SETUP & USER GUIDE

K9 SAR App Handler

HRD Water

A complete illustrated guide to setting up the Handler app and recording HRD Water searches from the bank and shore or from a boat, in Training and Operational mode.

TRAINING / OPERATIONAL / REPORTS

Practical steps. Real app screens. Clear field records.

K9 SAR APP LTD

GUIDE H-HW • NOVEMBER 2026 • VERSION 1.0

GUIDE H-HW / 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 Water works in the app 10
Record your dog's AMDR 11

BANK AND SHORE — TRAINING

Start an HRD Water exercise 12
Choose Bank and Shore & your dog 13
Operation Setup 14
Mark the bank or shore line 15
Conditions & wind 16
Pre-search risk assessment (DRA) 17
AMDR Setup 18
Initial Search Picture 19
Review your plan & get ready 20
Searching the bank 21
Record a point of interest (POI) 22
Trained final response (TFR) 23
Protect the scene & report 24
End the task & Task Result 25
Area Debrief 26
Import your dog's GPS track 27
Search Maps: planned, executed, compare 28
Sample results after the search 29
Mark a not found sample on the map 30
Trainer review & End Exercise 31

BOAT — OPERATIONAL

Start an Operational HRD Water search 32
Missing Person Profile 33
Person categories & reminder 34
Support team & the water area 35
Task & waterbody conditions 36
Boat risk assessment 37
Boat search start 38
Searching from the boat 39
TFR & scene protection on the water 40
End the task & Task Result 41
Area Debrief 42
Search Maps for a boat search 43
Report handover & what happens next 44
Completeness Check 45
Final report & recipient 46
Finalise the operation 47

REPORTS, HISTORY & STATISTICS

History 48
Reports & PDF 49
Training Statistics 50
Sample & distance statistics 51
Statistics graphs 52
Backup & restore 53

HELP

Troubleshooting 54
Glossary 55
Thank you 56

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.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-HW / 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 Water 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 bank or shore strip or water area, your start point, 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-HW / 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-HW / 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**

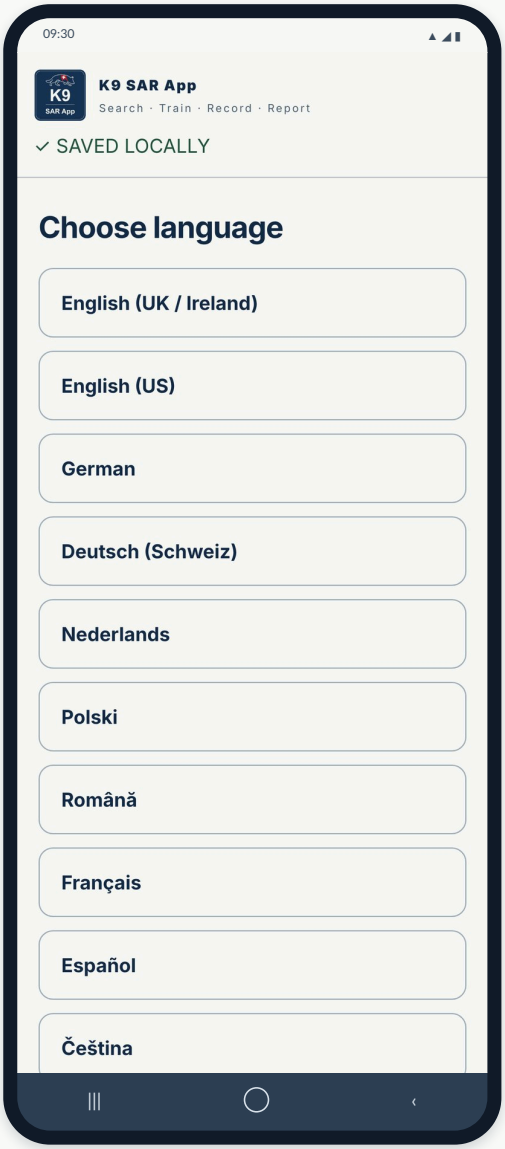
On first opening, tap your language. You can change it later in Settings.

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-HW / 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.

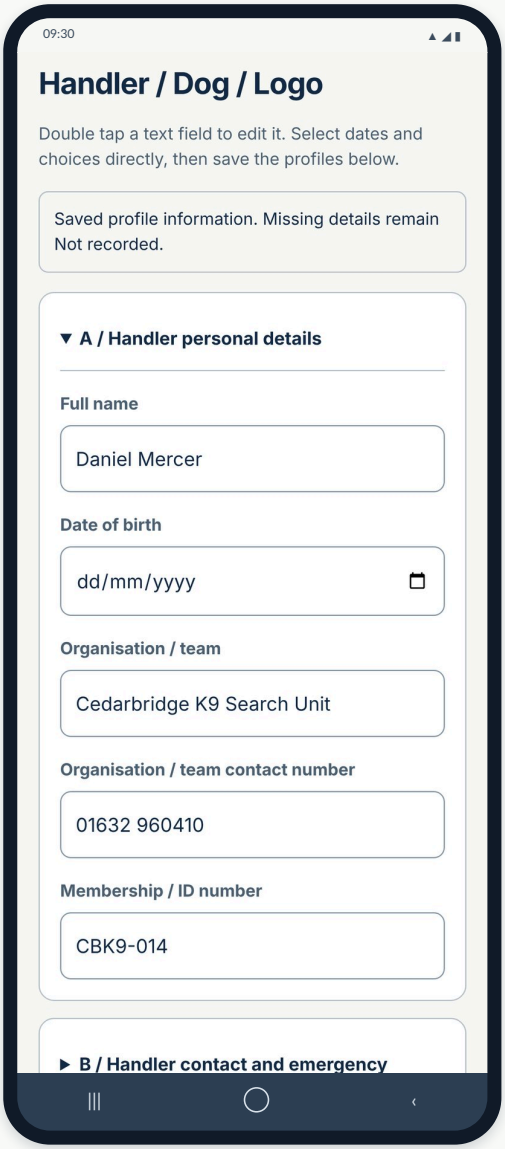
02 **A / Personal details**
Full name, date of birth, organisation or team, team contact number and membership or ID number.

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-HW / 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 Water

Only dogs with HRD Water ticked appear when you start an HRD Water search. A dog can hold HRD Land and HRD Water.

04 F and G / Qualifications and CT

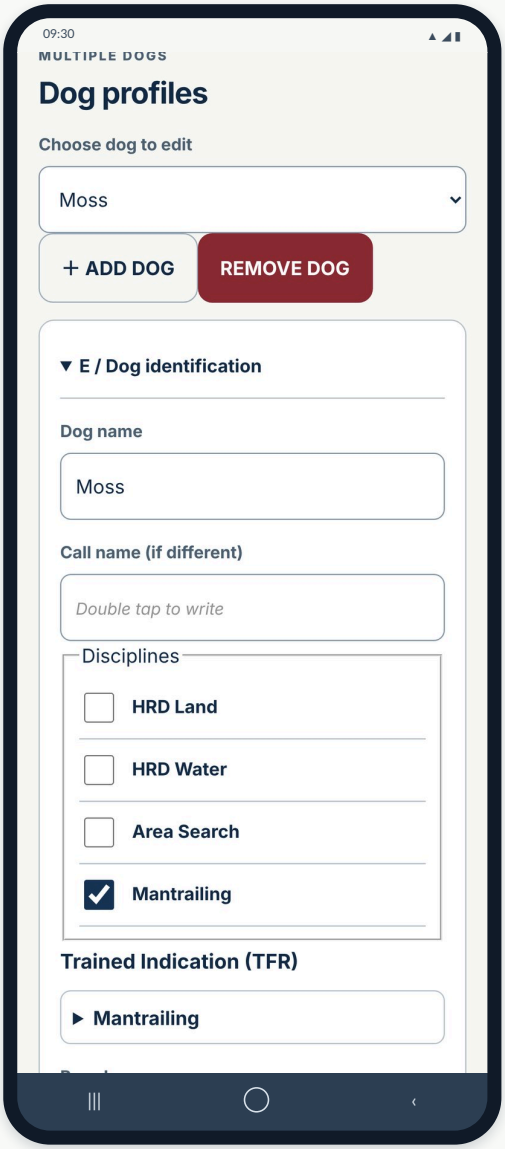
Add certificates and renewals, and Continuous Training (CT) assessments.

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-HW / SETTINGS

App settings

Units, coordinates and language

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

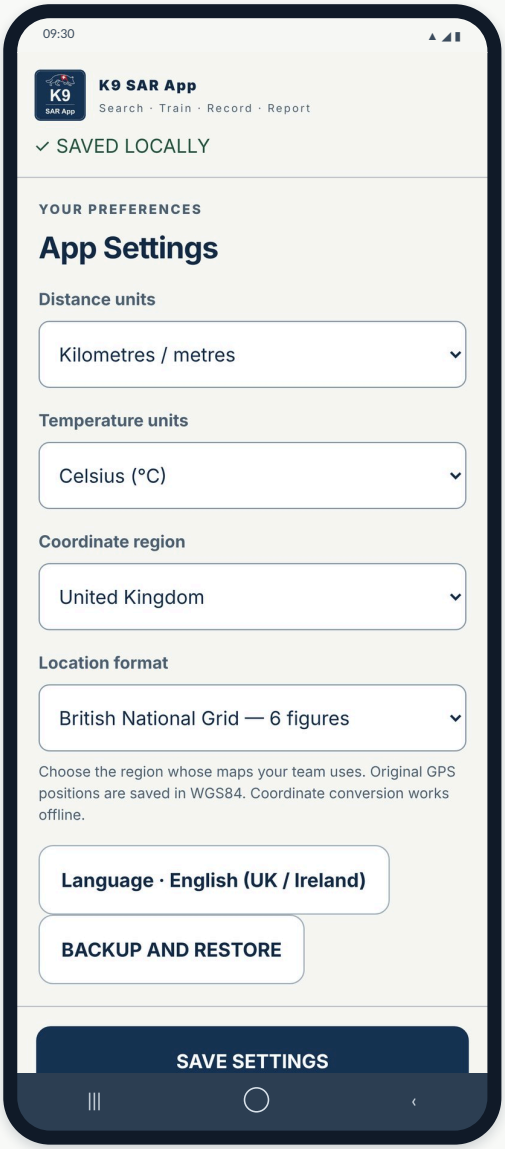
02 **Temperature units**
Celsius (°C) or Fahrenheit (°F). Temperatures are shown in the unit you choose.

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-HW / 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.

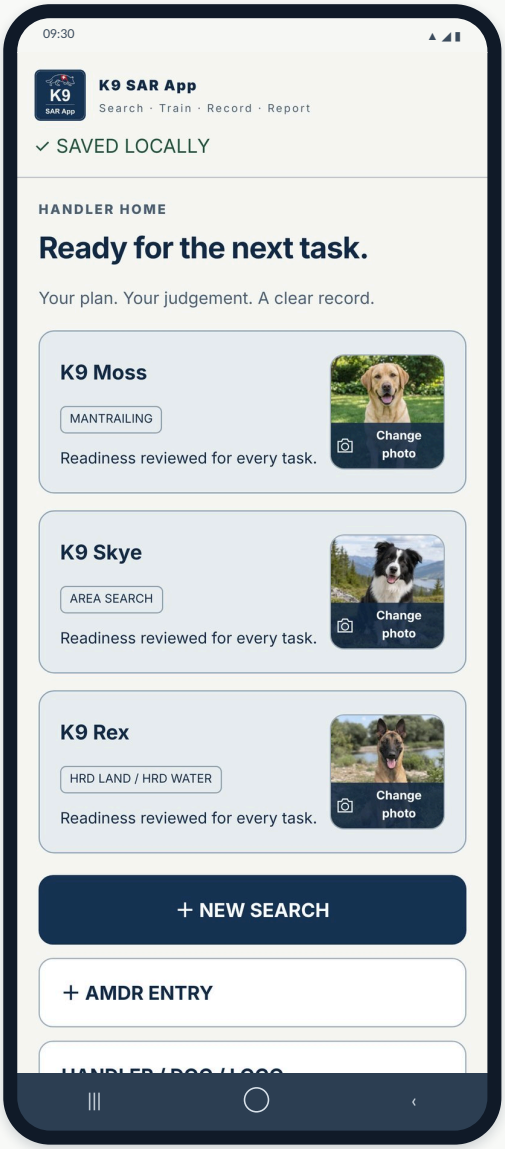
02 **+ NEW SEARCH**
Starts a new Training exercise or Operational search.

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-HW / START HERE

How HRD Water works in the app

Two working methods: Bank and Shore, or Boat

01 Choose the method first

After you tap HRD WATER, the app asks How will you search? Tap Bank and Shore or Boat. The method shapes every screen that follows.

02 Bank and Shore: your strip

You tap along the bank or shore. The line stays open and the app adds a centred strip, at least 15 m wide. The strip is your assigned task.

03 Bank and Shore: your route

The marked shoreline is your planned route. You set your Initial Planning Point (IPP) and work along the line. You do not draw a separate route.

04 Boat: your water area

You mark the whole water area as a polygon, record the waterbody type and water conditions, and complete a boat risk assessment.

05 Boat: no AMDR

AMDR is not used for Boat searches. You set your start point on the water and go straight to Ready to Search.

06 Indication, scene and debrief

POI, TFR, Scene Protection and the Area Debrief work as in HRD Land. Area means your dog's working space for this task, from start to finish.

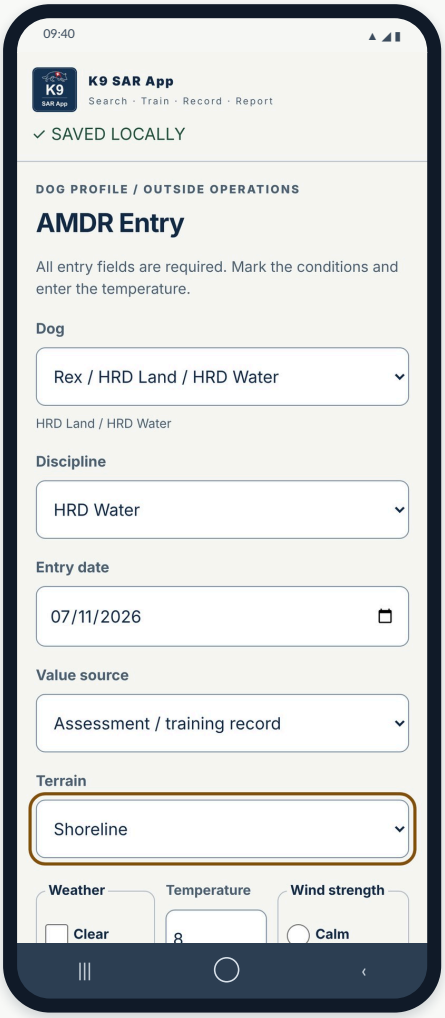
GOOD TO KNOW A TFR is your dog's trained indication. It is never forensic confirmation, and the app never records it as a find.

CONTENTS

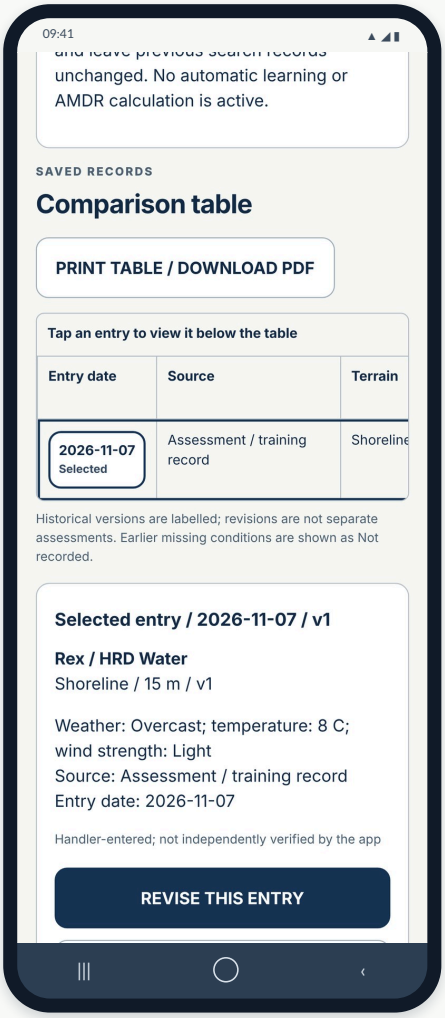
GUIDE H-HW / AMDR

Record your dog's AMDR

Home → + AMDR ENTRY



AMDR ENTRY



COMPARISON TABLE

01 **Choose the dog and discipline.** Pick the dog, for example Rex / HRD Land / HRD Water, then choose HRD Water as the discipline, and the date.

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

03 **Conditions and result.** Tick the weather, enter the temperature and wind strength, then the AMDR result in metres, for example 15.

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

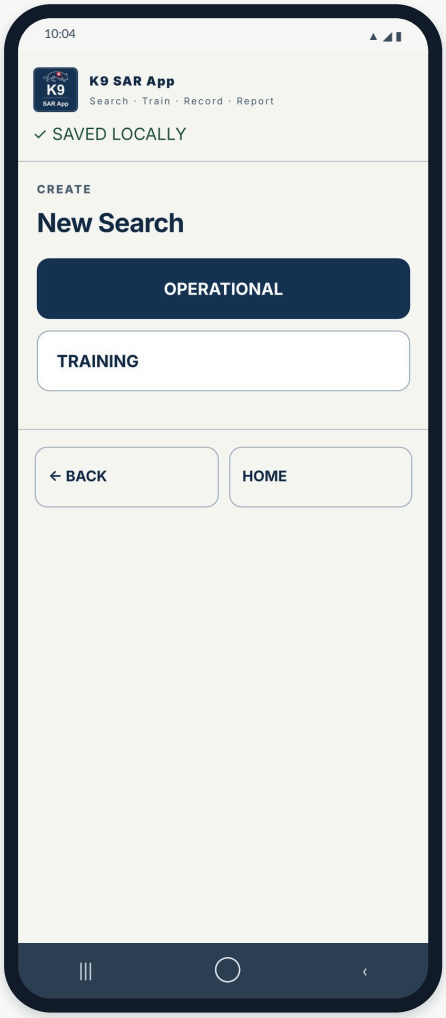
GOOD TO KNOW HRD Water AMDR entries are kept apart from HRD Land entries. They are used for Bank and Shore searches; Boat searches do not use AMDR.

