K9 SAR APP / OFFICIAL GUIDE SERIES

SETUP & USER GUIDE

K9 SAR App Handler

HRD Land

A complete illustrated guide to setting up the Handler app and recording HRD Land searches in Training and Operational mode.

TRAINING / OPERATIONAL / REPORTS

Practical steps. Real app screens. Clear field records.

K9 SAR APP LTD

GUIDE H-HL • NOVEMBER 2026 • VERSION 1.1

GUIDE H-HL / CONTENTS

Contents

Click a section to jump to the page

GETTING STARTED

Introduction to the Handler app 03
Before you begin 04
Install & first opening 05
Handler profile 06
Dog profiles 07
App settings 08
The Home screen 09
How HRD Land works in the app 10
Record your dog's AMDR 11

HRD LAND — TRAINING

Start an HRD Land exercise 12
Select your dog & Operation Setup 13
Mark your assigned sector 14
Conditions & wind 15
Pre-search risk assessment (DRA) 16
AMDR Setup 17
Initial Search Picture 18
Review your plan & get ready 19
Searching your sector 20
Record a point of interest (POI) 21
Trained final response (TFR) 22
Protect the scene & report 23
End the task & Task Result 24
Area Debrief 25
Import your dog's GPS track 26
Search Maps: planned, executed, compare 27
Sample results after the search 28
Mark a not found sample on the map 29
Trainer review & End Exercise 30

HRD LAND — OPERATIONAL

Start an Operational HRD Land search 31
Missing Person Profile 32
Person categories & sector reminder 33
Task, conditions and plan 34
Searching, TFR & scene protection 35
End the task & Task Result 36
Area Debrief 37
Report handover & what happens next 38
Completeness Check 39
Final report & recipient 40
Finalise the operation 41

REPORTS, HISTORY & STATISTICS

History 42
Reports & PDF 43
Training Statistics 44
Sample & area statistics 45
Statistics graphs 46
Backup & restore 47

HELP

Troubleshooting 48
Glossary 49
Thank you 50

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-HL / 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 HRD Land 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), scene protection, conditions, the outcome and your notes. In training it also records the sample results after the trainer reveals the setup. Reports are produced as PDF, and your track can be exported as GPX.

Your dog's GPS collar

If your dog wears a GPS collar, you can import its GPX file after the task and compare the dog's track with your own track and your plan in the debrief.

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-HL / 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: dog GPS collar

If your dog wears a GPS collar, you can import its GPX file after the task and see where the dog worked.

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-HL / 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

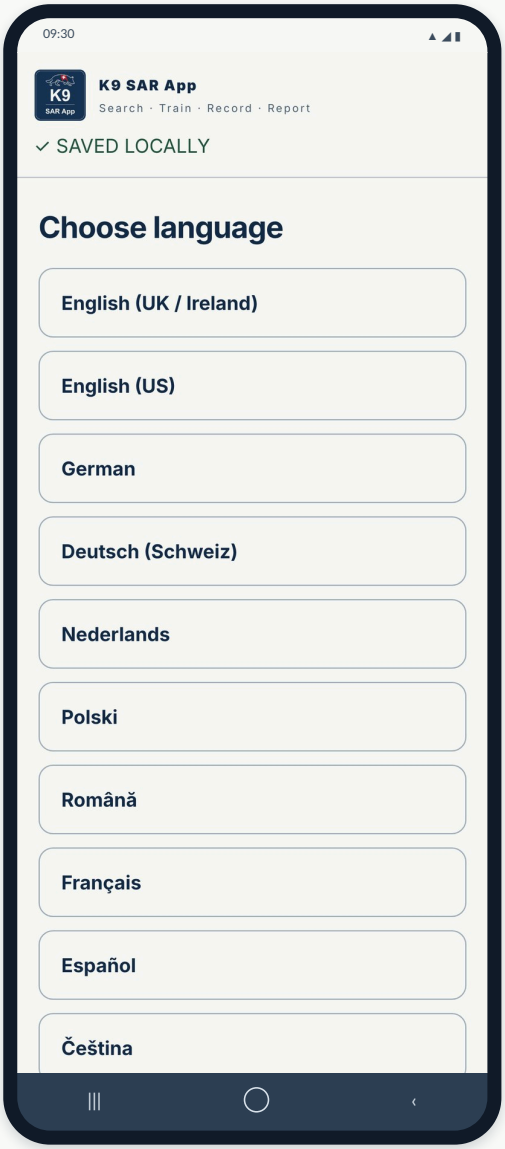
On first opening, tap your language. You can change it later in Settings.

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-HL / 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.

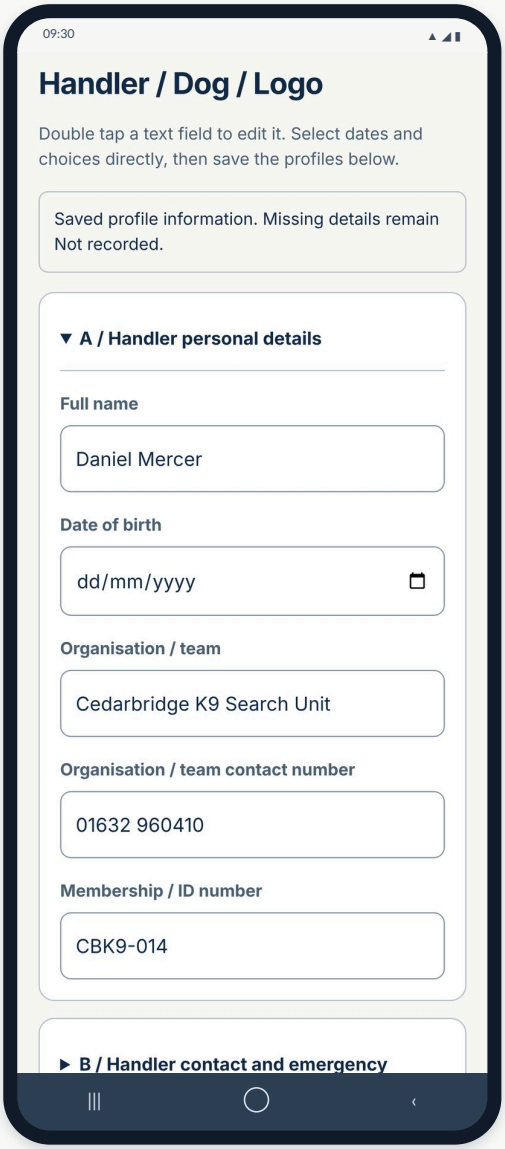
02 **A / Personal details**
Full name, date of birth, organisation or team, team contact number and membership or ID number.

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-HL / 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.

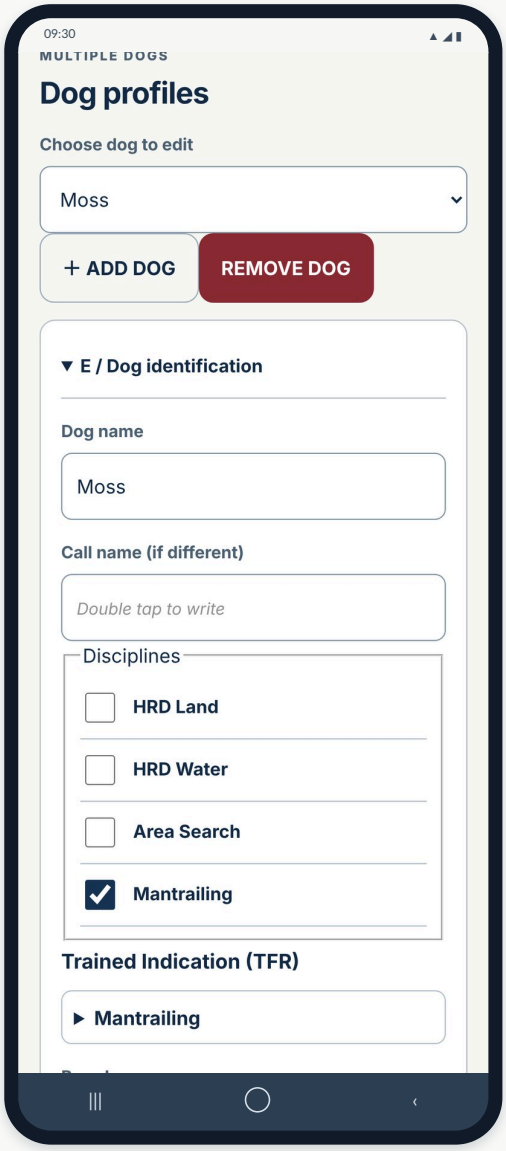
02 **E / Dog identification**
Name, call name, disciplines, trained indication (TFR), breed, date of birth, sex, neutering, colour and microchip.

03 **Tick HRD Land**
Only dogs with HRD Land ticked appear when you start an HRD Land 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-HL / SETTINGS

App settings

Units, coordinates and language

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

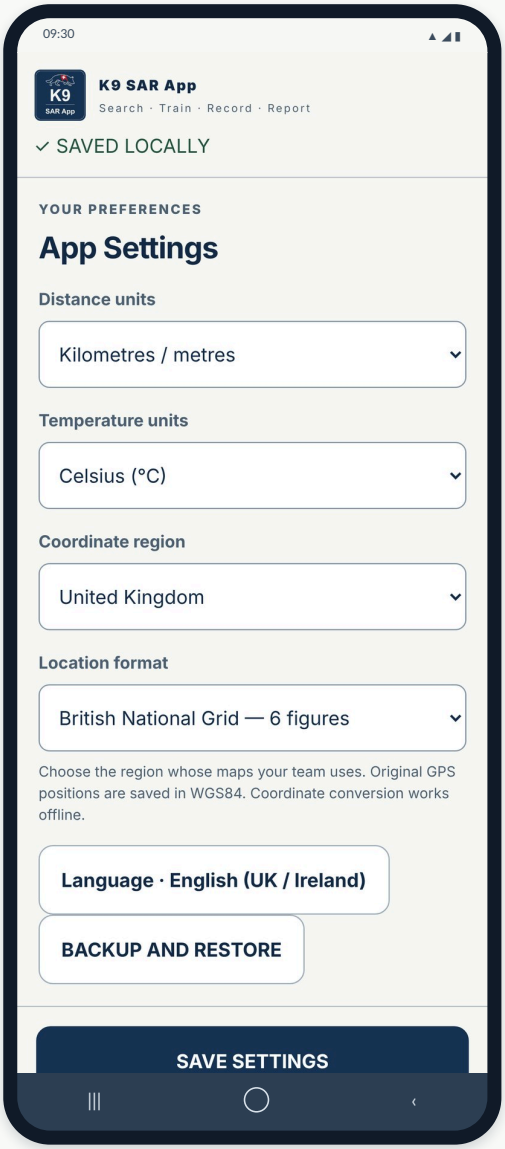
02 **Temperature units**
Celsius (°C) or Fahrenheit (°F). Temperatures are shown in the unit you choose.

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-HL / 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.

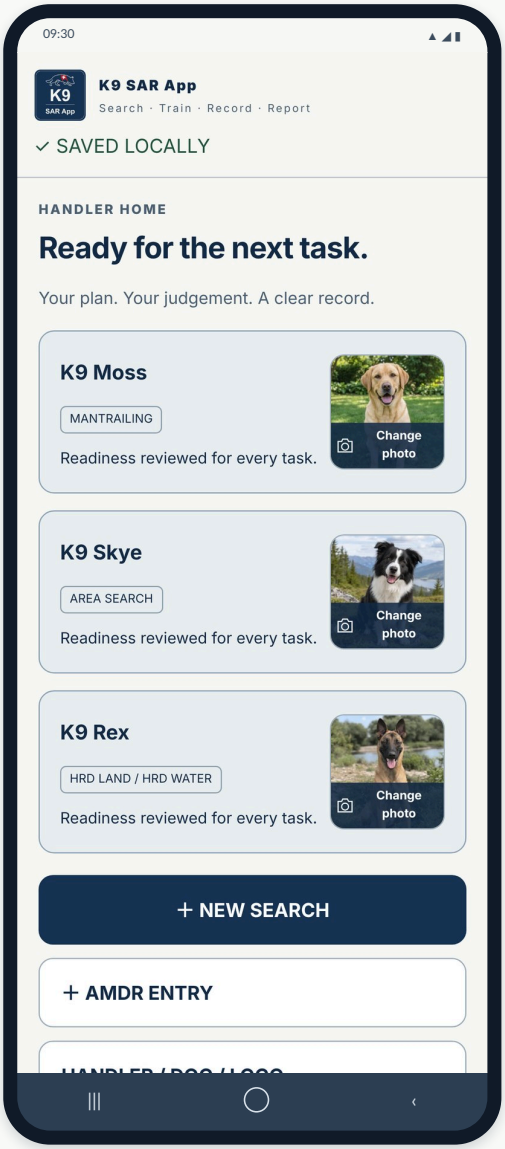
02 **+ NEW SEARCH**
Starts a new Training exercise or Operational search.

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-HL / START HERE

How HRD Land works in the app

Sector, plan, search, indication, scene, 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

Your dog's saved AMDR sizes the start area and the planned sub-hubs around each POI. If you have none, a labelled default is used.

03 Your plan

You set your Initial Planning Point (IPP) and draw your own route, usually close quartering into the wind. The app never plans for you.

04 The search

The app records your GPS track. You record changes in your dog's behaviour as points of interest (POI).

05 Indication and scene

When your dog gives its trained final response (TFR), the search is held and TFR Scene Protection opens: control, mark, protect, report.

06 The debrief

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

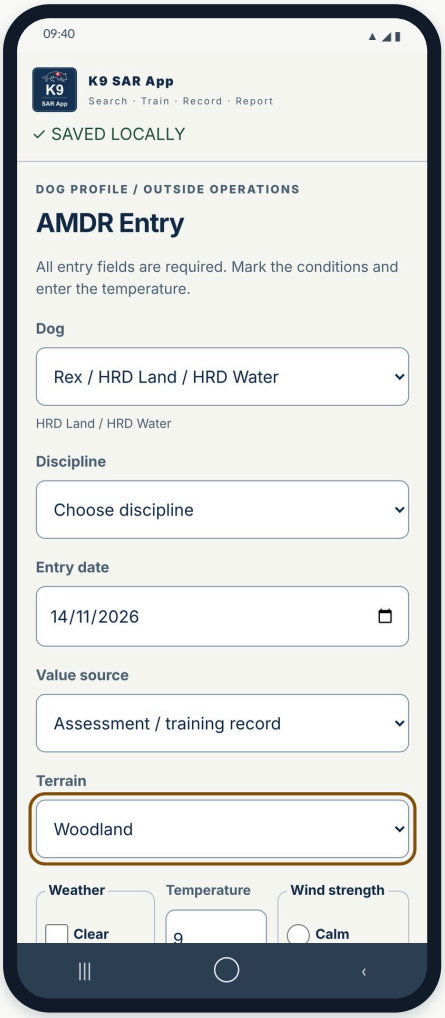
GOOD TO KNOW A TFR is your dog's trained indication. It is never forensic confirmation, and the app never records it as a find.

CONTENTS

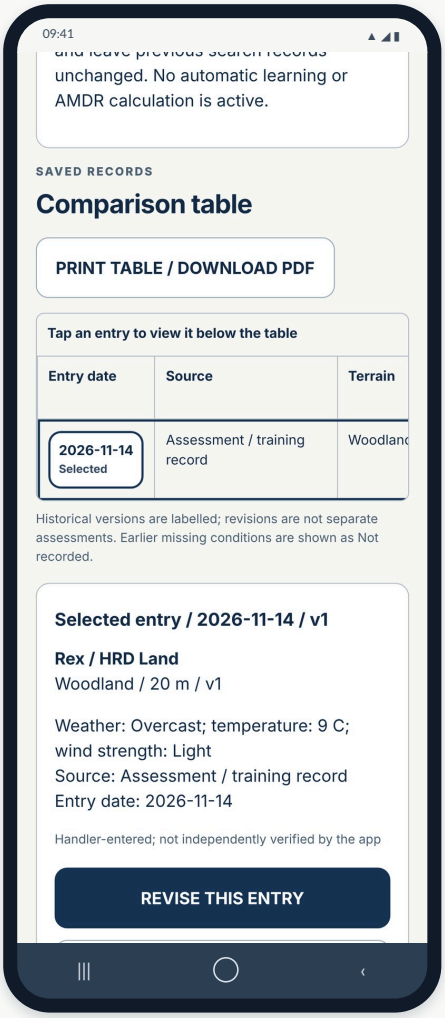
GUIDE H-HL / AMDR

Record your dog's AMDR

Home → + AMDR ENTRY



AMDR ENTRY



COMPARISON TABLE

01 **Choose the dog.** Pick the dog and the discipline, for example Rex / HRD Land, 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 20.

