Introducing Debrief-Lite

July 2019

Background

The original ***Debrief*** application was created in 1995, and grew over the years to include a range of tactical maritime analysis capabilities. It is now the workhorse that powers many deep analysis tasks.

But, the full version of ***Debrief*** brings a learning curve, leaving it unsuited to ad-hoc analysis tasking or for use by untrained users.

In late 2018 DeepBlueC.com was engaged to develop ***Debrief-Lite***, a slimline application targeted at infrequent analysts.

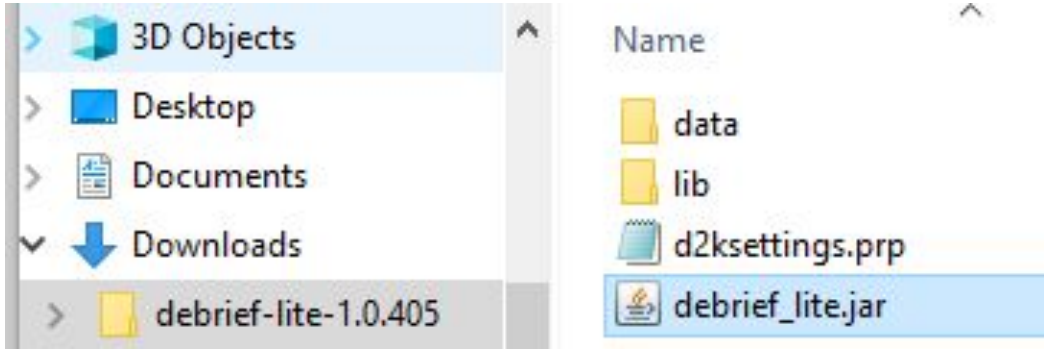
Installing Debrief-Lite

It is most likely that analysts will encounter Debrief-Lite already installed on their PCs/laptops. But, if Debrief-Lite has been obtained independently, the following steps are required:

1. Install Java on the device (64-bit Java Version 8.0 or later is recommended). Find Java here: https://adoptopenjdk.net/

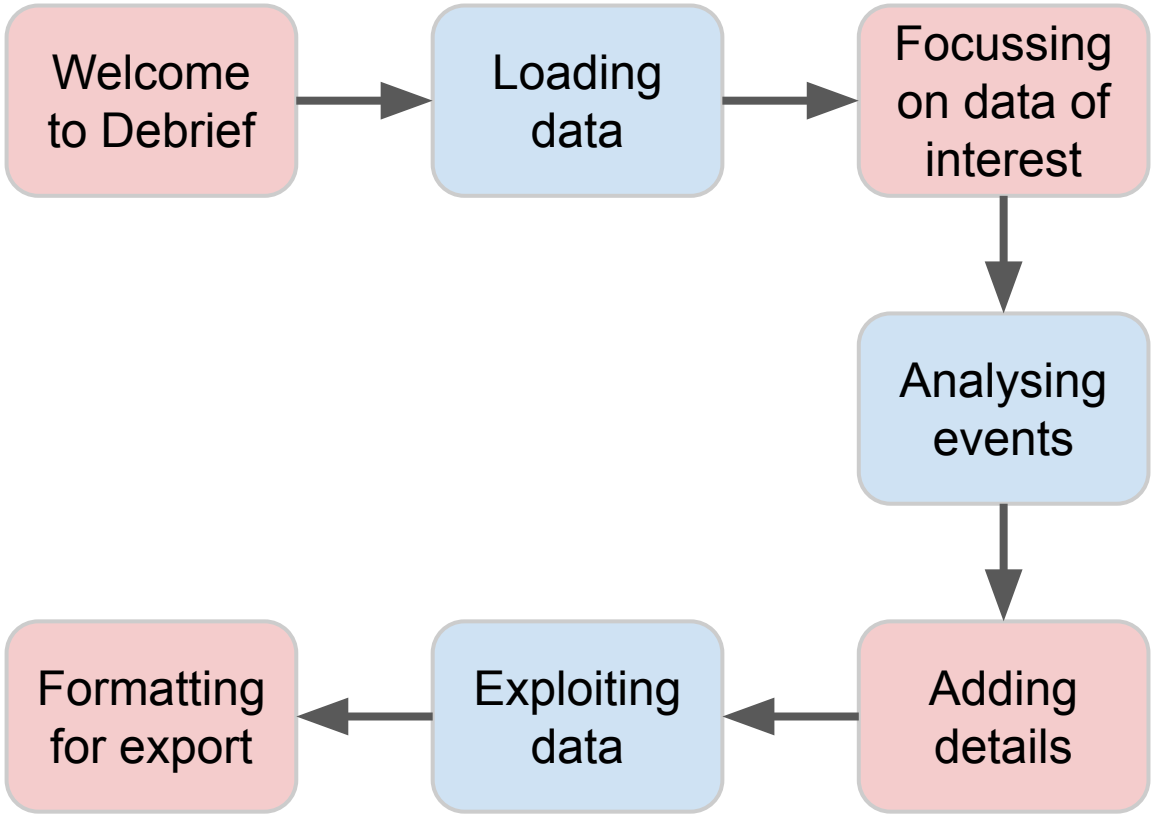
2. Unzip the Debrief-Lite zip file into a suitable location