CONTENTS

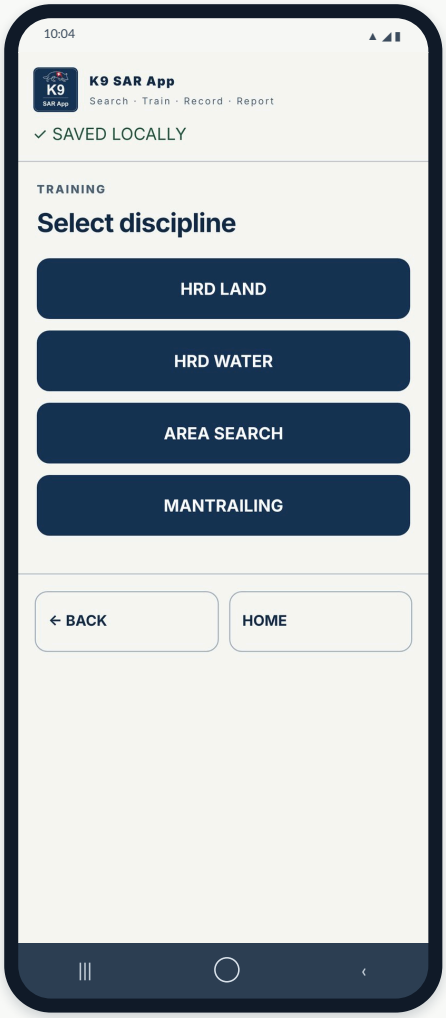
GUIDE H-HW / BANK AND SHORE TRAINING

Start an HRD Water exercise

New Search → Training → HRD Water



REAL INTERFACE



REAL INTERFACE

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

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

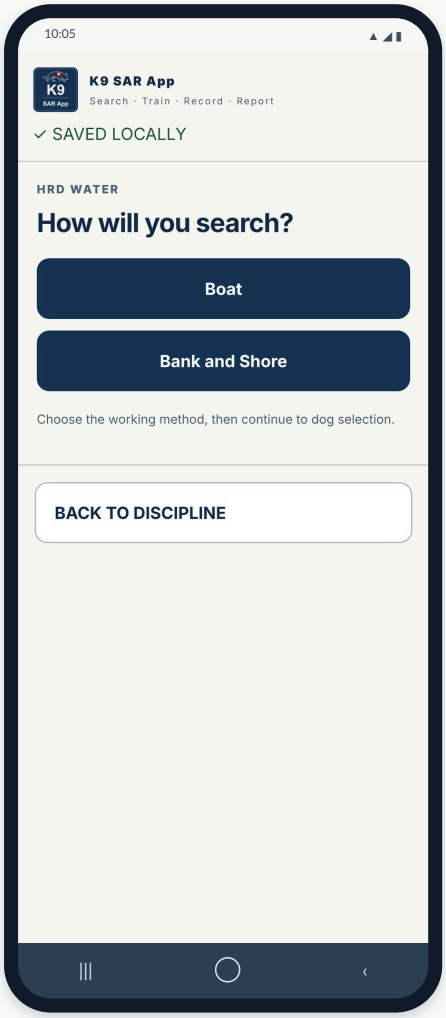
GOOD TO KNOW Choose OPERATIONAL instead for a real search. An Operational Boat search is explained later in this guide.

CONTENTS

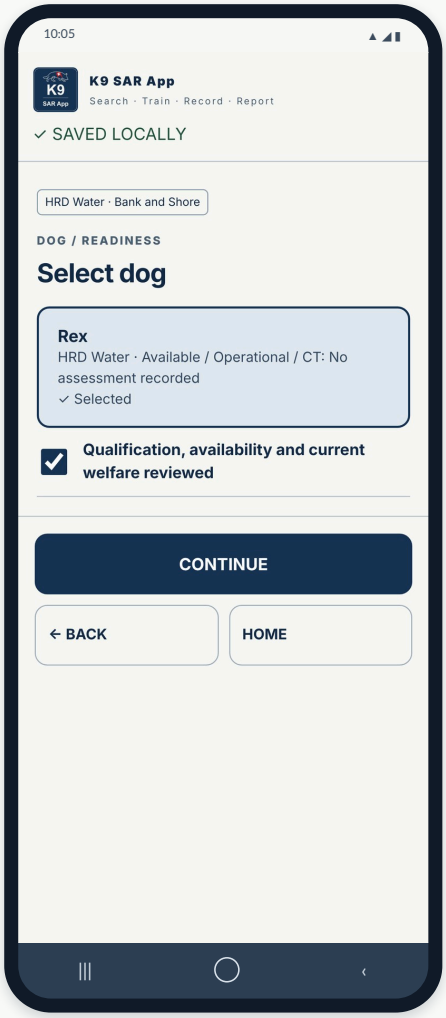
GUIDE H-HW / BANK AND SHORE TRAINING

Choose Bank and Shore & your dog

How will you search? → Select dog



HOW WILL YOU SEARCH?



SELECT DOG

01 **Choose the method.** Tap Bank and Shore to work from the bank or shoreline on foot, or Boat to work from a boat.

02 **Wrong discipline?** BACK TO DISCIPLINE returns you to the discipline list.

03 **Choose the dog.** Dogs with HRD Water in their profile are listed with availability, status and CT. The card shows the method, for example HRD Water · Bank and Shore.

04 **Continue.** Tick Qualification, availability and current welfare reviewed and tap CONTINUE.

GOOD TO KNOW This chapter follows a Bank and Shore exercise. The Boat method is shown in the Operational chapter; in Training it works the same way.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-HW / BANK AND SHORE TRAINING

Operation Setup

Exercise details

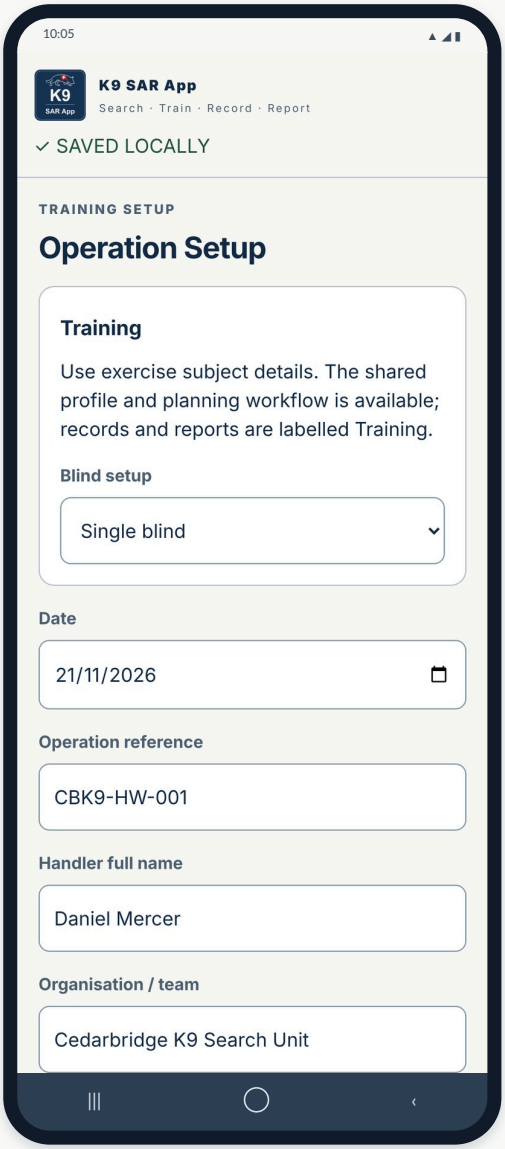
01 **Blind setup**
Not recorded, Open, Single blind or Double blind. It appears in the debrief and the report.

02 **Date and reference**
The date is filled in. Enter a reference, for example CBK9-HW-001.

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

04 **Objective**
For example Search the west bank of Connaught Water for one submerged training aid.

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



REAL INTERFACE / FICTIONAL DEMO DATA

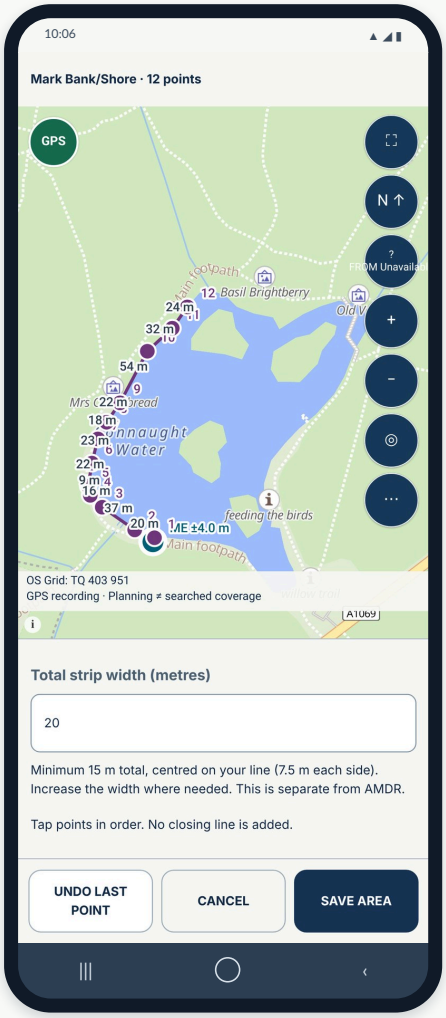
GOOD TO KNOW Training records and reports are labelled Training, so they are never confused with real searches.

CONTENTS

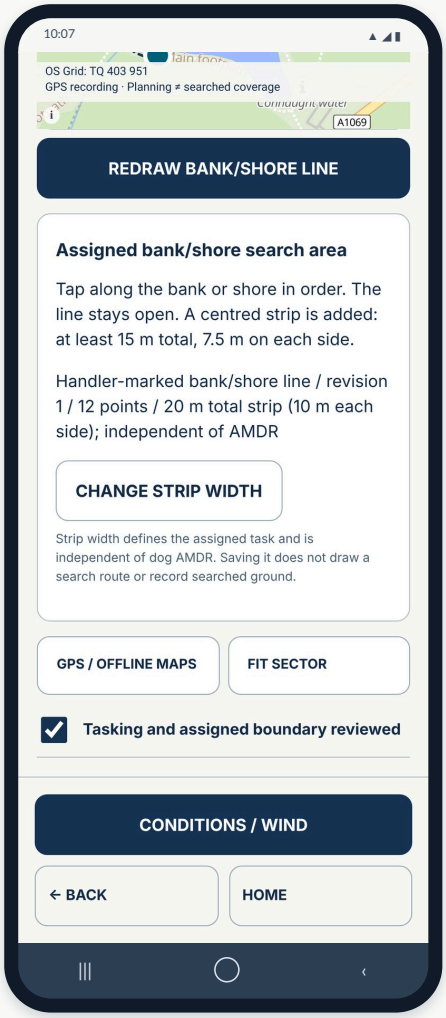
GUIDE H-HW / BANK AND SHORE TRAINING

Mark the bank or shore line

Assigned Search Task / Area → MARK BANK/SHORE LINE



MARK BANK/SHORE LINE



ASSIGNED STRIP

01 **Label and objective.** Type the task label exactly as given, for example Connaught Water — west bank, and any restrictions.

02 **Tap along the bank.** Tap MARK BANK/SHORE LINE, then tap points along the bank or shore in order. Each leg shows its length. The line stays open.

03 **Set the strip width.** Total strip width is at least 15 m, centred on your line (7.5 m each side). Increase it where needed, for example 20 m.

04 **Save and confirm.** Tap SAVE AREA. CHANGE STRIP WIDTH or REDRAW BANK/SHORE LINE corrects it. Tick Tasking and assigned boundary reviewed, then tap CONDITIONS / WIND.

GOOD TO KNOW The strip is your assigned task. Its width is separate from your dog's AMDR, and saving it does not record any ground as searched.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-HW / BANK AND SHORE TRAINING

Conditions & wind

Current local observation

01 **Wind**

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

02 **Temperature**

Optional, in the unit chosen in Settings.

03 **Terrain**

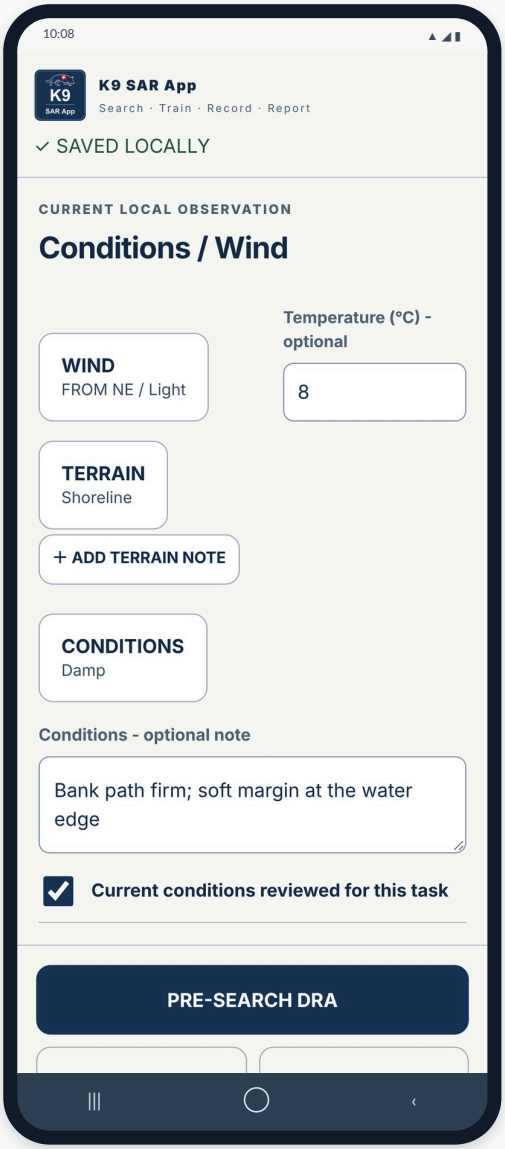
Tap TERRAIN and tick what is along the strip, for example Shoreline. Riverbank is also listed for river work.

04 **Conditions**

Tap CONDITIONS, for example Damp, and add a note such as Bank path firm; soft margin at the water edge.

05 **Confirm**

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



REAL INTERFACE / FICTIONAL DEMO DATA

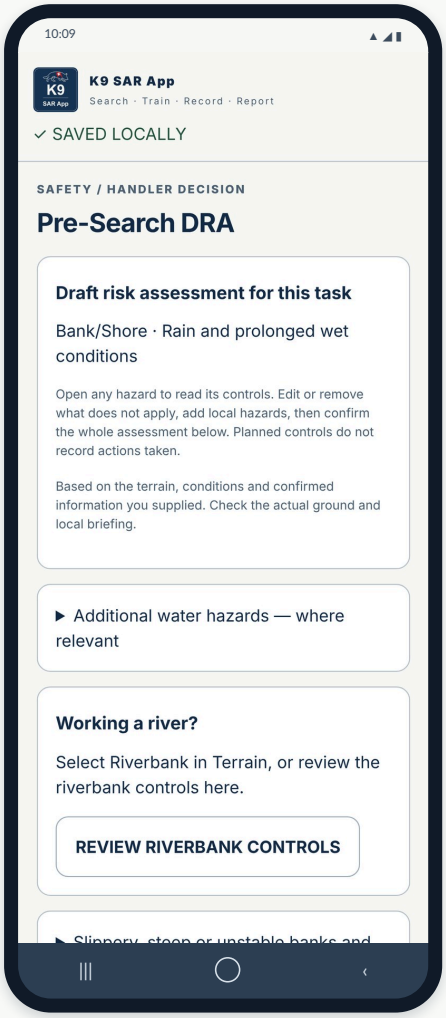
GOOD TO KNOW Wind blowing onto the bank carries odour from the water towards the dog. Record what you actually see on the day.

CONTENTS

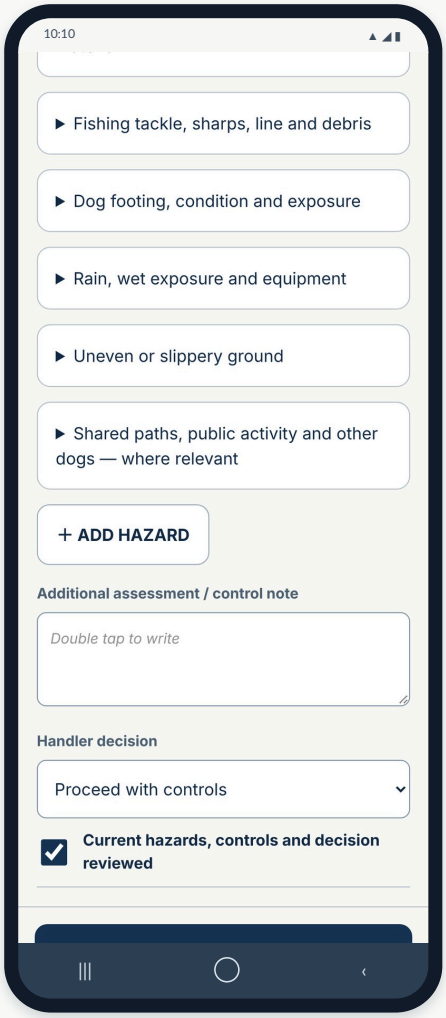
GUIDE H-HW / BANK AND SHORE TRAINING

Pre-search risk assessment (DRA)

Bank and shore hazards before you plan



DRAFT ASSESSMENT



HANDLER DECISION

01 **Read the draft.** The app drafts bank and shore hazards, for example slippery banks, accidental immersion, changing water levels and contact with water and mud.

02 **Add water hazards.** Open Additional water hazards — where relevant and tap any that apply: tides, soft mud, weirs, harmful algae, a powered boat, or shared paths and public activity.

03 **Working a river?** This card reminds you about riverbank controls. Select Riverbank in Terrain, or tap REVIEW RIVERBANK CONTROLS. The card then disappears.

04 **Decide and confirm.** Edit or remove hazards, choose Proceed with controls, Hold / seek instruction or Withdraw, tick the review, then tap AMDR SETUP.