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

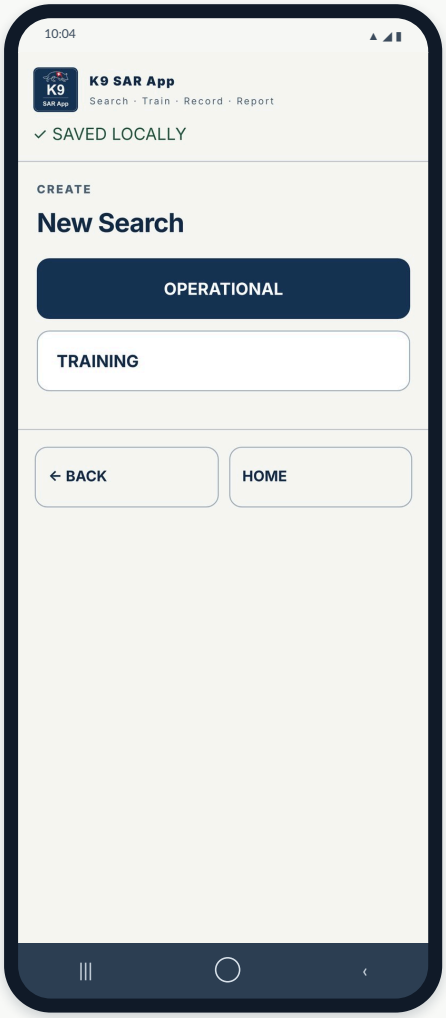
GOOD TO KNOW Rex works HRD Land and HRD Water, so his AMDR entries are saved for each discipline separately. The app never calculates an AMDR for you.

CONTENTS

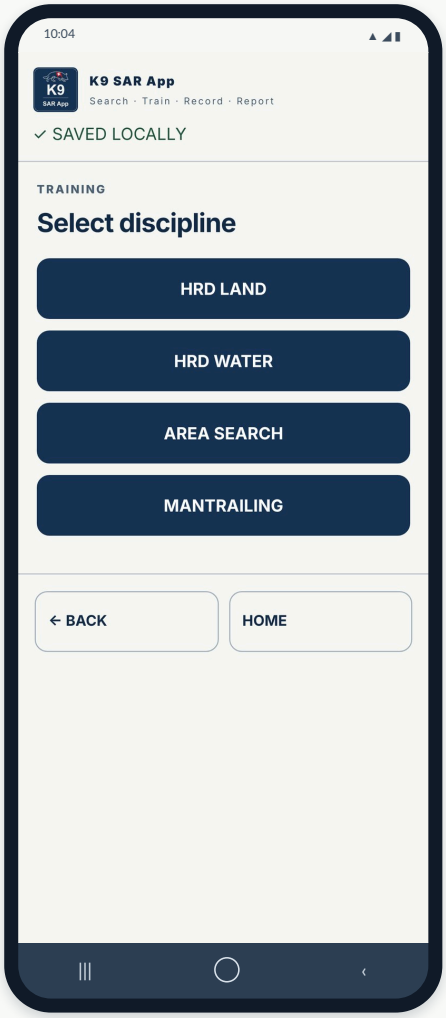
GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND TRAINING

Start an HRD Land exercise

New Search → Training → HRD Land



REAL INTERFACE



REAL INTERFACE

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

02 **Tap HRD LAND** to choose the discipline for this exercise.

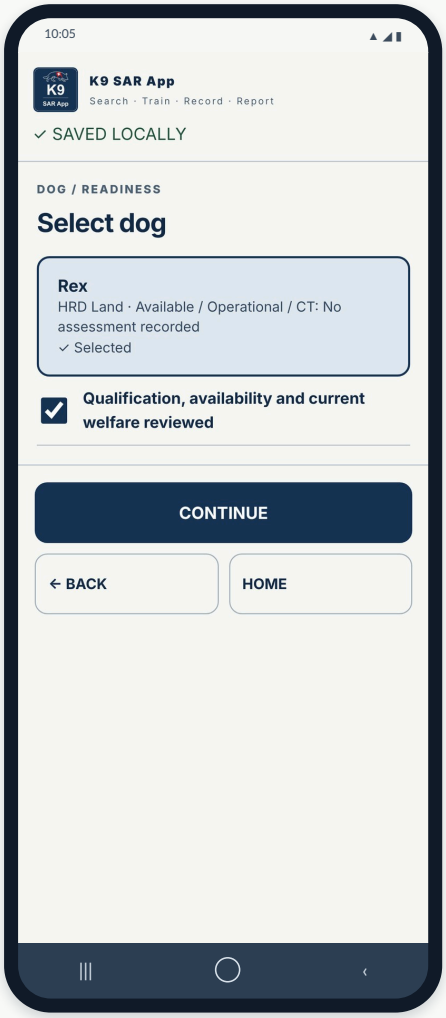
GOOD TO KNOW Choose OPERATIONAL instead for a real search. Operational HRD Land is explained later in this guide.

CONTENTS

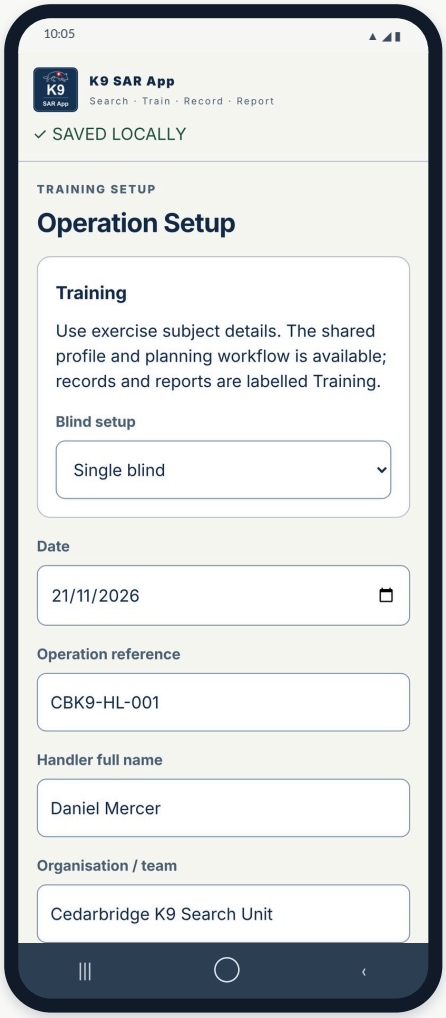
GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND TRAINING

Select your dog & Operation Setup

Readiness, then the exercise details



SELECT DOG



OPERATION SETUP

01 **Choose the dog.** Dogs with HRD Land 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-HL-001 and Search a woodland sector of about 3 ha for one buried training aid.

04 **Continue.** A Missing Person Profile is optional. Tap SUPPORT TEAM, add support people if you have any, then tap ASSIGNED TASK / AREA.

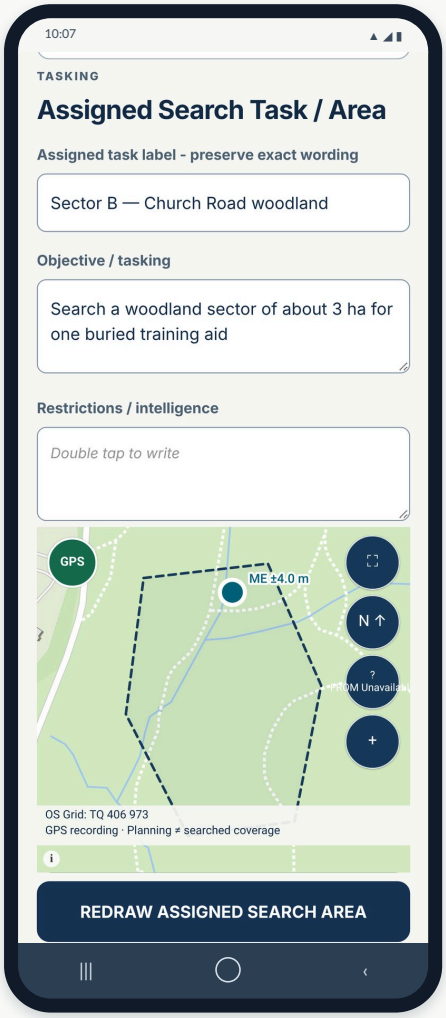
GOOD TO KNOW Training records and reports are labelled Training, so they are never confused with real searches.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND TRAINING

Mark your assigned sector

Assigned Search Task / Area



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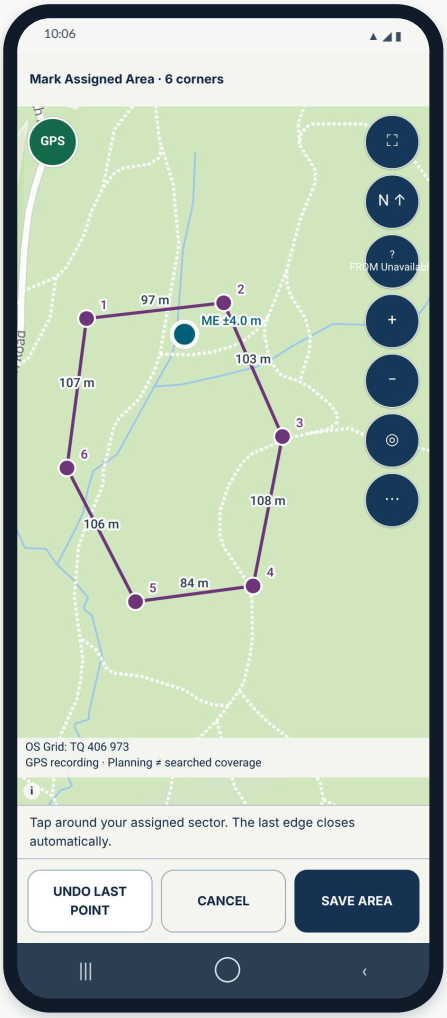


MARK ASSIGNED AREA

01 **Task label and objective.** Type the label exactly as given, for example Sector B — Church Road woodland, and the objective.

02 **Restrictions.** Anything you were told to avoid or report. In Operational searches it 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. The whole polygon stays your task, whatever route you plan inside it.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND TRAINING

Conditions & wind

Current local observation

01 **Wind**

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

02 **Temperature**

Optional, in the unit chosen in Settings.

03 **Terrain**

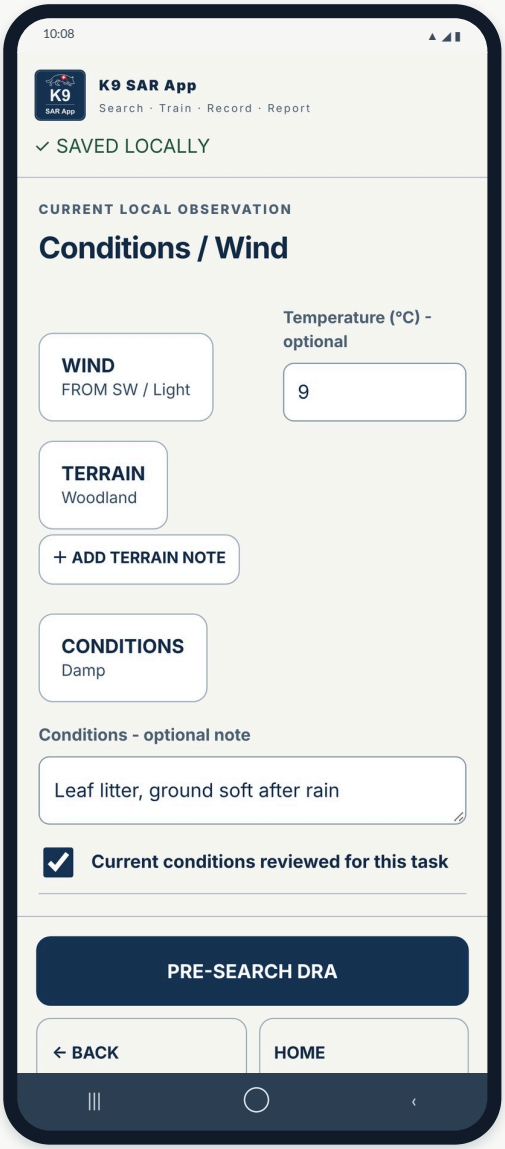
Tap TERRAIN and tick every type in the sector, for example Woodland. + ADD TERRAIN NOTE for detail.

04 **Conditions**

Tap CONDITIONS, for example Damp, and add a note such as Leaf litter, ground soft after rain.

05 **Confirm**

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



REAL INTERFACE / FICTIONAL DEMO DATA

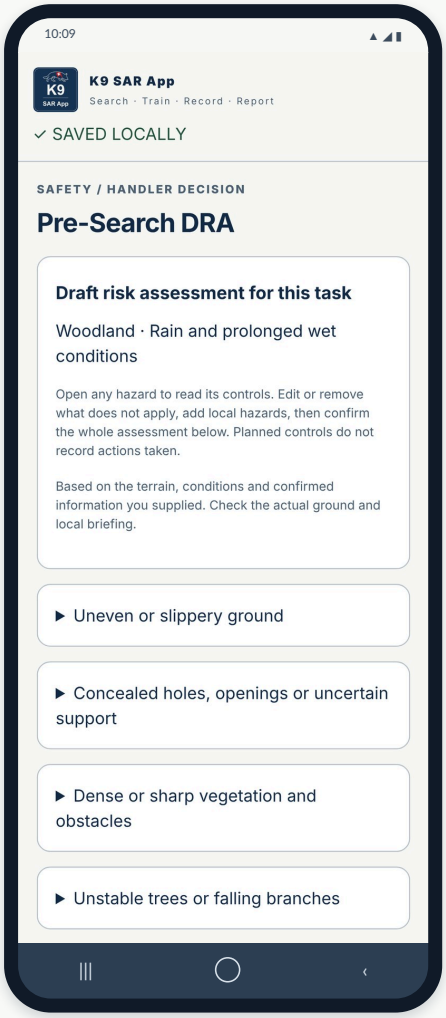
GOOD TO KNOW Ground and weather affect how scent moves and collects. Record what you actually see on the day.

CONTENTS

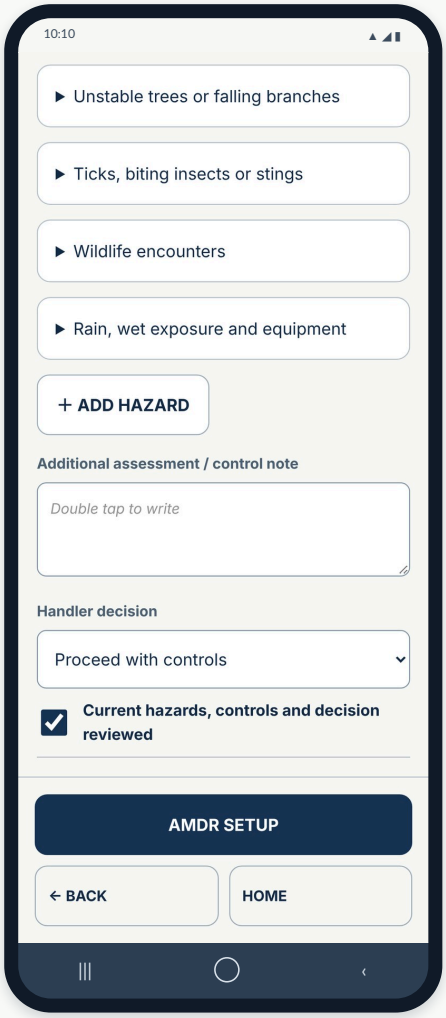
GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND TRAINING

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 your terrain and conditions, for example Woodland · Rain and prolonged wet conditions.