3. Double-click on **`Debrief-Lite.jar`**

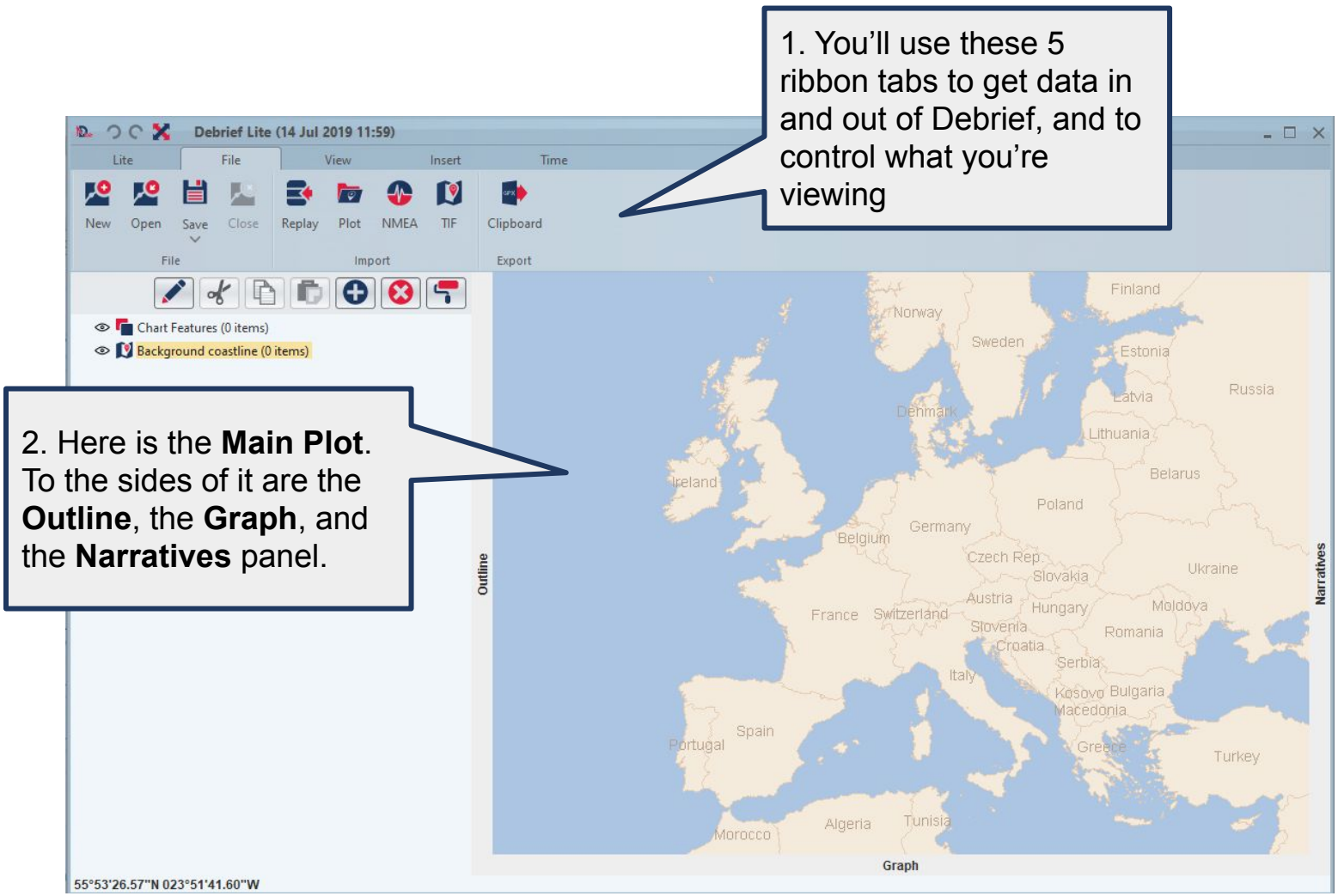


A walk-through Debrief features

Here's how we're going to break down Debrief-Lite functionality

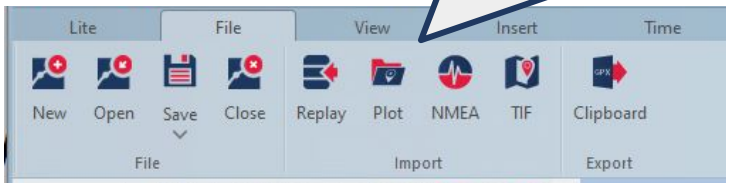


Welcome to Debrief

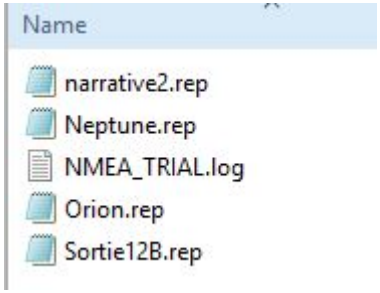


Loading data

1. Debrief-Lite can load a range of data-types, as shown in the import tab. Click on an icon to open the file dialog, or drag a suitable file into Debrief

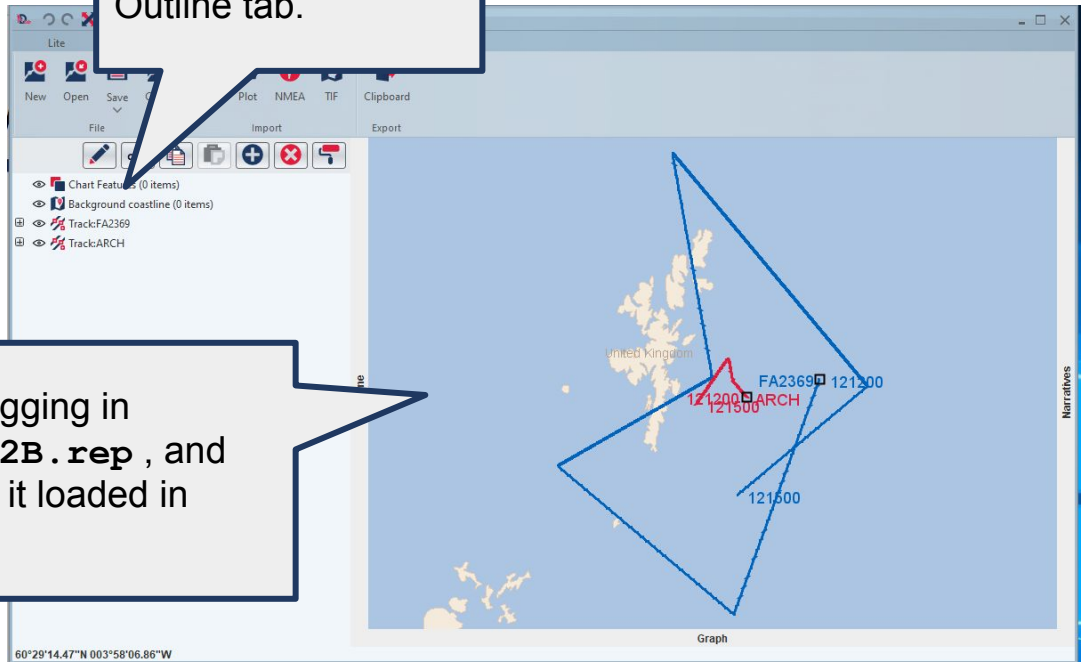


2. The app also comes with some sample data, in the sub-folder titled: **`data/tracks`**



3. Try dragging in **`Sortie12B.rep`** , and you'll see it loaded in Debrief

4. Note the two new tracks shown in the Outline tab.

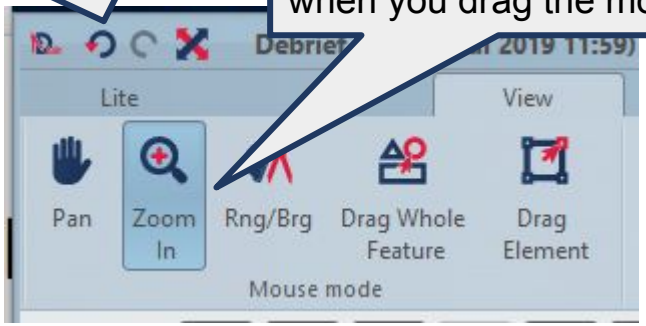


Focussing on data of interest

1. Click on the ***eye*** icon to switch tracks (or layers) on and off

2. After you've edited something (such as changing its visibility) the Undo/Redo buttons become available for use.

3. Toggle between the mouse modes on the ***View*** menu - they control what happens when you drag the mouse



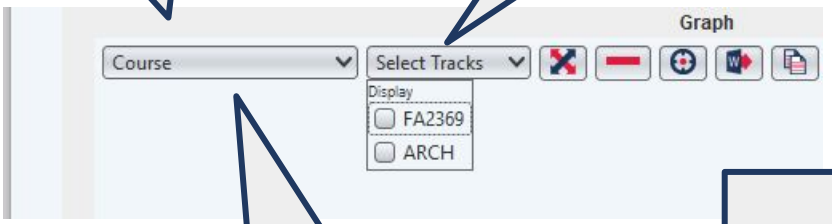
4. Focus on a smaller period of the sortie by dragging the ***Filter to time*** controls.

Analysing events - 1

1. To view a graph of the sortie, start by double-clicking on the ***Graph*** bar.

2. Once it's open, indicate which tracks you want to view

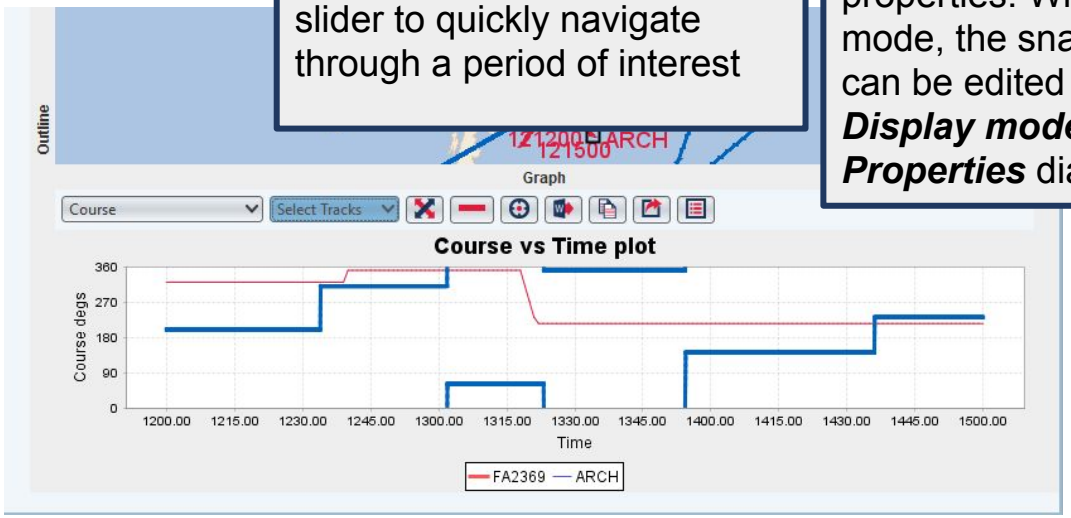
4. Use the VCR-style controls on the ***Time*** tab to move through the sortie - you can also switch between the two ***Display Modes*** to help focus.



5. Alternatively, drag the time slider to quickly navigate through a period of interest

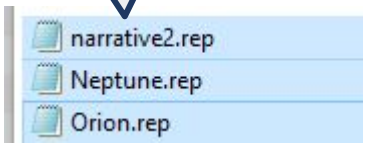
6. Edit step times via the time properties. When in ***Snail*** mode, the snail trail length can be edited using ***Edit Display mode***, in the ***Time Properties*** dialog.

