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So emotional

David Smith took a stroll through the countryside and bustled down crowded city streets with 'fingercuffs' strapped to one hand and a GPS in the other. Why? It's all about 'emotion mapping' - technology which enables us to record our emotional journeys each step of the way.



Starting out

The GPS handset shows me that three satellites are orbiting the earth and getting a fix on little old me. On my left hand are the fingercuffs monitoring how much I sweat. Right now, not a lot, it's a crisp day in Cotswolds farming country.



At the crossroads

Putting my best foot forward in Bibury, even I can get over this obstacle without too much stress. But an 'indecision spike' on the graph is just around the corner: so many public footpath options, which one to choose?



What the map says

The highs and lows of going walkabout in Bibury, jewel in Gloucestershire's crown. The peaks came for a variety of reasons - talking to a stranger, deciding where to turn next, perhaps just the sweet sound of birdsong. The chart is closer to 'flatlining'

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while taking a simple walk from one end of a field to the other, in harmony with nature, apparently.



In the country

Ah, the picture postcard bliss of 14th century Arlington Row in Bibury, the quintessential Cotswolds. Not much emotion mapping here, as I stroll casually without a care in the world. But are those net curtains twitching as neighbours ask who's the guy with the funny looking wires?



Who's watching who?

A leap on the emotion map here as I'm being watched in Hackney, and stare right back. Moments later, a few innocuous words were exchanged and I continued on my way. It's good to talk, after all. But that traffic is noisy and keeps you on your toes.



Mean streets

Striding the mean streets of Hackney's murder mile, onlookers could be forgiven for wondering what this gadget geek is up to. Some sort of traffic warden perhaps? I think it's best not to debate with those hanging about outside one of upper and lower Clapton Road's many convenience stores. Must keep calm.

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Intrepidly I find my way through the urban jungle of Hackney's 'murder mile'. I keep my eyes fixed in front of me like a wary animal. But what I don't know is that a billboard just around the

corner brings news that would

Billboard tension



Stress peaks

stress anyone.

Here's the finished product, a combination of Google Earth's 3D map of the Murder Mile, plus Christian Nold's clever arousal-monitoring technology. The sustained series of peaks came not because I was mugged but the more mundane reason that men were digging up the road, forcing me to take a detour. Ah, diddums.

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