded; COMPARE shows both.

02 Layers

Turn Handler track, Dog track and Estimated AMDR on or off. Purple is the dog, dark red is you, teal is the Runner.

03 Estimated AMDR

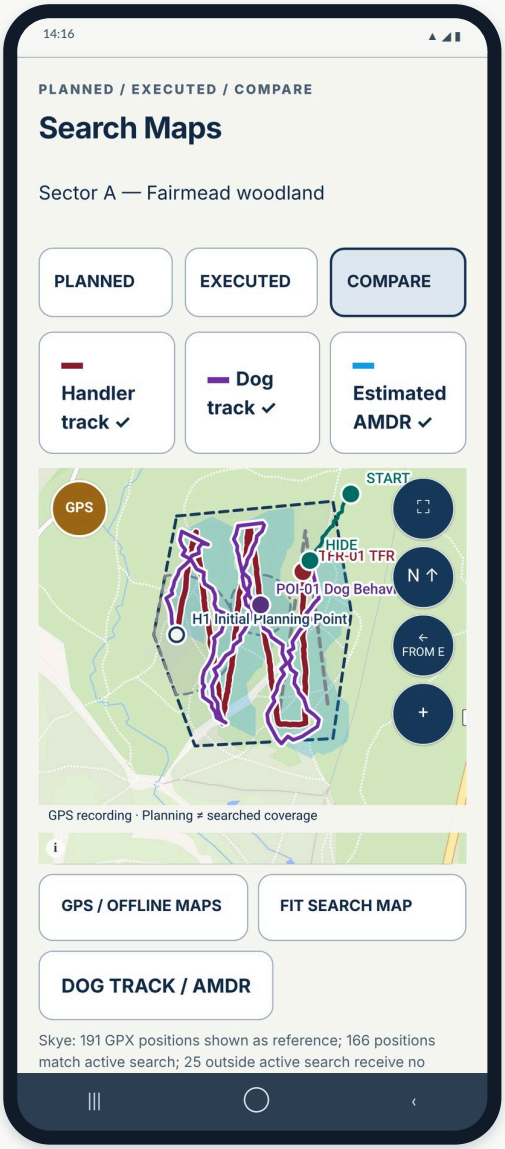
Blue shading is an estimate built from the dog track, the wind and your AMDR. It is not confirmed searched ground.

04 Read the note

The text under the map explains how many dog positions were used, and why.

05 Return

Tap RETURN TO AREA DEBRIEF.



REAL INTERFACE / DEMO MAP © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS

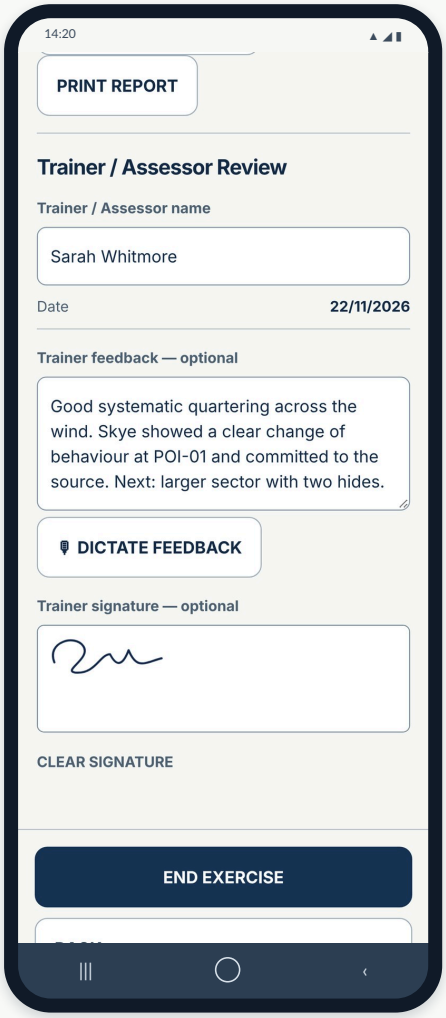
GOOD TO KNOW Use the compare view to see where your dog worked compared with your plan: it is a training tool, not a verdict.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH TRAINING

Trainer review & End Exercise

Bottom of the debrief, then finish



TRAINER REVIEW



EXERCISE COMPLETED

01 **Trainer / Assessor.** Name and feedback are optional. The date is filled in automatically. DICTATE FEEDBACK lets the trainer speak.

02 **Signature.** The trainer can sign in the box. CLEAR SIGNATURE starts again.

03 **End the exercise.** Tap END EXERCISE when the review is complete. The record is then finalised.

04 **Reports and track.** Save or show the report PDF and the timeline PDF, EXPORT TRACK (GPX) for your GPS track, the Handler / Dog info PDF, or print.

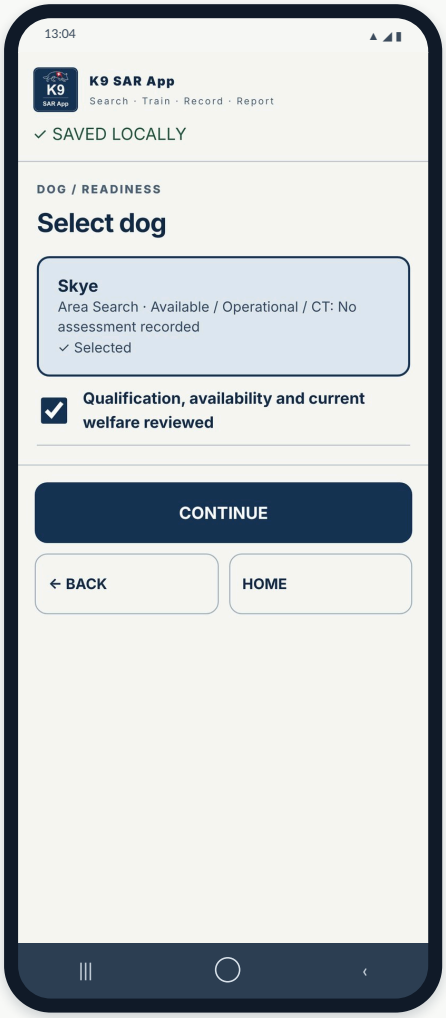
GOOD TO KNOW After END EXERCISE the debrief can no longer be edited. The exercise is kept in History and counted in Training Statistics.

CONTENTS

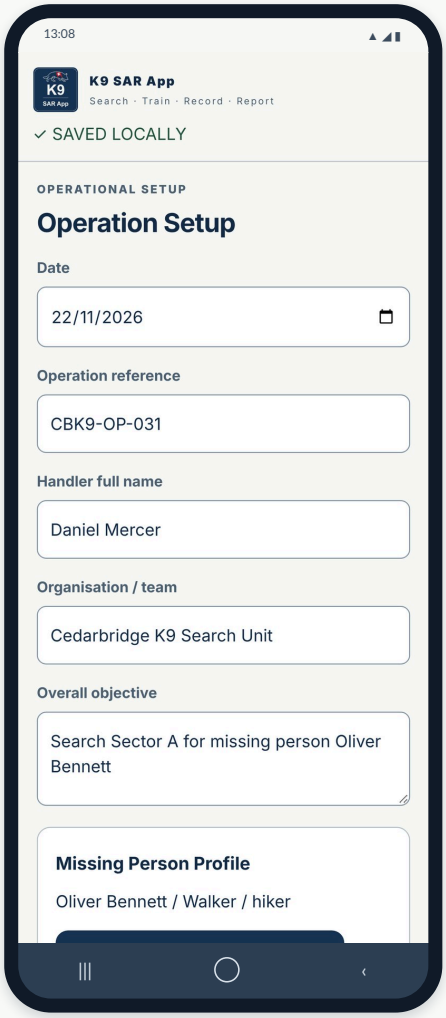
GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH OPERATIONAL

Start an Operational Area Search

New Search → Operational → Area Search



SELECT DOG



OPERATION SETUP

01 **Choose Operational.** Tap + NEW SEARCH, then OPERATIONAL, then AREA SEARCH. Select the dog and tick the readiness review.

02 **Operation Setup.** Date, the operation reference from search management, for example CBK9-OP-031, and the overall objective.

03 **Handler and team.** Filled in from your profile.

