



Australian Government

Australian Transport Safety Bureau

ANZSASI 2017 presentation

Australia's national transport safety investigator

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AO-2015-074 Collision with terrain, involving Pitts Model 12, VH-JDZ, near Maitland NSW 08 July 2015

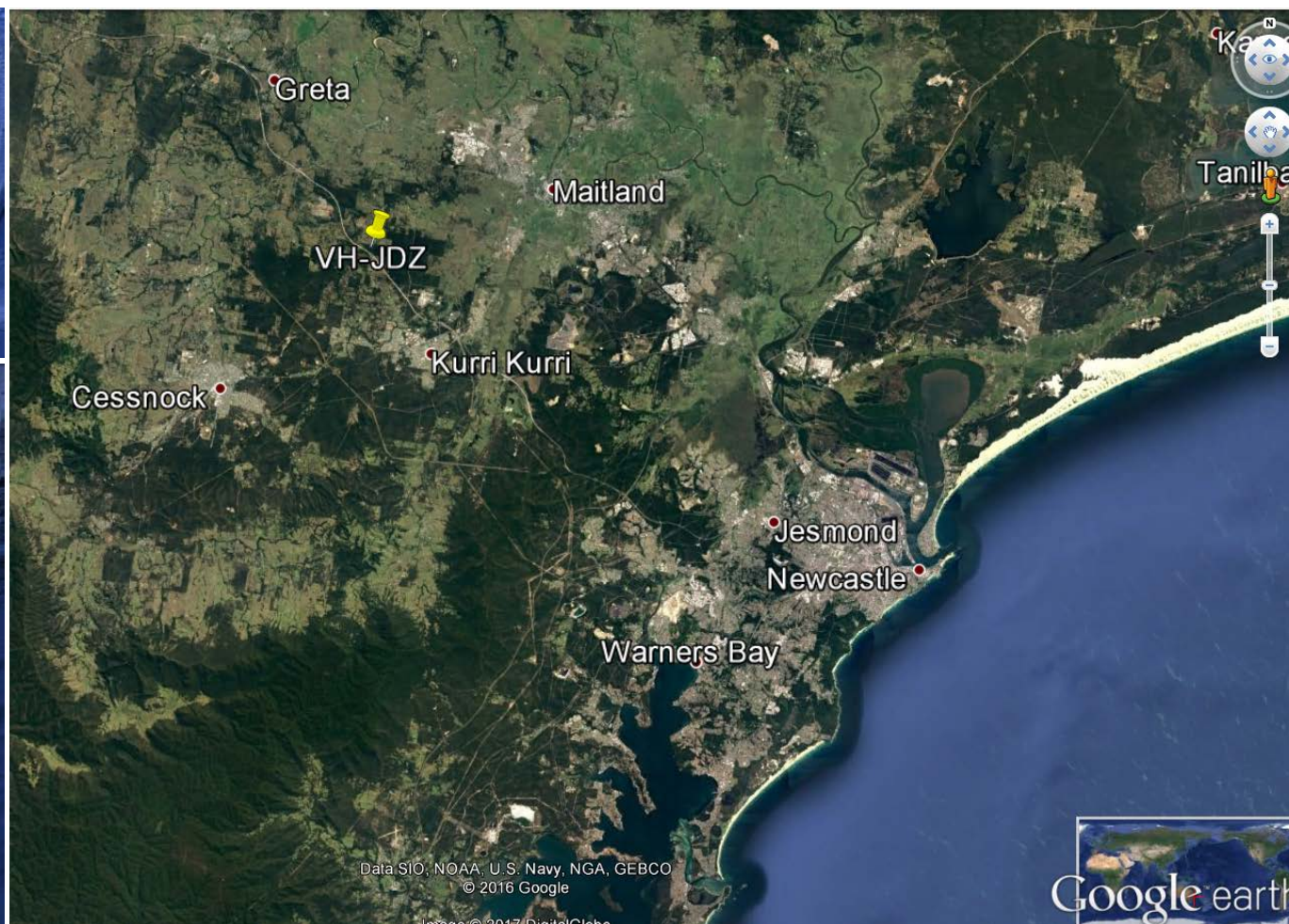


Australia's national transport safety investigator

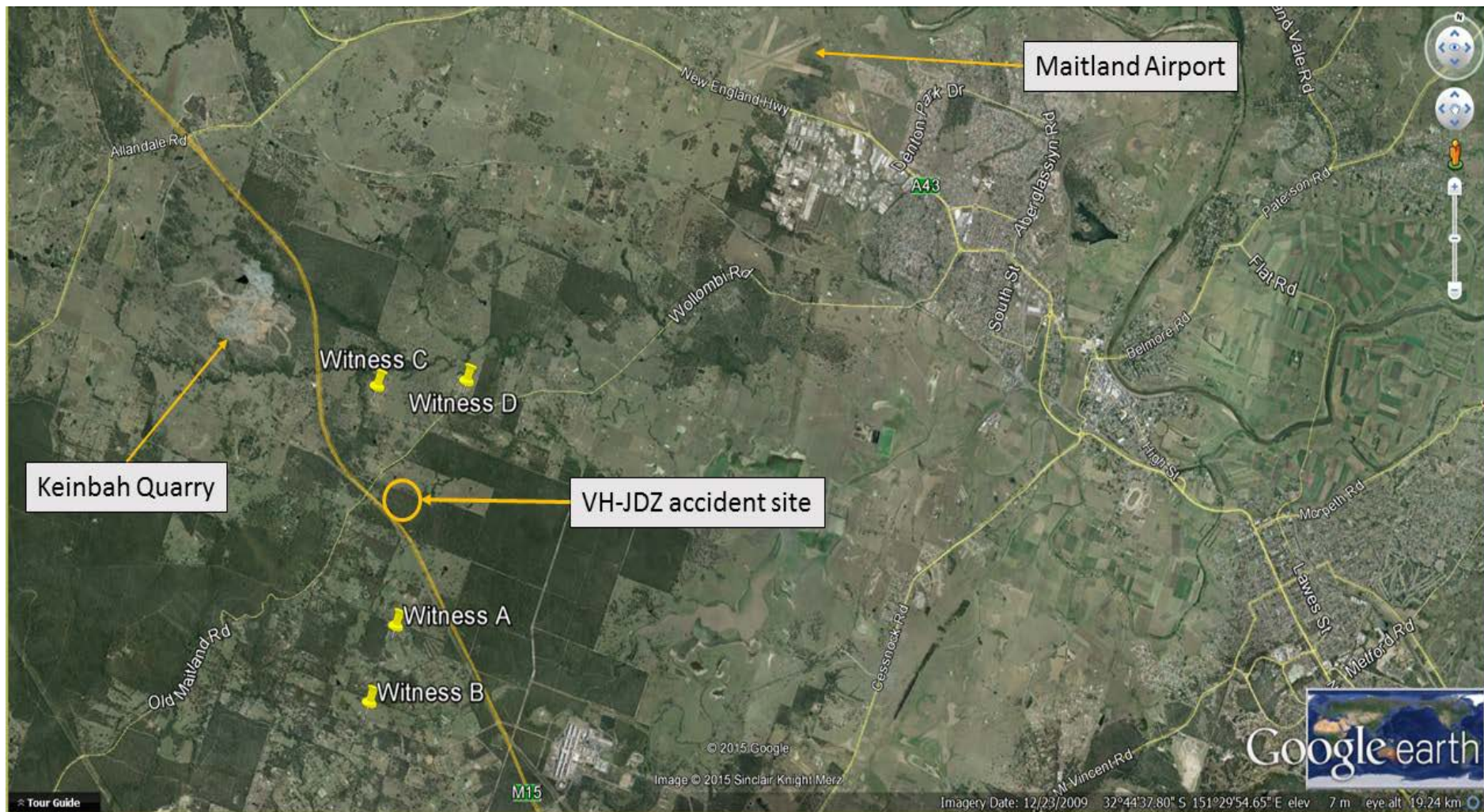
Basic facts of the occurrence

- Accident occurred at about 1630, 08 July 2015
- Amateur-built Pitts Model 12, VH-JDZ (Russian 'Vedeneyev' radial engine M14P/PF)
- Solo flight, about 8 km SW of Maitland Airport NSW, 32°45' 48.07S / 151° 26' 50.24 E
- Deployed a team of three investigators
- Deployed 09 July, returned 13 July 2015
- On-site five days

