

GPX FILES

What is a gpx file?

GPX is shorthand for GPS eXchange Format. It is an international standard file for passing route parameters between different route planning software and/or hardware with navigational facilities and is extremely versatile in its use.

Downloading a gpx file to a desk op or laptop.

Simply downloading a gpx file to your computer means nothing in terms of the raw file, and you can't just open it by clicking on the file in your folder UNLESS you have route mapping software installed on your computer. Such software includes Memory-map and other mapping software, some of which may not now be supported. If you have such software installed on your computer, then the file will open in that software when you download it, or by clicking on a previously saved file in your folder.

Downloading a gpx file to a tablet, iphone etc.

The same thing applies to downloading onto a tablet or iphone, you can't open it without installed software. On a tablet or iphone you can go to Play Store and download a free App such as GPX Viewer. Again the file will open automatically when you download it, or you can open a previously saved file from this App. The free versions of such Apps will probably only allow you to open the file on a simple map and print it. However most will also allow you to purchase an advanced version with more facilities to allow you to navigate etc.

On-line route mapping software.

HOWEVER, you DO NOT NEED such installed software if you are using online mapping software such as OSMaps or ViewRanger. In these cases, you download and save the file (it won't open at that point). You then login to your mapping software and load the file from there. You can do this from your desktop, laptop, tablet, iphone or any device with Internet access. but you had to have downloaded and saved the gpx file first..

Handheld GPS.

If you have an independent handheld GPS, such as a Garmin or Etrek, you can download and save the gpx file on your computer, connect the GPS by USB cable to your computer and copy the gpx file down to your handheld GPS.

Sending gpx files to others.

If you have a walk on any of the route mapping software or hardware navigational systems, you can save the gpx file of that walk and then email that to others who you know have the facility to use it.

Adding Walks to the Walks Library.

If your walk is not already featured on our Walks Library, it can easily be added. Simply email the gpx file to walks@east Surreywalkers.org.uk. In your email, please include the basic

details that you would include in the Walks Planner - i.e Description, Grid Reference and OS Explorer Map number(s).

Regardless of what you were using, we can upload the gpx file onto our Walks Library. From there it can be downloaded by anybody else with any of the route planning software or navigational hardware.