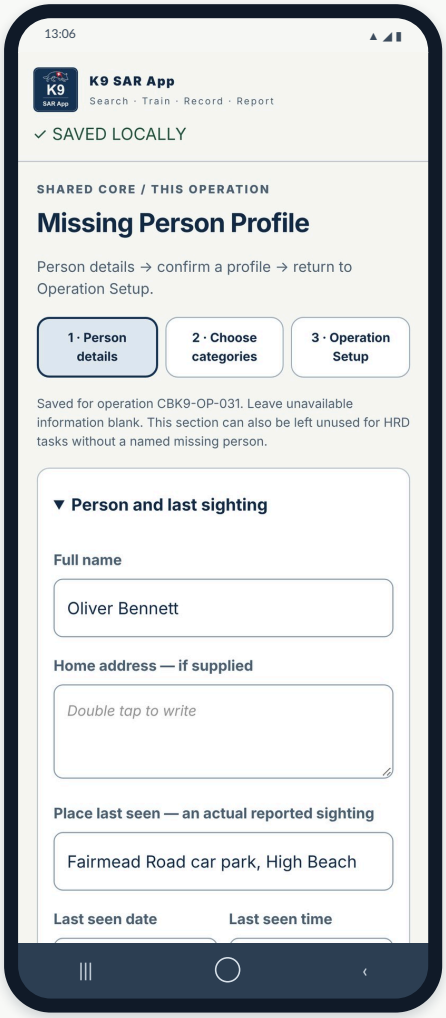
04 **Missing person.** Tap MISSING PERSON PROFILE. When saved, the card shows the name and category and the button becomes VIEW / UPDATE PERSON BRIEF.

GOOD TO KNOW Use the reference given by search management, so your report matches their records.

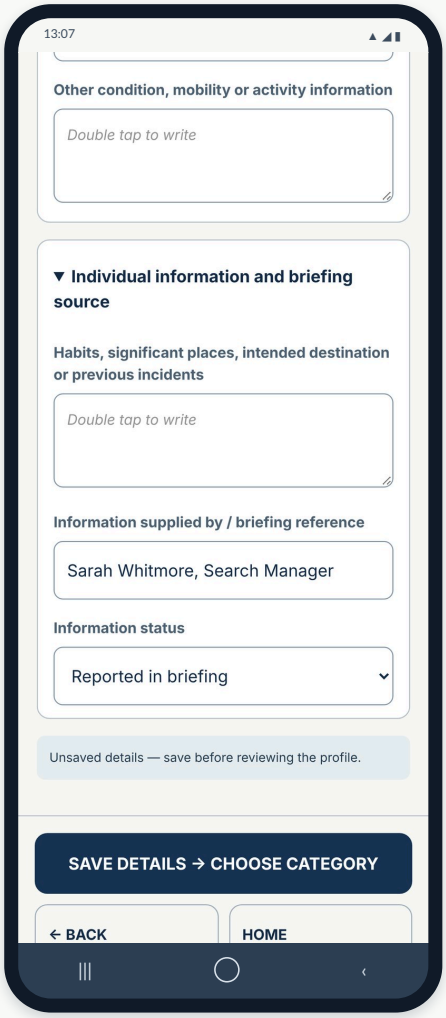
CONTENTS

Missing Person Profile

1 · Person details



PERSON DETAILS



BRIEFING SOURCE

01 **Person and last sighting.** Full name, home address if supplied, the place last seen (an actual reported sighting), date and time.

02 **Recognition and category information.** Clothing and footwear, items, sex, age, physical and mental information, and the activity when missing.

03 **Briefing source.** Who supplied the information, for example Sarah Whitmore, Search Manager, and its status, such as Reported in briefing.

04 **Save.** Tap SAVE DETAILS → CHOOSE CATEGORY.

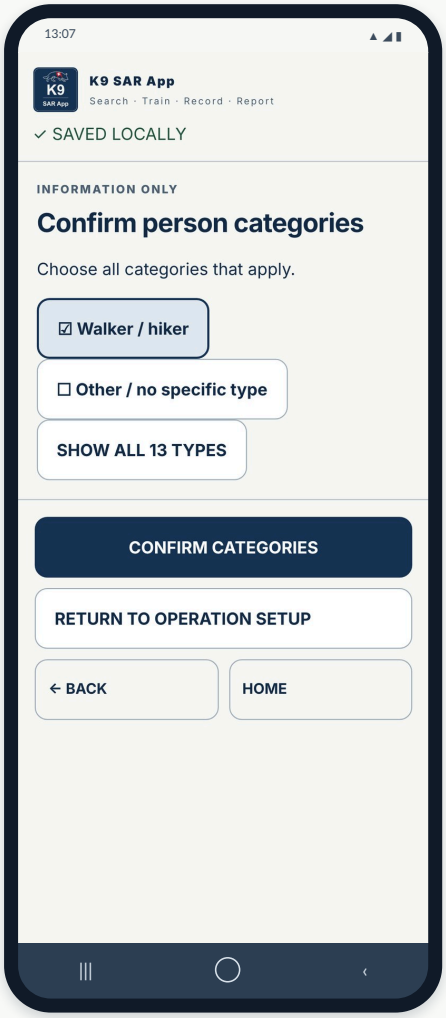
GOOD TO KNOW Leave anything you were not told blank. The report shows it as Not supplied, never as a guess.

CONTENTS

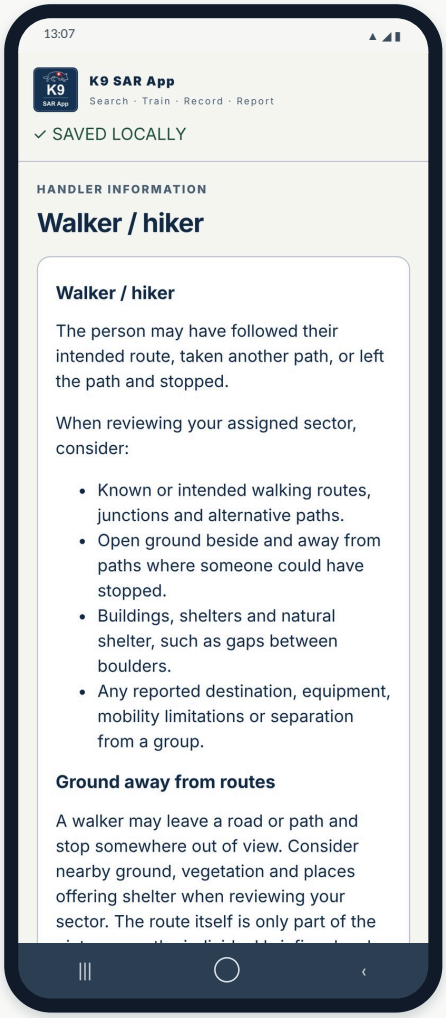
GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH OPERATIONAL

Person categories & sector reminder

2 · Choose categories → 3 · Operation Setup



CONFIRM CATEGORIES



CATEGORY REMINDER

01 **Choose the categories.** Tick every category that applies, for example Walker / hiker. SHOW ALL 13 TYPES lists the rest.

02 **Confirm.** Tap CONFIRM CATEGORIES.

03 **Read the reminder.** For Area Search the reminder is written for reviewing your assigned sector: routes, junctions, shelter and open ground.

04 **Return.** Tap PROCEED → OPERATION SETUP, then SUPPORT TEAM.

GOOD TO KNOW The reminders are information only. They do not tell you where the person is, or that any part of your sector can be left out.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH OPERATIONAL

Task, conditions and plan

The same steps as in Training

01 **Support team**

Enter each person's full name and roles, or continue without support.

02 **Assigned task**

Mark your sector exactly as in Training. Anything typed in Restrictions / intelligence becomes the Task restriction on the DRA.