We are here

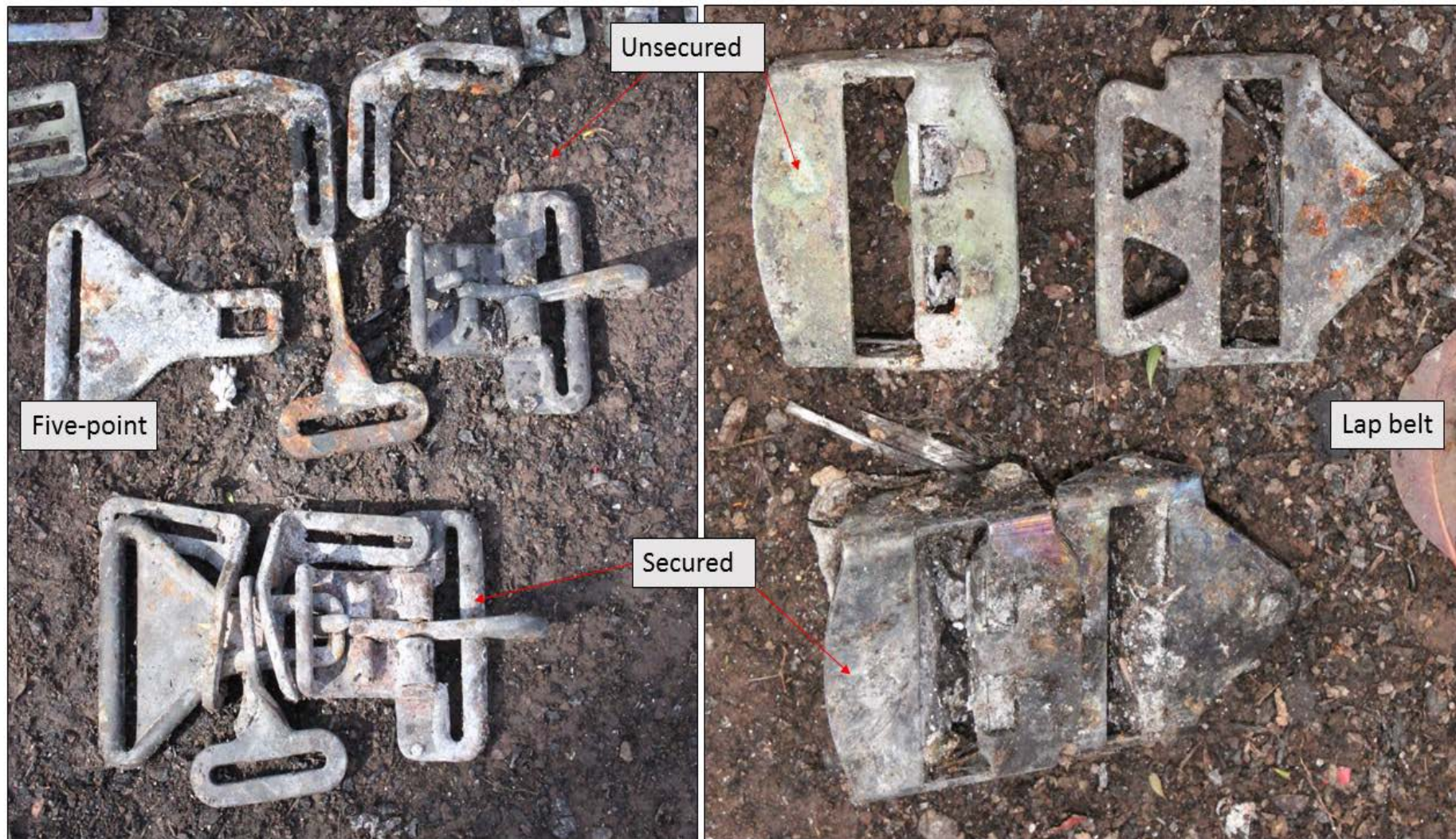


Witness locations with respect to accident site



Accident site

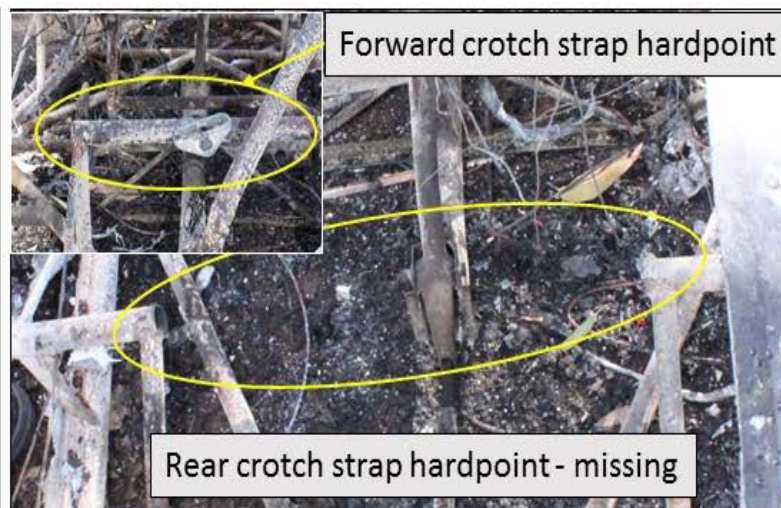




Forward buckle arranged as if secured



Forward crotch strap hardpoint



