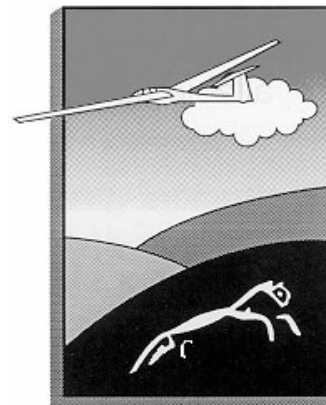


Vale of White Horse Gliding Centre

Tel: 01793 783685
e-mail: vowhgc@email.com
Website: <http://www.swindongliding.co.uk>
Sandhill Farm Airfield,
Shrivenham, Swindon.



General Information

The Vale of White Horse Gliding Centre (VoWHGC) is based at Sandhill Farm Airfield which is about 5 miles north east of Swindon, off the B4000 Shrivenham - Highworth road (see map).

The Club has about 50 members. It owns two twin-seat training gliders and two single-seaters for members' use and a light aircraft for aerotowing. The Club flies each weekend and Bank Holidays all year round, weather permitting. In summer we also operate some weekdays. Visitors and new members are welcome.

Gliding at Sandhill

VoWHGC is a member of the British Gliding Association (BGA) and we observe their strict operational regulations. This means that our aircraft are subject to regular Airworthiness checks and our instructors are properly trained and qualified, so you will be taught to fly safely and surely.

Flying solo is likely to be your first aim and you will be given every encouragement to achieve this quickly. A beginner's progress varies from person to person but, on average, trainees can expect to go solo after 10 - 15 hours of regular training and practice. After going solo, pilots are taught how to stay aloft (for several hours) using rising currents of air and to navigate so that they can make cross-country journeys.

Our normal method of launching is by aerotow, where the glider is towed behind a small power plane. Both rise gently aloft until the glider pilot chooses to release; this enables the glider go to any height and to locations away from the airfield. This allows trainee pilots plenty of time to appreciate the experience of flight and to familiarise themselves with the use of controls.

The Club is owned and run by its members who, along with the Club's instructors and officers, give their time free. Members are trained to undertake all the tasks essential to the flying and launching operations safely; these will include handling and inspecting aircraft, signalling, log-keeping, operating and maintaining equipment and doing essential paperwork. This helps you to get to know people and gives experience of all the aspects of gliding.

How to Start

Write, phone or e-mail, or better still, come out and see us any weekend; visitors are always welcome. We'll show you around, try to answer your questions and give you the opportunity of a trial lesson to see for yourself what gliding is about. If there's a group of you, we may be able to arrange a special flying evening to provide trial lessons and form part of a social outing.

On arrival at the airfield, you should seek out a Club member at the launch point, which you will be able to identify by gliders waiting to be launched. You should enter your name on the flying list, flights are normally offered in rotation. A training lesson comprises about 20 minutes' flying (dependant on the "thermals"). You will normally be launched by aerotow and once aloft you will get the chance to fly yourself under instruction.

There is no upper age limit and the medical requirements are similar to those needed to drive a car. Our gliders do have size and weight limits and we may have difficulty accommodating people taller than 2 metres or heavier than 120kg (if you are unsure, ring and ask). Persons under 18 must have a parent or guardian's signed permission before flying with us.

We have Clubhouse facilities and amenities, but gliding is primarily an outdoor activity so you are advised to dress accordingly. Ladies may find it more convenient to wear trousers rather than skirts since the gliders don't have doors and you have to climb in and out.

Launch Fees

Aerotow (2000ft) £ 21.00

Use of club gliders £ 15/hr.

Trial Lesson: £55.00 - includes 2 months membership.

Membership Fees

Full £175.00 per year

Junior £ 75.00 (incl. £50 flight vouchers)

How to find us:

