

**No dig, no ride**

**Maintaining DIY designed bike trails**

**Liam Healy, EASST 2022**

# 1. From 'action' to maintenance



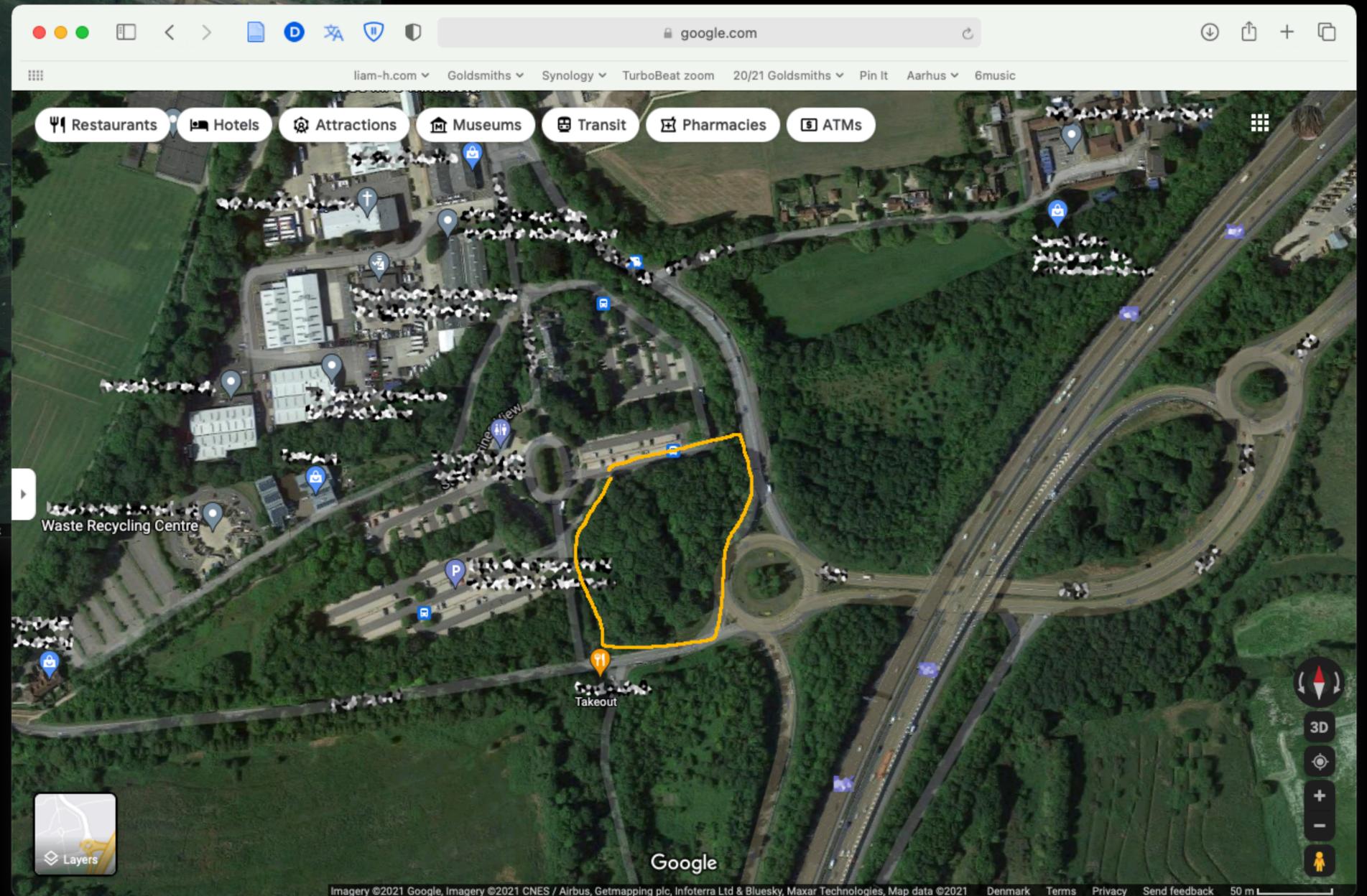
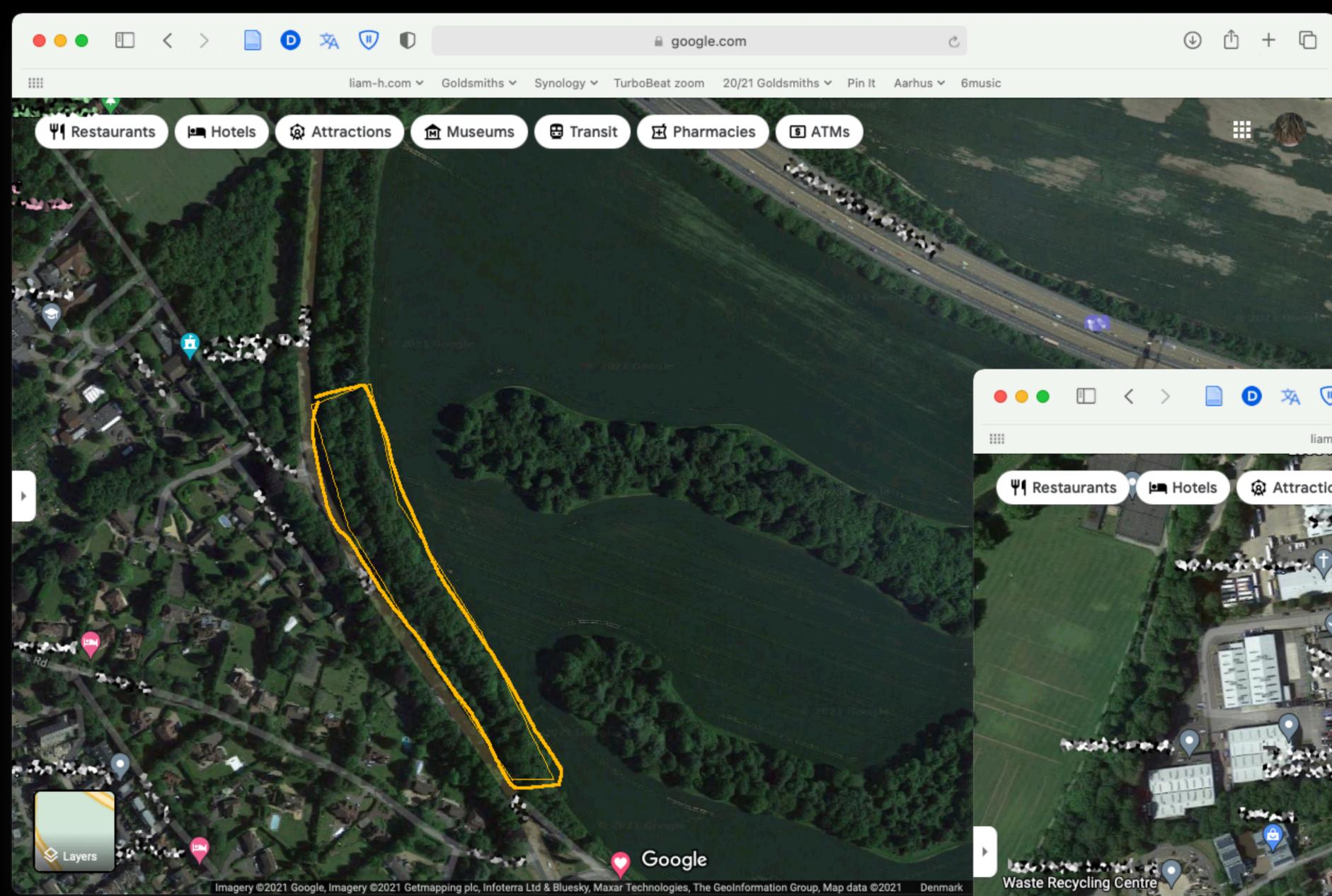
[At Posh] there isn't a lot of creative input necessary, I'm like the  
Caretaker,