Rear crotch strap hardpoint - missing

Rear buckle as found



Deformation

Harness hardpoints





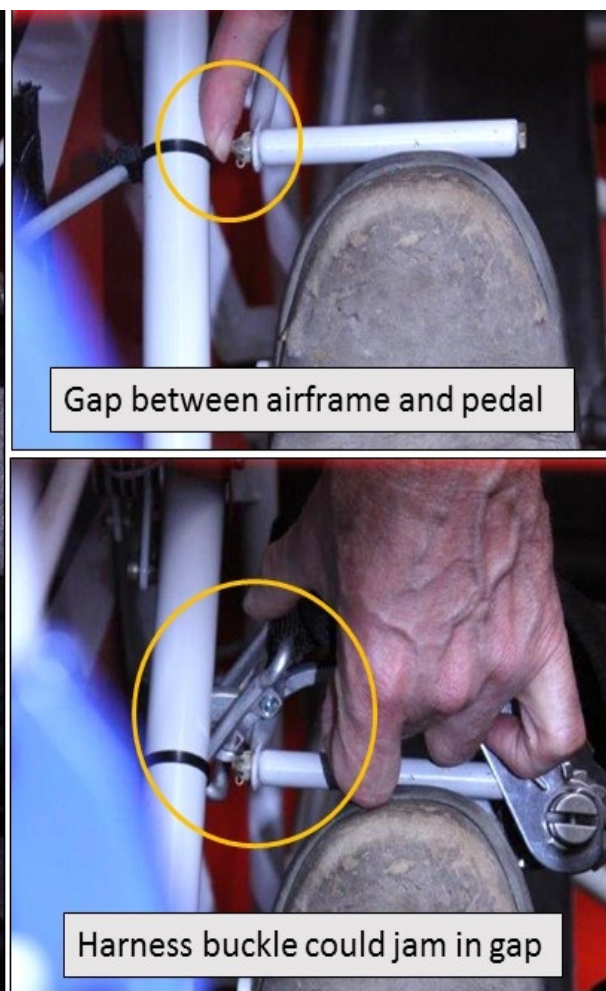
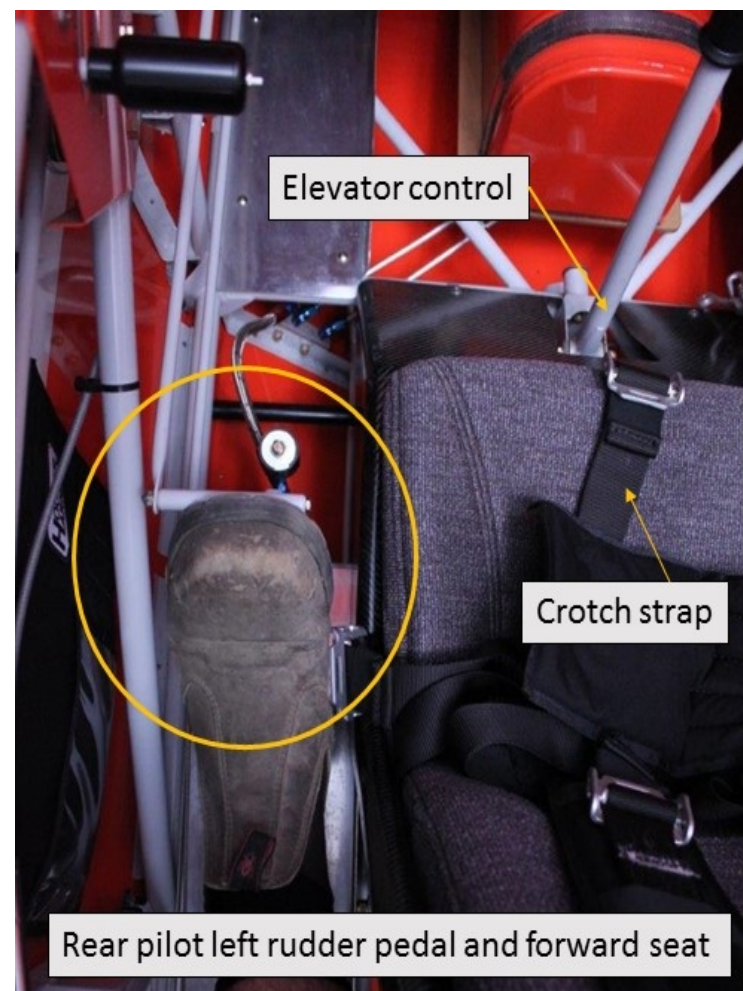
Rear pilot's rudder pedals are located on either side of the forward seat