GOOD TO KNOW Each extra water hazard you tap is added to the list with its own controls, for example Shared paths, public activity and other dogs.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-HW / BANK AND SHORE TRAINING

AMDR Setup

Choose the planning value for this task

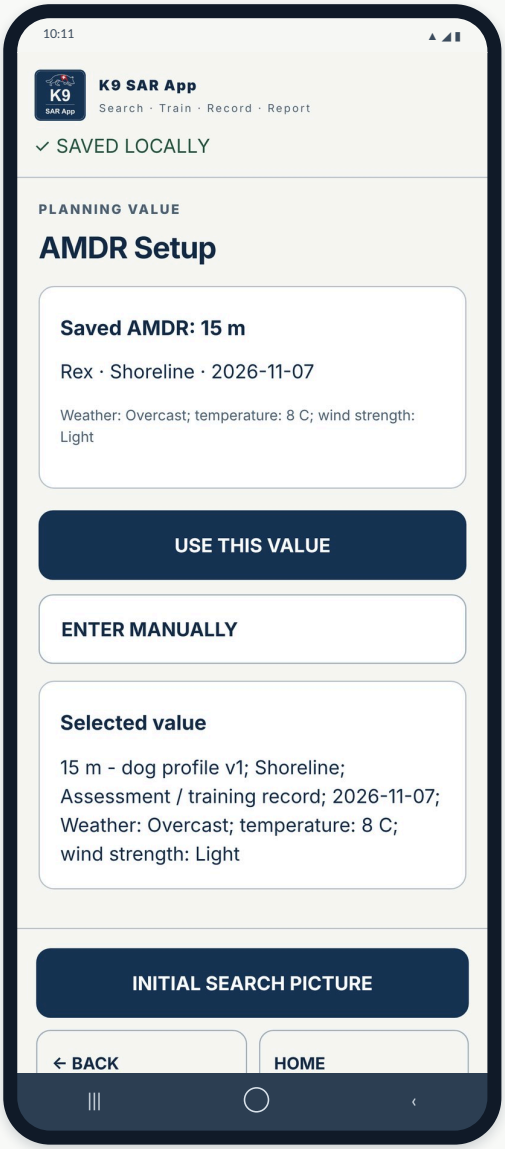
01 Saved AMDR
The app shows the saved HRD Water AMDR for this dog, for example 15 m on Shoreline, with its date and conditions.

02 Use it
Tap USE THIS VALUE if it suits today's water 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 HRD Water AMDR, USE DEFAULT — 30 m. Records show it as Default planning value: 30 m (IPP 60 m) — no dog AMDR recorded.

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



REAL INTERFACE / FICTIONAL DEMO DATA

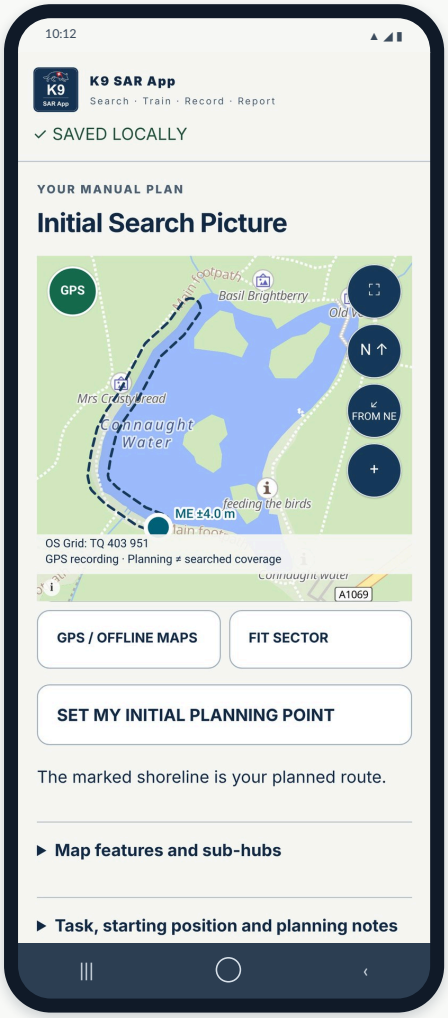
GOOD TO KNOW The AMDR sizes the start circle around your IPP and the sub-hub around each POI. The strip width is set separately.

CONTENTS

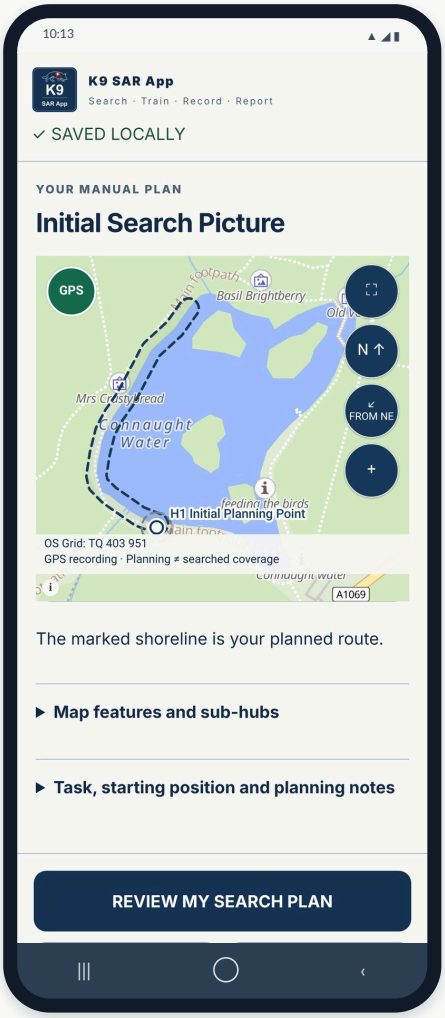
GUIDE H-HW / BANK AND SHORE TRAINING

Initial Search Picture

Set your Initial Planning Point



REAL INTERFACE / DEMO MAP © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS



REAL INTERFACE / DEMO MAP © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS

01 **Your strip.** The map shows your assigned strip along the shore, with the wind direction on the right.

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

03 **Your route.** The marked shoreline is your planned route. There is no separate route to draw.

04 **Map features.** Open Map features and sub-hubs to add a feature such as a hazard or a note, then tap REVIEW MY SEARCH PLAN.

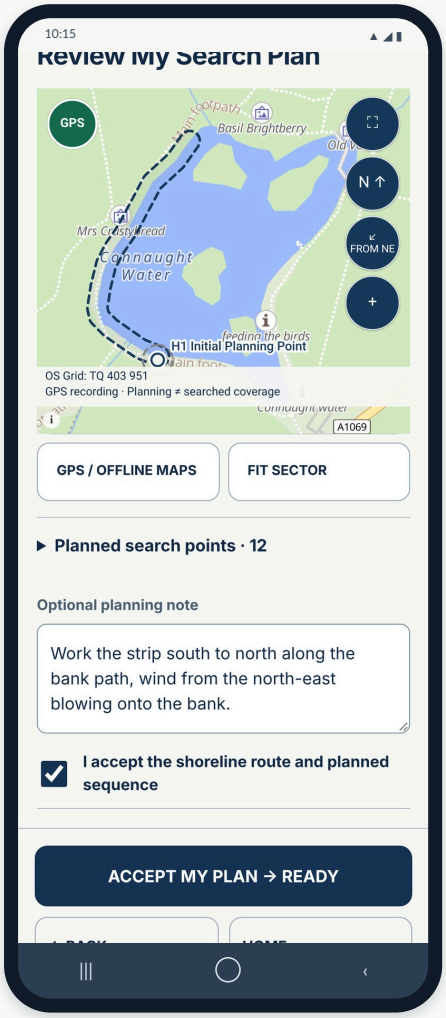
GOOD TO KNOW Start where the wind helps the dog: ideally with the wind blowing from the water onto the bank.

CONTENTS

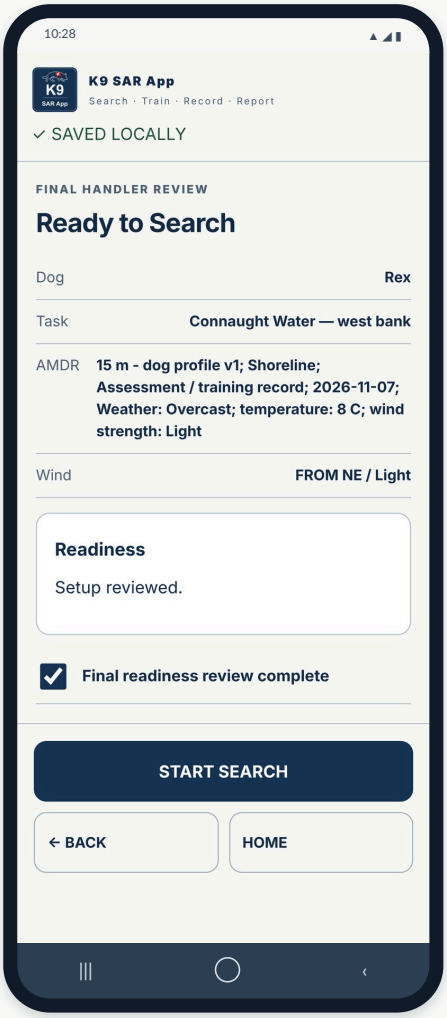
GUIDE H-HW / BANK AND SHORE TRAINING

Review your plan & get ready

Review My Search Plan → Ready to Search



REAL INTERFACE / DEMO MAP © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS



READY TO SEARCH

01 **Check the plan.** The strip and your shoreline route are shown. Open Planned search points · 12 to see each point of the line.

02 **Planning note.** Optional, for example Work the strip south to north along the bank path, wind from the north-east blowing onto the bank.

03 **Accept.** Tick I accept the shoreline route and 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.

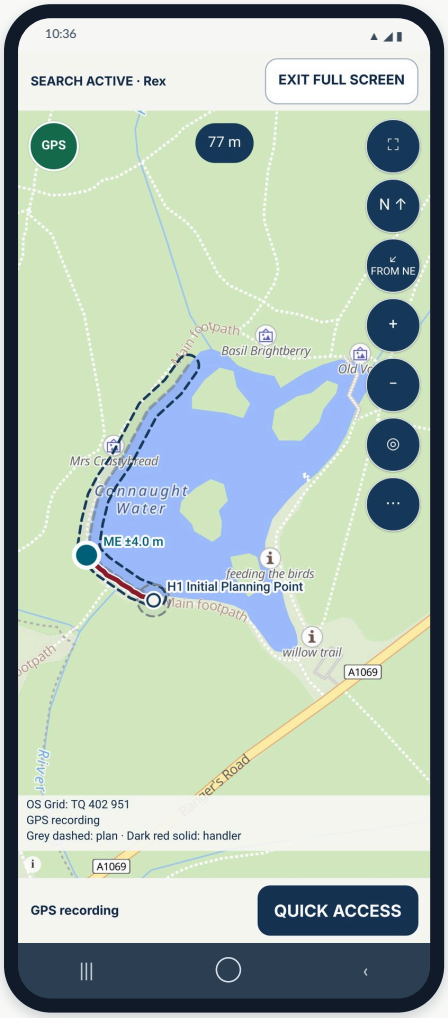
GOOD TO KNOW The status strip says Planning ≠ searched coverage. A plan is never counted as ground searched.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-HW / BANK AND SHORE TRAINING

Searching the bank

Full screen map and the search screen



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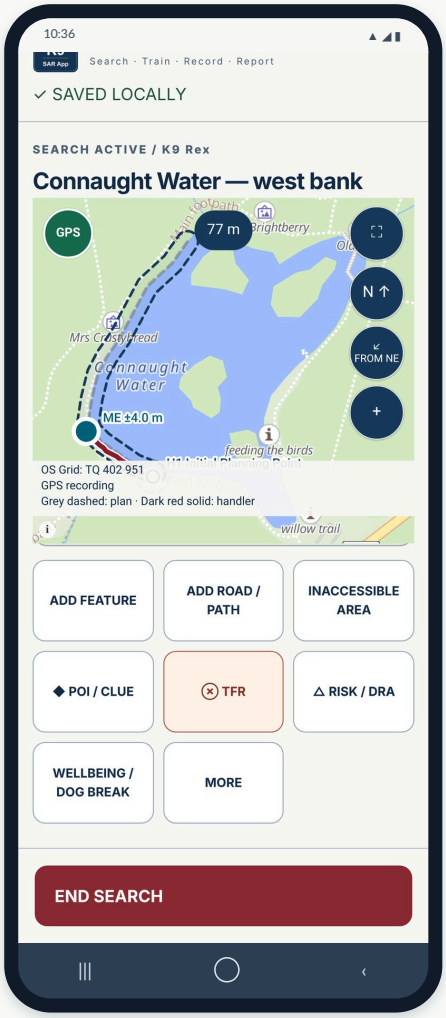


REAL INTERFACE / DEMO MAP © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS

01 **Your track.** The dark red line is your GPS track along the strip. 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.

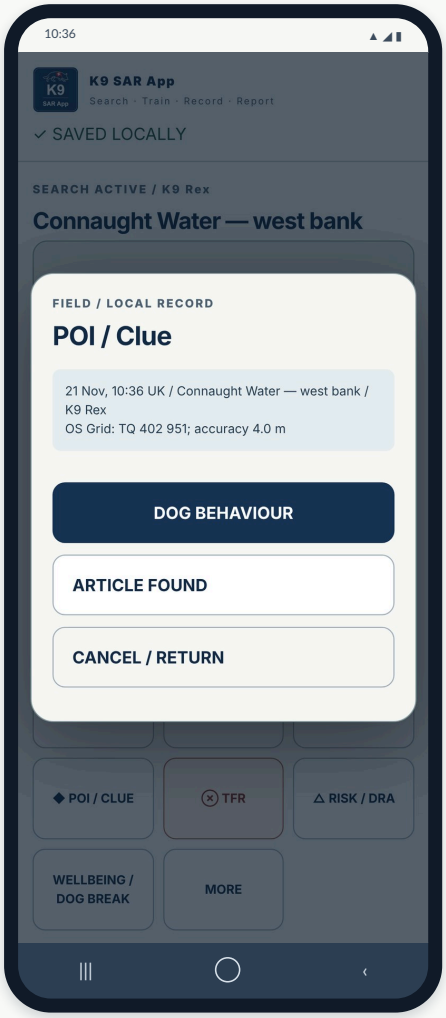
GOOD TO KNOW Use INACCESSIBLE AREA for any part of the bank you could not reach, so it is never mistaken for ground you searched.

CONTENTS

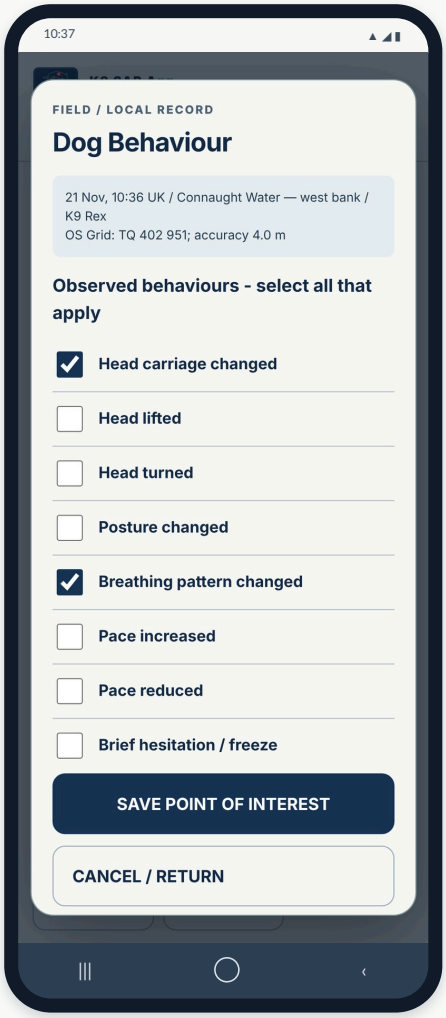
GUIDE H-HW / BANK AND SHORE TRAINING

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 10:36, OS Grid TQ 402 951.

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

03 **Tick what you saw.** The water list adds Sniffing water surface, Licking water and Entering water to the usual behaviours, for example Head carriage changed.

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.

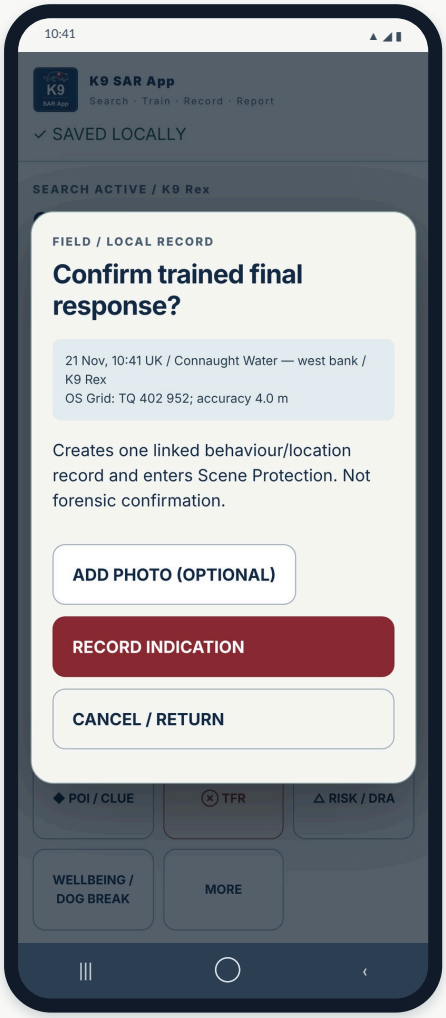
GOOD TO KNOW Record what the dog did, not what you think it means. The app never infers scent or a source from a POI.

CONTENTS

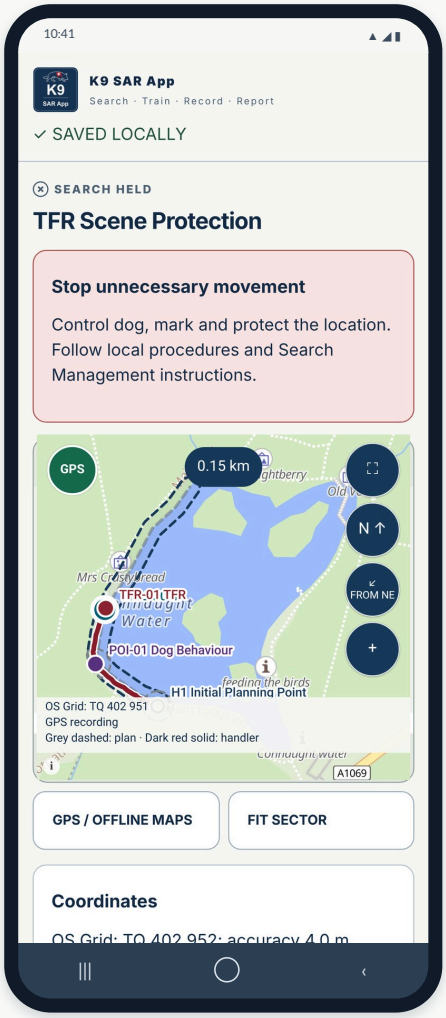
GUIDE H-HW / BANK AND SHORE TRAINING

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 10:41, OS Grid TQ 402 952.

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.