3. Next, indicate what you want to view. Note: for calculated datasets, you may have to go back into the ***Tracks*** drop-down, do indicate which track the calculations are relative to.



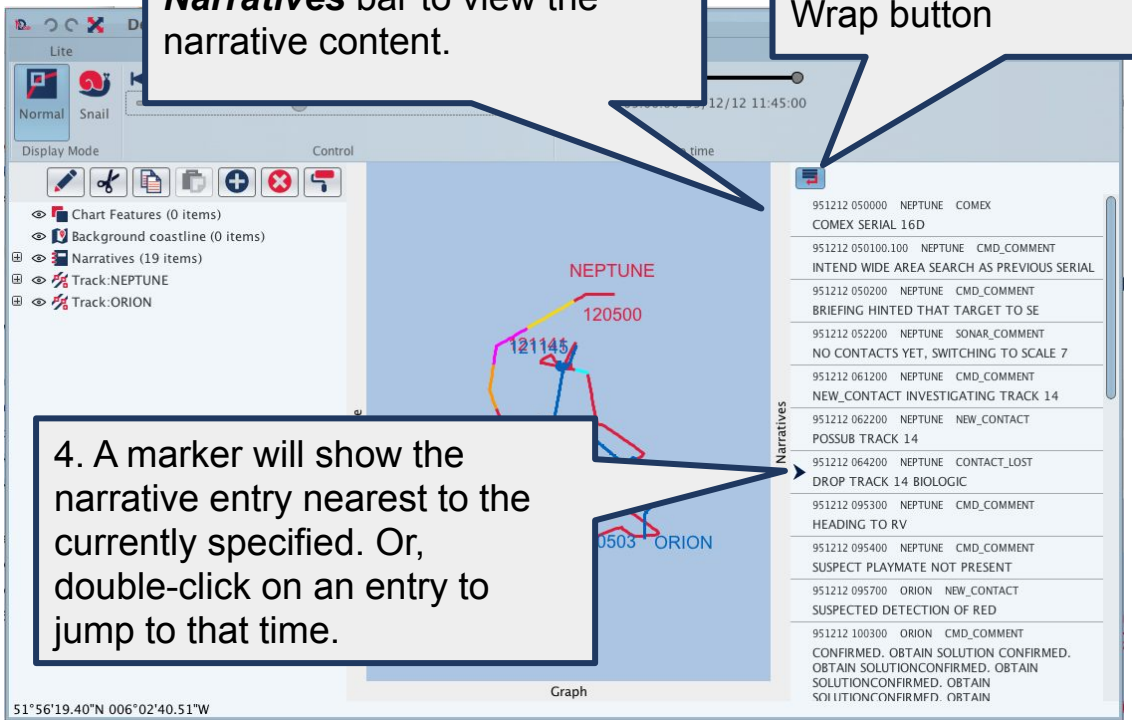
Analysing events - 2

1. In addition to viewing graphs of data, you can also view narrative content. In the sample data folder are two tracks, with supporting narrative.



2. Double-click on the ***Narratives*** bar to view the narrative content.

3. Control how much data you can see by toggling the Word Wrap button

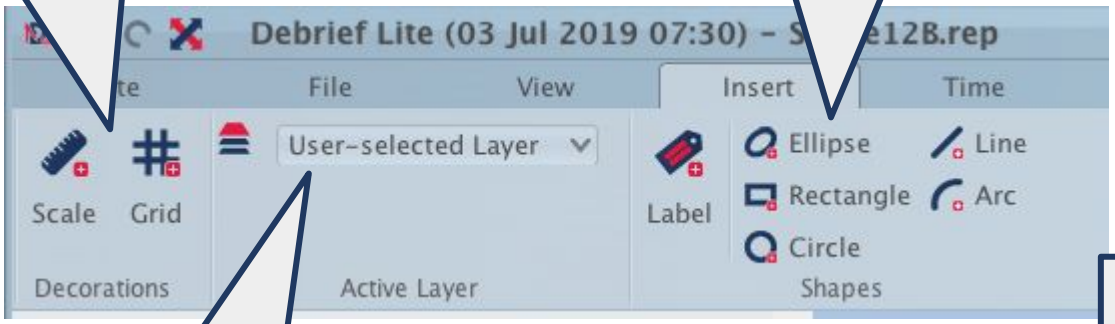


4. A marker will show the narrative entry nearest to the currently specified. Or, double-click on an entry to jump to that time.