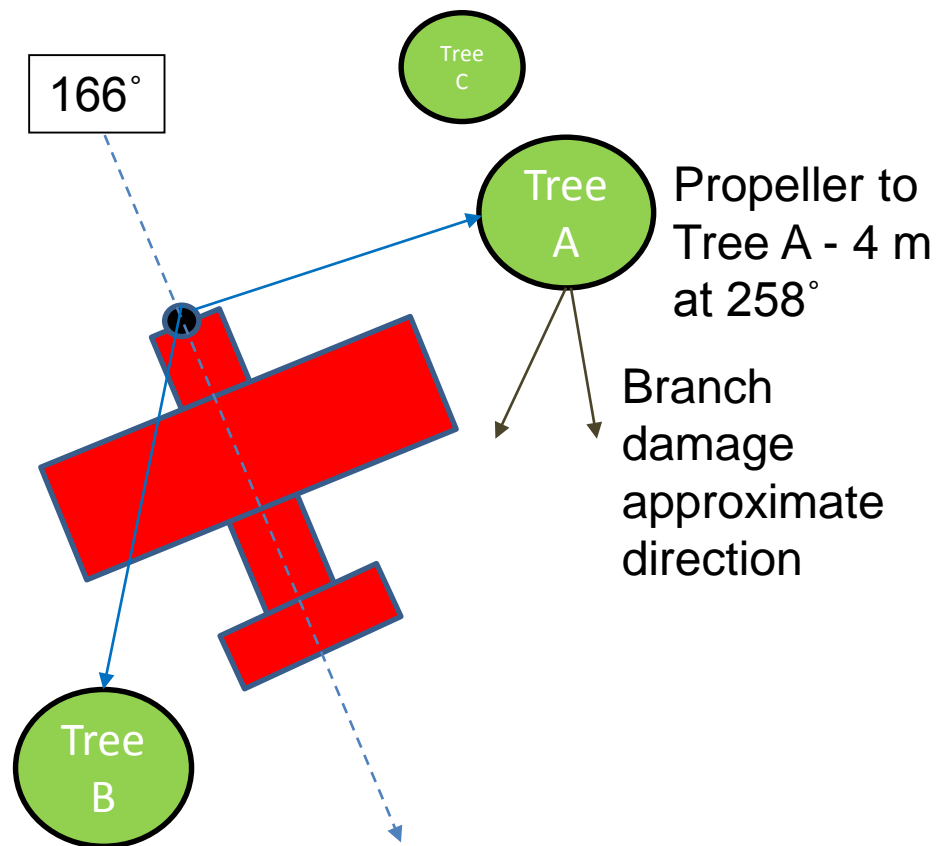
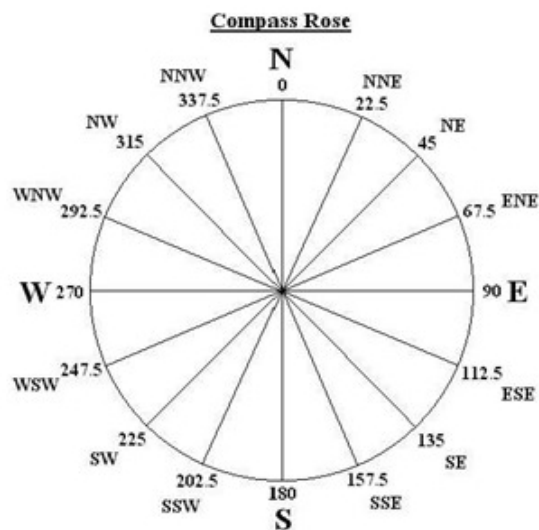