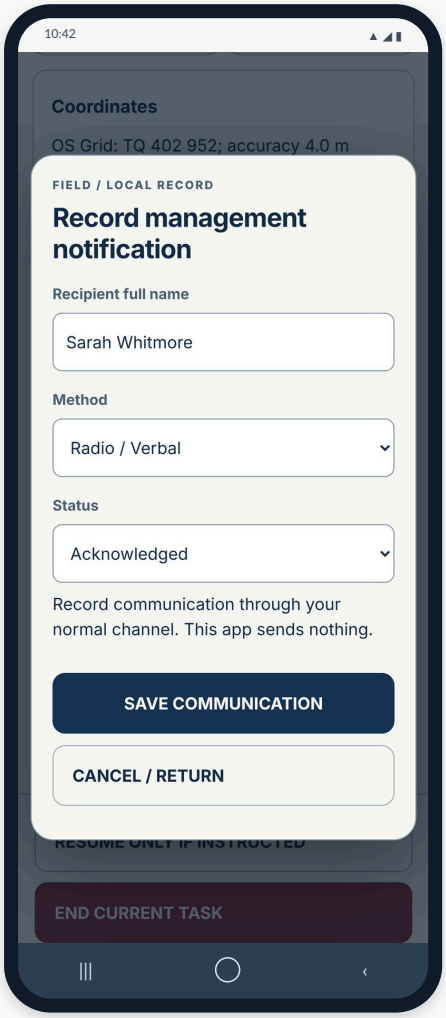
GOOD TO KNOW On the bank, the dog often indicates at the water's edge nearest the source. The TFR records where the dog indicated, not where the source is.

CONTENTS

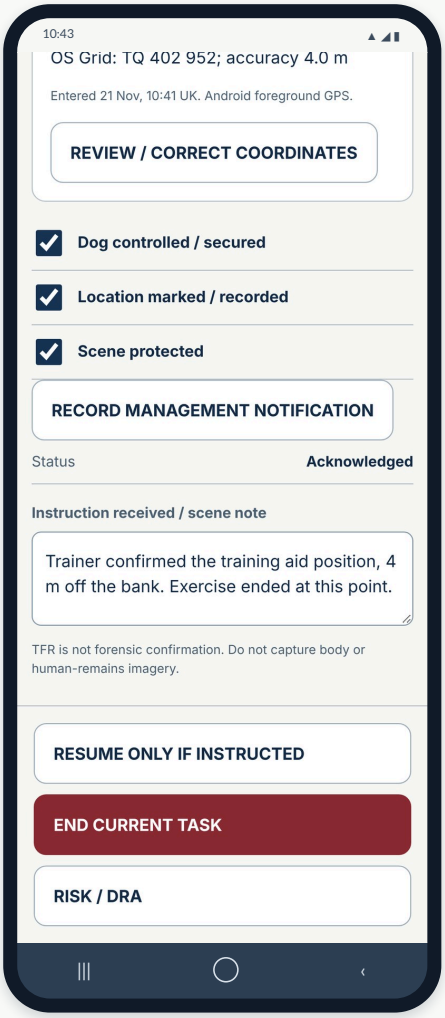
GUIDE H-HW / BANK AND SHORE TRAINING

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, 4 m off the bank.

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

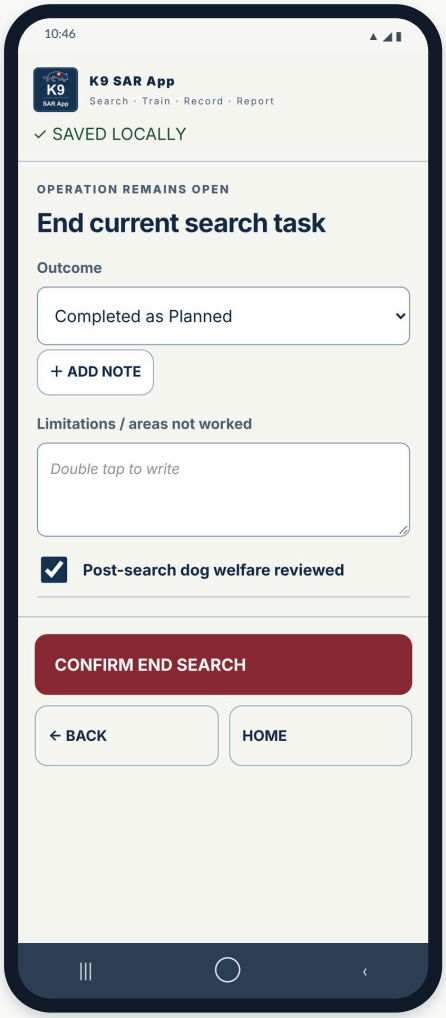
GOOD TO KNOW Each check and the instruction are saved with their times and appear in the debrief, the report and the timeline. The app sends nothing: report through your normal channel.

CONTENTS

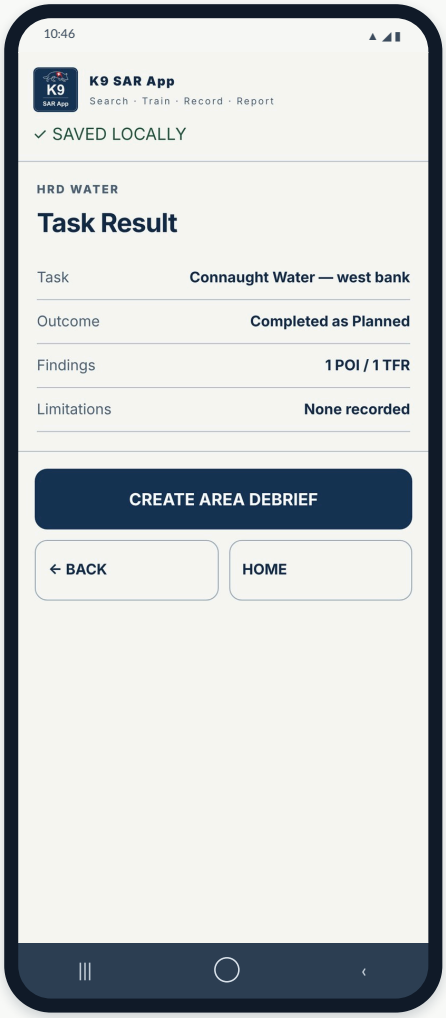
GUIDE H-HW / BANK AND SHORE TRAINING

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 part of the strip not worked. It is 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.

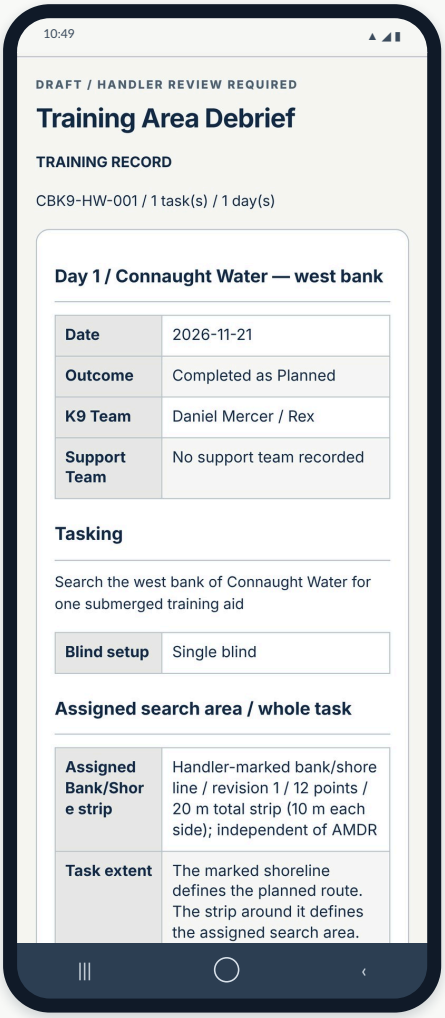
GOOD TO KNOW Check your dog after water work: wet coat, cold and anything swallowed from the water.

CONTENTS

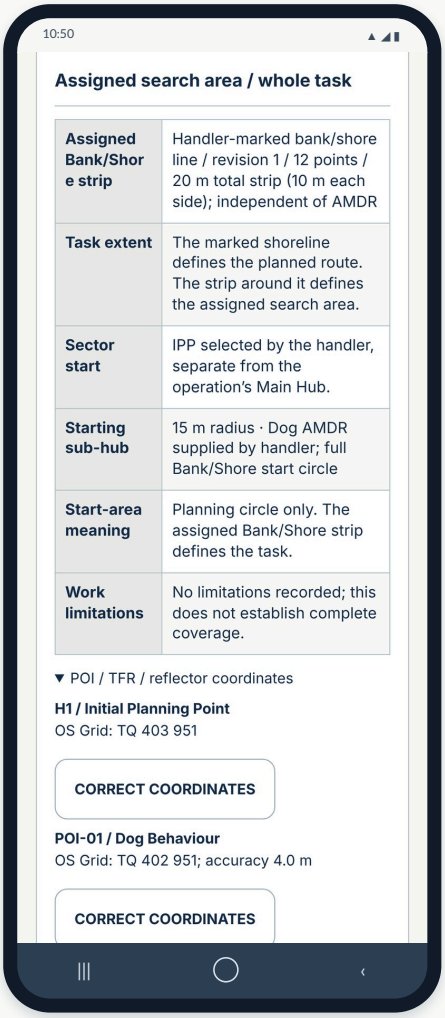
GUIDE H-HW / BANK AND SHORE TRAINING

Area Debrief

DRAFT / HANDLER REVIEW REQUIRED



TRAINING AREA DEBRIEF



ASSIGNED STRIP

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

02 **Assigned Bank/Shore strip.** The line, its points and the strip width, for example 20 m total strip (10 m each side), independent of AMDR.

03 **What it means.** The marked shoreline is the planned route; the strip around it is the assigned area. The start circle is a planning circle only.

04 **Positions and scene.** H1, each POI and the TFR with grid references, CORRECT COORDINATES, and the scene protection record with times.

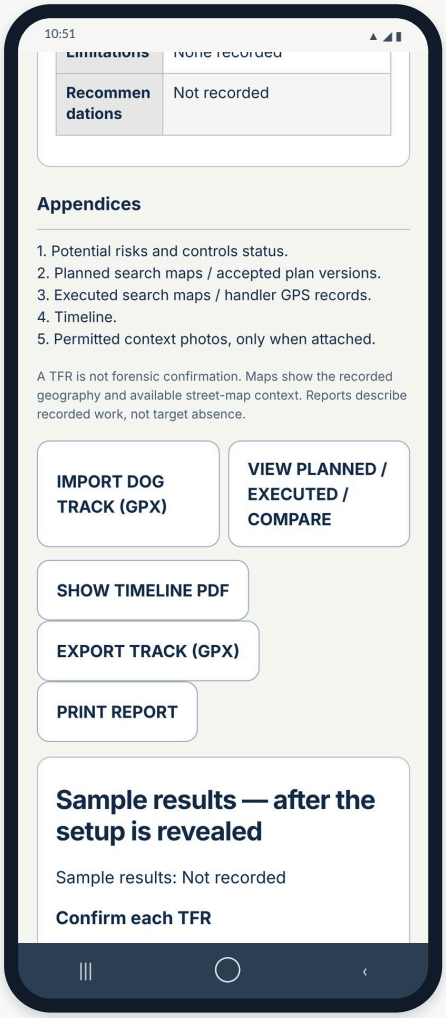
GOOD TO KNOW The narrative draft repeats your actions in time order. Read it and edit it in your own words, or tap REBUILD DRAFT FROM TIMELINE.

CONTENTS

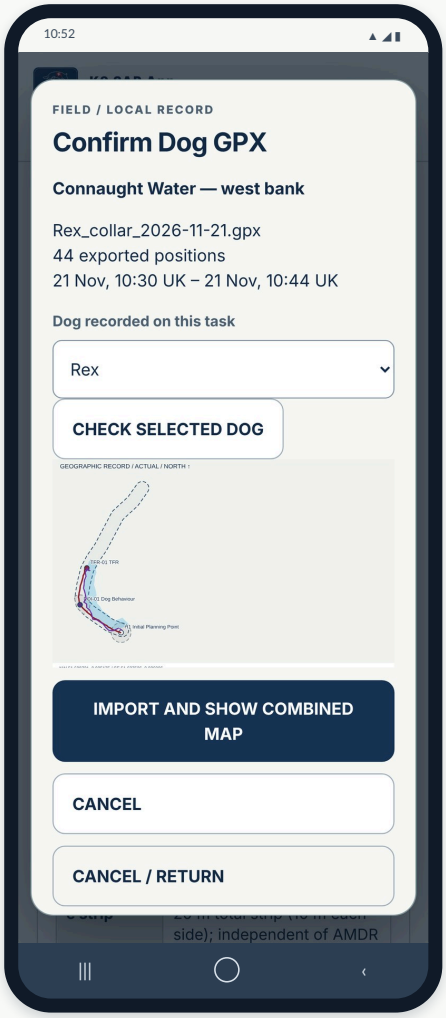
GUIDE H-HW / BANK AND SHORE TRAINING

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.

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

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-HW / BANK AND SHORE TRAINING

Search Maps: planned, executed, compare

VIEW PLANNED / EXECUTED / COMPARE

01 Three views

PLANNED shows your strip and start; 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

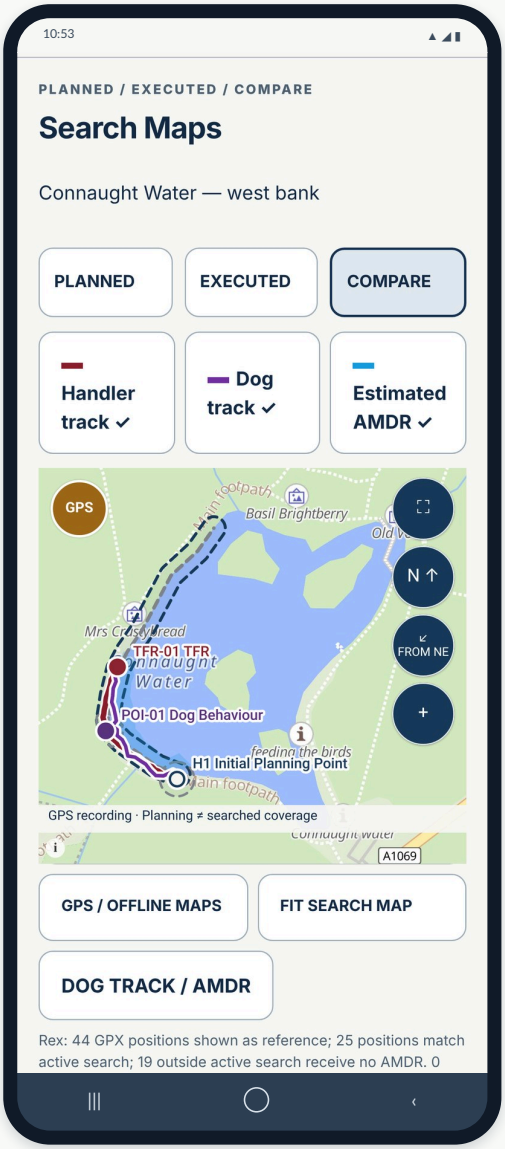
Blue shading is an estimate built from the dog track, the wind and your AMDR. It is not confirmed searched ground.

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.



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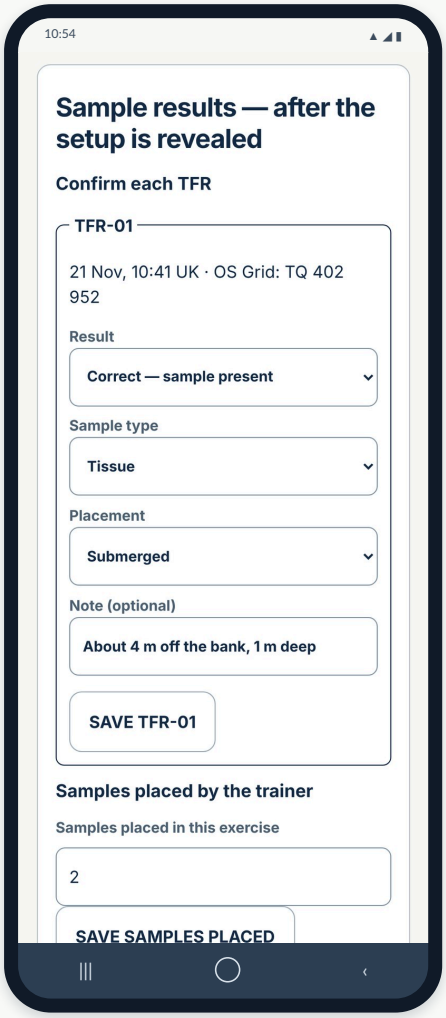
GOOD TO KNOW Use the compare view to see how your dog worked the bank and the wind: it is a training tool, not a verdict.

CONTENTS

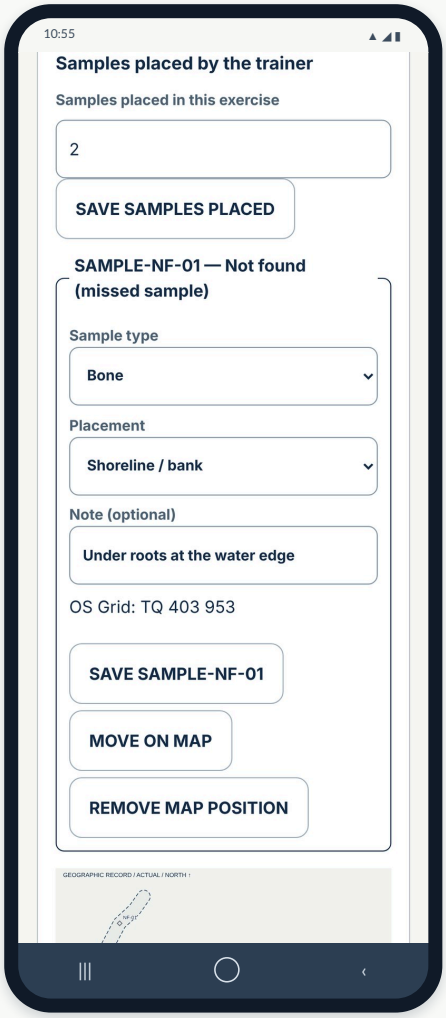
GUIDE H-HW / BANK AND SHORE TRAINING

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 (Submerged, Floating, Shoreline / bank or Buried in bank) 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 under the water or buried in the bank and cannot be seen. The result is added only after the trainer reveals the setup. Boat training exercises use the same card.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-HW / BANK AND SHORE 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**

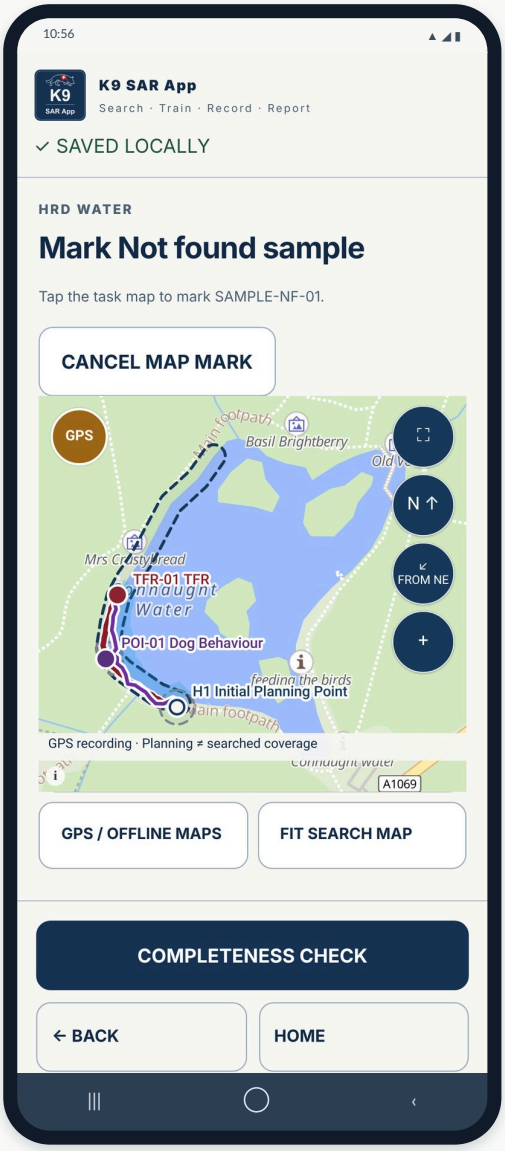
MOVE ON MAP marks it again. REMOVE MAP POSITION clears it. CANCEL MAP MARK returns without a change.