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-HL / HRD LAND TRAINING

AMDR Setup

Choose the planning value for this task

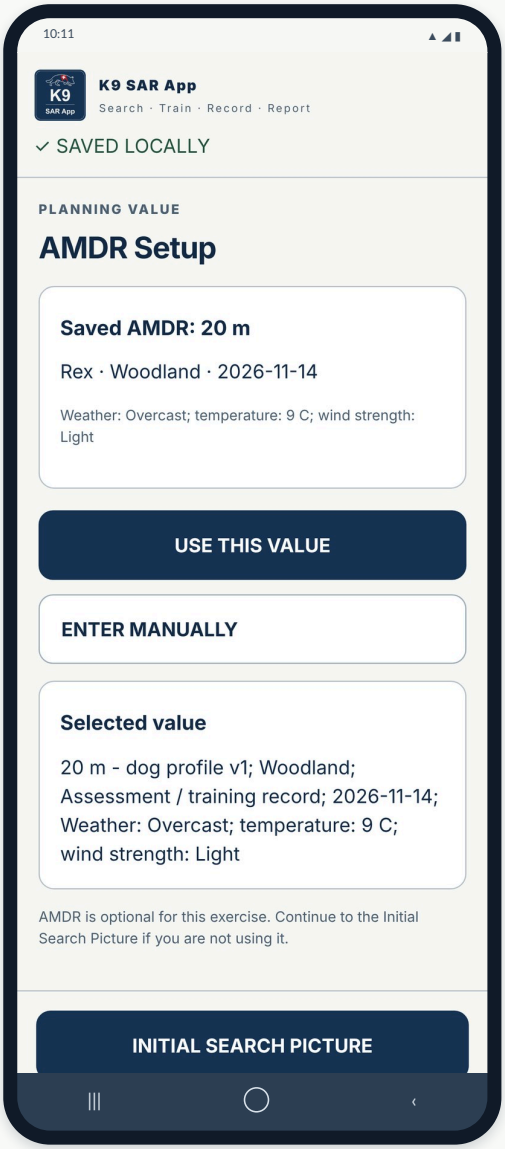
01 Saved AMDR
The app shows the saved AMDR for this dog, for example 20 m, with the terrain, date and conditions it came from.

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 No saved value
If the dog has no AMDR, USE DEFAULT — 30 m uses a labelled default. AMDR is optional in Training.

05 Continue
Check the selected value, then tap INITIAL SEARCH PICTURE.



REAL INTERFACE / FICTIONAL DEMO DATA

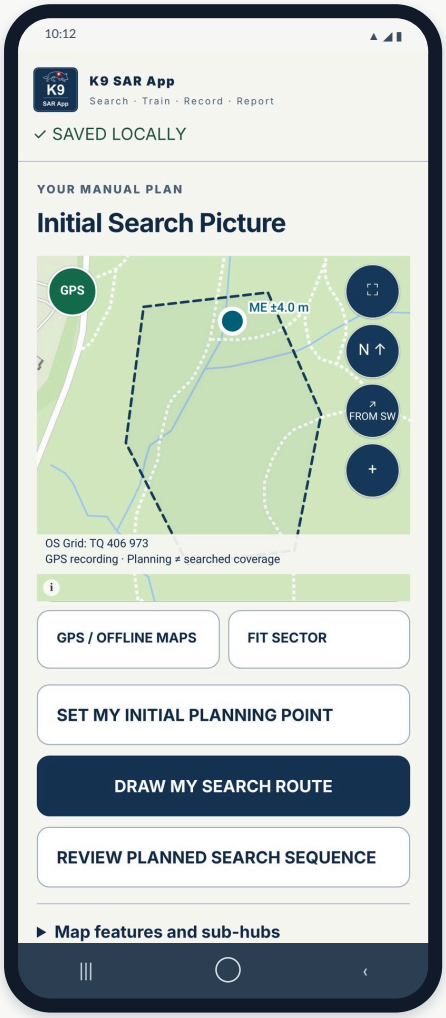
GOOD TO KNOW The AMDR sizes your planned start area (2 × AMDR) and the sub-hub around each POI (1 × AMDR). Planned areas are never searched ground.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND TRAINING

Initial Search Picture

Set your IPP, then draw your route



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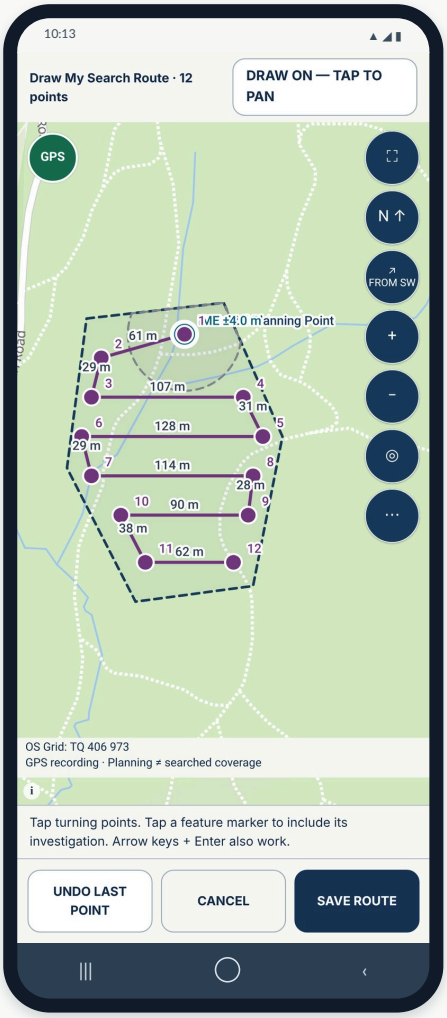


DRAW MY SEARCH ROUTE

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.

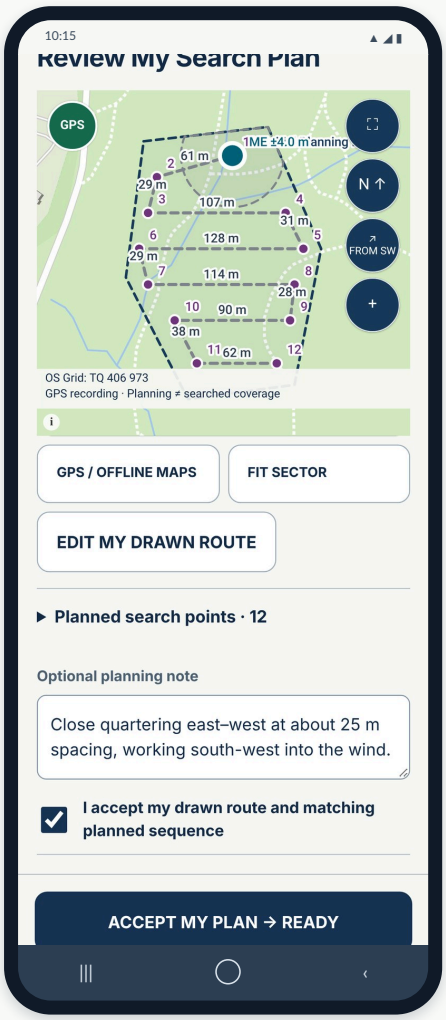
GOOD TO KNOW For HRD work, close quartering with short legs into the wind gives the dog the best chance to reach weak scent.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND TRAINING

Review your plan & get ready

Review My Search Plan → Ready to Search



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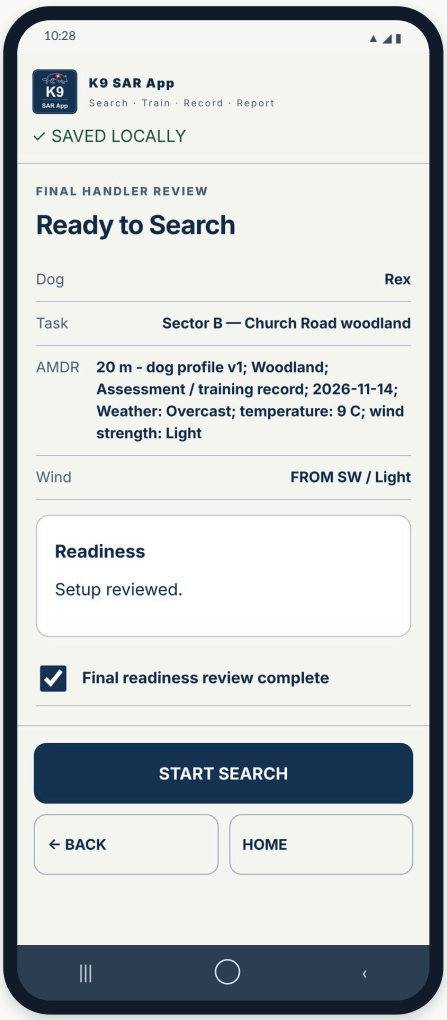


READY TO SEARCH

01 **Check the plan.** Grey dashed lines are your planned route; numbered points are your turning points. Open Planned search points · 12 to see each one.

02 **Planning note.** Optional, for example Close quartering east–west at about 25 m spacing, working south-west into the 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.

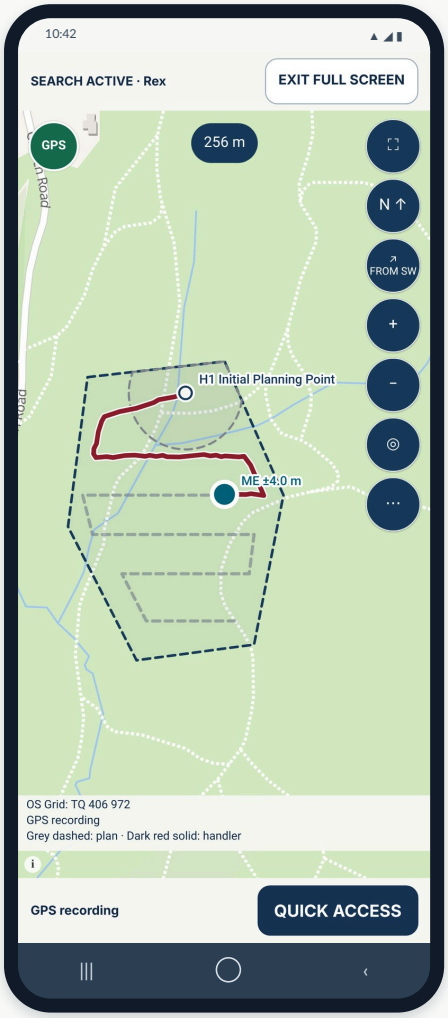
GOOD TO KNOW The status strip says Planning ≠ searched coverage. A plan is never counted as ground searched.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND TRAINING

Searching your sector

Full screen map and the search screen



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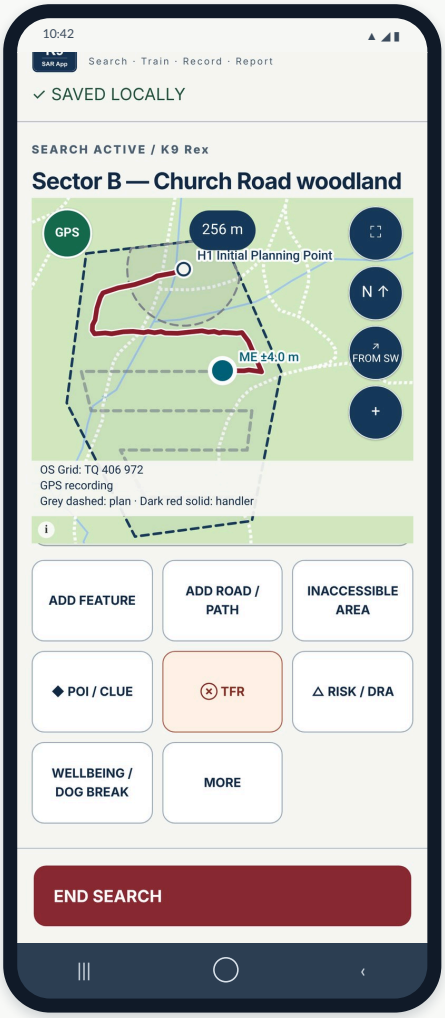


REAL INTERFACE / DEMO MAP © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS

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 END SEARCH.

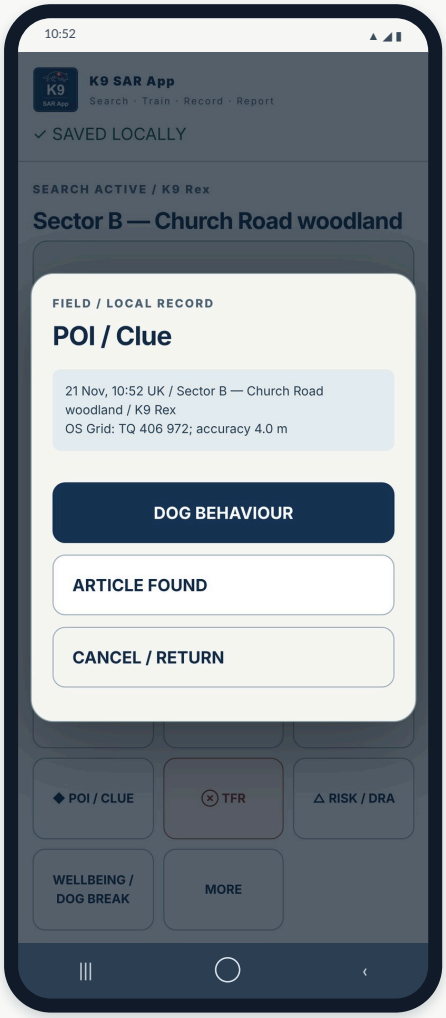
GOOD TO KNOW Use INACCESSIBLE AREA to mark ground you could not enter, so it is never mistaken for ground you searched.

CONTENTS

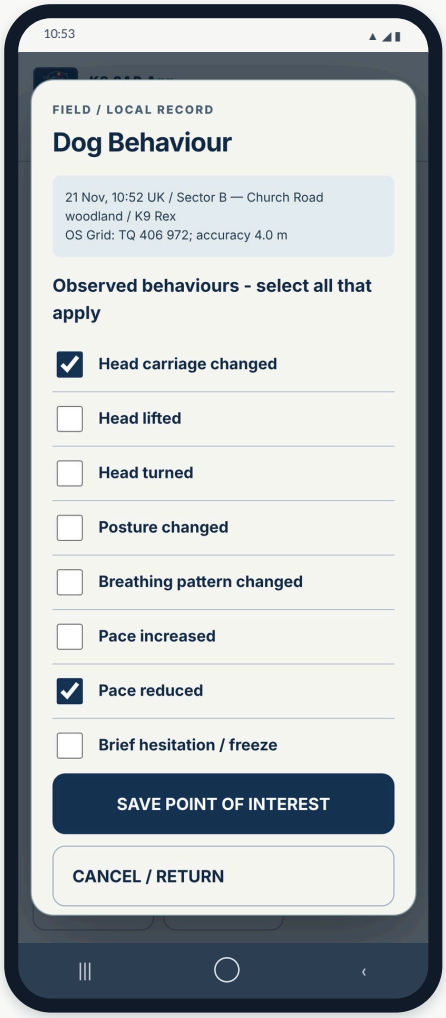
GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND TRAINING

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 10:52, OS Grid TQ 406 972.

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 carriage changed, Pace reduced and Repeated checking of a small area, and the action taken.

04 **Save.** Add your own note if needed and tap SAVE POINT OF INTEREST. It appears as POI-01 with a planned sub-hub around it.

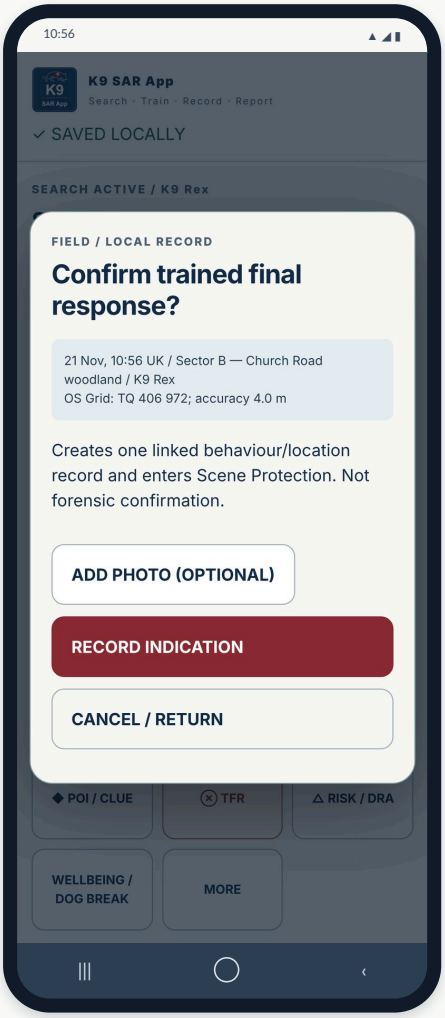
GOOD TO KNOW Record what the dog did, not what you think it means. The app never infers scent or a source from a POI.