Unsecured crotch strap can interfere with the elevator control

Forward seat harness with unsecured buckles

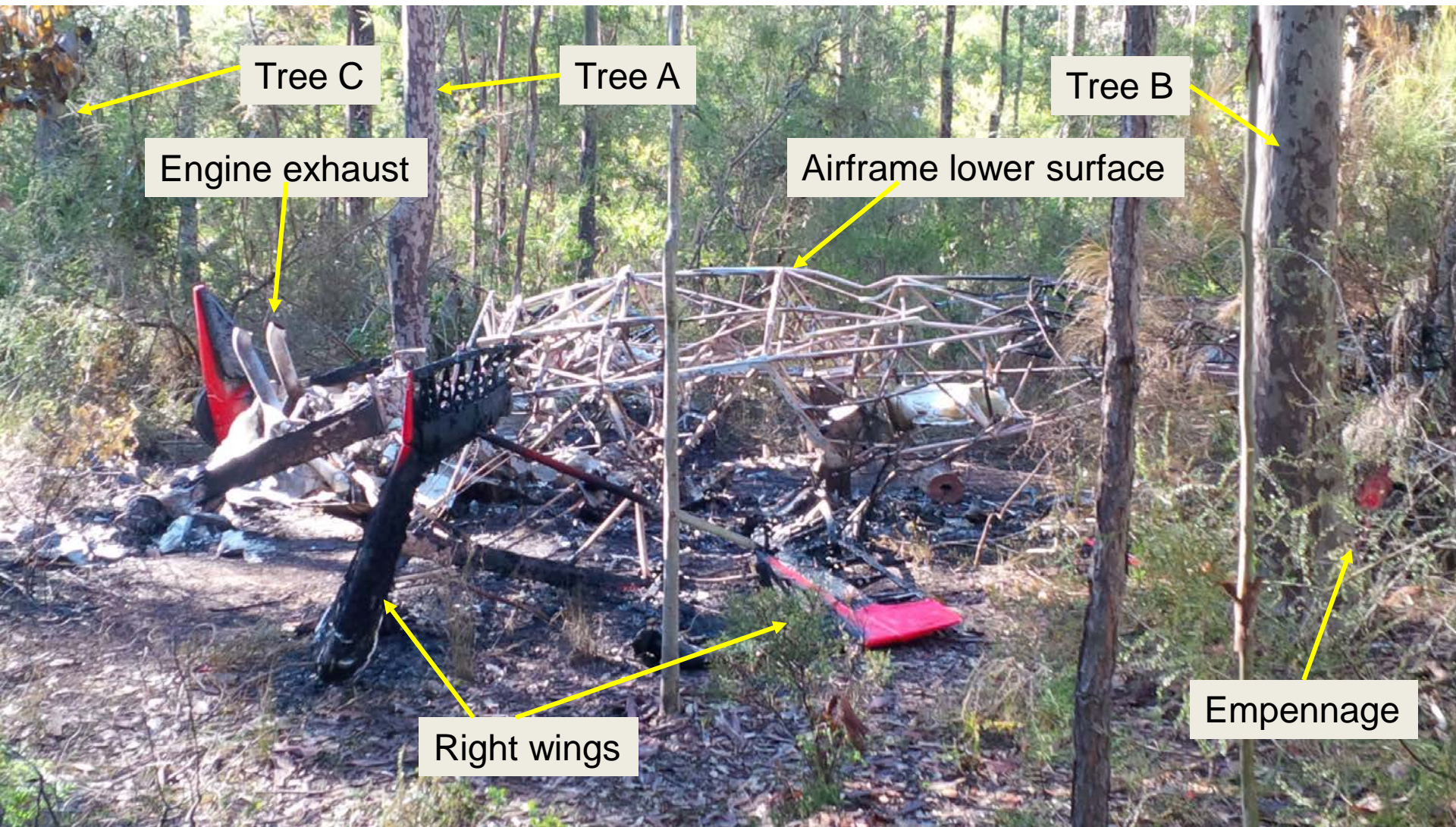


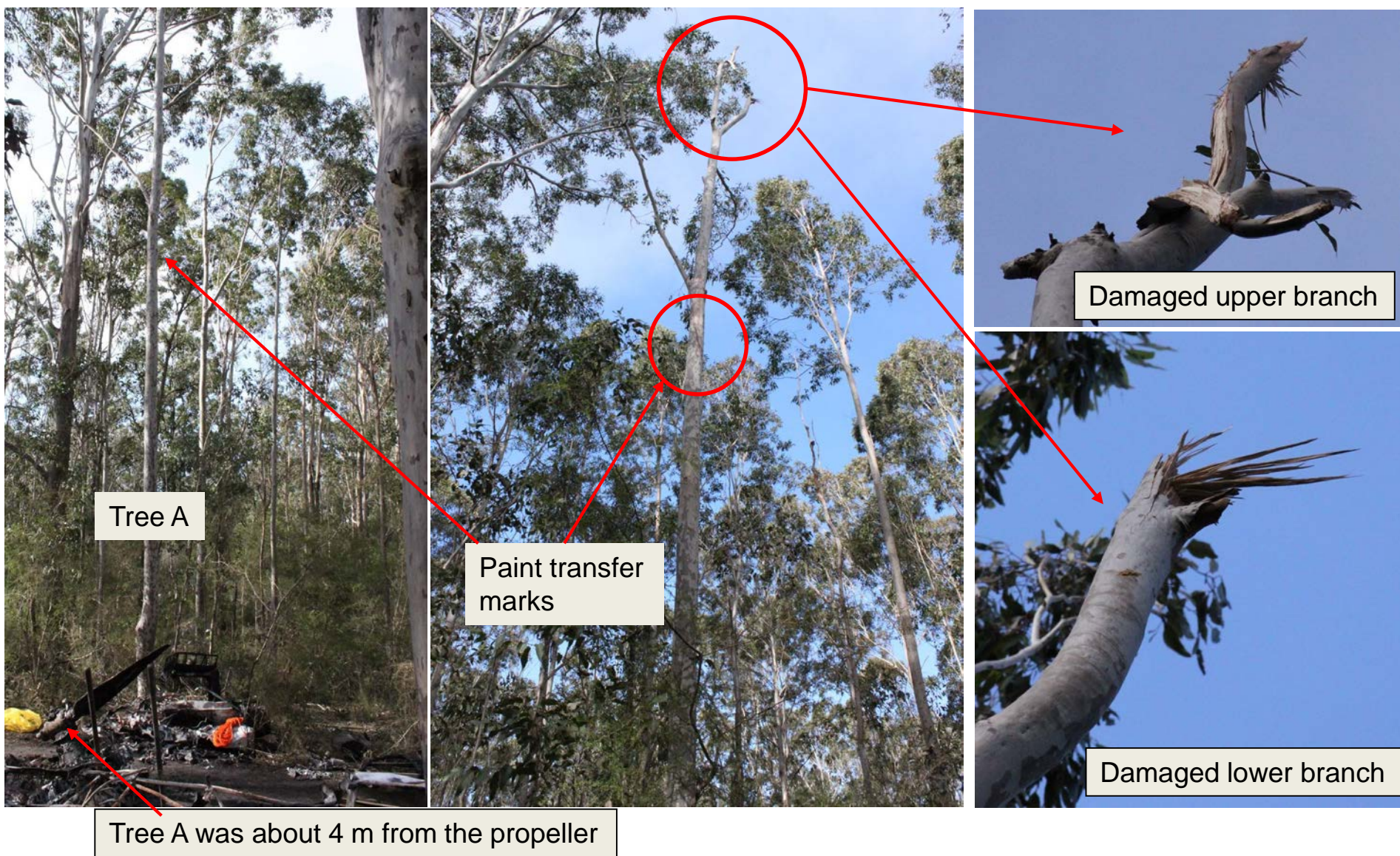




Propeller to Tree B – 5.5 m at 202°

Note: aircraft inverted





Tree A

Damaged upper branch