[...]

in the grand scheme of things, it's probably like 70% caretaking and  
30% riding.

**Brian (Posh Woods, Pennsylvania, USA)**

## 2. Spaces left over after planning



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Revolution Bike Park

Restaurants Hotels Attractions Transit Parking Pharmacies

**Revolution Bike Park**  
 4.9 ★★★★★ 553 reviews  
 Outdoor activity organiser

Directions Saved Nearby Send to your phone Share

★ Saved in Starred places  
[View list](#)

Llangynog, Oswestry SY10 0EP, United Kingdom  
 Closed today  
 Health and safety: Appointment required  
 revolutionbikepark.co.uk  
 +44 1691 860965

Layers

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Posh woods

Restaurants Hotels Attractions Transit Parking Pharmacies ATMs

**Posh Woods**  
 4.7 ★★★★★ 7 reviews  
 BMX park

Directions Save Nearby Send to phone Share

Bethlehem, PA 18020, United States  
 JMR8+C3 Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, USA  
 Claim this business  
 Add a label  
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Add missing information

- Add place's phone number
- Add hours
- Add website

Layers

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Holmen Dirt Jump n Pump Track

Restaurants Hotels Attractions Transit Parking Pharmacies

**Holmen Dirt Jump n Pump Track**  
4.7 ★★★★★ 21 reviews  
Sports complex

Directions Saved Nearby Send to your phone Share

Saved in Trails for research  
Add note View list

1436 Copenhagen  
1436 København  
Open now: Open 24 hours  
holmendirt.dk  
26 31 78 88

Netto Airtame Fitness World CSR - Nanok Rugby Klub Hal C closed Landsforbundet DUI-LEG og VIRKE Spejdercenter Holmen K-polo Christiania Strand

Paul Schwartz Zen Spaces

Halvtov Arsenalvej Nordområdet

Google

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The screenshot shows the Trash Free Trails website. The browser address bar displays "trashfreetrails.org". The navigation menu includes "CLEAN TRAILS", "EDUCATION", "RESEARCH", and "COMMUNITY", along with social media icons for Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook. A "DONATE" button is also visible.

# HALLOWEEN TRAIL CLEAN TOUR

22 - 31ST OCTOBER 2021

TAKE PART →

Logos for sponsors: COTSWOLD outdoor, TREK, BOSCH, THE NORTH FACE, eOCA, and Red Bull.

**WE EXIST TO PROTECT OUR TRAILS AND THE WILD PLACES THEY TAKE US.**

**OUR MISSION**  
To reduce single-use pollution (aka; litter!) on our trails and wild places by 75% by 2025 and (re)connect people with nature through purposeful adventure.

**DIO**  
To encourage and empower each other to DO IT OURSELVES (DIO). We can all make a

Open "https://www.trashfreetrails.org/halloween-trail-clean-tour" in a new tab

# 3. Neglected things vs secrets: Exclusion as maintenance practice



**‘You didn't go down there unless you knew somebody, or you got the OK from somebody. So, there are a lot of stories about [locals] yelling, “get out of here”, “you got to dig!”’**

**Brian**

**‘when trails get ploughed, people's lives stop for a long time. Something died, [they] lost something that [they] invested so much into. People don't get that unless you have a spot ploughed. You have no idea what that feels like. [...] when people are so protective of trails and people coming in, it's because of that experience of loss.’**

**Carley (Multiple spots, Pennsylvania, USA)**



# Google Lens



TAKE CARE OF

DIRT JUMP PARK

Danish



English



DO NOT CLIMB ON JUMPS AND

LANDINGS

• DON'T GRAVE AND DESTROY JUMPS

AND LANDINGS

• PLEASE MAINTAIN

- BUT DO NOT REPAIR

NEW JUMPS AND LINES CAN

BE MADE ON THE GREAT

AREA OUTSIDE THE

MAINTAINED JUMPS AND

LANDINGS



## Rules of order for Aarhus Dirt Jump Park

- Crawling or running around on the jumps is forbidden - it causes the ground to slip off the sides and significantly burdens the maintenance work
- All tracks are unidirectional, ie. you pull / cycle back to the start next to the tracks and do NOT drive back by the same road you have driven down.
- Helmet, gloves and knee pads are recommended.
- All types of motor vehicles are prohibited for use in the area.
- Take your rubbish with home animals and pawnbrokers rummage through the rubbish bins and leave a mess, so we no longer have rubbish bins in the park.
- The park is maintained by a small number of volunteer enthusiasts, so show respect and take care of the park.
- In the event of an accident, the park's address is Paludan Müllers Vej 112, 8200 Aarhus N.

Commons are structured by relations of care rather than ownership. They emerge from entanglement with, rather than separation from, an often hostile environment. To create such different relationships, commons need adapted (technological) infrastructures, and they bring forth their specific institutional forms. This, it is important to stress, does not create ideal situations or replicable models, but practical tools, experiences and stories through which to think, because, 'it matters what stories tell stories'.

(Sollfrank et al., 2021:22)

CATTY X POSH



AUGUST 28TH | CATTY WOODS  
AUGUST 29TH | POSH WOODS



# 4. Change of the guard: Caring for emergent participation

**There's this fear that there's going to be a disconnect that when this group of legendary trail builders are all done [...] who's going to come up and take over the trails?!**

**Carley**

**From the start we didn't want to get picked up by the commune too much... But then, you know, if we do it like that, you don't get to grow, you don't get to get really good facilities.**

**Behroz (Holmen Dirt, Copenhagen, Denmark)**



Maintenance not neutral(!)

Rules and governance dictated by the communities key to maintenance

Secrecy can be paramount to its maintenance.

Political structures shifting from local 'elders' to traditional forms of politics.

**Thanks!**