03 **Conditions**

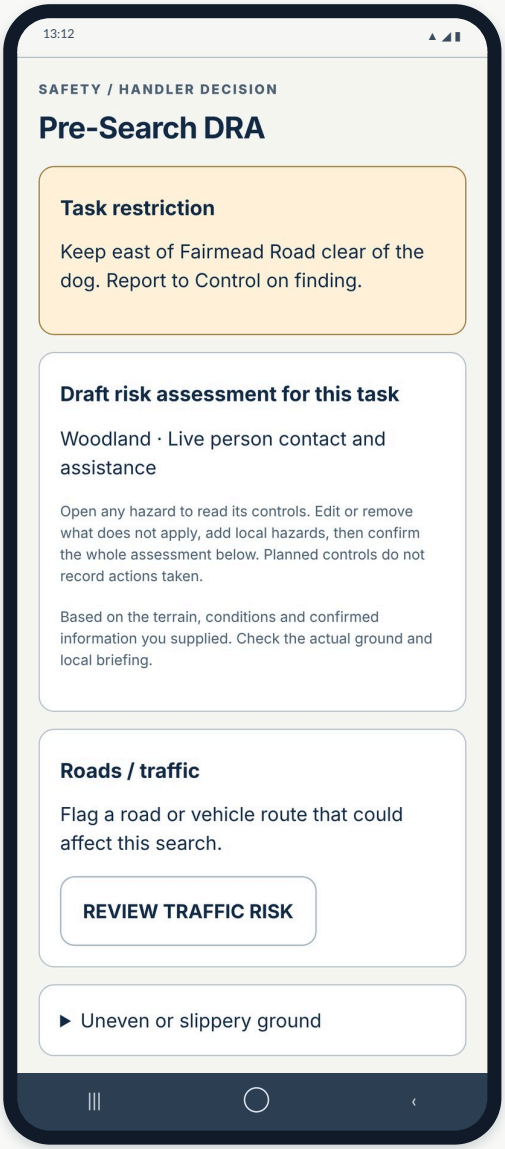
Wind, temperature, terrain and conditions, as in Training.

04 **AMDR and plan**

AMDR Setup, Initial Search Picture, your route and Review My Search Plan work the same way. In Operational searches the planning screens also offer REVIEW TRAFFIC RISK.

05 **Ready**

Ready to Search, then START SEARCH.



PRE-SEARCH DRA / TASK RESTRICTION

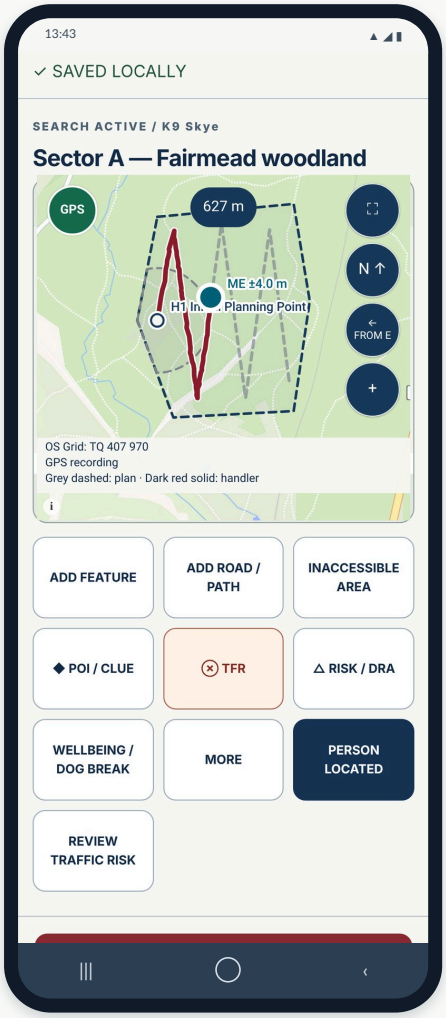
GOOD TO KNOW The Task restriction is shown at the top of the DRA so it stays in front of you while you decide.

CONTENTS

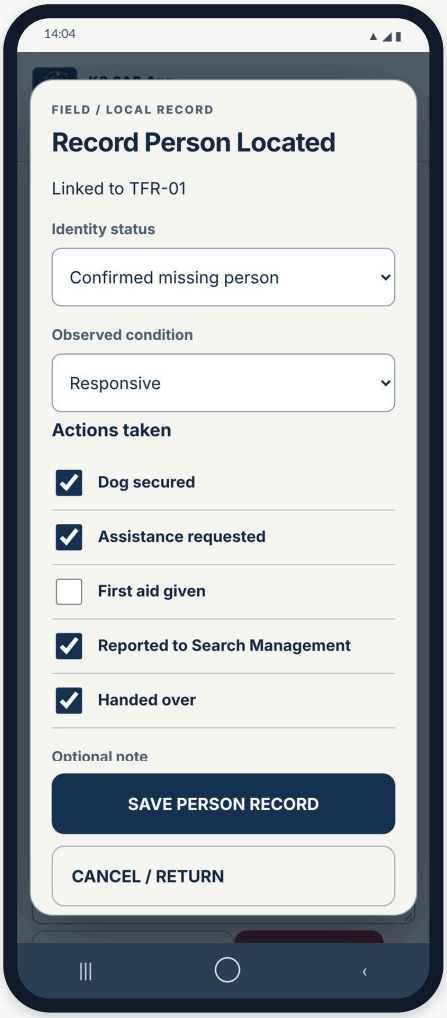
GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH OPERATIONAL

Searching: traffic, findings & person located

The search screen in Operational mode



REAL INTERFACE / DEMO MAP © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS



RECORD PERSON LOCATED

01 **REVIEW TRAFFIC RISK.** An extra button in Operational searches, under the search buttons. Use it when roads or vehicles affect your sector.

02 **POI and TFR.** Record points of interest and your dog's trained final response exactly as in Training.

03 **Person located.** Identity status and observed condition. Tick the actions taken: Dog secured, Assistance requested, First aid given, Reported to Search Management, Handed over.

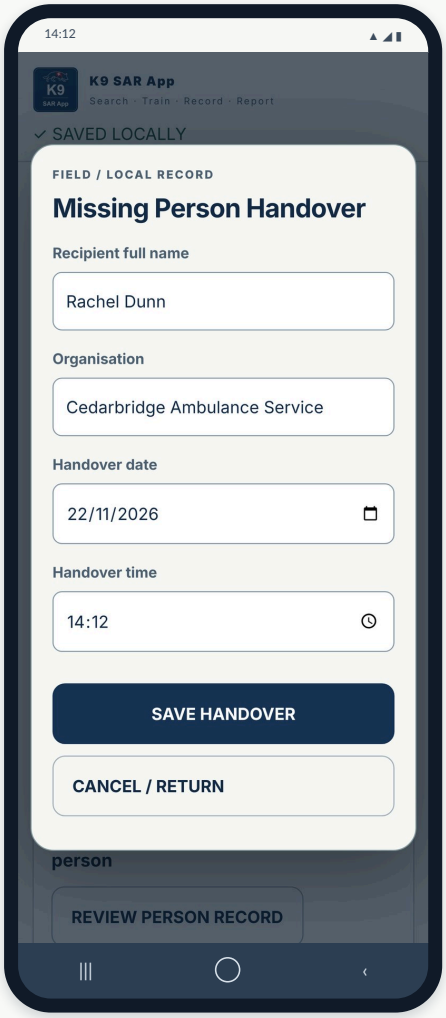
04 **Save.** Add how the person was found, then tap SAVE PERSON RECORD.

GOOD TO KNOW Tick Handed over only when the person has actually been handed over. The handover form opens next.

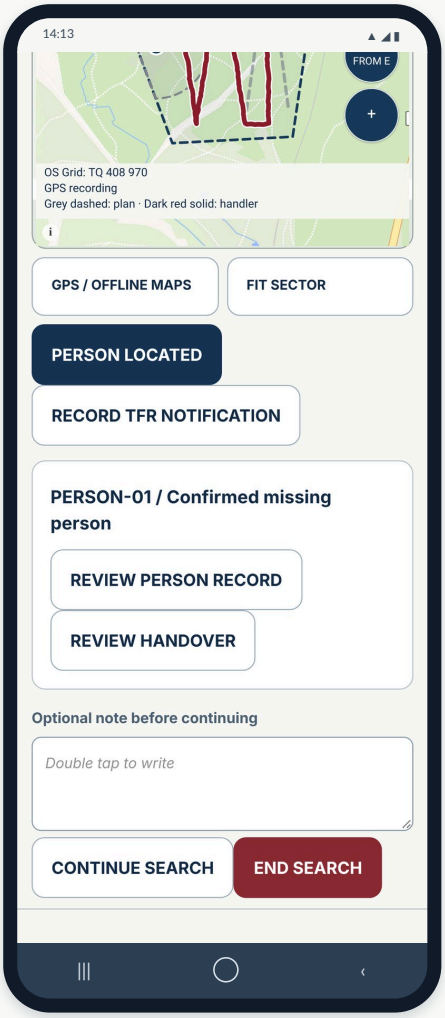
CONTENTS

Missing person handover

Handover → TFR / person follow-up



MISSING PERSON HANDOVER



TFR / PERSON FOLLOW-UP

01 **Recipient.** Full name and organisation, for example Rachel Dunn, Cedarbridge Ambulance Service.