damaged upper branch calculated to be about **16.8 m** above the ground

Paint transfer marks

paint transfer mark about **8 m** above the ground

Damaged lower branch

damaged lower branch calculated to be about **15.7 m** above the ground



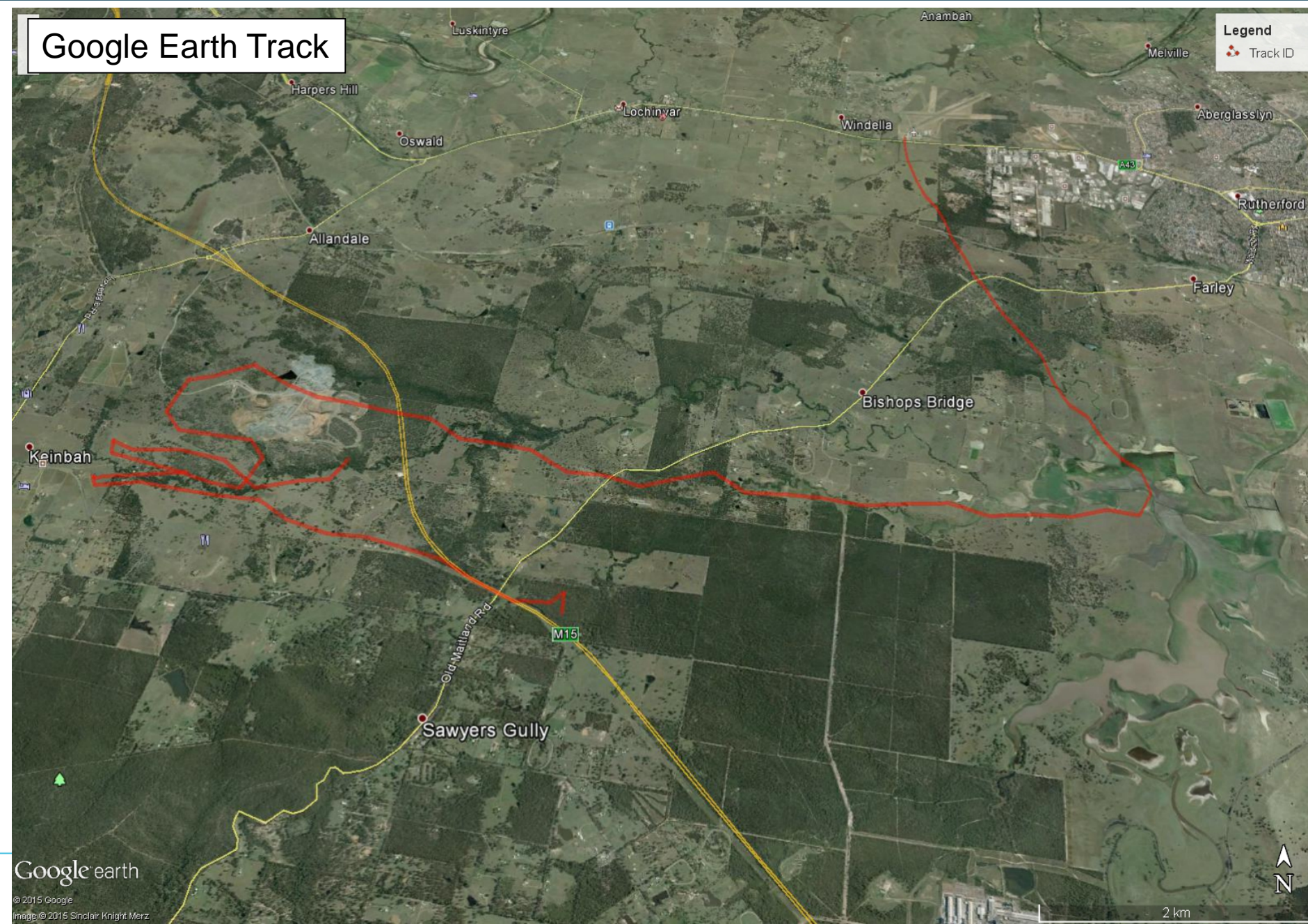
Distances were measured using Bushell Yardage Pro Sport 450