Adding details

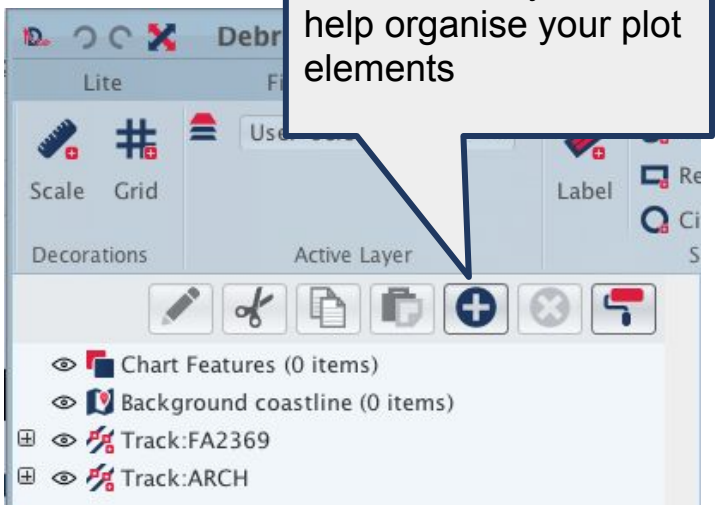
1. Adding a ***Scale*** or ***Grid*** can help you appreciate distance on the plot

2. Adding ***Shapes*** can add useful context when you're reporting on a serial



3. Either select the target layer for shapes to be dropped in, or indicate to Debrief-Lite that wish to choose the layer each time