CONTENTS

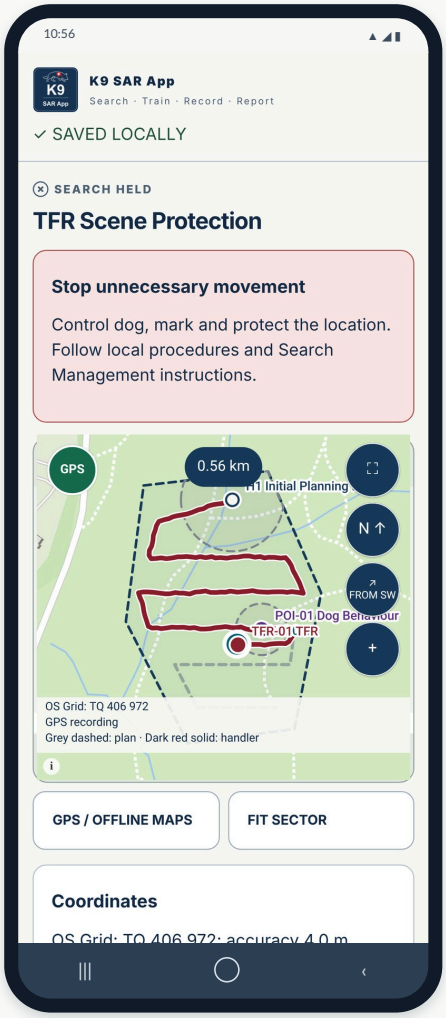
GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND TRAINING

Trained final response (TFR)

TFR → RECORD INDICATION



CONFIRM TFR



TFR SCENE PROTECTION

01 **Tap TFR when your dog indicates.** Confirm trained final response opens with the time and your position, for example 10:56, OS Grid TQ 406 972.

02 **Photo.** ADD PHOTO (OPTIONAL) attaches a context picture. Never photograph human remains.

03 **Record it.** Tap RECORD INDICATION. TFR-01 is saved and the search is held.

04 **Scene Protection opens.** The red panel reminds you to stop unnecessary movement, then control the dog, mark and protect the location.

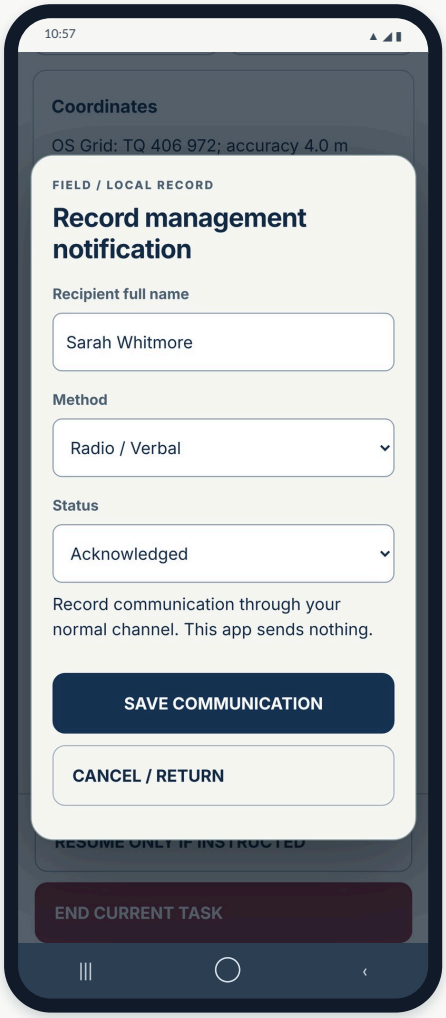
GOOD TO KNOW A TFR records where and when your dog gave its trained indication. It is not forensic confirmation.

CONTENTS

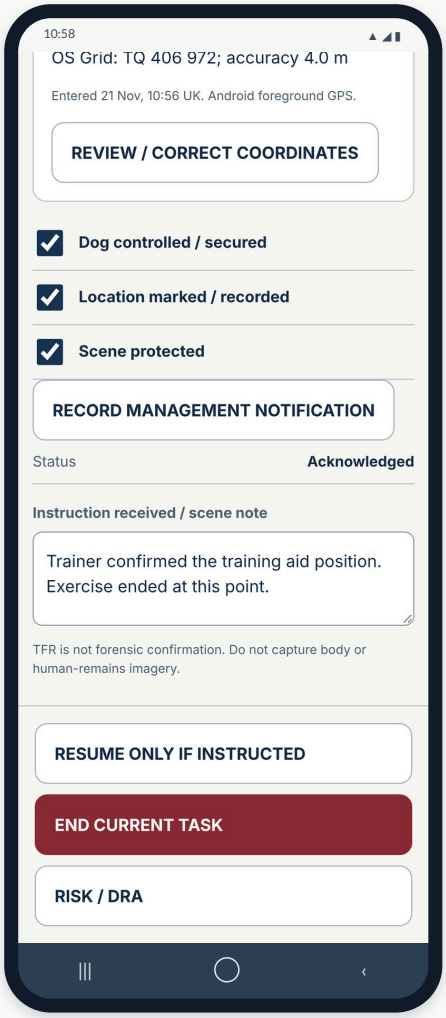
GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND TRAINING

Protect the scene & report

TFR Scene Protection



MANAGEMENT NOTIFICATION



SCENE CHECKS

01 **Tick the scene checks.** Dog controlled / secured, Location marked / recorded and Scene protected, as you complete each one.

02 **Report it.** Tap RECORD MANAGEMENT NOTIFICATION: recipient, method (for example Radio / Verbal) and status, then SAVE COMMUNICATION.

03 **Instruction received.** Write the instruction you were given, for example Trainer confirmed the training aid position.

04 **Resume or end.** RESUME ONLY IF INSTRUCTED needs all three checks and the note. Otherwise tap END CURRENT TASK.

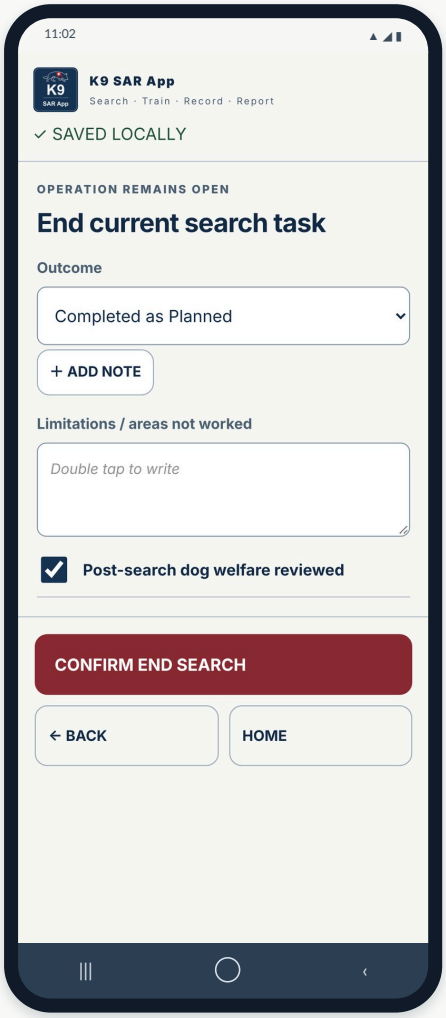
GOOD TO KNOW Each check and the instruction are saved with their times and appear in the debrief, the report and the timeline. The app sends nothing: report through your normal channel.

CONTENTS

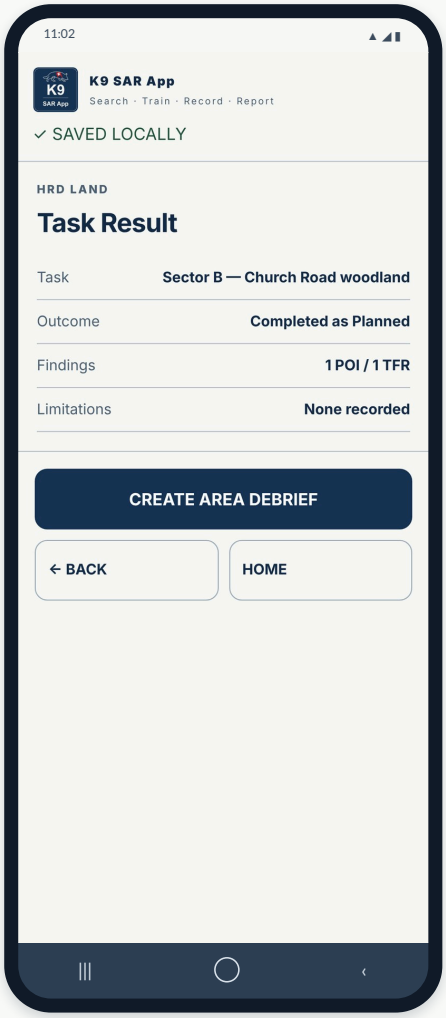
GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND TRAINING

End the task & Task Result

END CURRENT TASK → CONFIRM END SEARCH



END CURRENT SEARCH TASK



TASK RESULT

01 **Outcome.** Completed as Planned, Completed with limitation, Suspended or Withdrawn. + ADD NOTE for detail.

02 **Limitations.** Record any areas not worked. They are carried into the debrief and the report.

03 **Welfare and confirm.** Tick Post-search dog welfare reviewed, then tap CONFIRM END SEARCH. Recording stops.

04 **Task Result.** Shows the task, outcome, findings (for example 1 POI / 1 TFR) and limitations. Tap CREATE AREA DEBRIEF.

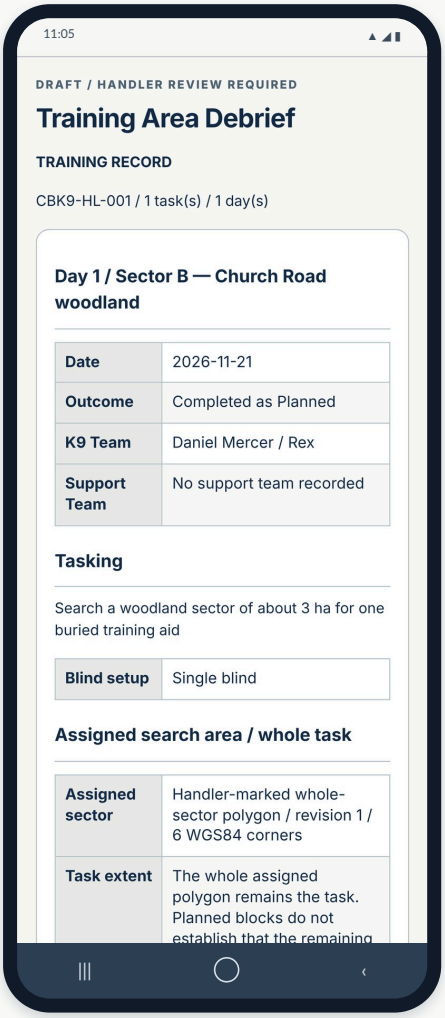
GOOD TO KNOW Areas not worked are part of an honest record. They are reported, never hidden.

CONTENTS

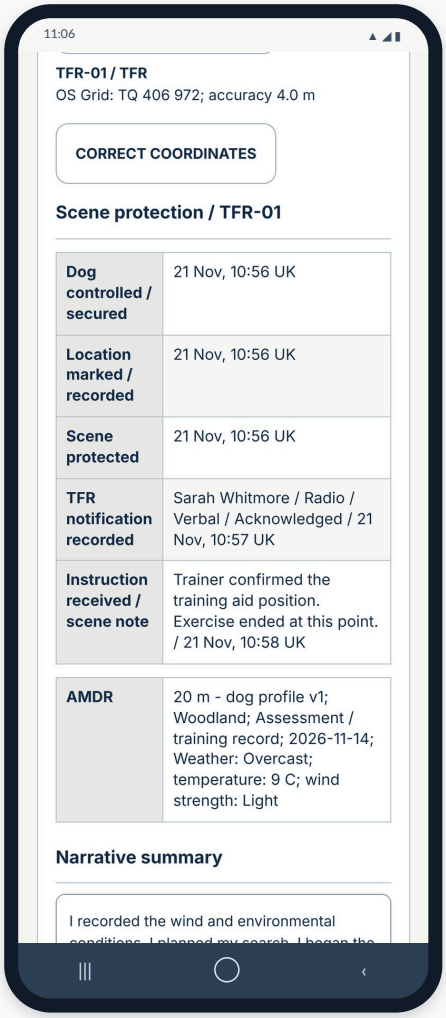
GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND TRAINING

Area Debrief

DRAFT / HANDLER REVIEW REQUIRED



TRAINING AREA DEBRIEF



SCENE PROTECTION

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

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

03 **Positions.** H1, each POI and the TFR with grid reference and accuracy. CORRECT COORDINATES fixes a wrong position.

04 **Scene protection.** Under each TFR: the three scene checks with their times, the TFR notification and the instruction you received.

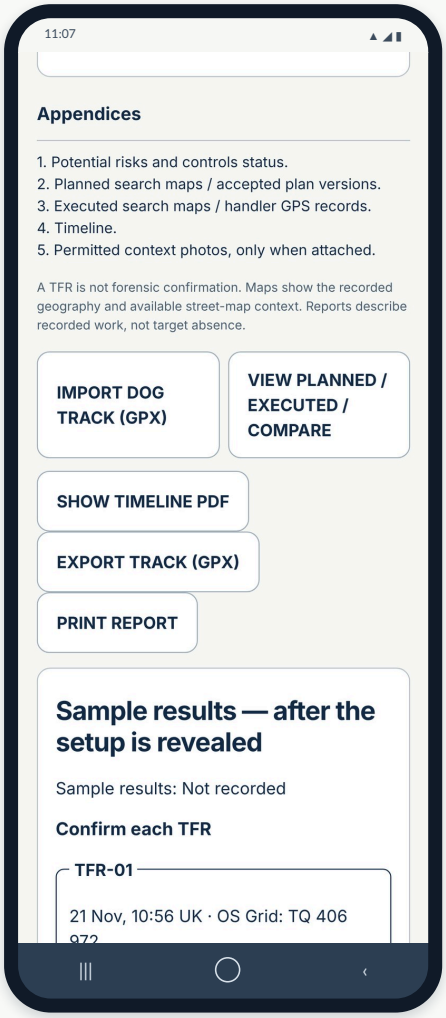
GOOD TO KNOW The narrative draft below repeats your scene actions in time order. Read it and edit it in your own words, or tap REBUILD DRAFT FROM TIMELINE.

CONTENTS

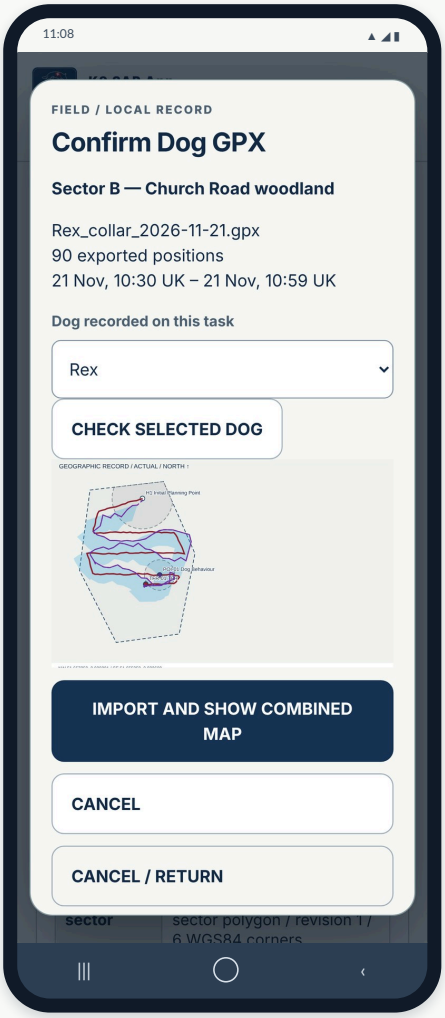
GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND TRAINING

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 10:30 – 10:59.

