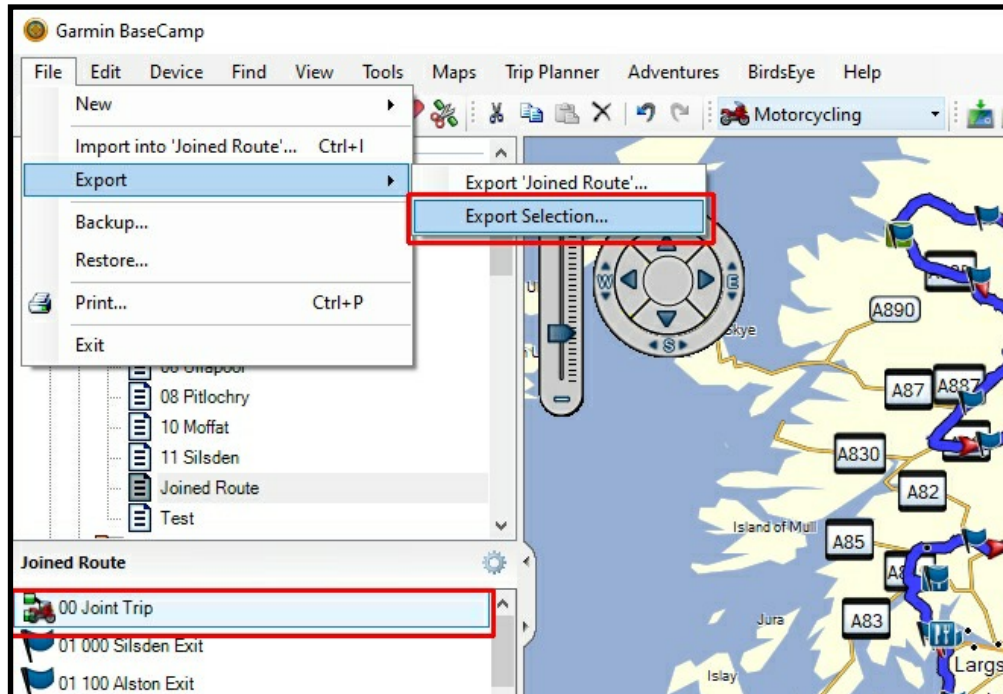# Flying a Planned Route on Google Earth Pro
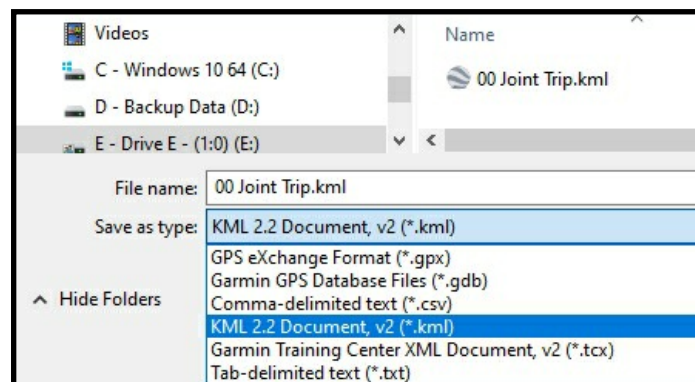**This example using a route created in Basecamp**

In Basecamp - Create a KML file of your route

- Select your route or track so that it is highlighted
- Select File / Export / Export Selection

- Choose where to save your file, select KML as the file type, and give your file a name.
- Remember where you have saved it !

And that is it as far as Basecamp is concerned. Very easy if you have already created your routes in Basecamp as the routes are already there, and Basecamp has a feature to export both gpx and kml files.
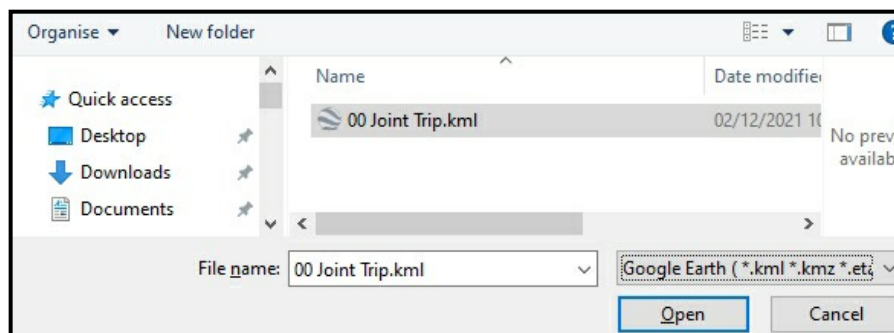
Load Your KML file into Google Earth Pro