4. Add new layers to help organise your plot elements

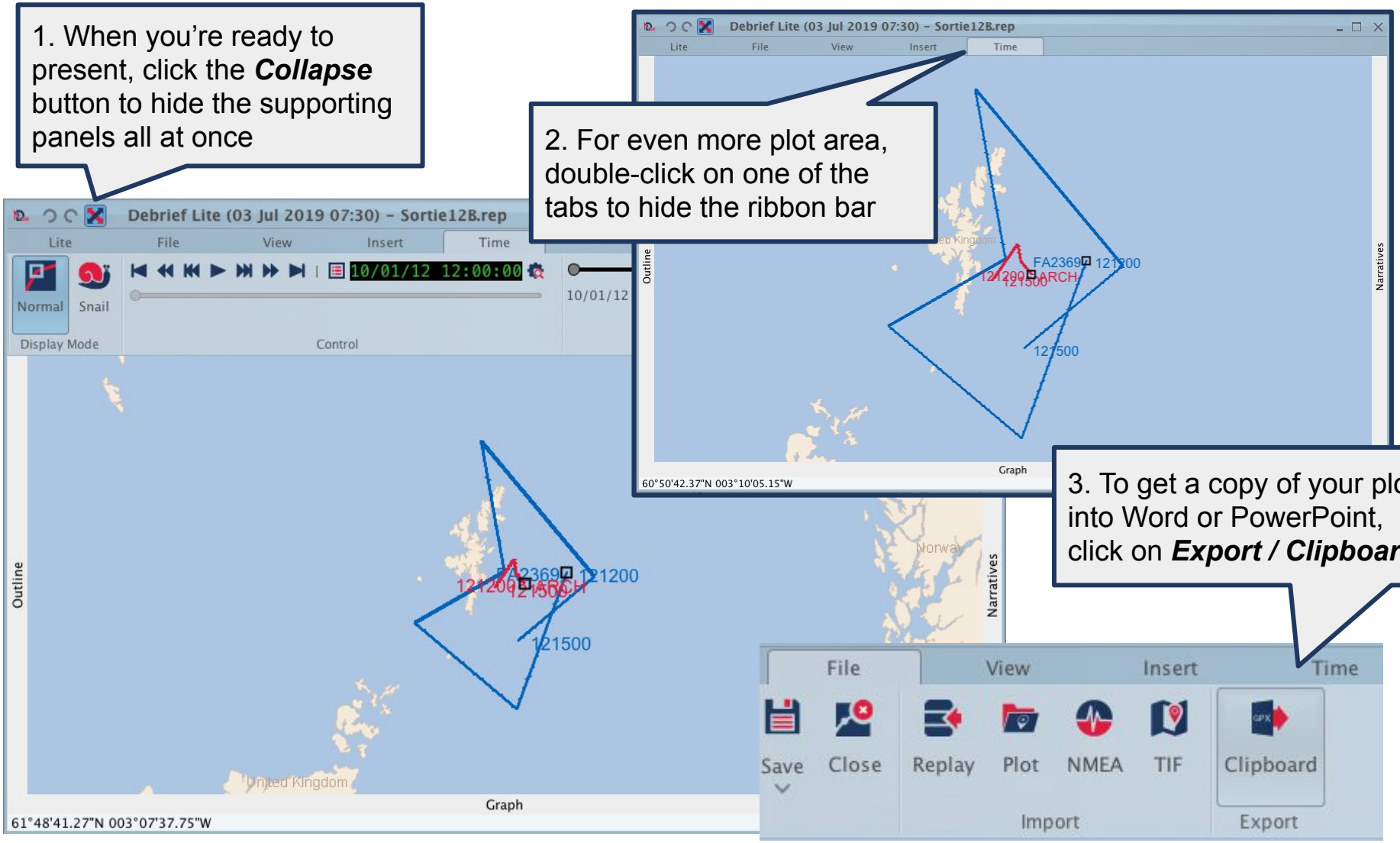


Exploiting data

1. When you're ready to present, click the ***Collapse*** button to hide the supporting panels all at once

2. For even more plot area, double-click on one of the tabs to hide the ribbon bar

3. To get a copy of your plot into Word or PowerPoint, click on ***Export / Clipboard***.