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.

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-HL / HRD LAND 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.

03 Estimated AMDR

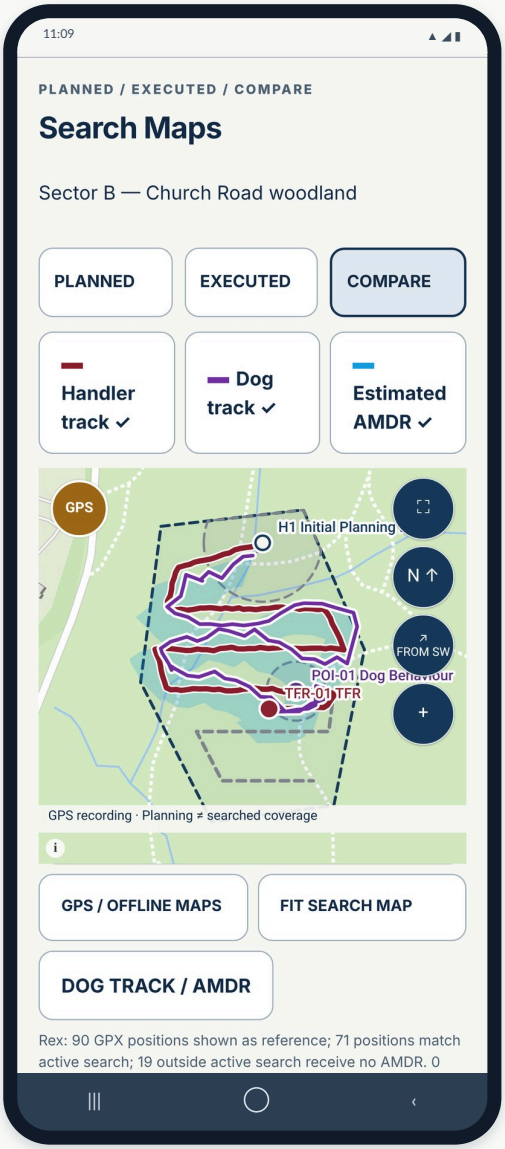
Blue shading is an estimate built from the dog track, the wind and your AMDR. It is not confirmed searched ground.

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

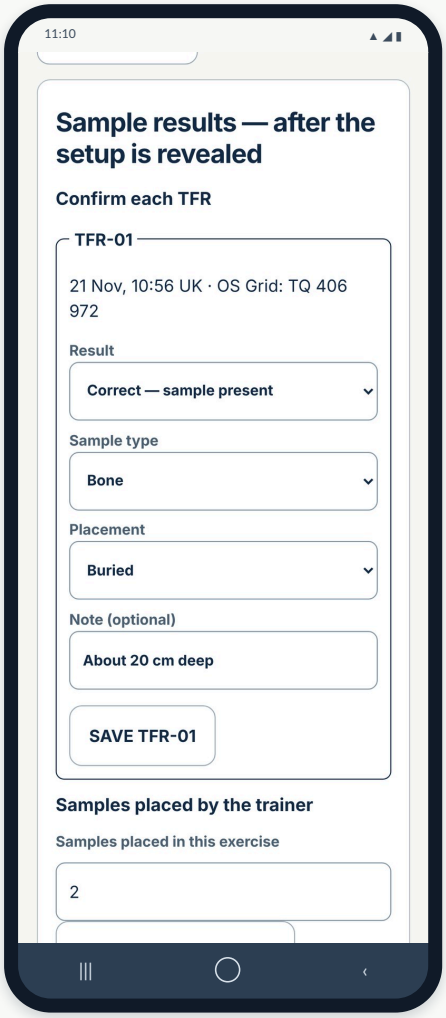
GOOD TO KNOW Use the compare view to see how your dog worked the ground and the wind: it is a training tool, not a verdict.

CONTENTS

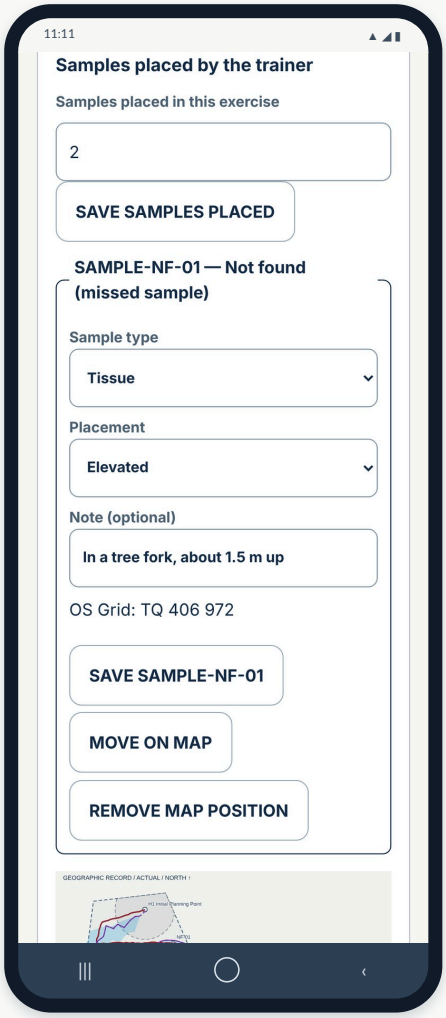
GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND TRAINING

Sample results after the search

Area Debrief → Sample results



SAMPLE RESULTS / TFR



NOT FOUND SAMPLE

01 **After the reveal.** In training you do not know how many samples were placed, what they were or where. When the search is finished the trainer tells you. Sample results is in the debrief, above the trainer review.

02 **Confirm each TFR.** Choose Correct — sample present or No sample here. For a correct TFR add the sample type, the placement (Surface, Elevated, Covered / hidden or Buried) and a note, then tap SAVE TFR-01.

03 **Samples placed.** Enter how many samples the trainer placed, for example 2, and tap SAVE SAMPLES PLACED.

04 **Not found samples.** For each sample the dog did not find, the app adds a Not found row, for example SAMPLE-NF-01. Choose its type and placement, add a note and tap SAVE SAMPLE-NF-01.

GOOD TO KNOW Your dog's TFR is recorded at the time, even when the sample is covered or buried and cannot be seen. The result is added only after the trainer reveals the setup.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND TRAINING

Mark a not found sample on the map

SAMPLE-NF-01 → MARK ON MAP

01 Optional

A map position is optional. If the trainer shows you where the missed sample was, tap MARK ON MAP under its Not found row.

02 Tap the map

Mark Not found sample opens on your task map. Tap where the sample was. The position is saved and you return to the debrief with its grid reference.

03 Change it

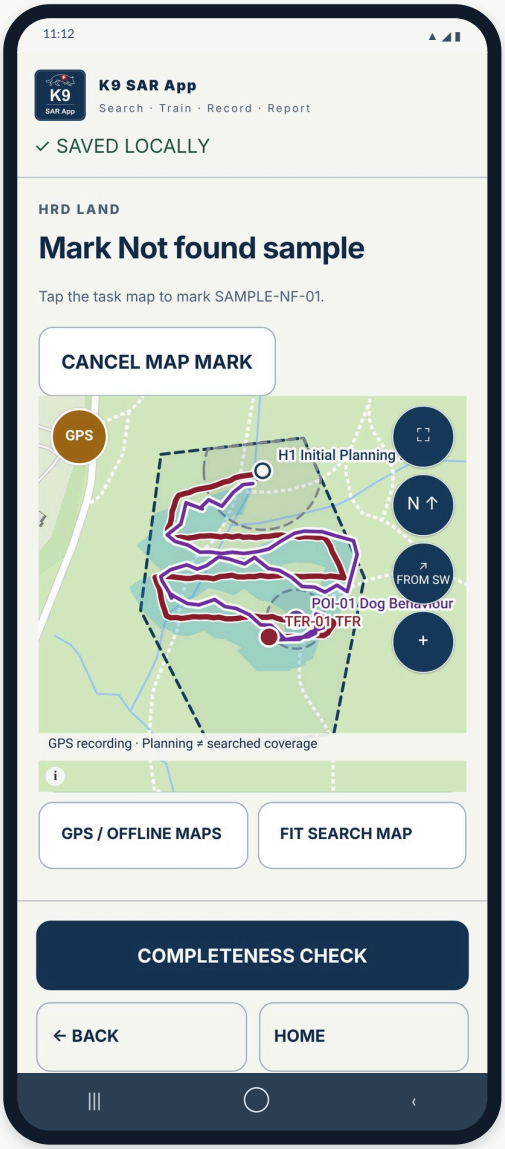
MOVE ON MAP marks it again. REMOVE MAP POSITION clears it. CANCEL MAP MARK returns without a change.

04 In the report

The point appears on the executed search maps as a grey diamond, NF-01, labelled Not found sample (trainer).

05 Narrative and timeline

Each result is added to the timeline. The narrative draft adds a line such as: the trainer revealed 2 samples, TFR-01 was correct, 1 sample was not found.



REAL INTERFACE / DEMO MAP © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS

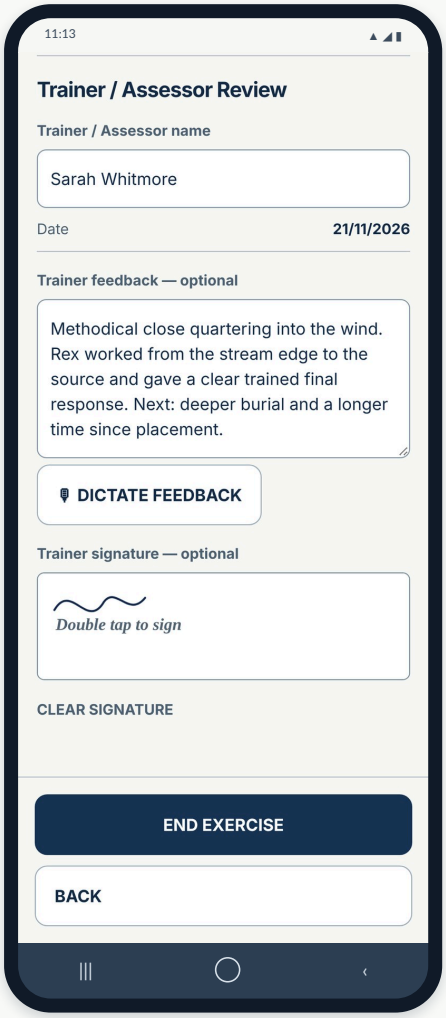
GOOD TO KNOW Sample results can be changed until you tap END EXERCISE. After that they are locked with the rest of the record.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND 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.

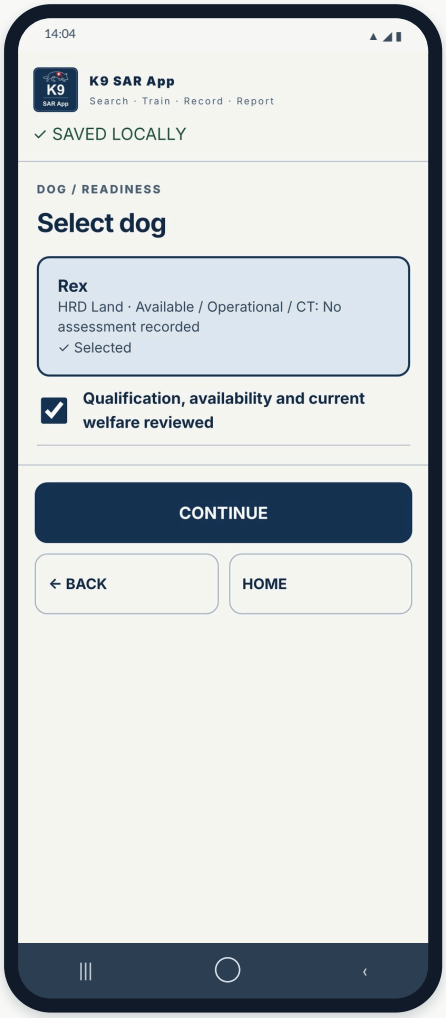
GOOD TO KNOW After END EXERCISE the debrief can no longer be edited. The exercise is kept in History and counted in Training Statistics, including its sample results.

CONTENTS

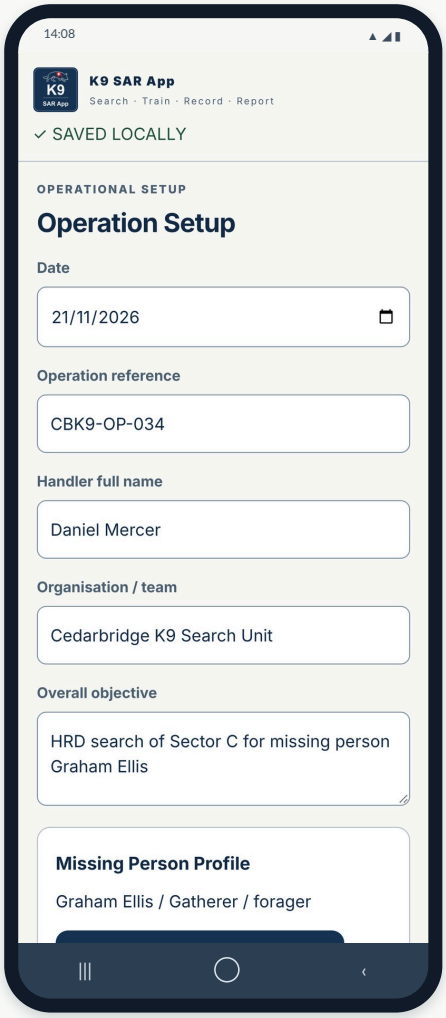
GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND OPERATIONAL

Start an Operational HRD Land search

New Search → Operational → HRD Land



SELECT DOG



OPERATION SETUP

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

02 **Operation Setup.** Date, the operation reference from search management, for example CBK9-OP-034, and the overall objective.

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

04 **Missing person.** Tap MISSING PERSON PROFILE if the search is for a named person. When saved, the card shows the name and category.

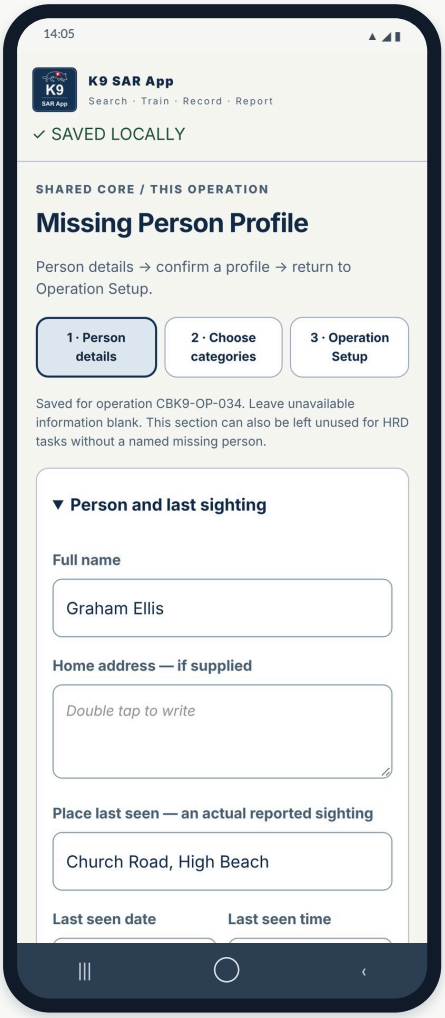
GOOD TO KNOW Use the reference given by search management, so your report matches their records.

CONTENTS

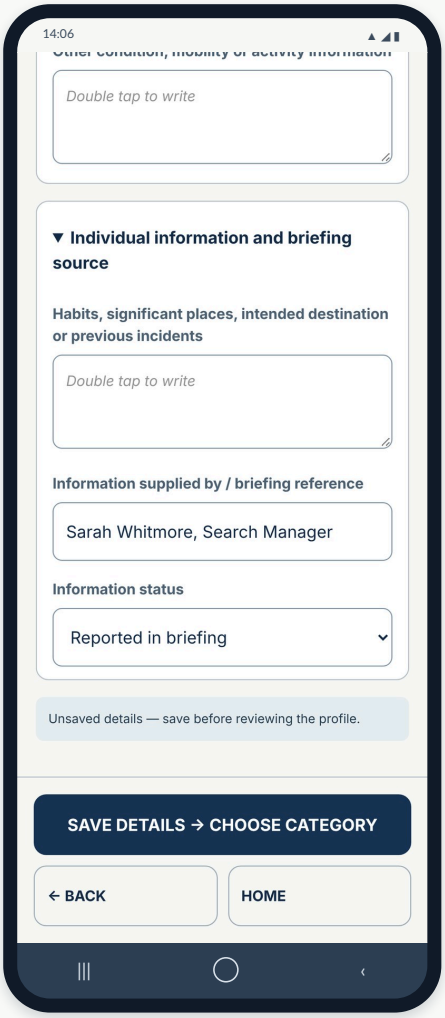
GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND OPERATIONAL

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.