02 **Date and time.** Filled in; change them to the actual handover time, for example 14:12.

03 **Save.** Tap SAVE HANDOVER. The follow-up screen now shows REVIEW PERSON RECORD and REVIEW HANDOVER.

04 **End the search.** Tap END SEARCH when your task is finished.

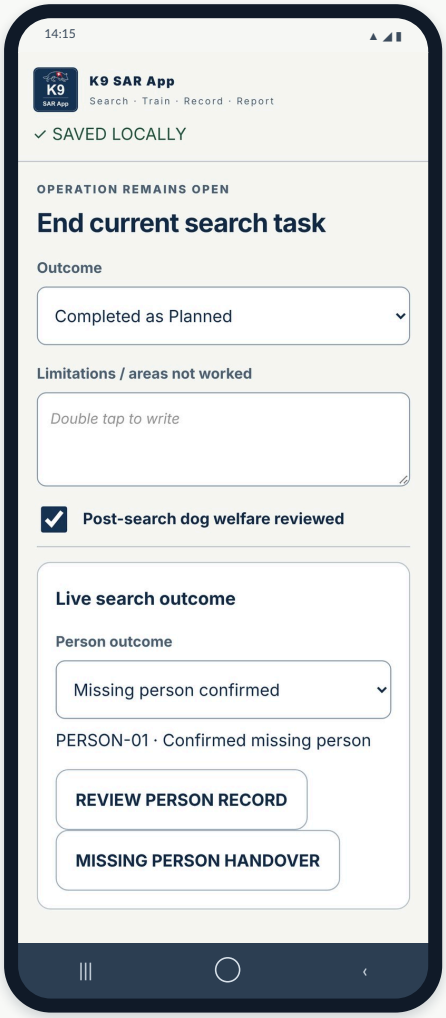
GOOD TO KNOW The handover is copied into the person record and the Area Debrief, so you do not need to type it again.

CONTENTS

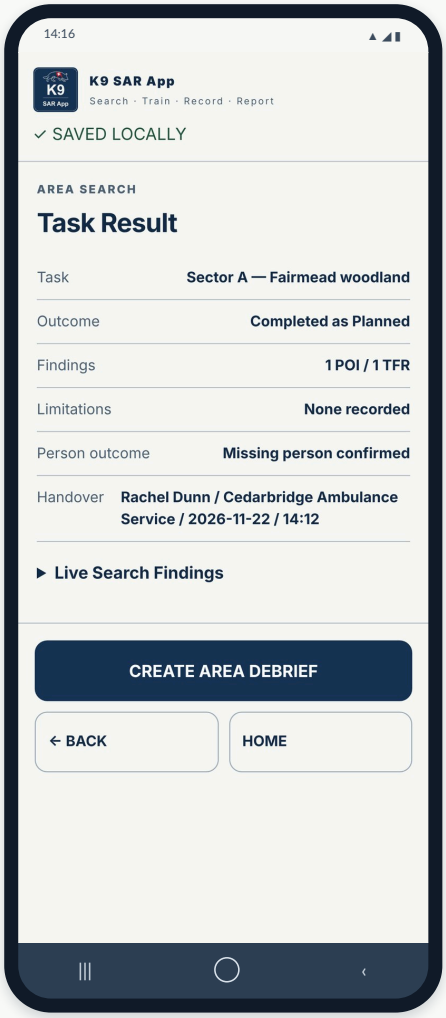
GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH OPERATIONAL

End the task & Task Result

END SEARCH → CONFIRM END SEARCH



END CURRENT SEARCH TASK



TASK RESULT

01 **Outcome and limitations.** Choose the outcome and record any limitations or areas not worked.

02 **Welfare and person outcome.** Tick Post-search dog welfare reviewed. Check the person outcome; MISSING PERSON HANDOVER reopens the handover.

03 **Confirm.** Tap CONFIRM END SEARCH.

04 **Task Result.** Shows the outcome, findings, limitations, person outcome and the handover. Tap CREATE AREA DEBRIEF.

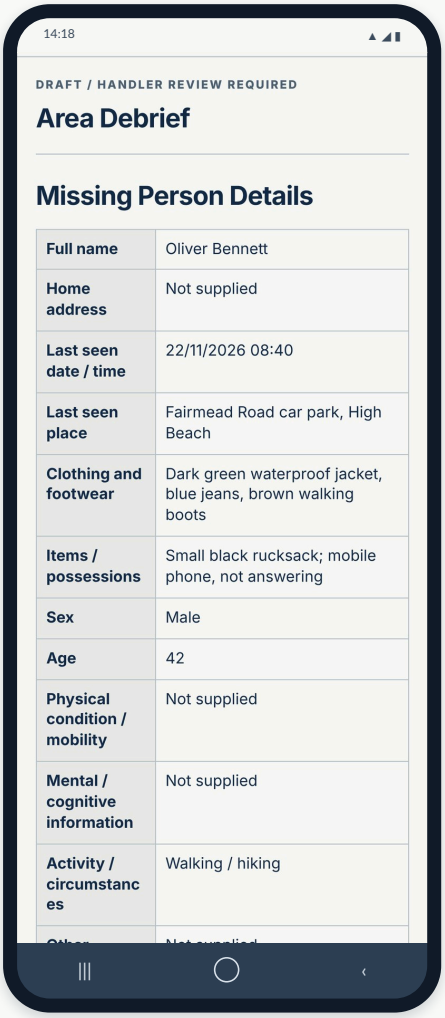
GOOD TO KNOW Areas not worked belong in Limitations. They are reported to search management, not hidden.

CONTENTS

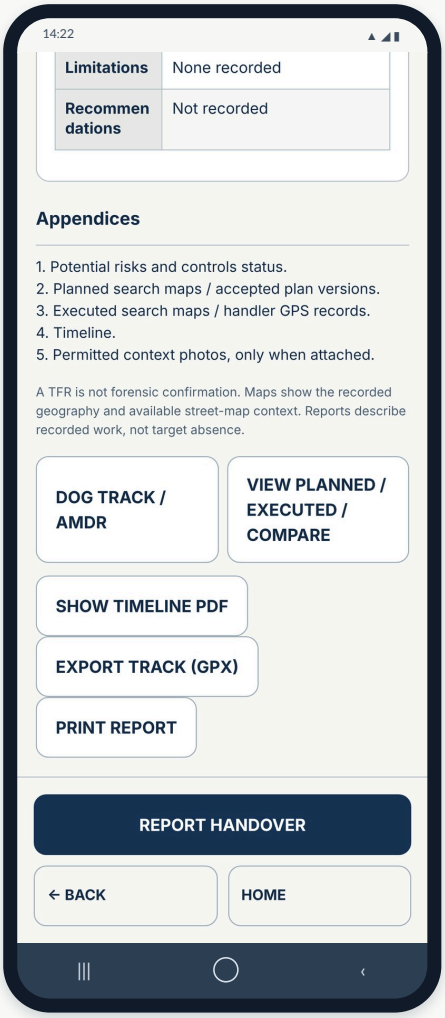
GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH OPERATIONAL

Area Debrief

DRAFT / HANDLER REVIEW REQUIRED



AREA DEBRIEF



REPORT HANDOVER

01 **Missing person details.** The profile you entered, with the category.

02 **Task record.** Date, outcome, K9 team, support team, tasking, assigned area, positions of H1, each POI and TFR, and the person record.

03 **Narrative summary.** A draft built from your recorded actions, including the TFR, the person record and the handover. Read it and edit it in your own words.

04 **Dog track and maps.** DOG TRACK / AMDR imports your dog's GPS file; VIEW PLANNED / EXECUTED / COMPARE opens the search maps. Then tap REPORT HANDOVER.