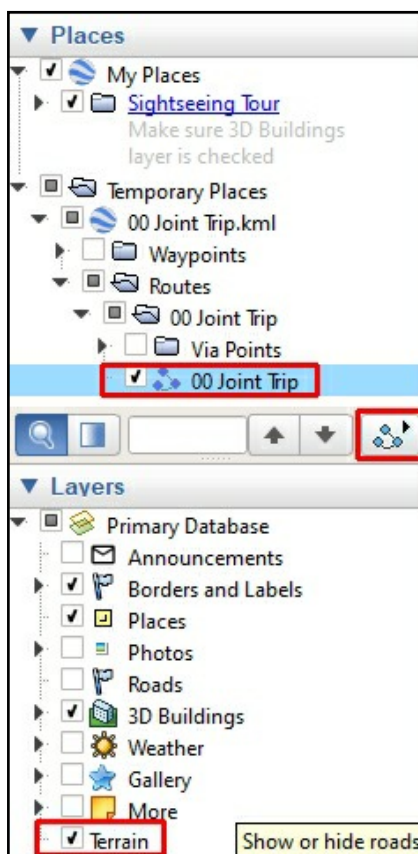**Download it from here : https://www.google.co.uk/earth/download/gep/agree.html**

Google Earth is free to use, but you may need your Google account to access it.
Note the window panes on the left, and their contents.

- Load in your KML file : File / Open / Locate the file - make sure that Google Earth *.kml type is selected.
- The file will be loaded, the route will show on the globe, and will zoom in to it.

- The left hand side of the screen will change to include information from the kml file that you have loaded.

Your route will probably have been placed in the 'Temporary Places' heading. Click the right pointing arrow to expand a section and the down pointing arrowhead to collapse it again.

In my case I had to expand 3 different side headings:
    00 Joint Trip.kml
        Routes
            00 Joint Trip

In the top Pane.

Note that Google Earth has included the Waypoints and Via Points from the route that I used. Had I used a track, these wouldn't have been in the kml file. I have unticked the Waypoint side heading and the Via Point side heading. I have ticked the 00 Joint Trip that has the the diamond route icon alongside.

In the Bottom Pane

As soon as I select the kml route (ie 00 Joint Trip with its 3 diamond icon), the heading for the lower pane changes slightly to show the same 3 diamond route icon. I've outlined this in red in the image on the left.

This is the button to press to go flying.
Hover over it and a caption 'Play Tour' pops up.
Click it and Google Earth will fly you around your route.

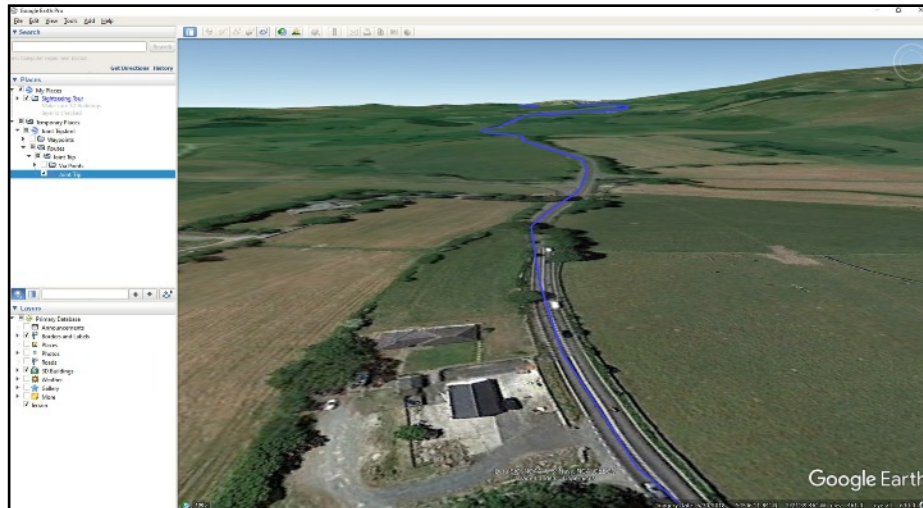**There is more to set up, but that is for the next page.**

Setting up the Flight in Google Earth

Showing the hills

This is easy and can be done while Google Earth is still flying the route. On the previous page, in the lower pane, I also outlined a tick box that is labelled 'Terrain'. Tick it. The effect is immediate with the flight still in progress.

It is also fun to tick the 3D buildings and to experiment with other features that you can turn on and off.

Note that in the top pane you can untick the route itself to leave the blue route line off the aerial view.

Adjusting the View

By default, the viewing angle is not so good. When I installed Google Earth, I found that the 'camera' was too high, and looking down from some height. I needed to get some idea of the gradient and of the hills.

This can be adjusted - but although it will allow you to change it mid flight, it doesn't actually come into effect until you restart the flight by clicking the 'Play Tour' 3 diamond route icon.

In the Google Earth Menu, select **Tools / Options** to get the Dialog Box shown below. Click the Touring Tab.

Camera Tilt Angle affects how high the camera is. 90 degrees is looking along the road at road level. 0 degrees is looking directly from above. I found that about 75 degrees is a good compromise between seeing the road and hills ahead, and flying through the mountains.

Camera Range - affects how far away the point of focus is for the camera - the flight path smoothes out the bends and having a range that is really close looks really odd. I've set mine to 200.

Fly Along Lines Really needs to be ticked to follow a route properly.

Note the video controls at the bottom of the moving image.