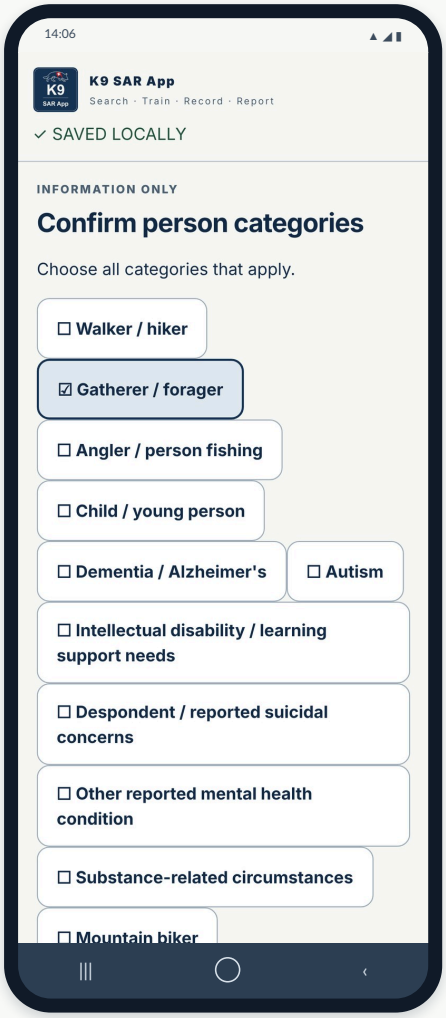
GOOD TO KNOW This section can be left unused for HRD tasks without a named missing person. Leave anything you were not told blank.

CONTENTS

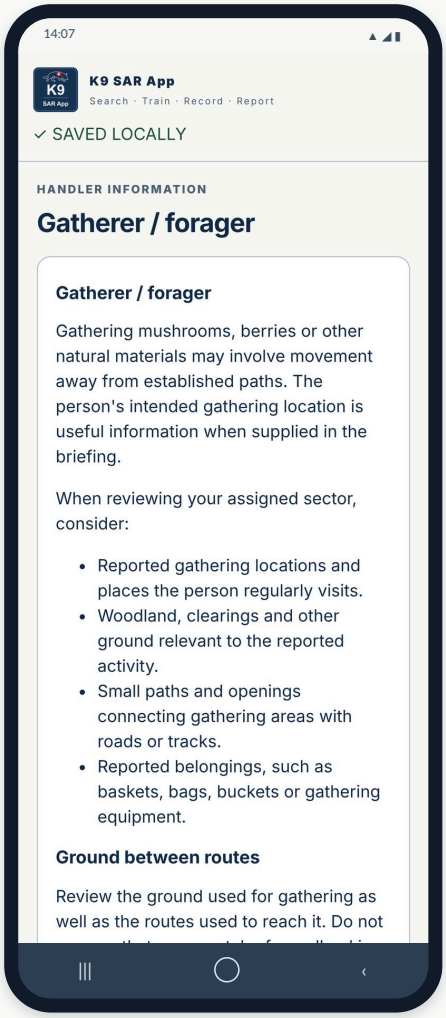
GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND OPERATIONAL

Person categories & sector reminder

2 · Choose categories → 3 · Operation Setup



CONFIRM CATEGORIES



CATEGORY REMINDER

01 **Choose the categories.** Tick every category that applies. SHOW ALL 13 TYPES lists them all, for example Gatherer / forager.

02 **Confirm.** Tap CONFIRM CATEGORIES.

03 **Read the reminder.** Points to consider when reviewing your sector, for example ground between routes and places used for gathering.

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-HL / HRD LAND OPERATIONAL

Task, conditions and plan

The same steps as in Training

01 **Support team**

Enter each person's full name and roles, for example Emily Carter, Navigator, or tap CONTINUE WITHOUT SUPPORT.

02 **Assigned task**

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

03 **Conditions**

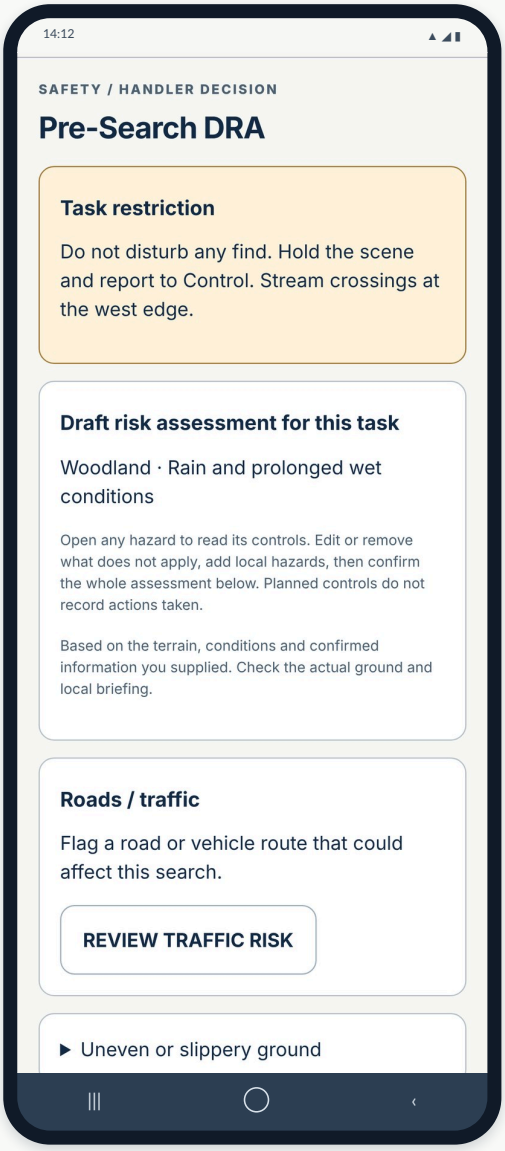
Wind, temperature, terrain and conditions, as in Training.

04 **DRA and traffic**

Operational DRAs add Roads / traffic: REVIEW TRAFFIC RISK flags a road or vehicle route that could affect the search.

05 **AMDR and plan**

AMDR Setup, Initial Search Picture, your route and Review My Search Plan work as in Training. Then START SEARCH.



PRE-SEARCH DRA / TASK RESTRICTION

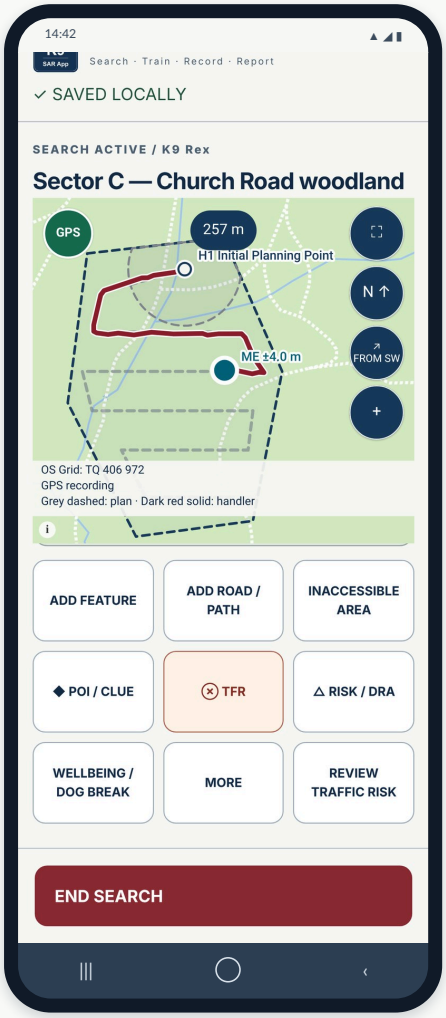
GOOD TO KNOW The Task restriction stays at the top of the DRA, for example Do not disturb any find. Hold the scene and report to Control.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND OPERATIONAL

Searching, TFR & scene protection

The search screen in Operational mode



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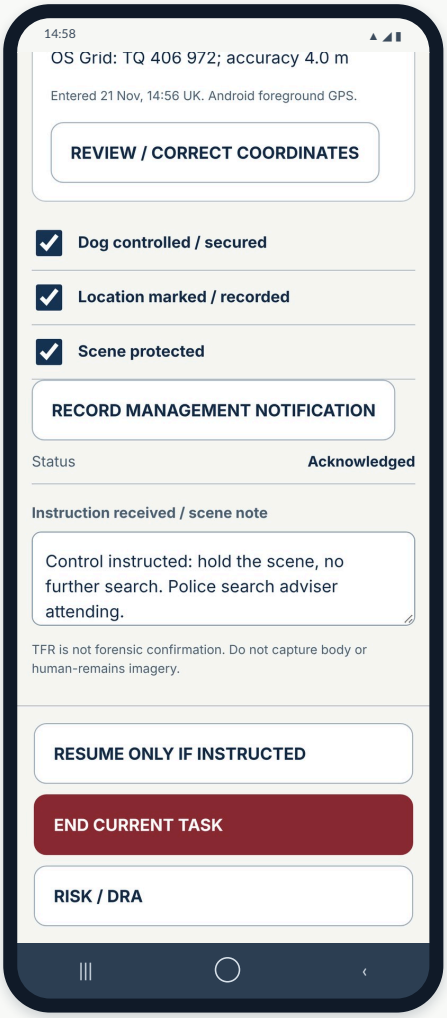


TFR SCENE PROTECTION

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

02 **POI and TFR.** Record changes in behaviour and your dog's trained final response exactly as in Training.

03 **Scene Protection.** Control the dog, mark and protect the location, and record the management notification to search management.

04 **Instruction received.** Record what you were told, for example Control instructed: hold the scene, no further search. Police search adviser attending.

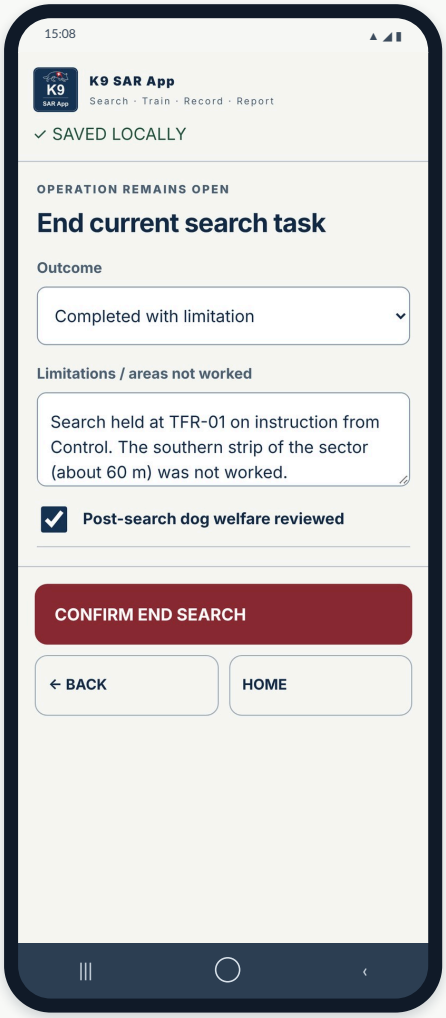
GOOD TO KNOW Only RESUME ONLY IF INSTRUCTED returns you to searching. Do not capture any images of human remains.

CONTENTS

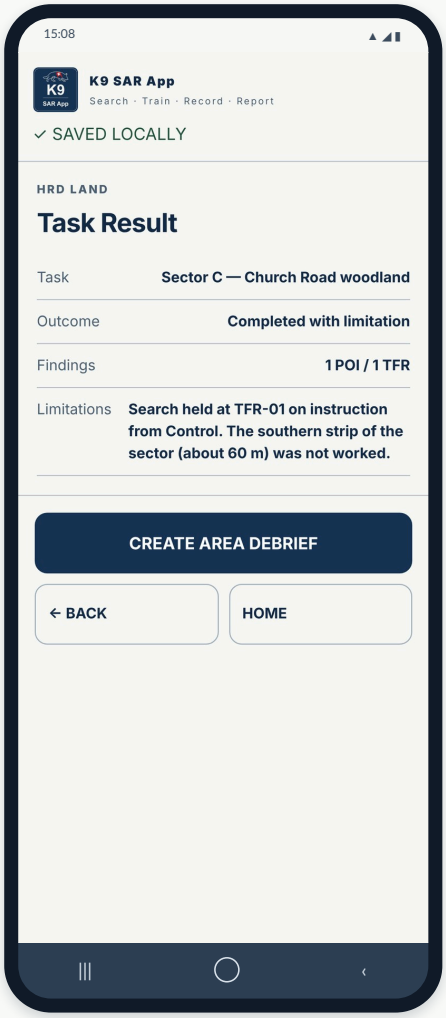
GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND OPERATIONAL

End the task & Task Result

END CURRENT TASK → CONFIRM END SEARCH



END CURRENT SEARCH TASK



TASK RESULT

01 **Outcome.** When the search was held at a TFR, choose Completed with limitation, or the outcome you were instructed to record.

02 **Limitations.** Record what was not worked, for example Search held at TFR-01 on instruction from Control; the southern strip was not worked.

03 **Welfare and confirm.** Tick Post-search dog welfare reviewed, then tap CONFIRM END SEARCH.

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

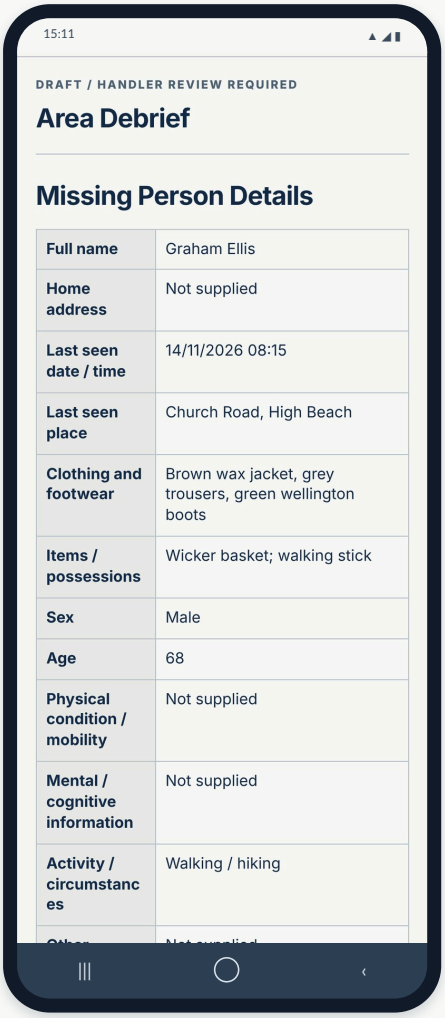
GOOD TO KNOW Ground you did not search stays in the record as a limitation. The report never claims the sector is clear.

CONTENTS

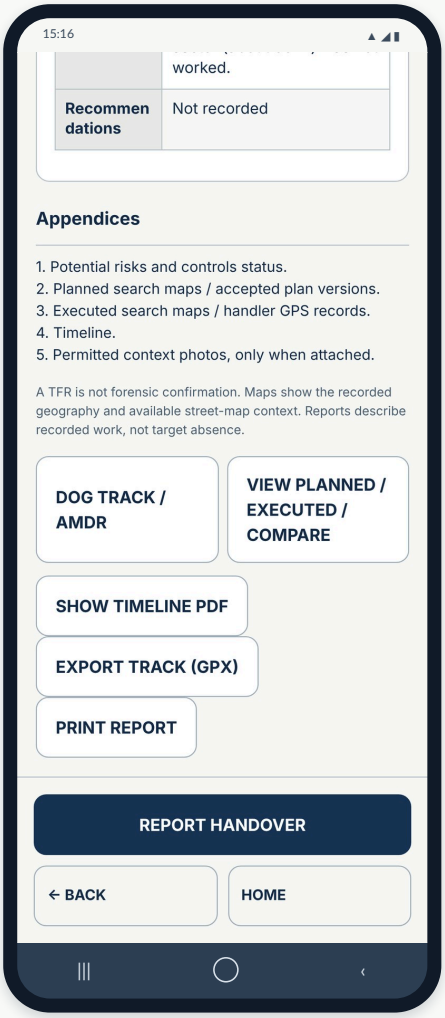
GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND OPERATIONAL

Area Debrief

DRAFT / HANDLER REVIEW REQUIRED



AREA DEBRIEF



REPORT HANDOVER

01 **Missing person details.** The profile you entered, with the category, when one was recorded.