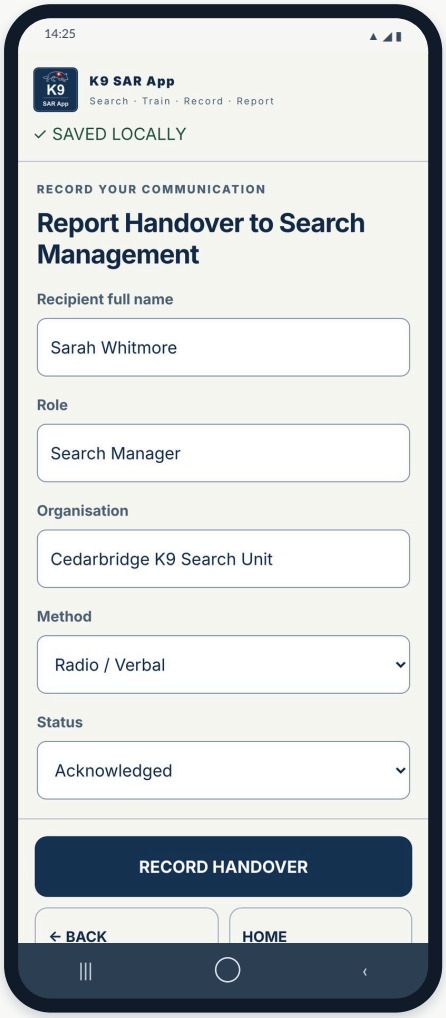
GOOD TO KNOW Area means your dog's working space for this task, from start to finish. The same name is used in every discipline.

CONTENTS

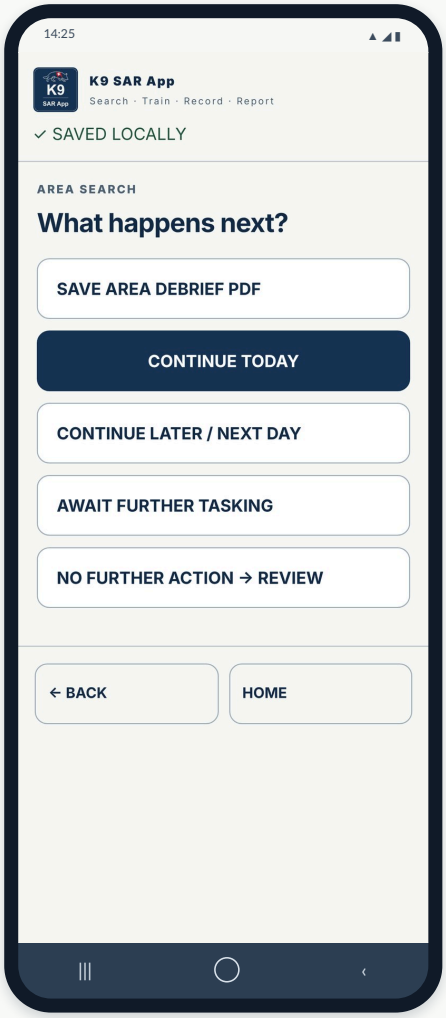
GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH OPERATIONAL

Report handover & what happens next

RECORD HANDOVER → What happens next?



REPORT HANDOVER



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

01 **Recipient.** Full name, role and organisation of the person you reported to, for example the Search Manager.

02 **Method and status.** For example Radio / Verbal and Acknowledged. Then tap RECORD HANDOVER.

03 **What happens next?** SAVE AREA DEBRIEF PDF, CONTINUE TODAY with another task, CONTINUE LATER / NEXT DAY, or AWAIT FURTHER TASKING.

04 **Finish.** When there is nothing more to do, tap NO FURTHER ACTION → REVIEW, check the search maps and tap COMPLETENESS CHECK.

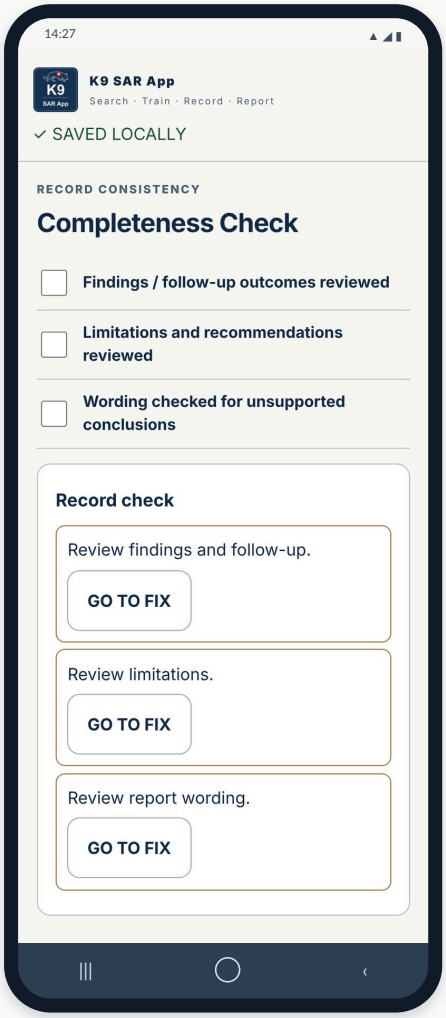
GOOD TO KNOW This records the communication itself. Record an attempt that was not answered as Attempted / unsuccessful.

CONTENTS

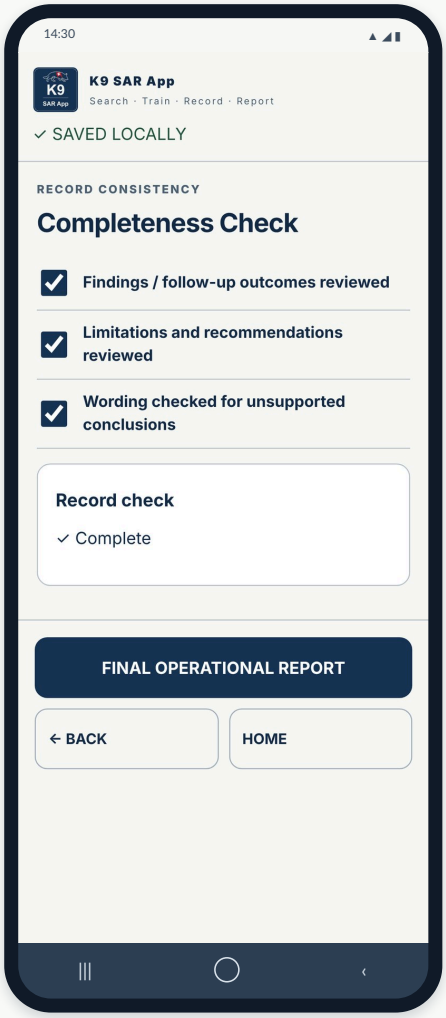
GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH OPERATIONAL

Completeness Check

RECORD CONSISTENCY



BEFORE REVIEW



RECORD CHECK COMPLETE

01 **Three checks.** Findings / follow-up outcomes reviewed, Limitations and recommendations reviewed, and Wording checked for unsupported conclusions.

02 **GO TO FIX.** Each open item has GO TO FIX, which takes you to the right place in the debrief.

03 **Tick when done.** Tick each check only after you have reviewed it. Record check then shows ✓ Complete.

04 **Continue.** Tap FINAL OPERATIONAL REPORT.

GOOD TO KNOW Wording checked means the report says only what was recorded, for example never that the sector is clear.

CONTENTS

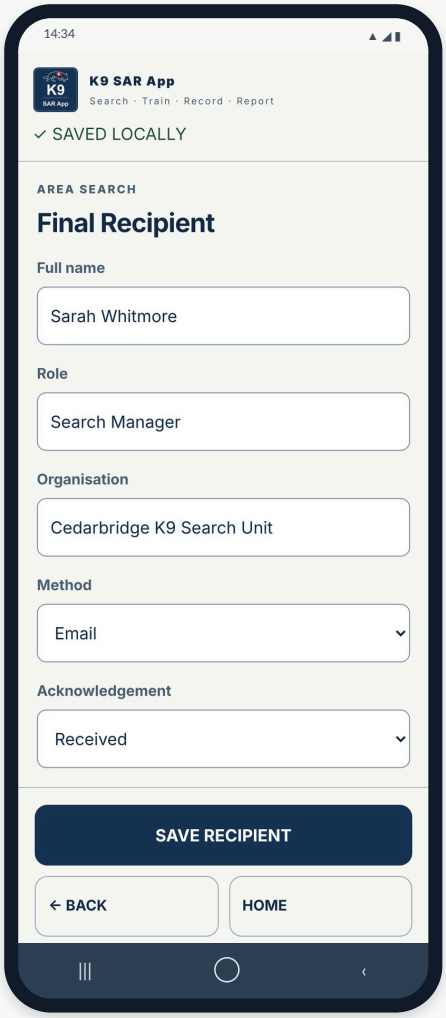
GUIDE H-AS / AREA SEARCH OPERATIONAL

Final report & recipient

Final Operational Report → Final Recipient



FINAL OPERATIONAL REPORT



FINAL RECIPIENT

01 **Review the report.** SHOW REPORT PDF and SHOW TIMELINE PDF show everything that will be issued.