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.



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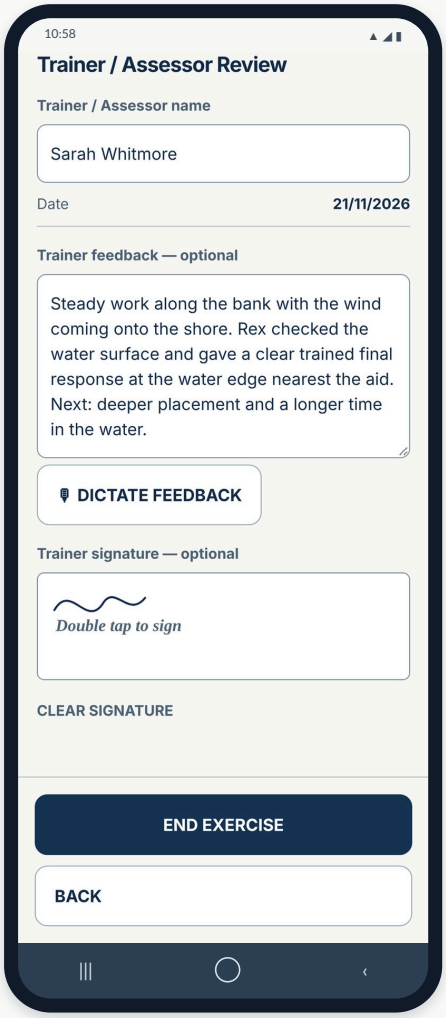
GOOD TO KNOW Sample results can be changed until you tap END EXERCISE. After that they are locked with the rest of the record.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-HW / BANK AND SHORE 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.

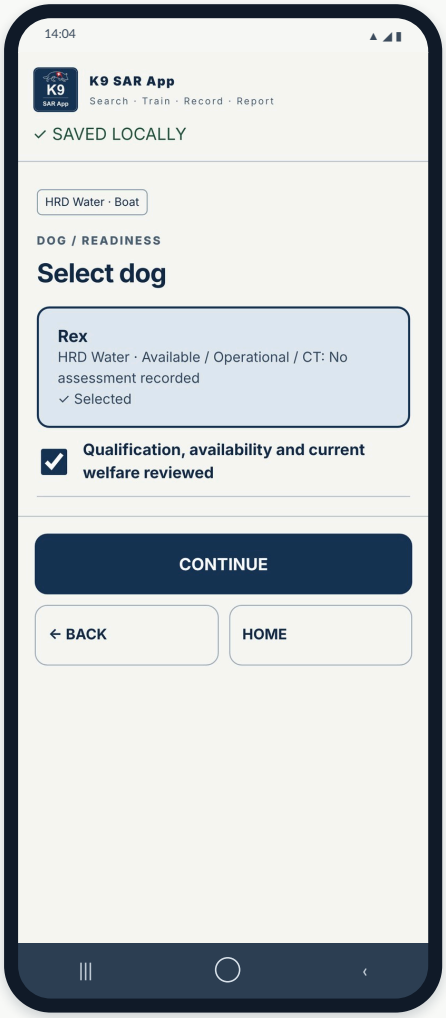
GOOD TO KNOW After END EXERCISE the debrief can no longer be edited. The exercise is kept in History and counted in Training Statistics, including its sample results.

CONTENTS

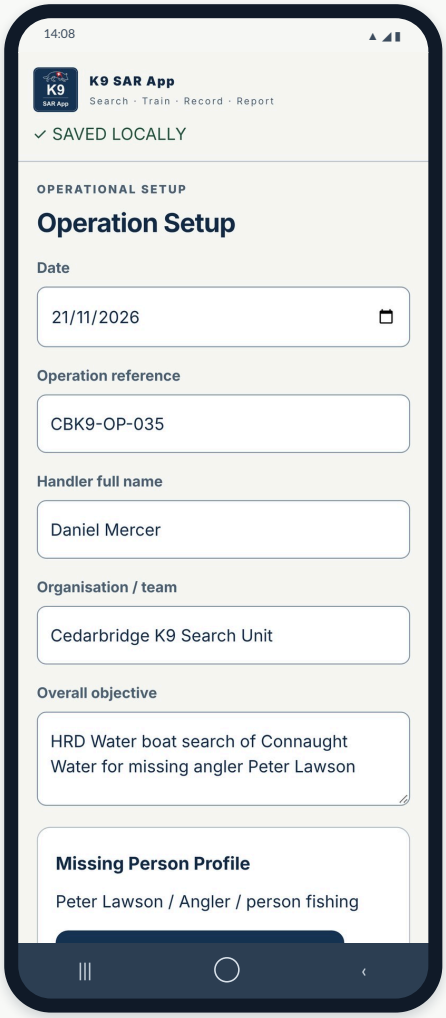
GUIDE H-HW / BOAT OPERATIONAL

Start an Operational HRD Water search

New Search → Operational → HRD Water → Boat



SELECT DOG / BOAT



OPERATION SETUP

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

02 **Operation Setup.** Date, the operation reference from search management, for example CBK9-OP-035, 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.

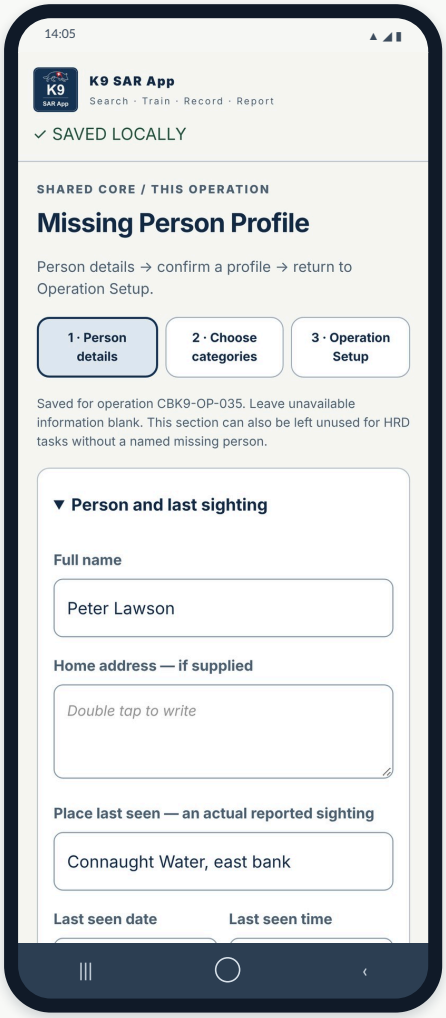
GOOD TO KNOW Use the reference given by search management, so your report matches their records.

CONTENTS

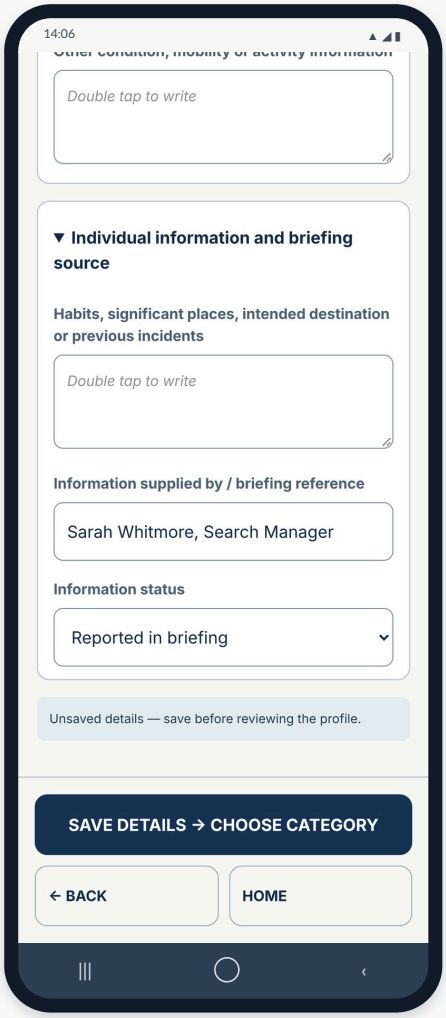
GUIDE H-HW / BOAT OPERATIONAL

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, items, sex, age, physical and mental information, and the activity when missing, for example Fishing / angling.

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.

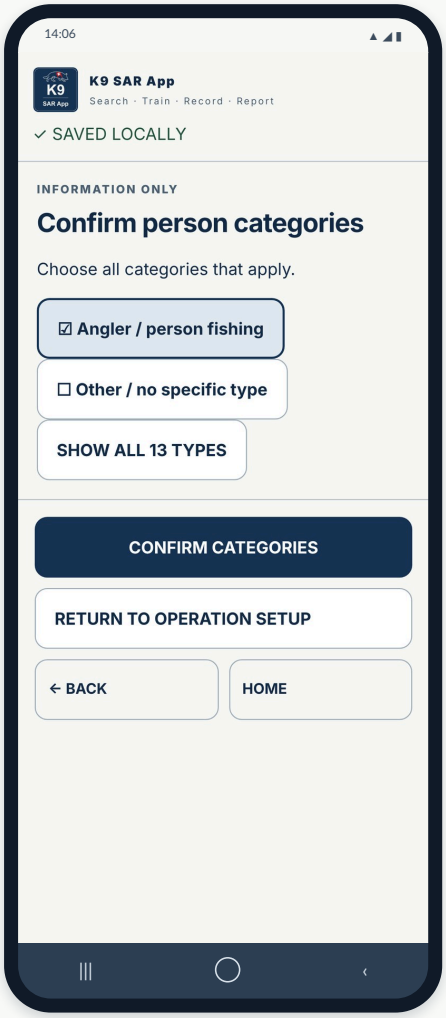
GOOD TO KNOW This section can be left unused for HRD tasks without a named missing person. Leave anything you were not told blank.

CONTENTS

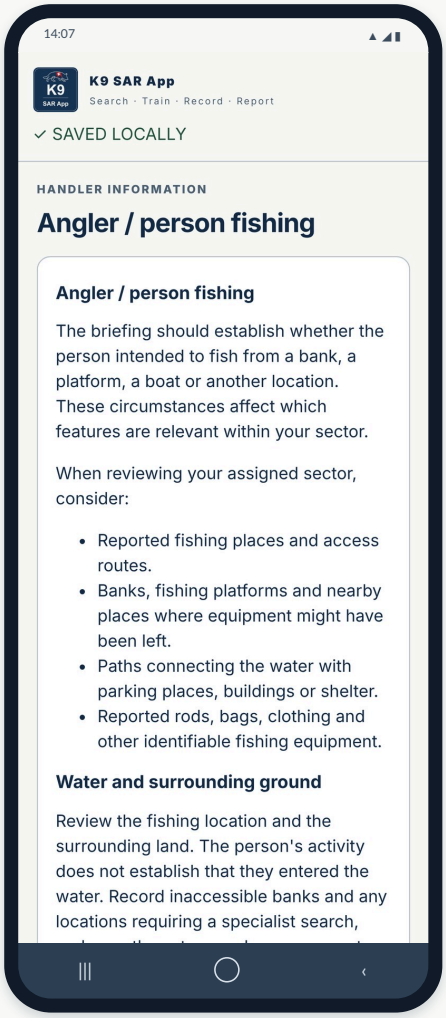
GUIDE H-HW / BOAT OPERATIONAL

Person categories & reminder

2 · Choose categories → 3 · Operation Setup



CONFIRM CATEGORIES



CATEGORY REMINDER

01 **Choose the categories.** The activity you entered suggests a category, for example Angler / person fishing. SHOW ALL 13 TYPES lists them all.

02 **Confirm.** Tap CONFIRM CATEGORIES.

03 **Read the reminder.** Points to consider when reviewing your task, for example fishing platforms, banks and the water and surrounding ground.

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

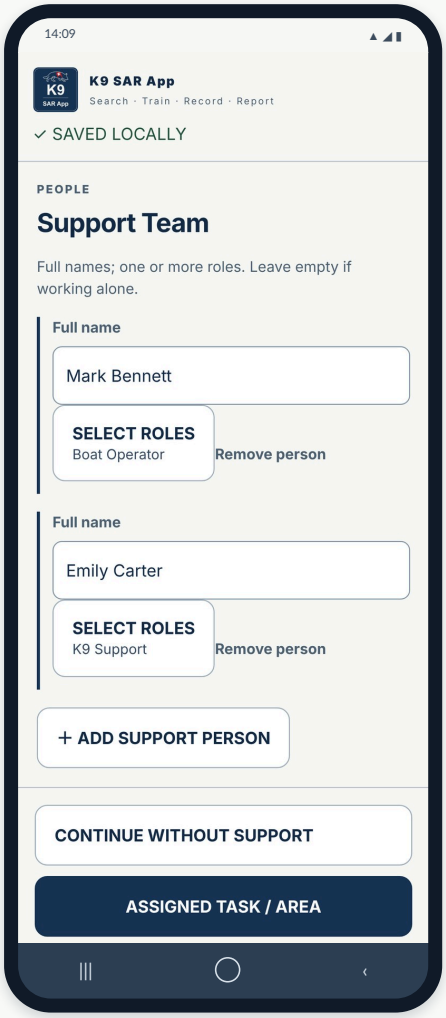
GOOD TO KNOW The reminders are information only. They do not tell you where the person is, or that any part of the water can be left out.

CONTENTS

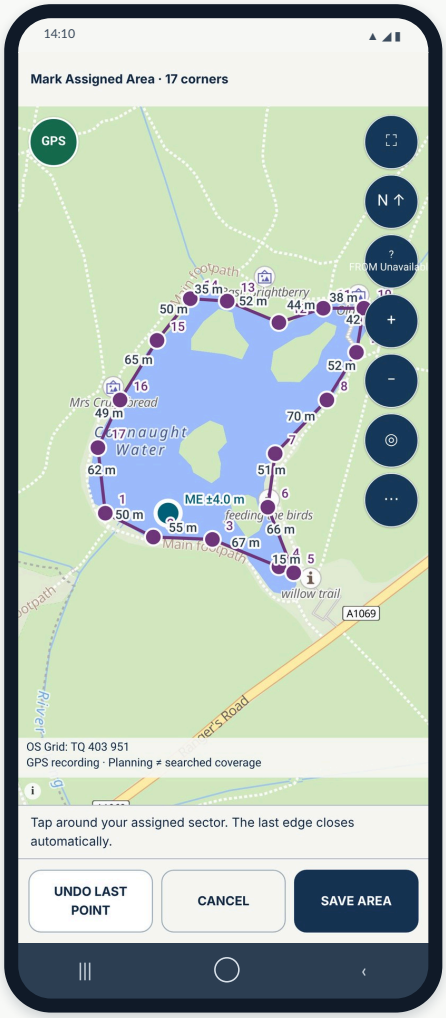
GUIDE H-HW / BOAT OPERATIONAL

Support team & the water area

SUPPORT TEAM → ASSIGNED TASK / AREA



SUPPORT TEAM



MARK ASSIGNED AREA

01 **Support team.** Enter each person's full name and roles, for example Mark Bennett, Boat Operator, and Emily Carter, K9 Support.

02 **Task label.** Type the label exactly as given, for example Connaught Water — whole lake.

03 **Mark the water area.** Tap MARK ASSIGNED SEARCH AREA and tap around the water you were given. Side lengths are shown as you go.

04 **Save.** Tap SAVE AREA. The last edge closes automatically. UNDO LAST POINT removes a mistake.

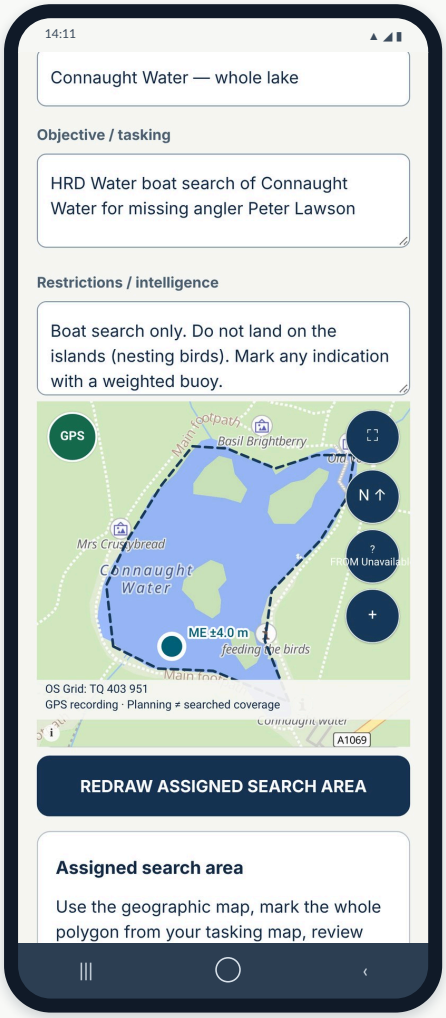
GOOD TO KNOW For a Boat search, the whole polygon is your task. There is no strip, and no route is drawn.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-HW / BOAT OPERATIONAL

Task & waterbody conditions

Assigned task → Conditions / Wind



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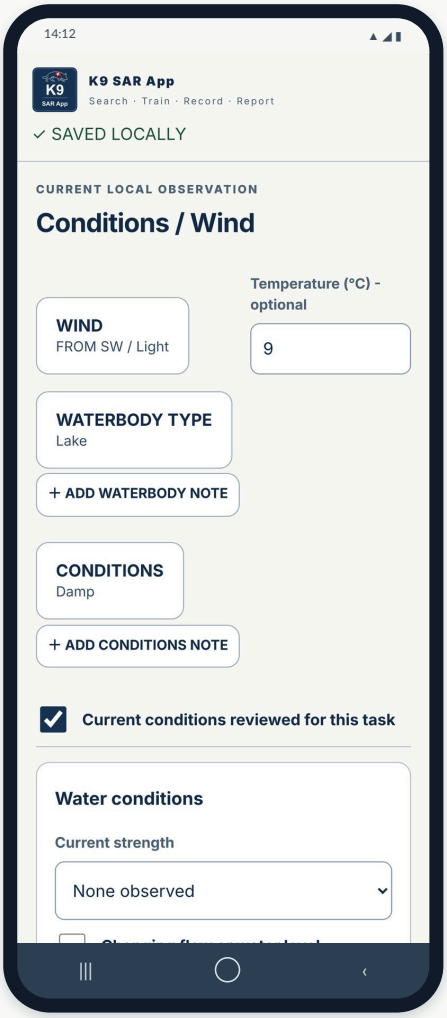


WATERBODY / WATER CONDITIONS

01 **Restrictions.** Anything you were told, for example Boat search only. Do not land on the islands. It appears on the DRA as the Task restriction.