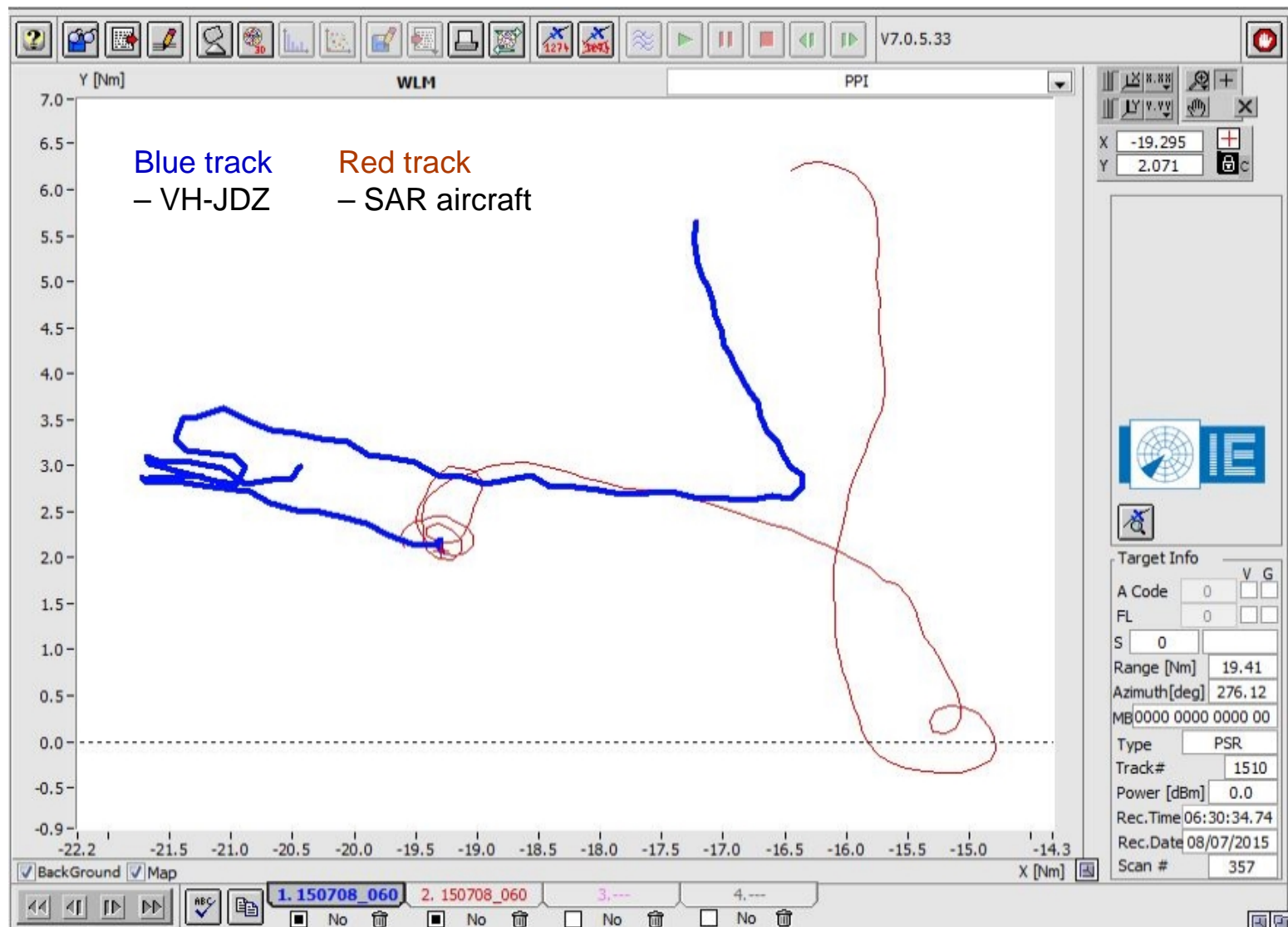
Google Earth Track

Legend

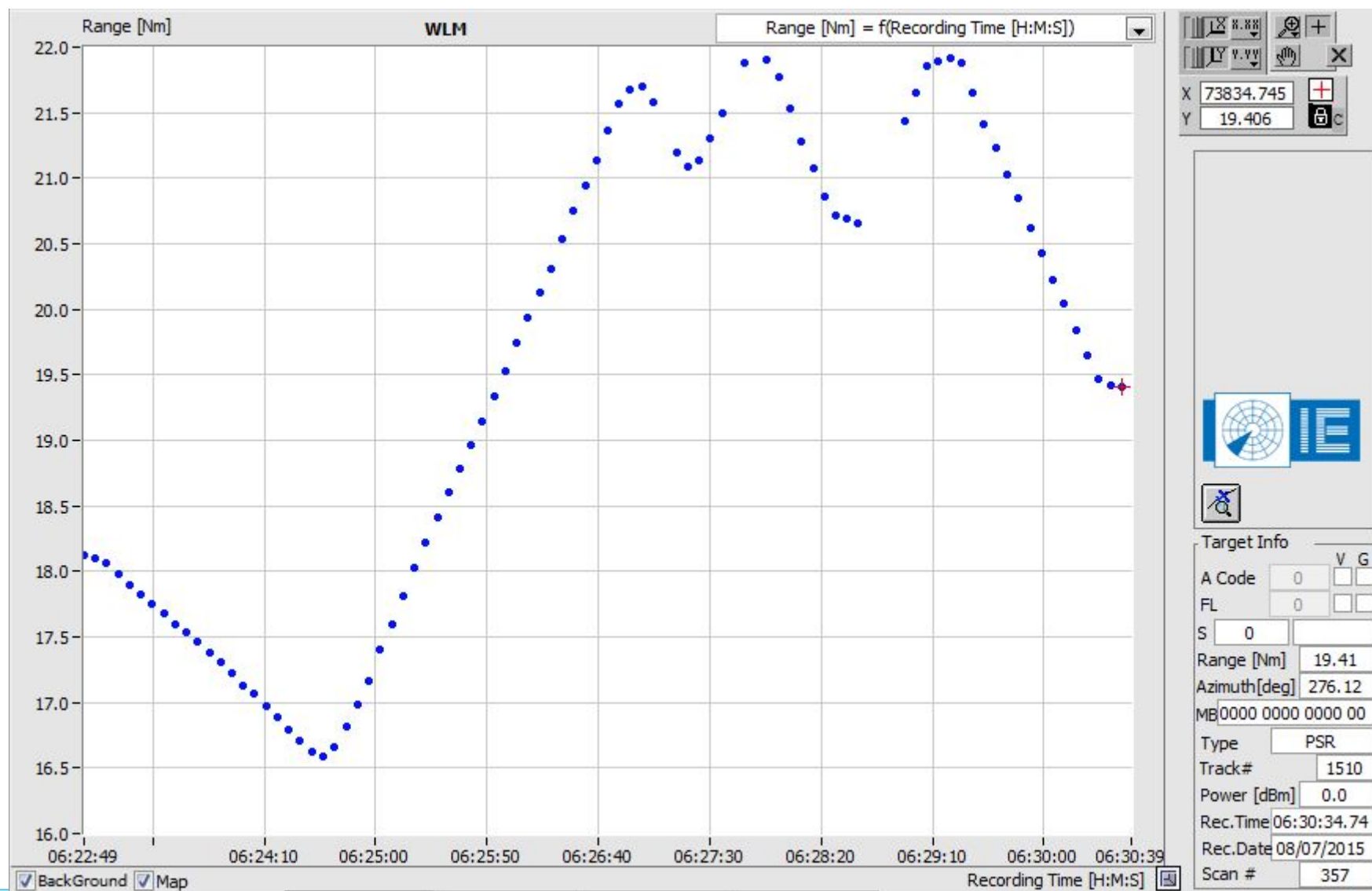
Track ID



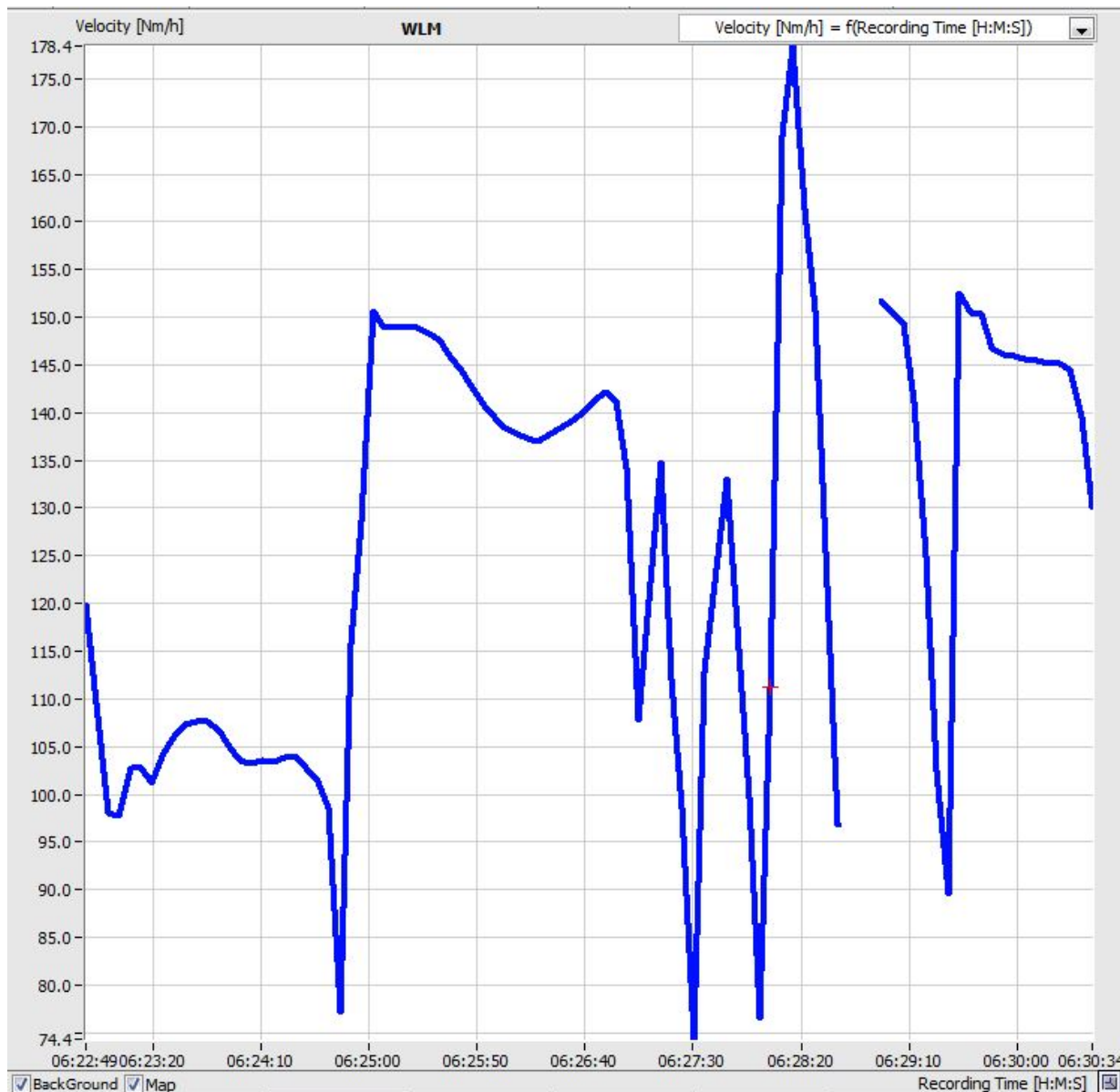
Plan position indicator with Search and Rescue aircraft