02 **Confirm.** Tick I have reviewed the report and narrative, then tap FINAL RECIPIENT.

03 **Final recipient.** Full name, role, organisation, method (PDF, Email, Hand Delivery or Other) and acknowledgement.

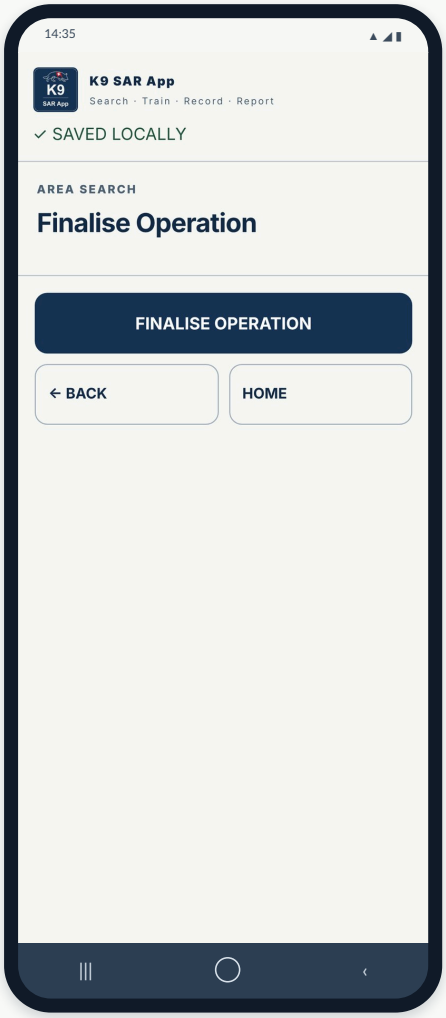
04 **Save.** Tap SAVE RECIPIENT.

GOOD TO KNOW Exports are available here too: Handler / Dog info PDF and PRINT REPORT.

CONTENTS

Finalise the operation

FINALISE OPERATION → RETURN TO HOME



FINALISE OPERATION



OPERATION FINALISED

01 **Finalise.** Tap FINALISE OPERATION when everything is correct.

02 **Operation Finalised.** Save, show or print the final report and the timeline, EXPORT TRACK (GPX) for your GPS track, and the Handler / Dog info PDF.

03 **Return home.** Tap RETURN TO HOME. The operation is kept in History.

04 **Locked.** After finalising, the operation can no longer be edited.

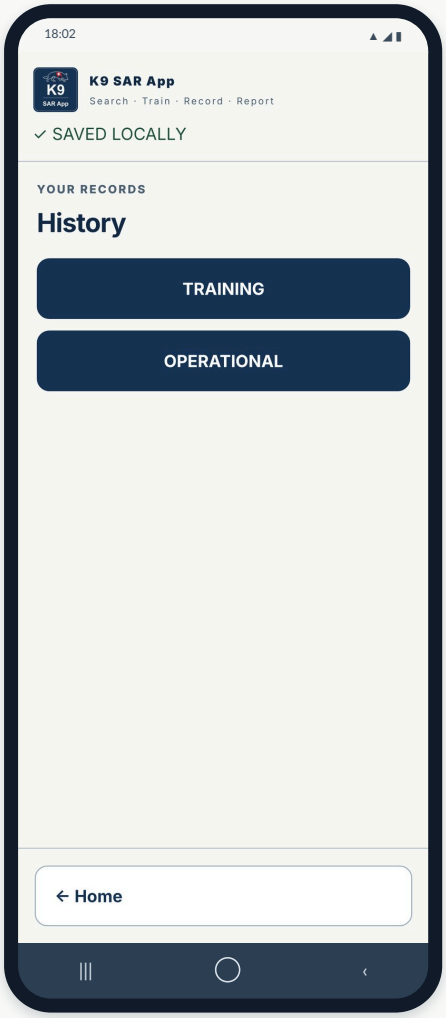
GOOD TO KNOW Operational records never appear in Training Statistics.

CONTENTS

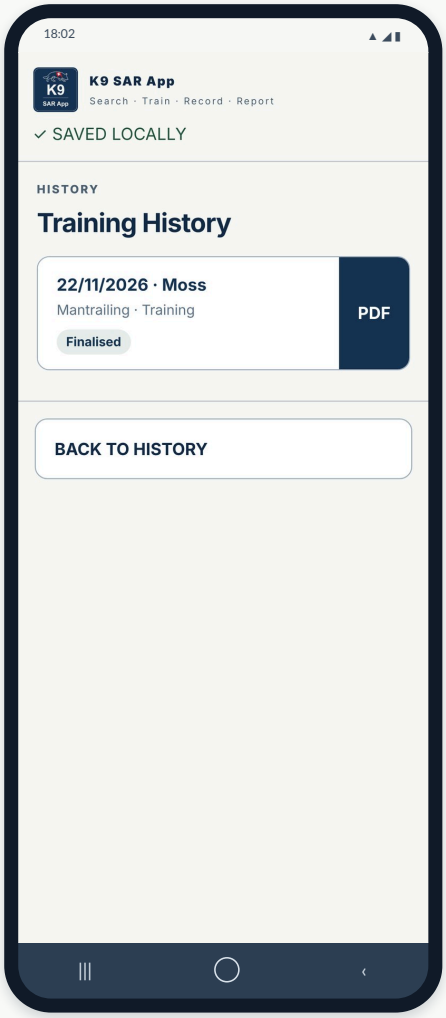
GUIDE H-AS / RECORDS

History

Home → HISTORY



HISTORY



TRAINING HISTORY

01 **Choose a mode.** Tap TRAINING or OPERATIONAL. The two are always kept apart.

02 **Find the record.** Each record shows the date, dog, discipline, mode and status, for example Finalised.

03 **Quick PDF.** Tap PDF beside a record to open its report straight away.

04 **Open it.** Tap the record to see its reports and exports: report PDF, timeline PDF, Handler / Dog info PDF and print.

GOOD TO KNOW History keeps every finalised Training exercise and Operational search on the phone, in every discipline.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-AS / RECORDS

Reports & PDF

What the Area Search report contains



K9 SAR App
Search · Train · Record · Report

Training Report

CBK9-AS-001
FINALISED RECORD
Created 22 Nov, 14:06 UK

Operation / Team

Handler / organisation	Daniel Mercer / Cedarbridge K9 Search Unit
Scope	1 task(s) across 1 session day(s)