02 **Task record.** Date, outcome, K9 team, tasking, assigned area, positions, and the scene protection record under TFR-01.

03 **Narrative and limitations.** A draft built from your recorded actions. Read it, edit it in your own words, and check the limitations.

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.

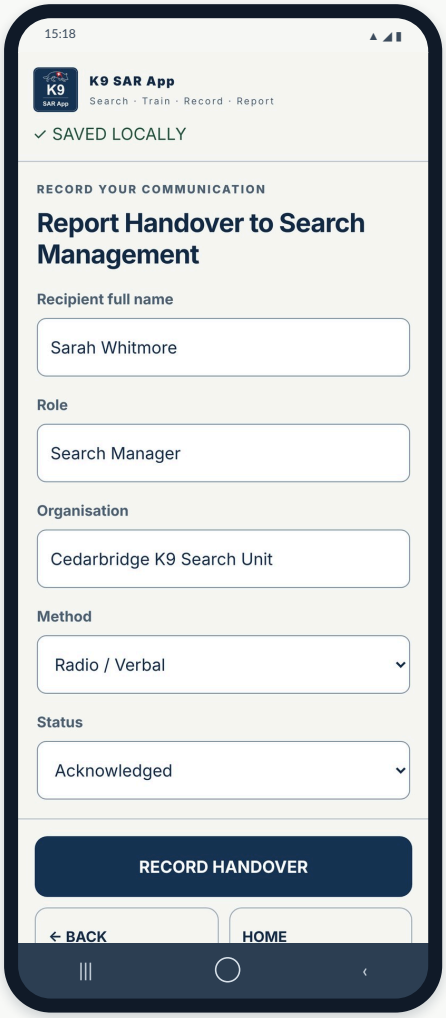
GOOD TO KNOW Area means your dog's working space for this task, from start to finish. The same name is used in every discipline.

CONTENTS

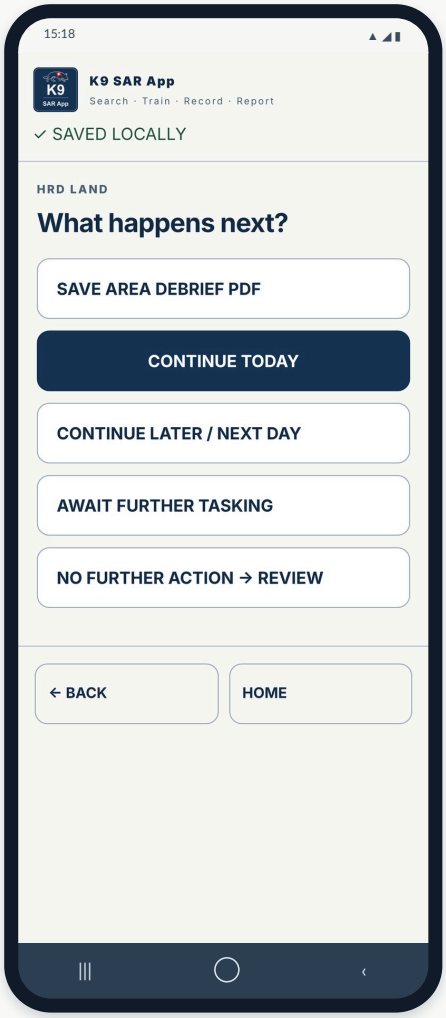
GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND OPERATIONAL

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.

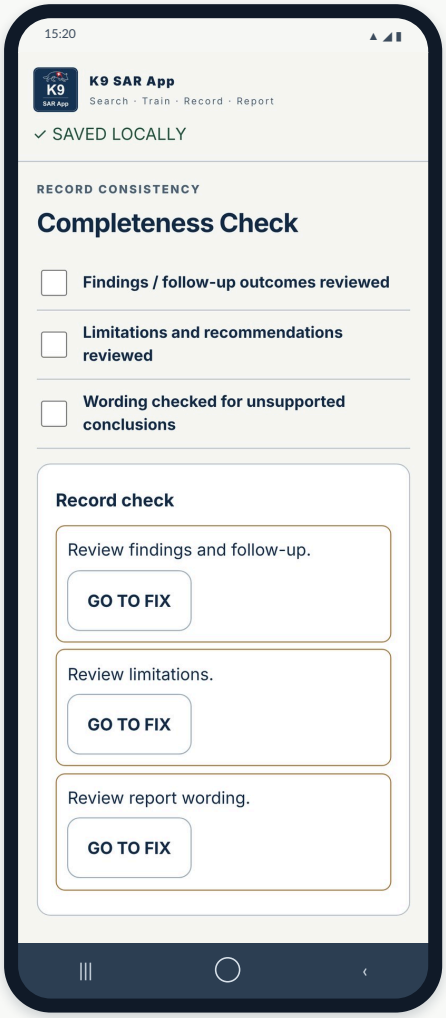
GOOD TO KNOW This records the communication itself. Record an attempt that was not answered as Attempted / unsuccessful.

CONTENTS

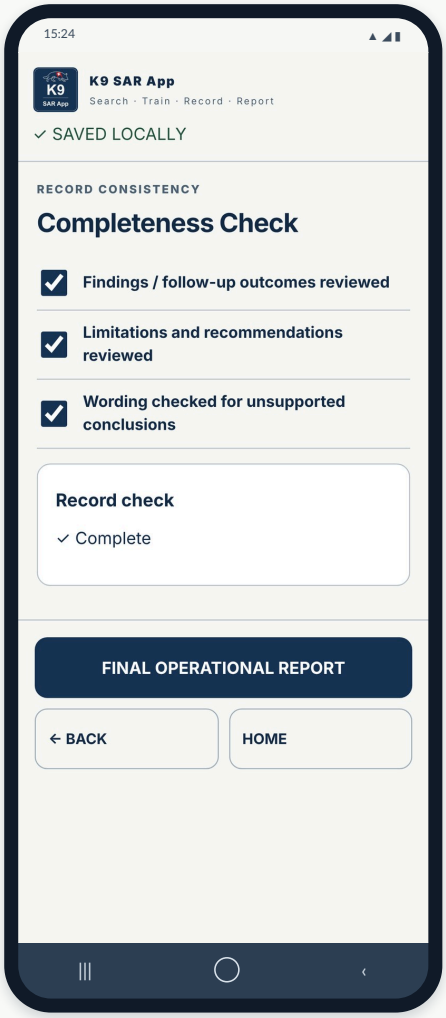
GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND OPERATIONAL

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: a TFR is an indication, never a confirmed find.

CONTENTS

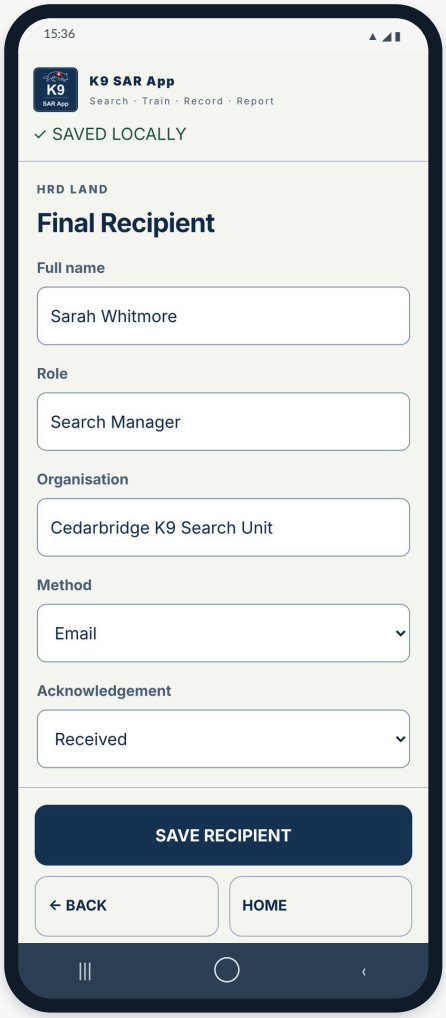
GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND OPERATIONAL

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.

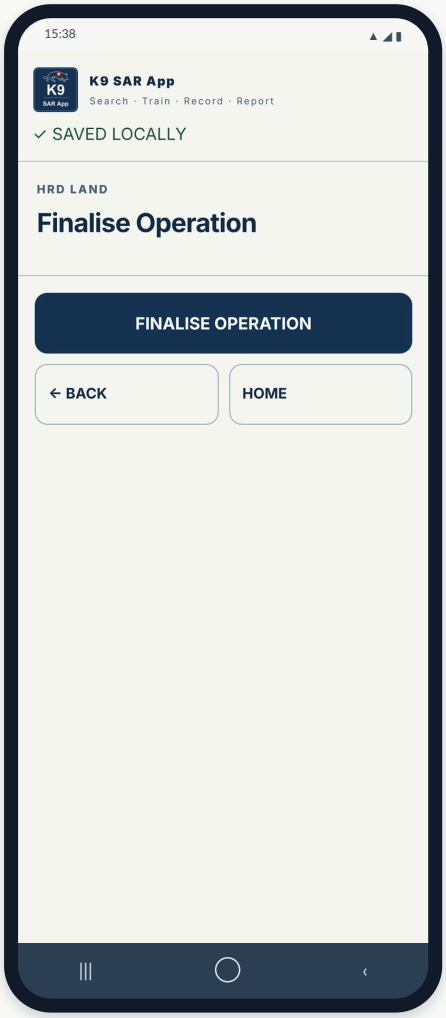
GOOD TO KNOW Exports are available here too: Handler / Dog info PDF and PRINT REPORT.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-HL / HRD LAND OPERATIONAL

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.

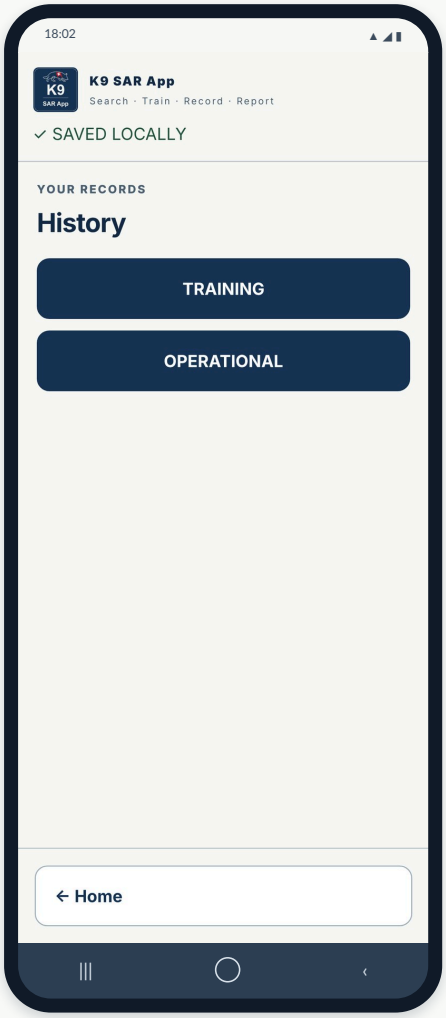
GOOD TO KNOW Operational records never appear in Training Statistics.

CONTENTS

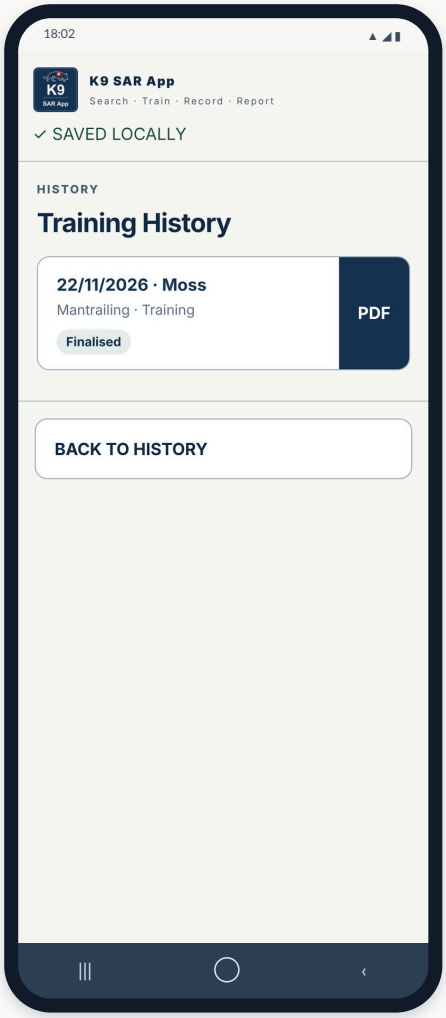
GUIDE H-HL / RECORDS

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.

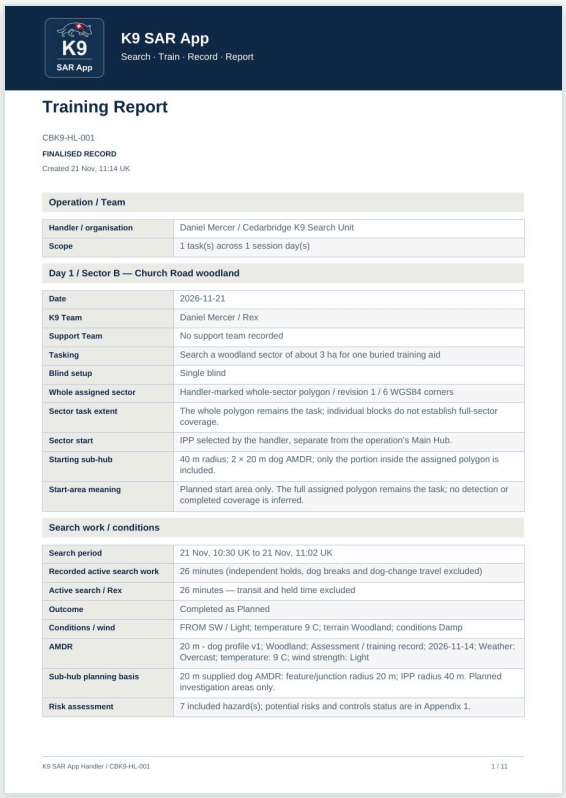
GOOD TO KNOW History keeps every finalised Training exercise and Operational search on the phone, in every discipline.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-HL / RECORDS

Reports & PDF

What the HRD Land report contains



K9 SAR App
Search · Train · Record · Report

Training Report

CBK9-HL-001
FINALISED RECORD
Created 21 Nov, 11:14 UK

Operation / Team

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

Day 1 / Sector B — Church Road woodland

Date	2026-11-21
K9 Team	Daniel Mercer / Rex
Support Team	No support team recorded
Tasking	Search a woodland sector of about 3 ha for one buried training aid
Blind setup	Single blind
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	40 m radius; 2 × 20 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	21 Nov, 10:30 UK to 21 Nov, 11:02 UK
Recorded active search work	26 minutes (independent holds, dog breaks and dog-change travel excluded)
Active search / Rex	26 minutes — transit and held time excluded
Outcome	Completed as Planned
Conditions / wind	FROM SW / Light; temperature 9 C; terrain Woodland; conditions Damp
AMDR	20 m - dog profile v1; Woodland; Assessment / training record; 2026-11-14; Weather: Overcast; temperature: 9 C; wind strength: Light
Sub-hub planning basis	20 m supplied dog AMDR: feature/junction radius 20 m; IPP radius 40 m. Planned investigation areas only.
Risk assessment	7 included hazard(s); potential risks and controls status are in Appendix 1.