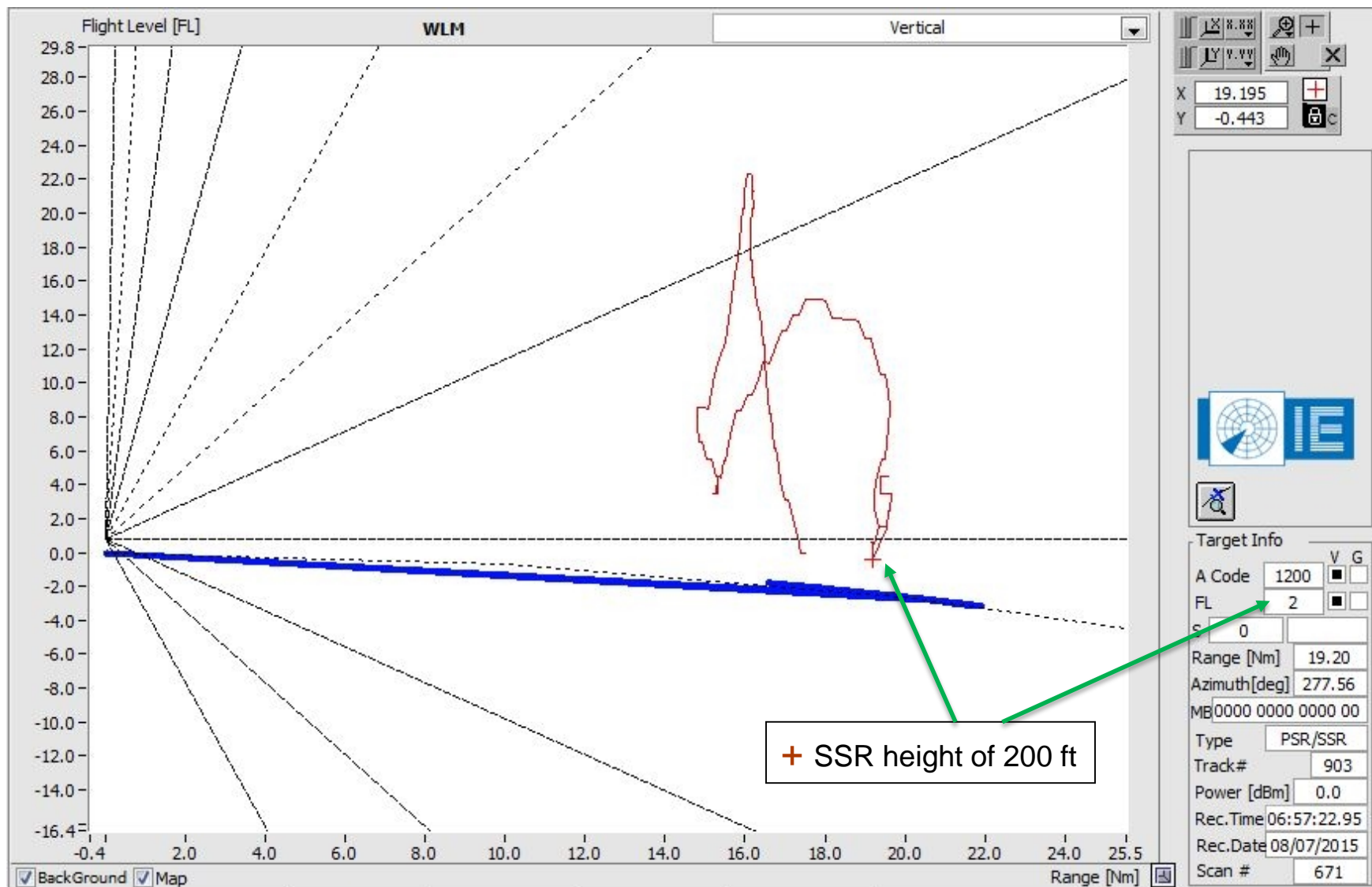
Range vs recording time



Velocity vs recording time



Vertical / Range vs Search and Rescue Aircraft





Radar data continues to be an important tool in aviation safety investigations
Thank you for your attention