Day 1 / Sector A — Fairmead woodland

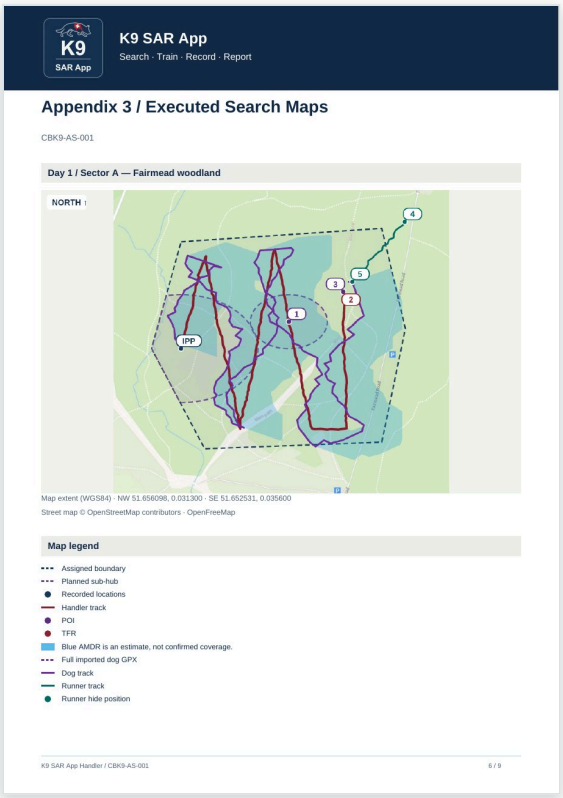
Date	2026-11-22
K9 Team	Daniel Mercer / Skye
Support Team	No support team recorded
Tasking	Find one hidden person in a woodland sector of about 9 ha
Blind setup	Single blind
Person outcome	Missing person confirmed
PERSON-01 / person record	Confirmed missing person · Responsive · linked to TFR-01 Observed condition: Responsive Actions taken: Dog secured Runner: Emily Carter Emily found lying under holly in the north-east of the sector. Skye barked and stayed with her. OS Grid: TQ 408 970; accuracy 4.0 m
Runner GPX	CBK9-AS-001_runner.gpx / 21 route positions
Runner hide position	OS Grid: TQ 408 971 / 22 Nov, 13:07 UK
Whole assigned sector	Handler-marked whole-sector polygon / revision 1 / 6 WGS84 corners
Sector task extent	The whole polygon remains the task; individual blocks do not establish full-sector coverage.
Sector start	IPP selected by the handler, separate from the operation's Main Hub.
Starting sub-hub	90 m radius; 2 × 45 m dog AMDR; only the portion inside the assigned polygon is included.
Start-area meaning	Planned start area only. The full assigned polygon remains the task; no detection or completed coverage is inferred.

Search work / conditions

Search period	22 Nov, 13:30 UK to 22 Nov, 14:06 UK
Recorded active search work	32 minutes (independent holds, dog breaks and dog-change travel excluded)
Active search / Skye	32 minutes — transit and held time excluded
Outcome	Completed as Planned

K9 SAR App Handler / CBK9-AS-001 1 / 9

TRAINING REPORT / PAGE 1



K9 SAR App
Search · Train · Record · Report

Appendix 3 / Executed Search Maps

CBK9-AS-001

Day 1 / Sector A — Fairmead woodland

NORTH ↑

IPP

Map extent (WGS84) · NW 51.656098, 0.031300 · SE 51.652531, 0.035600
Street map © OpenStreetMap contributors · OpenFreeMap

Map legend

- Assigned boundary
- Planned sub-hub
- Recorded locations
- Handler track
- POI
- TFR
- Blue AMDR is an estimate, not confirmed coverage.
- Full imported dog GPX
- Dog track
- Runner track
- Runner hide position

K9 SAR App Handler / CBK9-AS-001 6 / 9

EXECUTED SEARCH MAP

01 **Report.** Training Report for exercises, Final Operational Report for searches. The Area Debrief PDF covers one task. EXPORT TRACK (GPX) saves your GPS track for other mapping software.

02 **Contents.** Operation and team, each day and task, the assigned sector, start and sub-hub, search time, findings, person record and narrative.

03 **Search maps.** Planned maps show your sector, IPP, start area and route. Executed maps add your track, POI, TFR, the dog track, the Runner and the estimated AMDR.

04 **Appendices.** Potential risks and controls, the map legend and map points, the timeline and the trainer review.

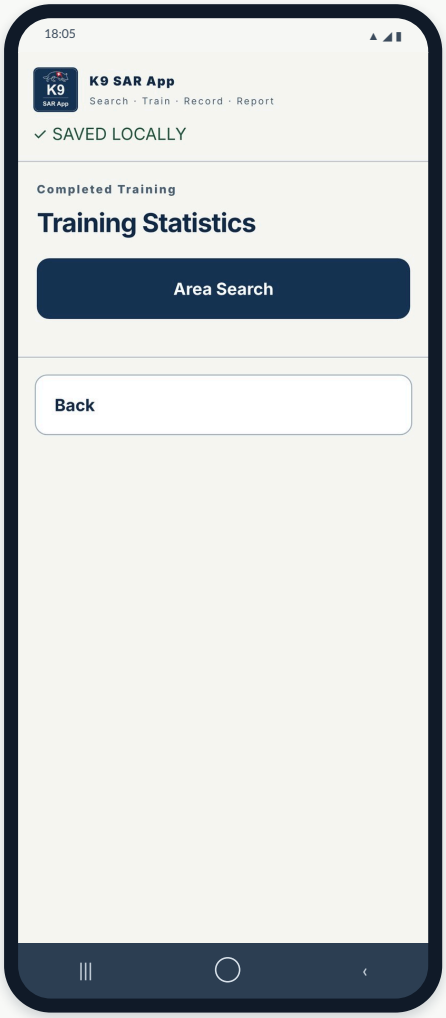
GOOD TO KNOW Blue AMDR shading is labelled as an estimate. Reports never claim that ground without a find was clear.

CONTENTS

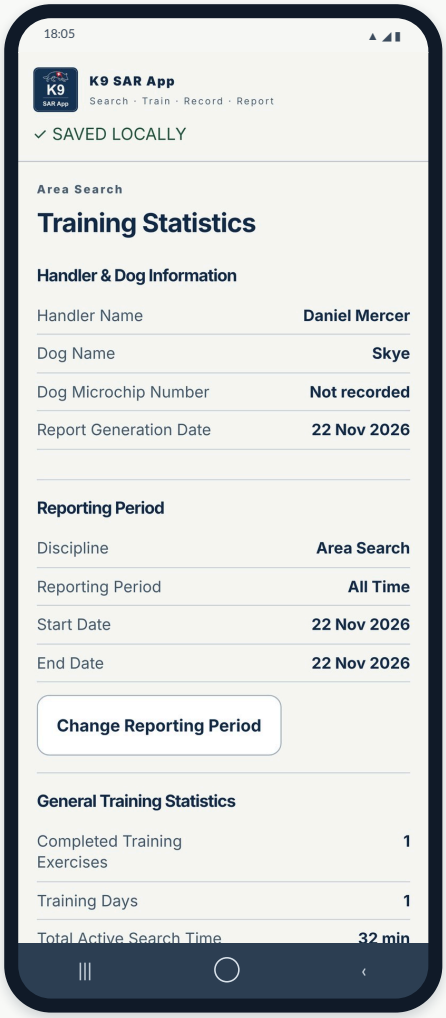
GUIDE H-AS / RECORDS

Training Statistics

Home → STATISTICS → Area Search



TRAINING STATISTICS



AREA SEARCH

01 **Choose the discipline.** Tap Area Search. If you have several Area Search dogs, choose the dog.

02 **Choose the period.** Last Week, Last 30 Days, a month and year, a year, or All Time. Then tap Show Statistics.

03 **Handler and dog.** The report starts with the handler, dog, microchip and the reporting period.

04 **General statistics.** Completed exercises, training days, total, average and longest active search time, and the last training date.

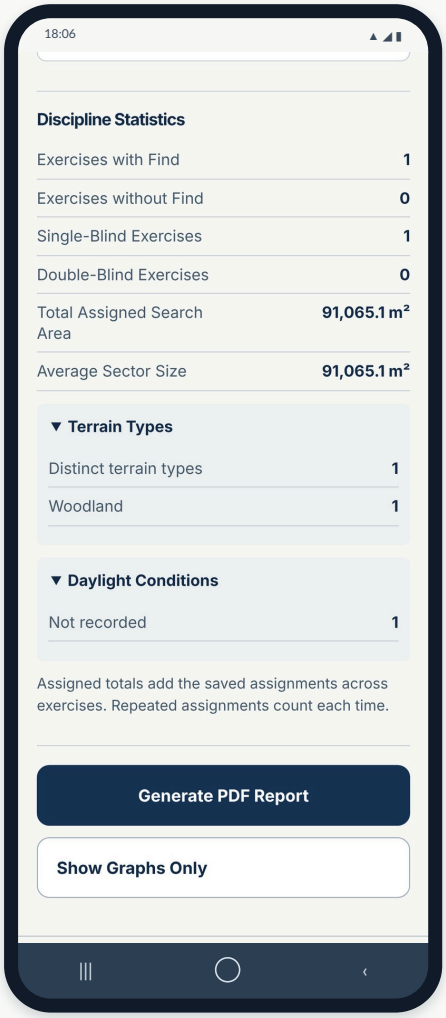
GOOD TO KNOW Only completed Training exercises are counted. Operational searches never appear in Training Statistics.