02 **Confirm the task.** Check the polygon, tick Tasking and assigned boundary reviewed, then tap CONDITIONS / WIND.

03 **Waterbody type.** Boat searches ask for WATERBODY TYPE instead of terrain: River, Lake, Pond, Coastline, Reservoir, Canal, Estuary and more.

04 **Water conditions.** Current strength, and tick Changing flow or water level, Choppy water or boat wash, Floating debris or Other. Then tap PRE-SEARCH DRA.

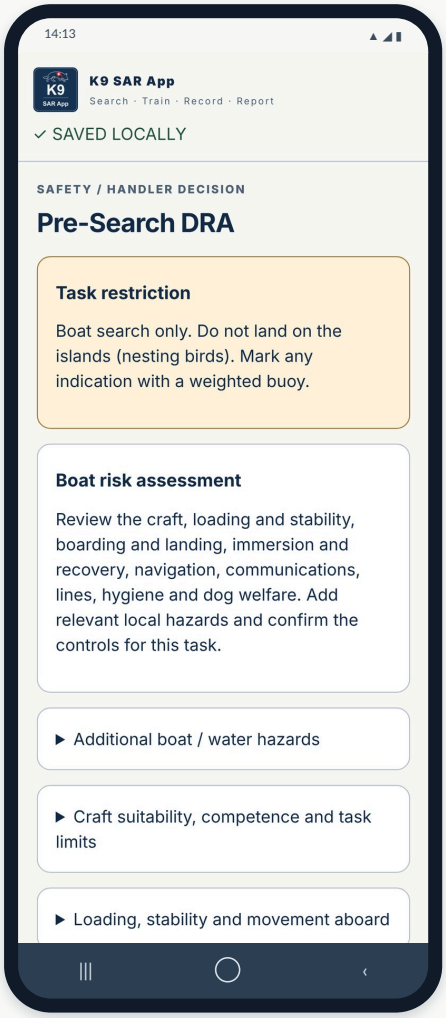
GOOD TO KNOW Water conditions are added to the navigation hazard on the boat risk assessment.

CONTENTS

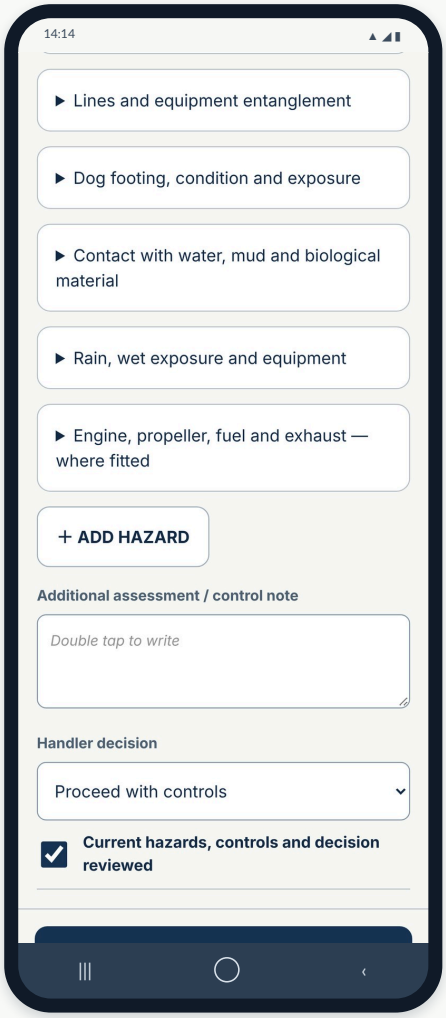
GUIDE H-HW / BOAT OPERATIONAL

Boat risk assessment

Pre-Search DRA for a Boat search



BOAT RISK ASSESSMENT



HANDLER DECISION

01 **Task restriction.** Shown at the top, as typed in the task.

02 **Boat hazards.** Craft suitability, loading and stability, boarding and landing, immersion, water movement and navigation, emergency communication, lines, dog footing and contact with water.

03 **Additional boat / water hazards.** Tap any that apply: Tides / waves, Weir / sluice / outfall, Harmful algae or Powered boat / engine fitted, which adds Engine, propeller, fuel and exhaust.

04 **Decide and confirm.** Choose Proceed with controls, Hold / seek instruction or Withdraw, tick the review, then tap INITIAL SEARCH PICTURE.

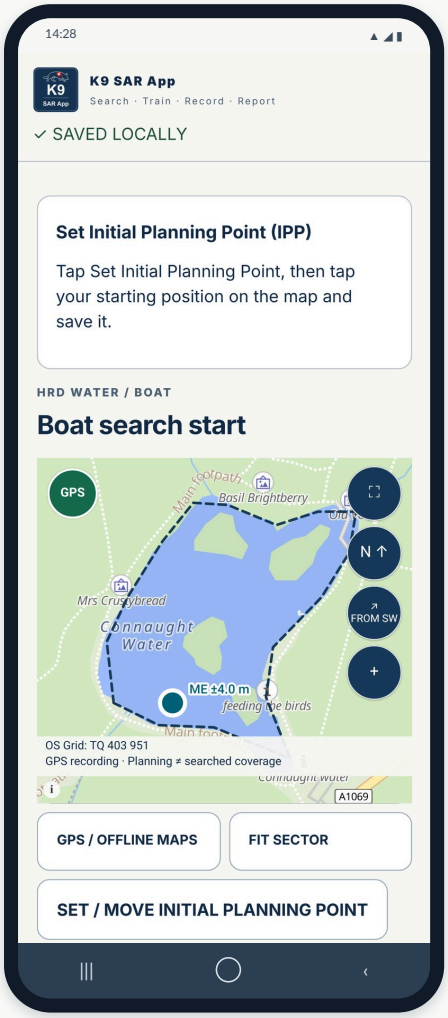
GOOD TO KNOW Agree the boat plan with the Boat Operator before you board: who controls the craft, where the dog stands and how you recover a person or dog from the water.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-HW / BOAT OPERATIONAL

Boat search start

Set your start point, then Ready to Search



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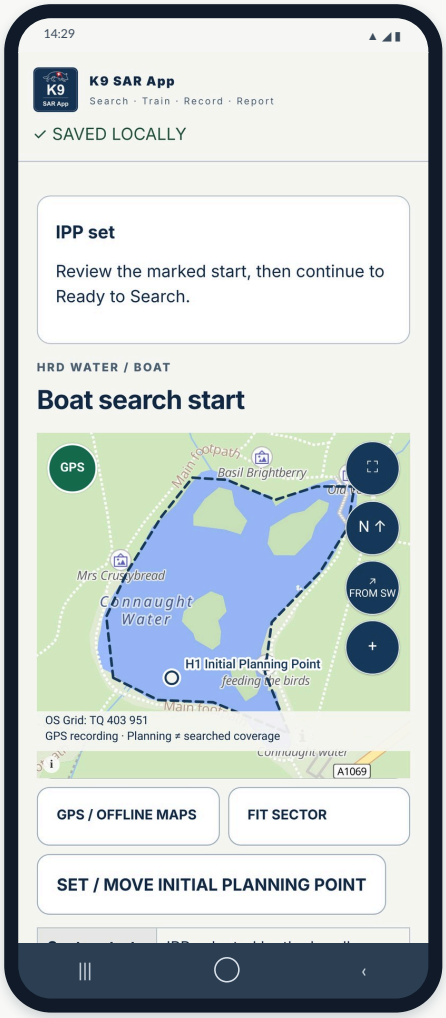

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01 **Boat search start.** This screen replaces AMDR Setup and the route plan. AMDR is not used, and no route is planned in advance.

02 **Set the start.** Tap SET / MOVE INITIAL PLANNING POINT, then tap where the boat will start on the water. It is marked H1.

03 **Check it.** IPP set confirms the start. The sector start is your own choice, separate from the operation's Main Hub.

04 **Ready to Search.** Tap READY TO SEARCH. The AMDR row shows Not applicable — Boat search. Tick Final readiness review complete and tap START SEARCH.

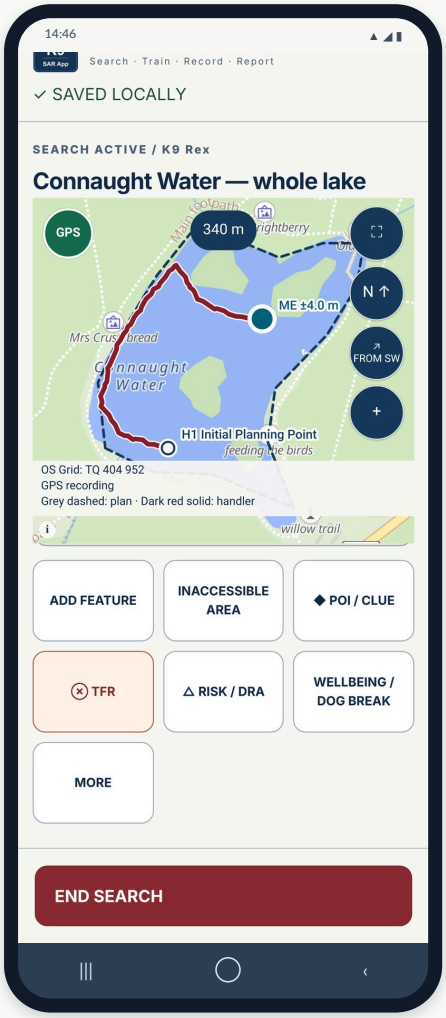
GOOD TO KNOW There is no route to plan from a boat: wind, current and your dog decide it, so you choose the route on the water as the search develops. Your GPS track records the water you covered.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-HW / BOAT OPERATIONAL

Searching from the boat

The search screen and POI on the water



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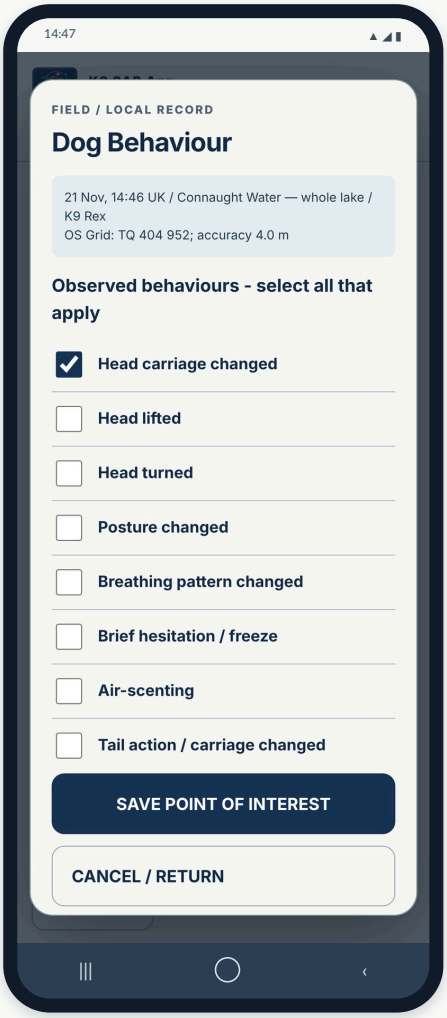


DOG BEHAVIOUR / BOAT

01 **Your track.** The dark red line is the boat's track. The badge at the top is the distance covered.

02 **Search buttons.** ADD FEATURE, INACCESSIBLE AREA, POI / CLUE, TFR, RISK / DRA, WELLBEING / DOG BREAK, MORE and END SEARCH. ADD ROAD / PATH is not used on the water.

03 **POI from the boat.** The boat list adds Sniffing water surface, Licking water and Changing position on the boat. Land-only behaviours such as ground checking are removed.

04 **Save.** Add your note, for example Rex moved to the bow and sniffed the water surface, and tap SAVE POINT OF INTEREST.

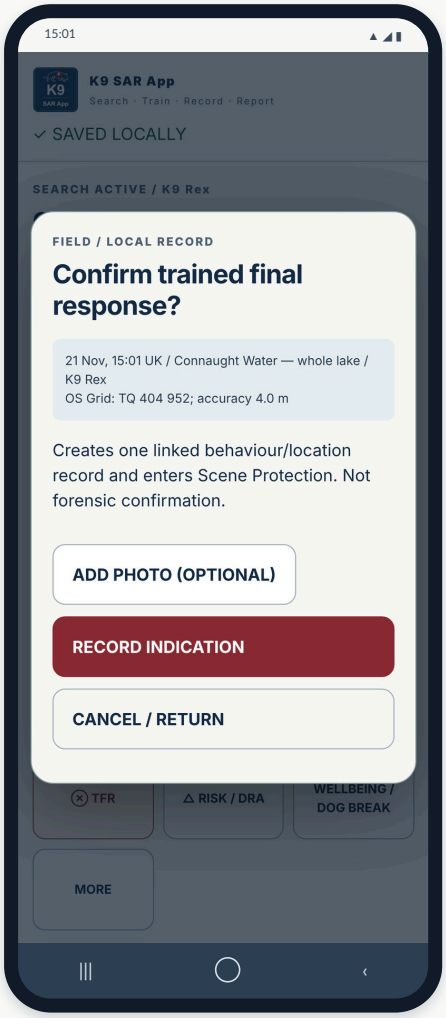
GOOD TO KNOW Mark a POI as soon as the dog changes, because the boat keeps moving with the wind and the current.

CONTENTS

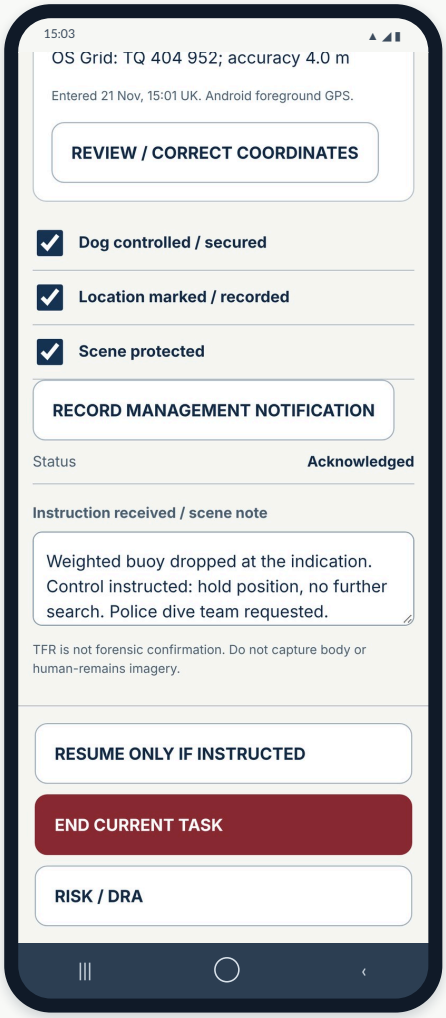
GUIDE H-HW / BOAT OPERATIONAL

TFR & scene protection on the water

TFR → RECORD INDICATION → Scene Protection



CONFIRM TFR



TFR SCENE PROTECTION

01 **Record the TFR.** Tap TFR when your dog indicates, then RECORD INDICATION. TFR-01 is saved with the time and position, for example 15:01.

02 **Scene checks.** Dog controlled / secured, Location marked / recorded and Scene protected. On the water, mark the location with a buoy if instructed.

03 **Report it.** RECORD MANAGEMENT NOTIFICATION: recipient, method and status.

04 **Instruction received.** For example Weighted buoy dropped at the indication. Control instructed: hold position, no further search. Police dive team requested.

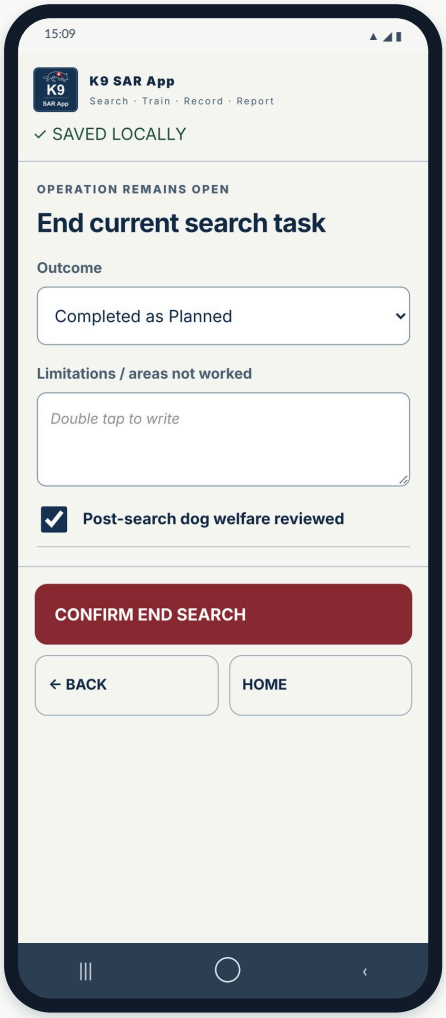
GOOD TO KNOW The TFR records where the boat was when the dog indicated. Odour on water drifts with the wind and the current, so the source may be some distance away.