K9 SAR App Handler / CBK9-HL-001 1 / 11

TRAINING REPORT / PAGE 1



K9 SAR App
Search · Train · Record · Report

Continued

CBK9-HL-001

Sample results

TFR-01 — trainer review after the search	Correct — sample present · Bone · Buried · About 20 cm deep
Samples placed	2
Correct TFRs	1
Missed samples	1
False indications (No sample here)	Not recorded
Not confirmed TFRs	Not recorded
SAMPLE-NF-01 — Not found (missed sample)	Tissue · Elevated · In a tree fork, about 1.5 m up · OS Grid: TQ 406 972

Narrative summary

I recorded the wind and environmental conditions. I planned my search. I began the search from IPP OS Grid: TQ 406 973. I marked POI-01 with a 20 m planned sub-hub (1 × supplied dog AMDR 20 m). I recorded POI-01 after observing Head carriage changed, Pace reduced, Rechecking an area, Repeated checking of a small area. My note: Rex slowed and rechecked a small area by the stream edge, then moved on with the route. Actions recorded by the handler: Continued planned route; Marked POI location. I recorded TFR-01 as a trained final response and entered Scene Protection. This response is not forensic confirmation. I secured Rex for TFR-01. I marked and recorded the location for TFR-01. I protected the scene for TFR-01. I reported TFR-01 to Sarah Whitmore (Radio / Verbal, Acknowledged). Instruction received: Trainer confirmed the training aid position. Exercise ended at this point. I ended the assigned task with outcome: Completed as Planned. After the search, the trainer revealed 2 samples: TFR-01 was correct (Bone, Buried); 1 sample was not found.

Findings / limitations / recommendations

Unique findings	1 POI; 1 TFR

Scene protection / TFR-01

Dog controlled / secured	21 Nov, 10:56 UK
Location marked / recorded	21 Nov, 10:56 UK
Scene protected	21 Nov, 10:56 UK
TFR notification recorded	Sarah Whitmore / Radio / Verbal / Acknowledged / 21 Nov, 10:57 UK
Instruction received / scene note	Trainer confirmed the training aid position. Exercise ended at this point. / 21 Nov, 10:58 UK
Limitations / not worked	None recorded

K9 SAR App Handler / CBK9-HL-001 2 / 11

SAMPLE RESULTS / PAGE 2

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, sample results (training), limitations and narrative.

03 **Search maps.** Planned maps show your sector, IPP, start area and route. Executed maps add your track, POI, TFR, not found samples (NF), the dog track and the estimated AMDR.

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

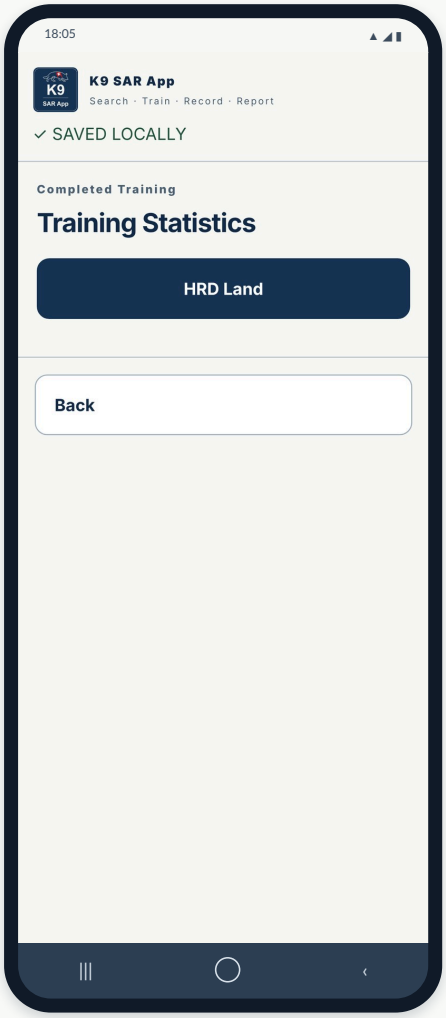
GOOD TO KNOW Blue AMDR shading is labelled as an estimate. Reports never claim that ground without a find was clear.

CONTENTS

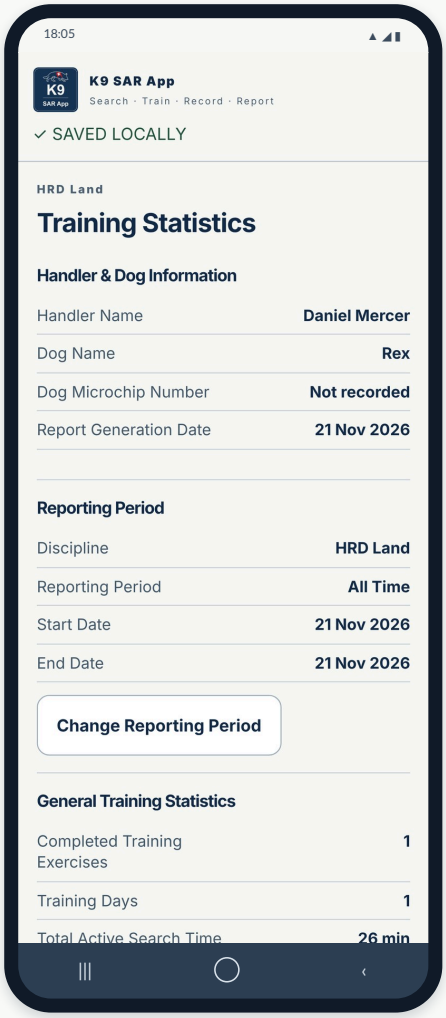
GUIDE H-HL / RECORDS

Training Statistics

Home → STATISTICS → HRD Land



TRAINING STATISTICS



HRD LAND

01 **Choose the discipline.** Tap HRD Land. If you have several HRD Land 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.

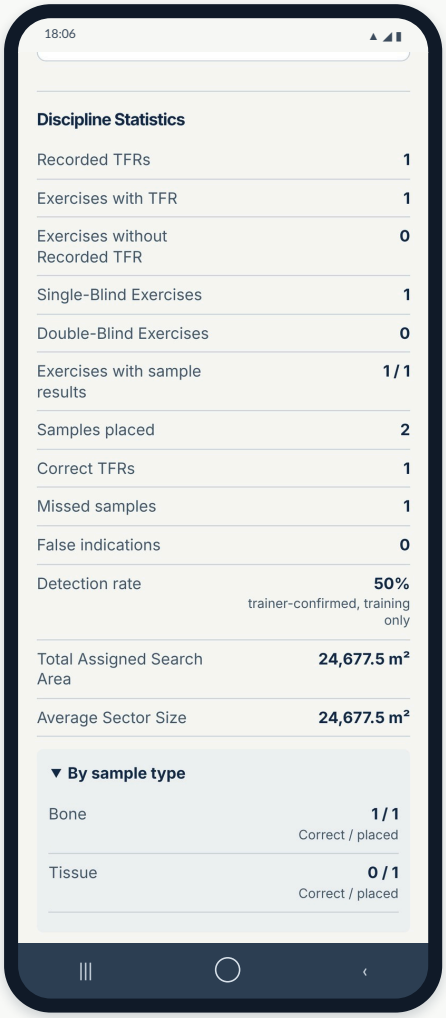
GOOD TO KNOW Only completed Training exercises are counted. Operational searches never appear in Training Statistics.

CONTENTS

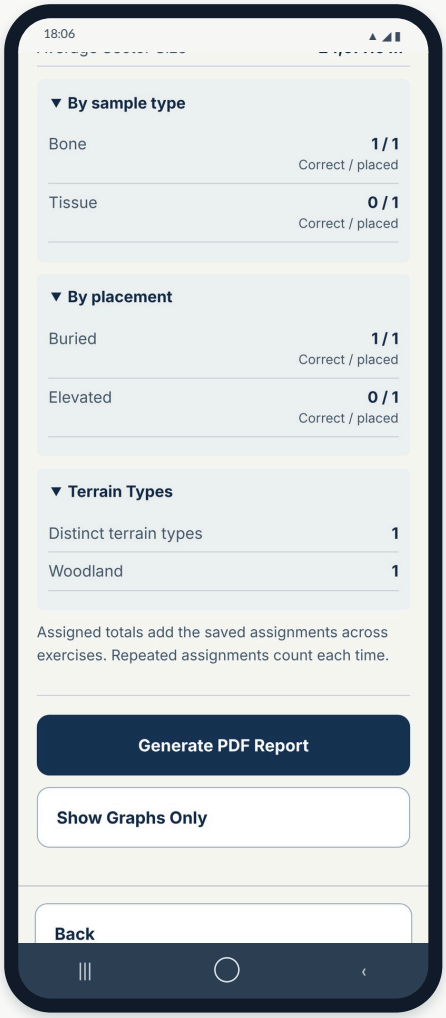
GUIDE H-HL / RECORDS

Sample & area statistics

Discipline Statistics



DISCIPLINE STATISTICS



BY SAMPLE TYPE & PLACEMENT

01 **Discipline figures.** Recorded TFRs, exercises with and without a TFR, and single- and double-blind exercises.

02 **Sample results.** Exercises with sample results, samples placed, correct TFRs, missed samples and false indications. Detection rate is correct TFRs divided by samples placed, as confirmed by the trainer.

03 **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.

04 **By type and placement.** Correct / placed for each sample type, for example Bone 1 / 1, and for each placement, for example Elevated 0 / 1.

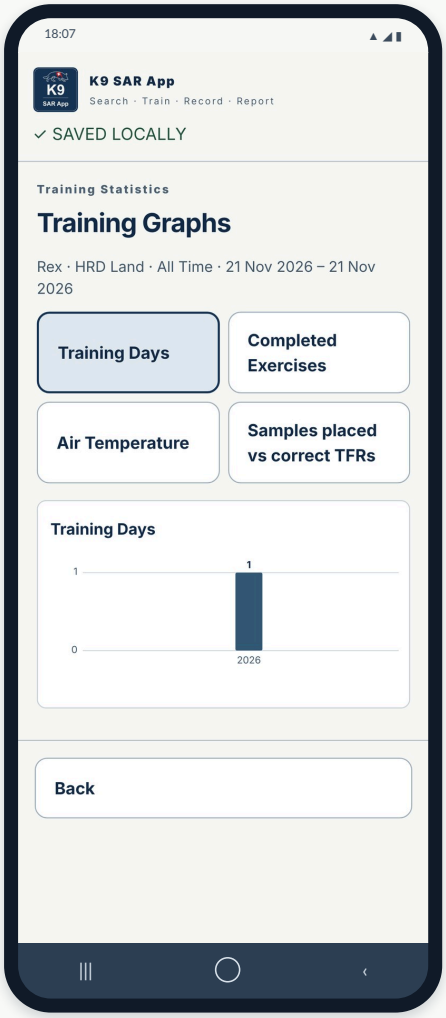
GOOD TO KNOW Only exercises with saved sample results count in the sample figures. An exercise without them is shown as not recorded, never as a miss.

CONTENTS

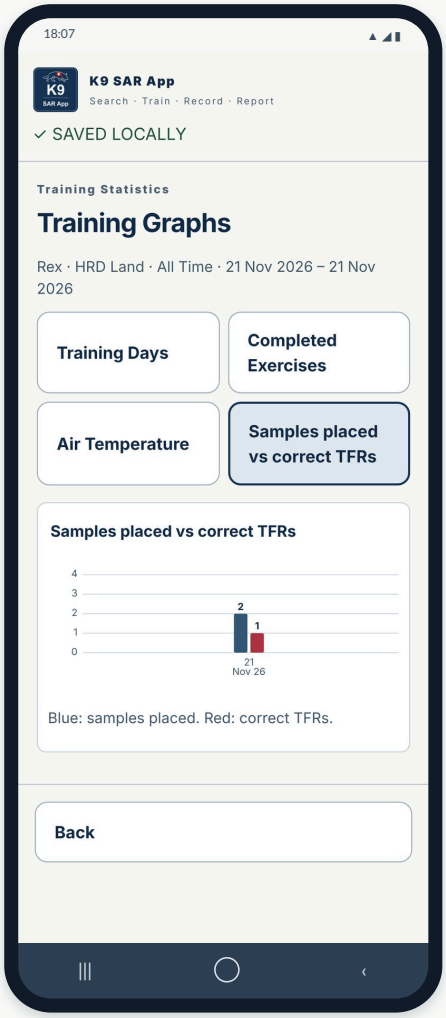
GUIDE H-HL / RECORDS

Statistics graphs

Show Graphs Only



TRAINING GRAPHS



SAMPLES PLACED VS CORRECT TFRs

01 **Terrain and conditions.** Below the sample tables: how often each terrain type and condition was recorded.

02 **Show Graphs Only.** Choose Training Days, Completed Exercises, Air Temperature or Samples placed vs correct TFRs.

03 **Samples graph.** Blue bars show the samples placed and red bars the correct TFRs, so you can follow your dog's progress over time.

04 **PDF.** Generate PDF Report saves the statistics with the reporting period.

GOOD TO KNOW Statistics only count completed Training exercises. Operational searches never appear in Training Statistics.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-HL / 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**

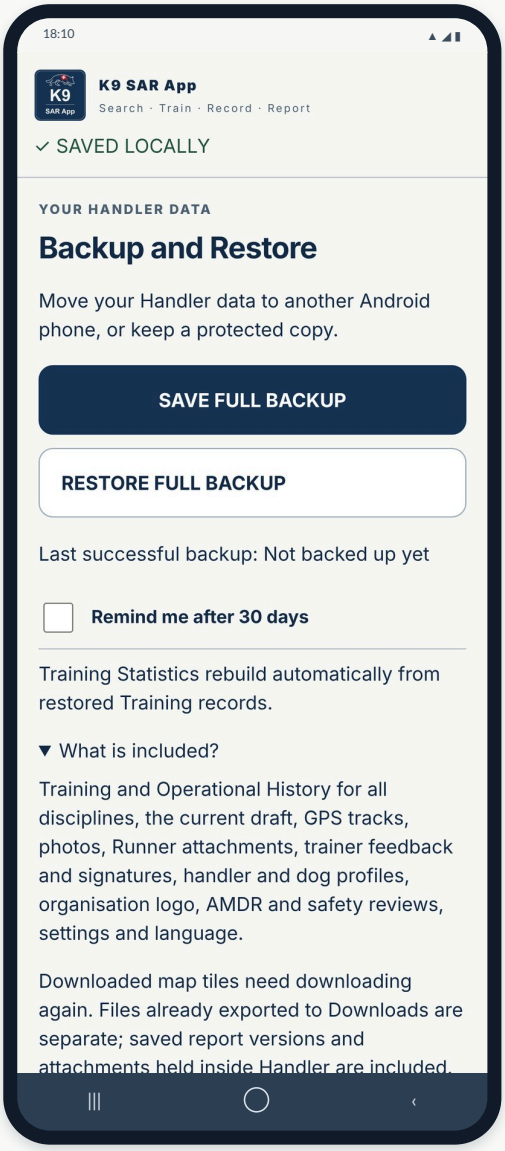
All Training and Operational History, GPS tracks, photos, Runner files, trainer reviews, profiles, logo, AMDR entries, safety reviews, settings and language.

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-HL / 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 with + AMDR ENTRY on the Home screen, tap ENTER MANUALLY, or use the labelled 30 m default.

The map is blank

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

RESUME ONLY IF INSTRUCTED is refused

Tick all three scene checks and write the instruction you received first.

No estimated AMDR on the map

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

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.

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.

Samples placed is refused

Samples placed cannot be fewer than the TFRs confirmed as correct. Check the trainer's total and each TFR result.

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-HL / HELP

Glossary

Words used in the app and this guide

AMDR	Average Maximum Detection Range: the distance at which your dog reliably detects the target odour, 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 where the training aid is.
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 and for the dog collar track.
HRD	Human remains detection. HRD Land covers searches on land; HRD Water has its own guide.
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.
Not found sample (NF)	A training sample the dog did not find, added by the handler after the reveal, for example SAMPLE-NF-01.
OS Grid	British National Grid reference, for example TQ 406 972. 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.
Sample results	The trainer-confirmed result of each TFR after a training exercise: correct, no sample here, and the samples not found.
Scene Protection	The held state after a TFR: control the dog, mark and protect the location, report, and wait for instruction.
TFR	Trained final response: your dog's trained indication. Not forensic confirmation.

CONTENTS

THANK YOU

Thank you for using K9 SAR App Handler

Thank you for making the Handler app part of your HRD Land 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