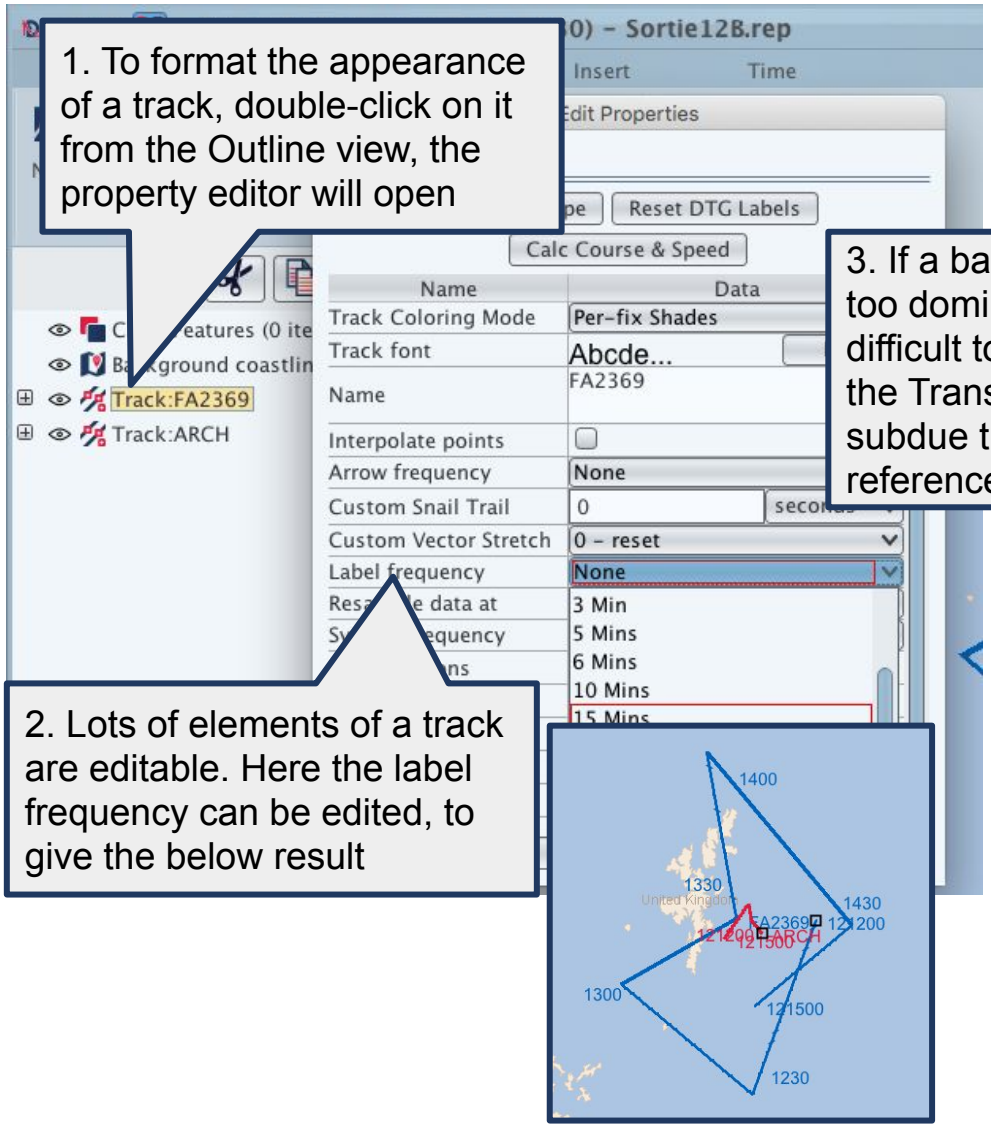


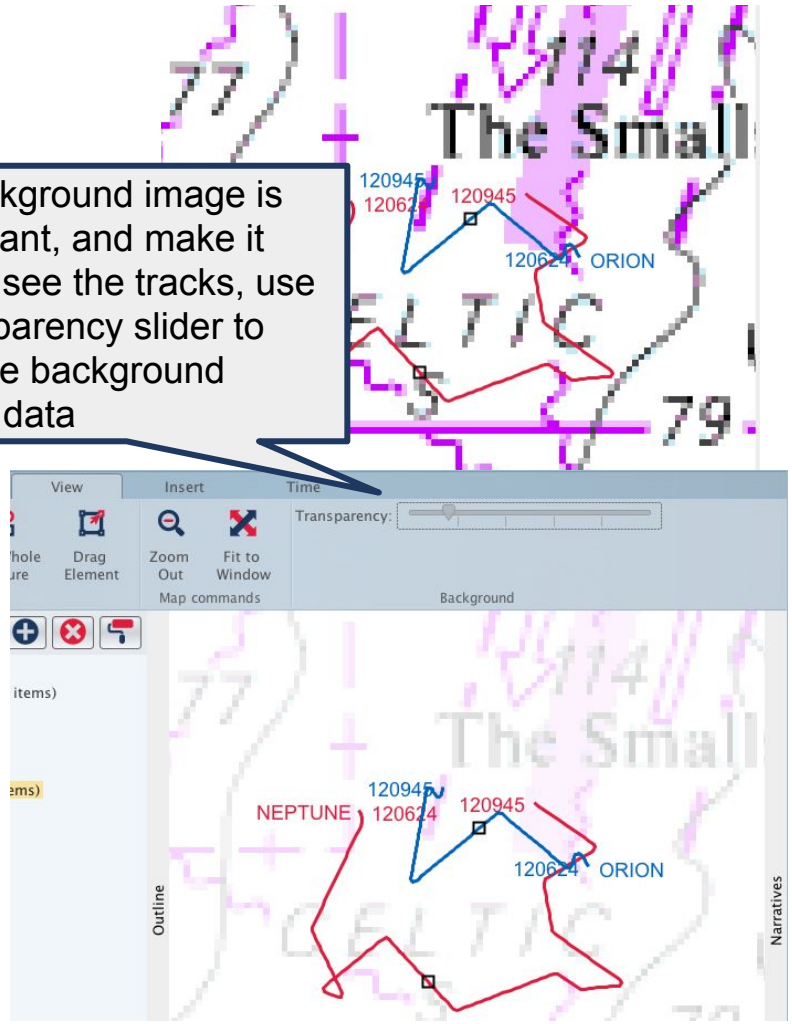
Formatting for export

1. To format the appearance of a track, double-click on it from the Outline view, the property editor will open

2. Lots of elements of a track are editable. Here the label frequency can be edited, to give the below result

3. If a background image is too dominant, and make it difficult to see the tracks, use the Transparency slider to subdue the background reference data





Tips

Performance

1. High volume tracks (either very frequent or covering a long period) can be slow in Debrief. If you analysis permits, you can resample a track from it's property editor.
2. Alternatively, filter the data to a shorter time period, to keep it manageable.
3. If a large track is making Snail trail performance poor, reduce the snail trail length