CONTENTS

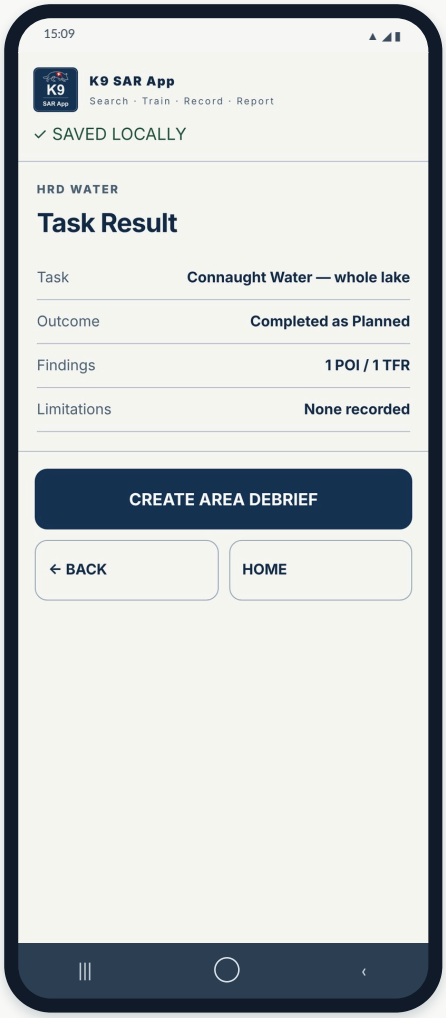
GUIDE H-HW / BOAT OPERATIONAL

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, or the outcome you were instructed to record.

02 **Limitations.** Record any water not worked, for example areas the boat could not reach.

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

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

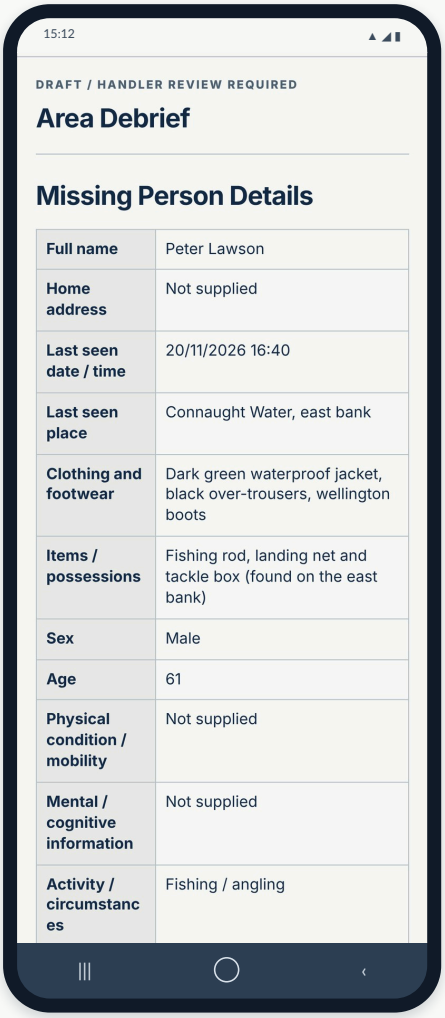
GOOD TO KNOW Water you did not search stays in the record as a limitation. The report never claims the water is clear.

CONTENTS

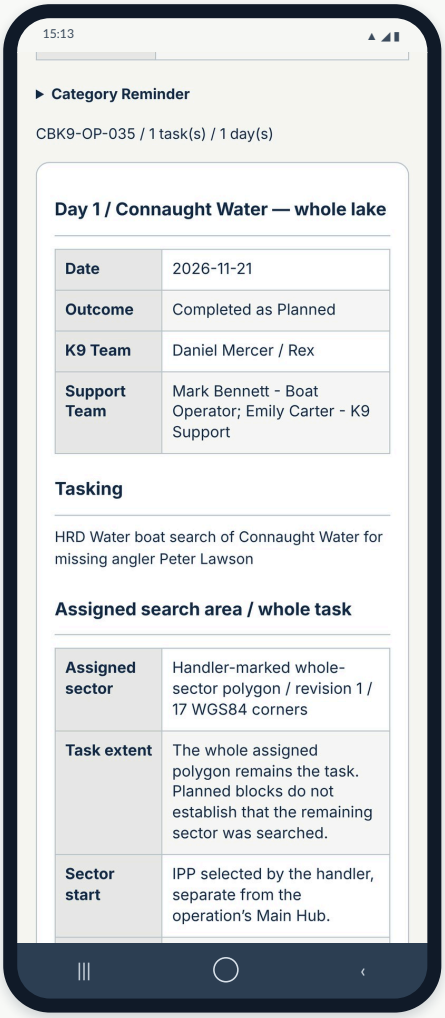
GUIDE H-HW / BOAT OPERATIONAL

Area Debrief

DRAFT / HANDLER REVIEW REQUIRED



AREA DEBRIEF



TASK RECORD

01 **Missing person details.** The profile you entered, with the category, for example Angler / person fishing.

02 **Task record.** Date, outcome, K9 team, support team with roles, tasking and the assigned water area.

03 **Positions and scene.** H1, POI-01 and TFR-01 with grid references, and the scene protection record with times.

04 **Narrative.** A draft built from your recorded actions. Read it and edit it in your own words.

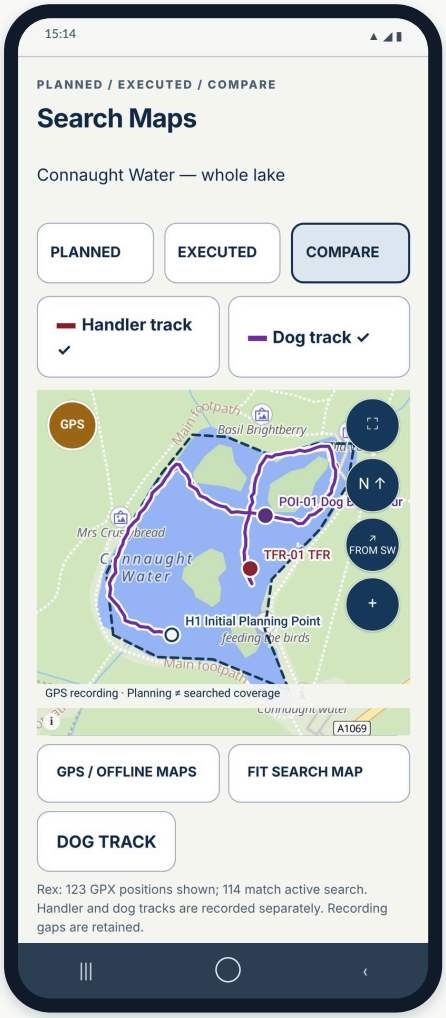
GOOD TO KNOW Area means your dog's working space for this task, from start to finish. The same name is used in every discipline.

CONTENTS

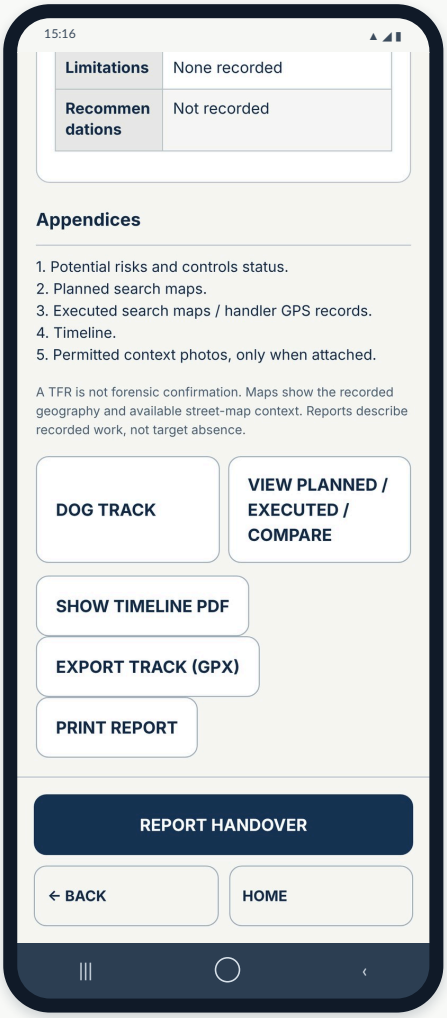
GUIDE H-HW / BOAT OPERATIONAL

Search Maps for a boat search

VIEW PLANNED / EXECUTED / COMPARE → REPORT HANDOVER



REAL INTERFACE / DEMO MAP © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS



REPORT HANDOVER

01 **Search Maps.** PLANNED shows the water area and H1; EXECUTED and COMPARE add the boat track, POI and TFR.

02 **Dog track.** DOG TRACK imports the dog collar GPX. On a boat the dog track follows the boat, so COMPARE shows the handler and dog tracks with no AMDR layer.

03 **Appendices.** The report adds the risks and controls, the maps, the timeline and any permitted photos.

04 **Continue.** Tap REPORT HANDOVER at the bottom of the debrief.

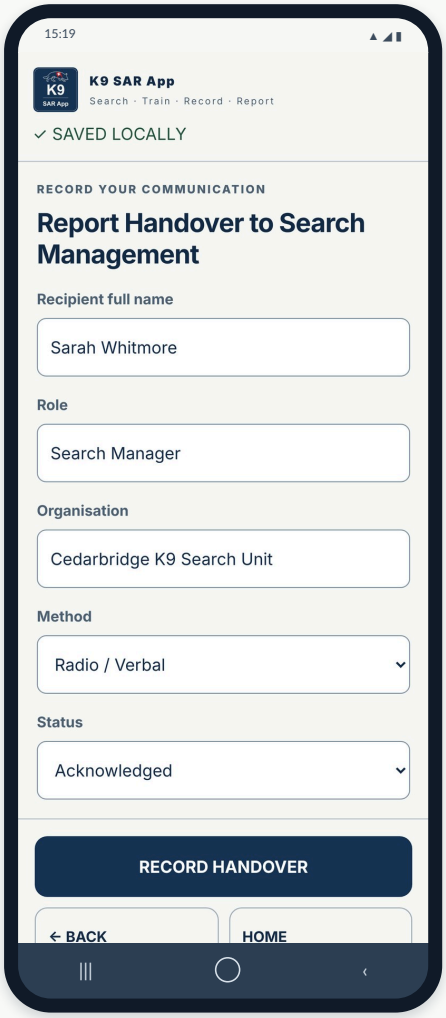
GOOD TO KNOW Read the maps as a record of where the boat went and where the dog reacted, not as proof that the water is clear.

CONTENTS

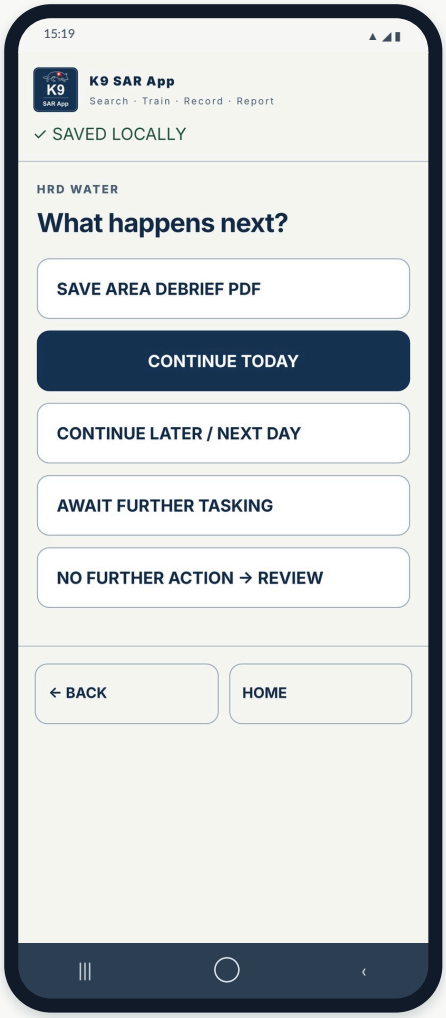
GUIDE H-HW / BOAT OPERATIONAL

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.

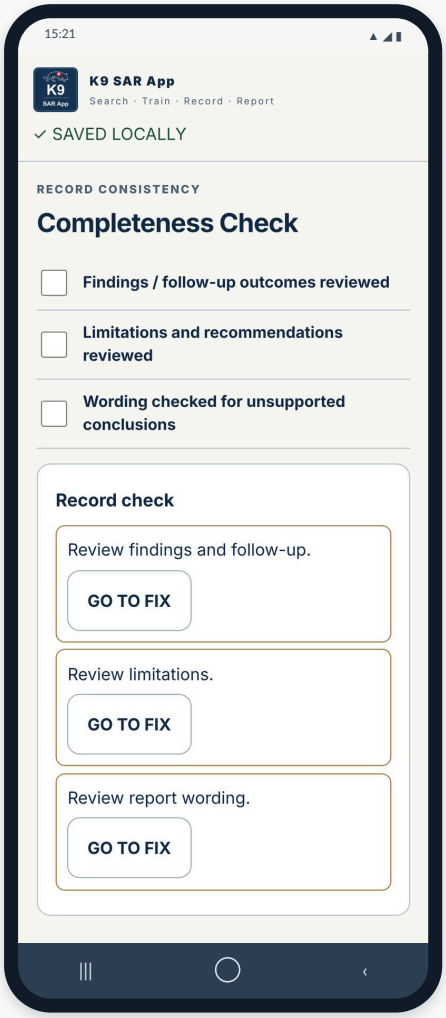
GOOD TO KNOW This records the communication itself. Record an attempt that was not answered as Attempted / unsuccessful.

CONTENTS

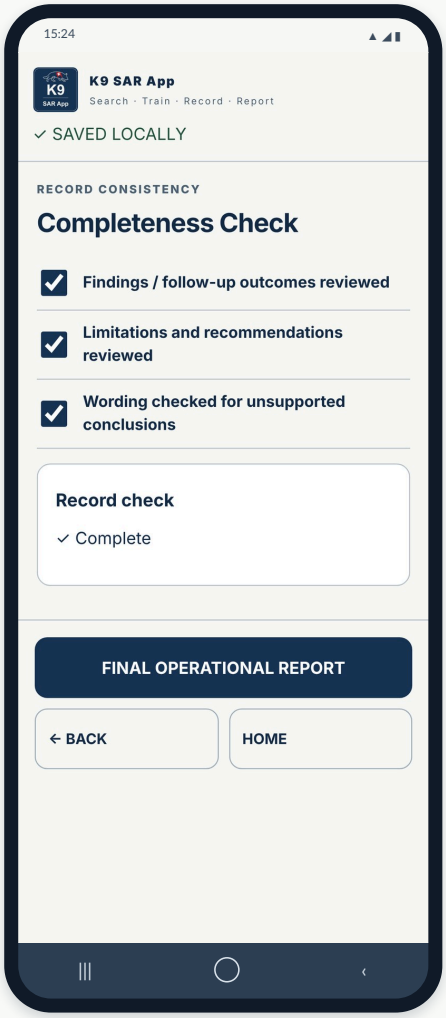
GUIDE H-HW / BOAT OPERATIONAL

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

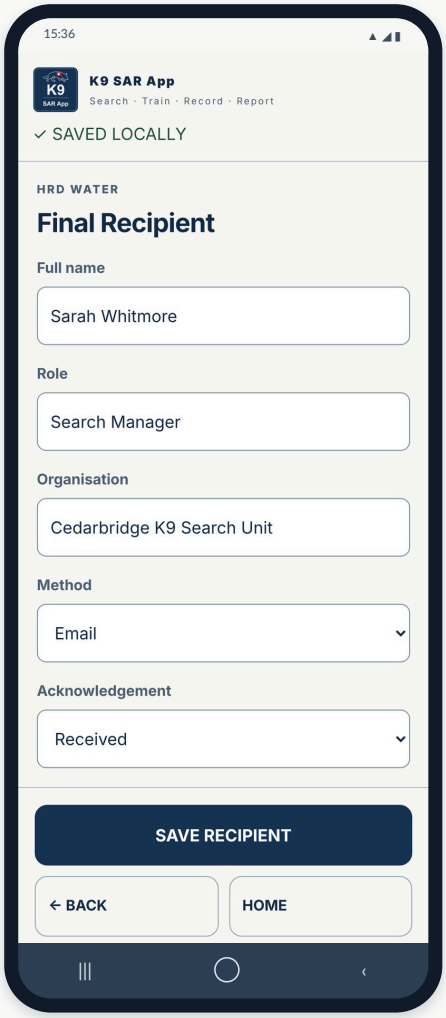
GUIDE H-HW / BOAT OPERATIONAL

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.

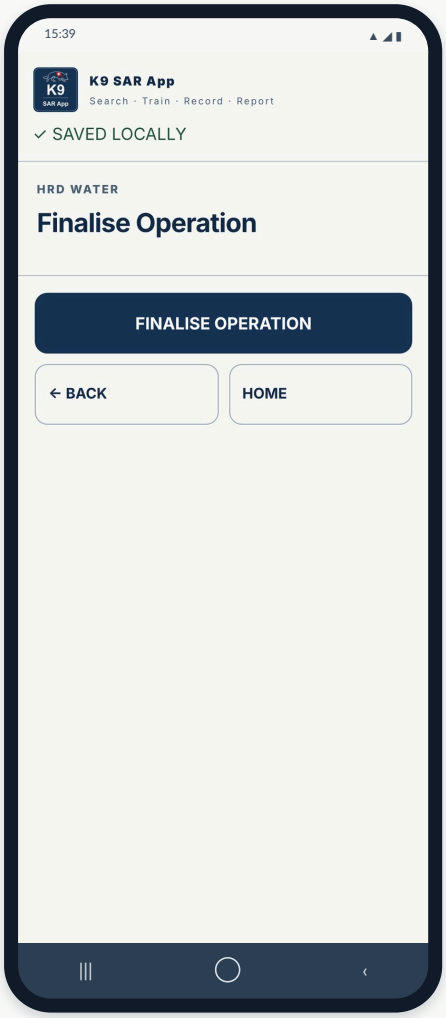
GOOD TO KNOW Exports are available here too: Handler / Dog info PDF and PRINT REPORT.

CONTENTS

GUIDE H-HW / BOAT 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.

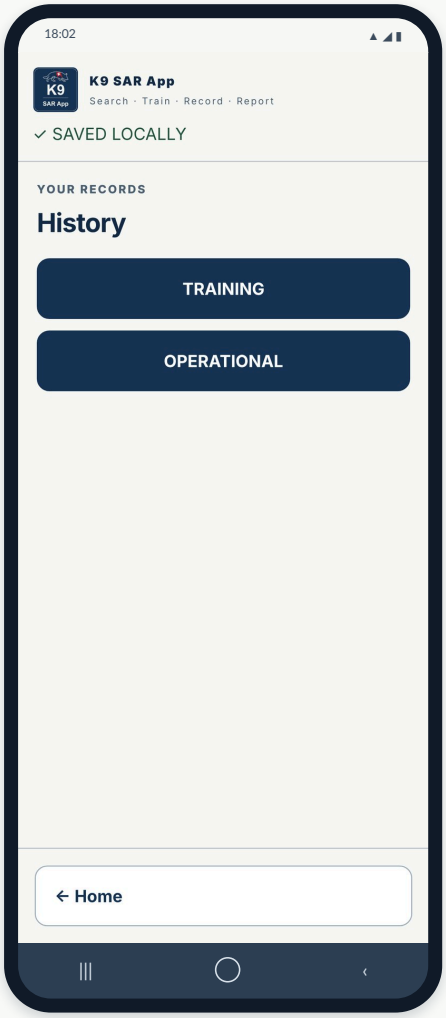
GOOD TO KNOW Operational records never appear in Training Statistics.