CONTENTS

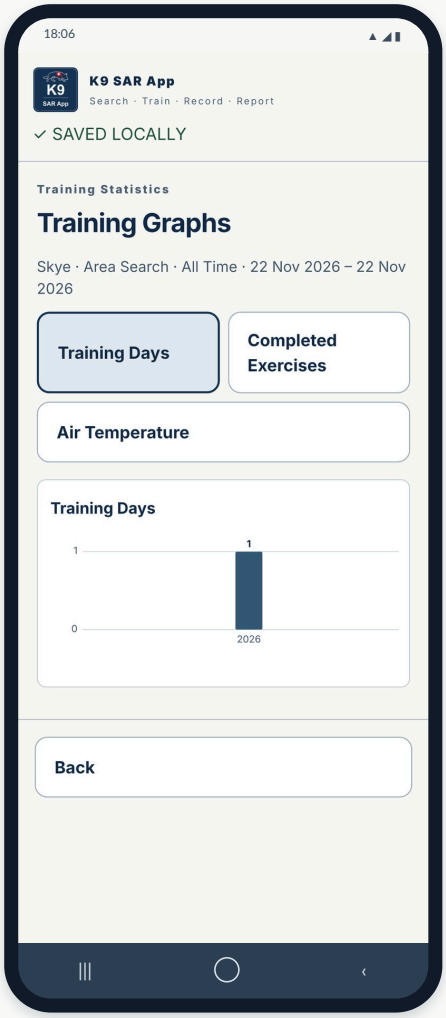
GUIDE H-AS / RECORDS

Area Search statistics & graphs

Discipline Statistics and graphs



DISCIPLINE STATISTICS



TRAINING GRAPHS

01 **Discipline figures.** Exercises with and without a find, and single- and double-blind exercises.

02 **Assigned area.** Total Assigned Search Area adds up the sectors you marked. Average Sector Size is the average sector per exercise. It is the size of the sector you were given, not ground the app claims was covered.

03 **Terrain and conditions.** How often each terrain type and condition was recorded.

04 **Graphs and PDF.** Show Graphs Only switches between Training Days, Completed Exercises and Air Temperature. Generate PDF Report saves the statistics.

GOOD TO KNOW In training you search the whole sector, so the assigned area shows the size of ground you were given across your exercises. Repeated assignments count each time.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-AS / RECORDS

Backup & restore

Settings → BACKUP AND RESTORE

01 Save a full backup

Tap SAVE FULL BACKUP, set a password of at least 4 characters and choose where to save the file.

02 Keep the password safe

The password cannot be recovered. Without it the backup cannot be opened.

03 Restore

On the new phone, tap RESTORE FULL BACKUP, choose the file and enter the password. Restore checks the file first and keeps searches already in History.

04 What is included

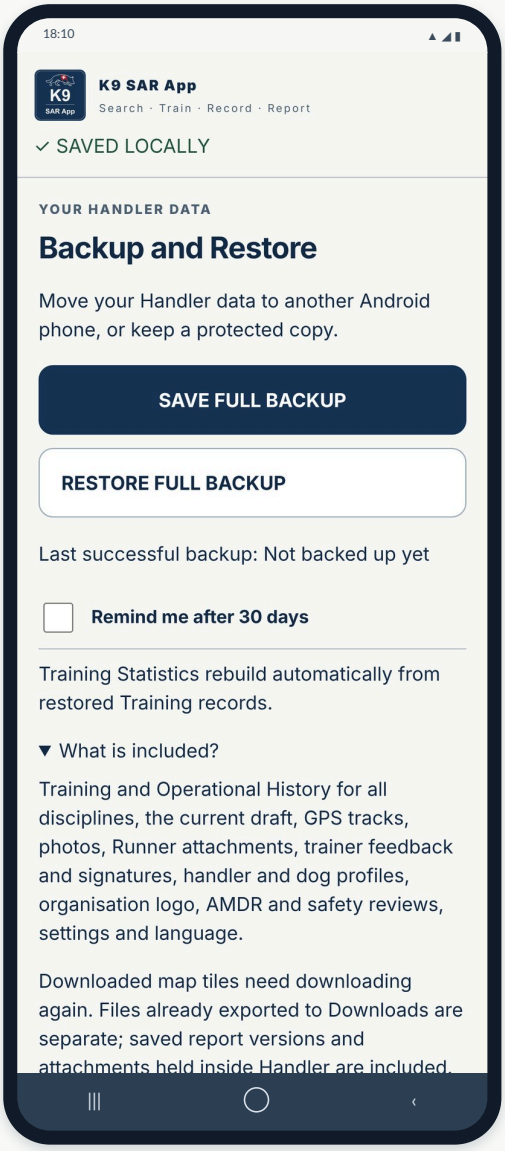
All Training and Operational History, GPS tracks, photos, Runner files, trainer reviews, profiles, logo, AMDR entries, safety reviews, settings and language.

05 Not included

Downloaded offline maps. Download them again on the new phone.

06 Reminder

Tick Remind me after 30 days. End any search task before you back up or restore.



REAL INTERFACE / FICTIONAL DEMO DATA

GOOD TO KNOW Keep a recent backup somewhere other than the phone, for example on a computer.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-AS / HELP

Troubleshooting

Common messages and what to do

A red message with GO TO FIX

Something required is missing. Tap GO TO FIX to jump to it. The message says what is needed.

No saved AMDR

Record one first with + AMDR ENTRY on the Home screen, or tap ENTER MANUALLY in AMDR Setup.

The map is blank

The street map needs mobile data or a downloaded offline map. GPS recording and your sector still work without either.

Dog GPX not accepted

Use a GPX file with timed positions from the dog's collar, for the same day and task. Its times must run forwards.

A record cannot be edited

Finalised records are locked. This protects what was issued. Start a new record for new work.

I cannot continue from the task

Mark and save the assigned sector, then tick Tasking and assigned boundary reviewed.

START SEARCH does nothing

Accept your plan, choose Proceed with controls on the DRA and tick Final readiness review complete.

A point is in the wrong place

In the Area Debrief, open POI / TFR / reflector coordinates and tap CORRECT COORDINATES.

No estimated AMDR on the map

The dog track must overlap the active search time, and an AMDR and wind must be recorded.

GOOD TO KNOW If something still does not work, note the screen and the exact message, and contact us through k9sarapp.com.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-AS / HELP

Glossary

Words used in the app and this guide

AMDR	Average Maximum Detection Range: the distance at which your dog reliably detects scent, from your own assessments.
Area	Your dog's working space for a task, from start to finish. Used in every discipline, for example Area Debrief.
Assigned sector	The whole polygon you were given. It stays your task, whatever route you plan inside it.
Blind setup	Open, single blind or double blind: how much the handler knows about the hide.
DRA	Dynamic Risk Assessment: the hazards, controls and handler decision recorded before the search.
Estimated AMDR	Blue shading built from the dog track, the wind and the AMDR. An estimate, not confirmed searched ground.
GPX	A standard file of GPS positions. Used for EXPORT TRACK, the Runner route and the dog collar track.
Hub / sub-hub	A planned start or follow-up area, sized from the AMDR. Planned only; it is not searched ground.
IPP / H1	Initial Planning Point: where you plan to start. Shown as H1 on the map.
OS Grid	British National Grid reference, for example TQ 406 969. Original positions are always saved in WGS84.
POI	Point of interest: a change in the dog's behaviour, or an article found, recorded with time and position.
TFR	Trained final response: your dog's trained indication. Not forensic confirmation.
Runner	The hidden person in training, who can record the route and hide with the free K9 SAR App Runner.

CONTENTS

THANK YOU

Thank you for using K9 SAR App Handler

Thank you for making the Handler app part of your Area Search work.

We built it to help handlers plan clearly, record accurately and keep strong training and search records for every dog.

If you have an idea for improving the app, want to suggest a feature or find something that is not working, we would love to hear from you. Your feedback helps us build practical tools for real working-dog teams.

GET IN TOUCH

k9sarapp.com / Contact

Better information. Deeper analysis. Stronger training records.

K9 SAR APP LTD