CONTENTS

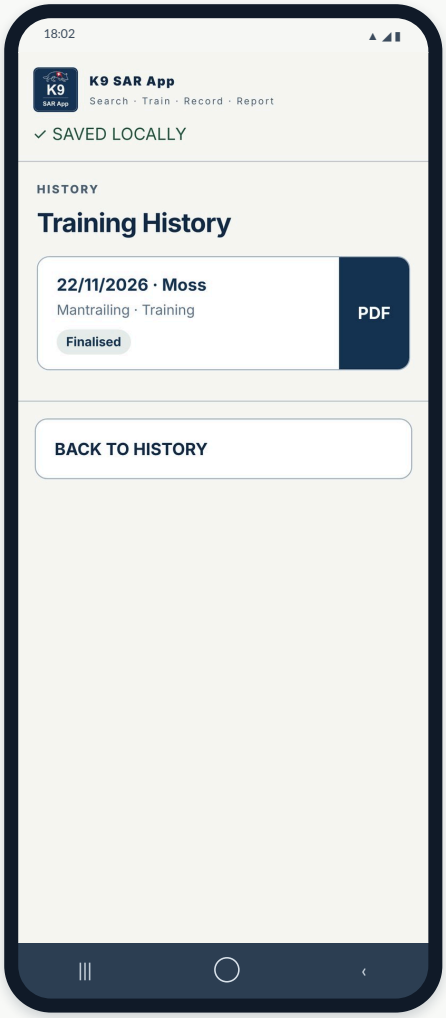
GUIDE H-HW / RECORDS

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-HW / RECORDS

Reports & PDF

What the HRD Water report contains



K9 SAR App
Search · Train · Record · Report

Training Report

CBK9-HW-001
FINALISED RECORD
Created 21 Nov, 10:58 UK

Operation / Team

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

Day 1 / Connaught Water — west bank

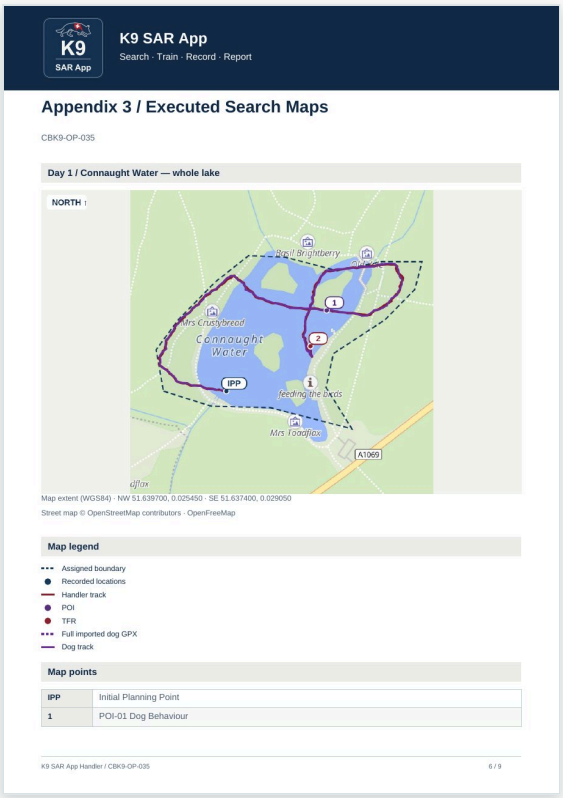
Date	2026-11-21
K9 Team	Daniel Mercer / Rex
Support Team	No support team recorded
Water search method	Bank and Shore
Tasking	Search the west bank of Connaught Water for one submerged training aid
Blind setup	Single blind
Whole assigned sector	Handler-marked bank/shore line / revision 1 / 12 points / 20 m total strip (10 m each side); independent of AMDR
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	15 m radius · Dog AMDR supplied by handler; full Bank/Shore start circle
Start-area meaning	Planning circle only. The assigned Bank/Shore strip defines the task.

Search work / conditions

Search period	21 Nov, 10:30 UK to 21 Nov, 10:46 UK
Recorded active search work	11 minutes (independent holds, dog breaks and dog-change travel excluded)
Active search / Rex	11 minutes — transit and held time excluded
Outcome	Completed as Planned
Conditions / wind	FROM NE / Light; temperature 8 C; terrain Shoreline; conditions Damp
AMDR	15 m - dog profile v1; Shoreline; Assessment / training record; 2026-11-07; Weather: Overcast; temperature: 8 C; wind strength: Light
Sub-hub planning basis	15 m supplied dog AMDR: feature/junction radius 15 m; IPP radius 30 m. Planned investigation areas only.
Risk assessment	9 included hazard(s); potential risks and controls status are in Appendix 1.

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

TRAINING REPORT / PAGE 1



K9 SAR App
Search · Train · Record · Report

Appendix 3 / Executed Search Maps

CBK9-OP-035

Day 1 / Connaught Water — whole lake

Map extent (WGS84) · NW 51.639700, 0.025450 · SE 51.637400, 0.029050
Street map © OpenStreetMap contributors · OpenFreeMap

Map legend

- Assigned boundary
- Recorded locations
- Handler track
- POI
- TFR
- Full imported dog GPX
- Dog track

Map points

IPP	Initial Planning Point
1	POI-01 Dog Behaviour

K9 SAR App Handler / CBK9-OP-035 6 / 9

EXECUTED SEARCH MAP / BOAT

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 strip or water area, the start, search time, conditions, findings, sample results (training), limitations and narrative.

03 **Search maps.** Planned maps show your strip or water area and IPP. Executed maps add your track, POI, TFR, not found samples (NF), the dog track and, for Bank and Shore, the estimated AMDR.

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

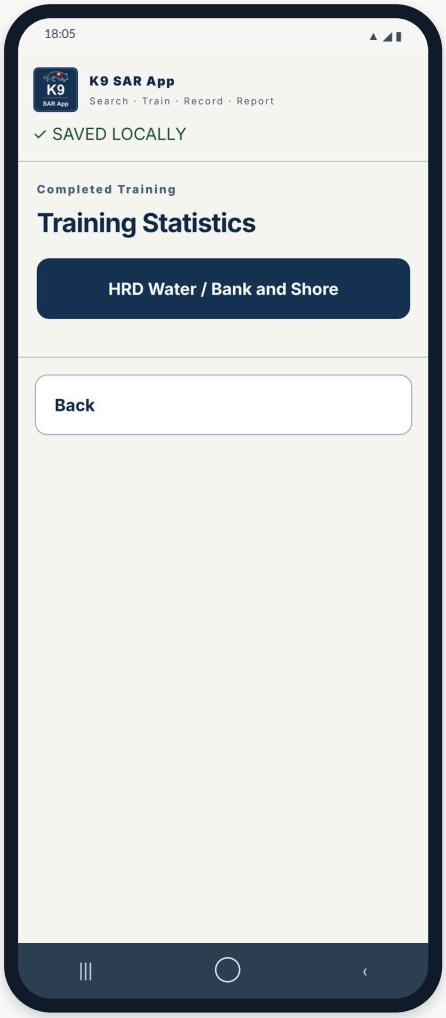
GOOD TO KNOW Blue AMDR shading is labelled as an estimate. Reports never claim that ground without a find was clear.

CONTENTS

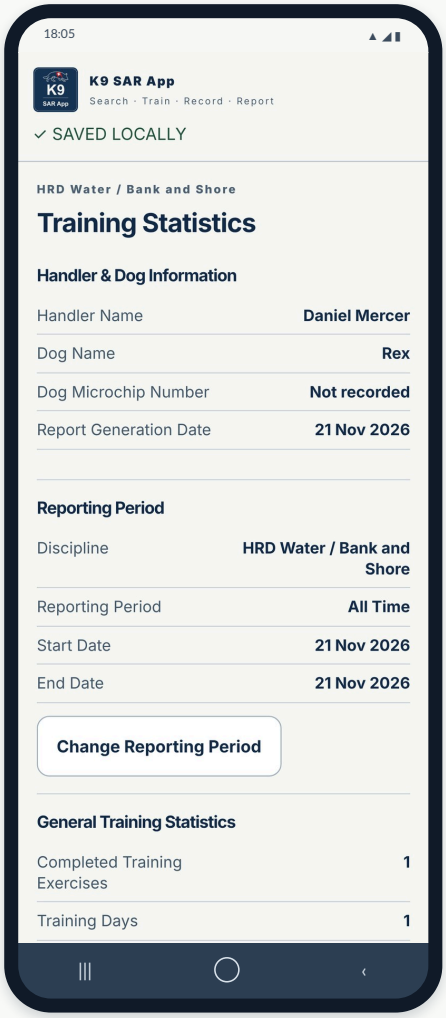
GUIDE H-HW / RECORDS

Training Statistics

Home → STATISTICS → HRD Water



TRAINING STATISTICS



HRD WATER / BANK AND SHORE

01 **Choose the discipline.** HRD Water statistics are kept for each method, for example HRD Water / Bank and Shore. Tap it, and choose the dog if you have several.

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.

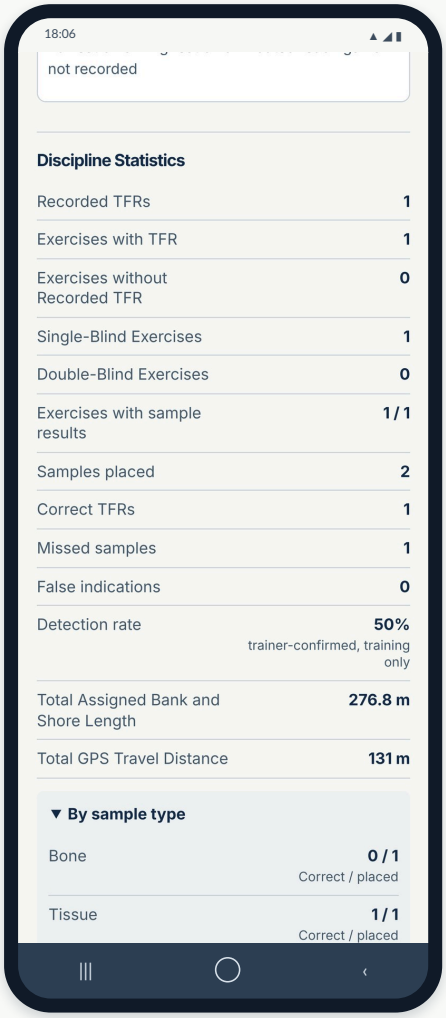
GOOD TO KNOW Only completed Training exercises are counted. Operational searches never appear in Training Statistics.

CONTENTS

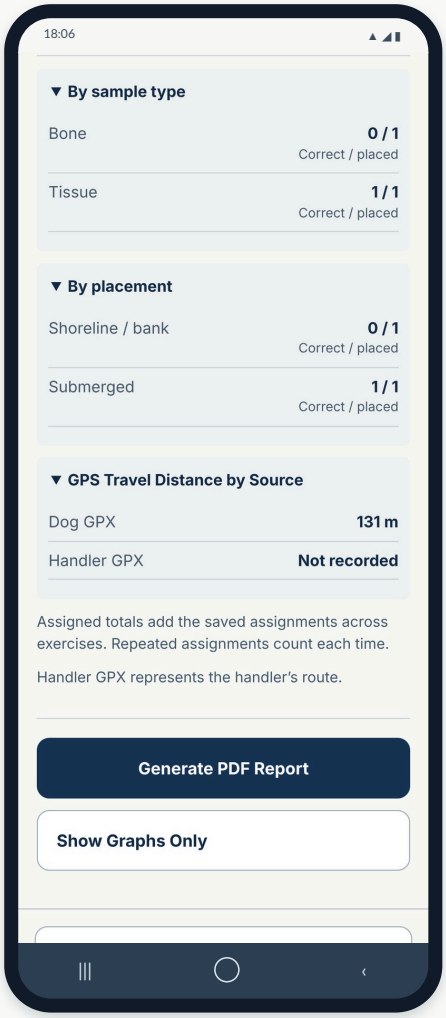
GUIDE H-HW / RECORDS

Sample & distance 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 **Distances.** Total assigned Bank and Shore length, total GPS travel distance, and GPS travel distance by source: your dog's GPX when imported, otherwise your own track.

04 **By type and placement.** Correct / placed for each sample type, for example Tissue 1 / 1, and for each placement, for example Shoreline / bank 0 / 1.

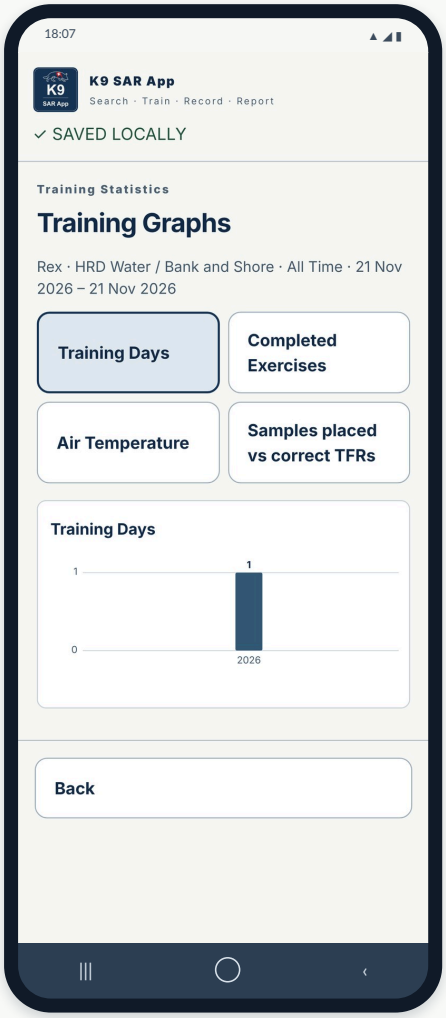
GOOD TO KNOW Only exercises with saved sample results count in the sample figures. An exercise without them is shown as not recorded, never as a miss.

CONTENTS

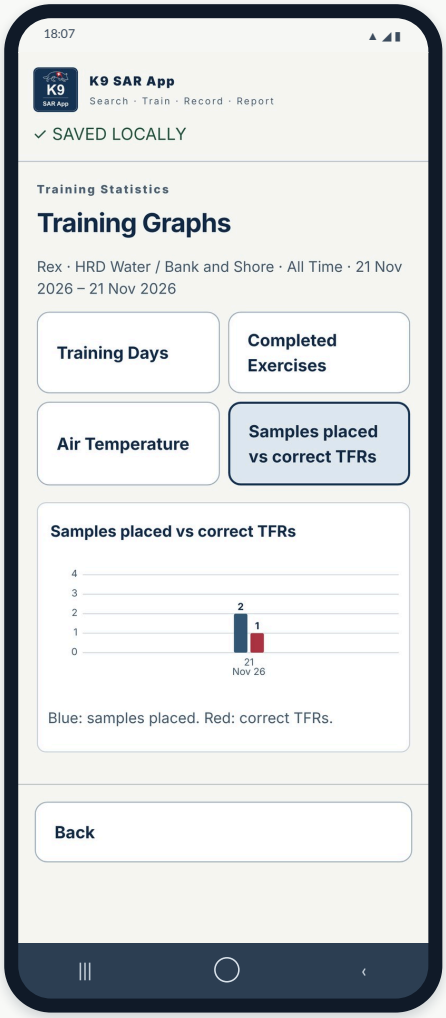
GUIDE H-HW / RECORDS

Statistics graphs

Show Graphs Only



TRAINING GRAPHS



SAMPLES PLACED VS CORRECT TFRs

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

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

03 **Reporting period.** The graphs follow the period you chose, for example All Time or a single month.

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-HW / 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**

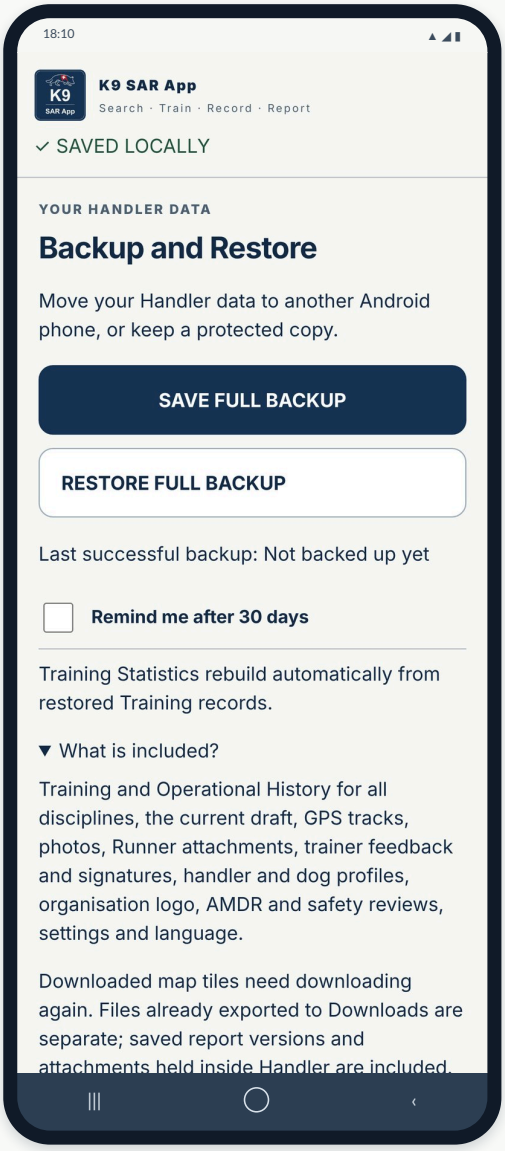
All Training and Operational History, GPS tracks, photos, Runner files, trainer reviews, profiles, logo, AMDR entries, safety reviews, settings and language.

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-HW / 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

For Bank and Shore, record an HRD Water entry with + AMDR ENTRY, tap ENTER MANUALLY, or use the labelled 30 m default. Boat searches do not use AMDR.

The map is blank

The street map needs mobile data or a downloaded offline map. GPS recording and your task area 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 bank or shore line, or the water area for a boat, then tick Tasking and assigned boundary reviewed.

START SEARCH does nothing

Set your IPP, accept the shoreline plan (Bank and Shore), 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-HW / 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.
Bank and Shore strip	The centred strip around your marked bank or shore line, at least 15 m wide. It is your assigned task, separate from AMDR.
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 Water covers bank and shore and boat searches; HRD Land has its own guide.
Waterbody type	Used instead of terrain for Boat searches, for example Lake, River or Estuary.
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 402 952. 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 Water 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.

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