

The Vale of White Horse Gliding Centre



VISITOR SAFETY

Please read these notes immediately

Safety First

We want you to have a very enjoyable visit to our airfield, and hope it will be the beginning of a lasting interest in gliding, however our first concern is your safety.

Airfields are by their nature, potentially dangerous places; however, by following a few simple guidelines you will be able to avoid any hazards.

Entering the airfield.

You will enter the site from the B4000. Once you're on the airfield, follow the access road - once it turns to grass, keep driving until you reach the designated parking area. You should then proceed to the clubhouse on foot keeping well clear of any moving aircraft or gliders. Landings can occur in any part of the airfield so keep a good lookout at all times.

Getting to and from the launch point

Please ask a club member to escort you from the clubhouse to the launch point. In the unlikely event that there is nobody at the clubhouse proceed on foot keeping as close to the fence or hedge as reasonably possible, and do not stop to sightsee on the way. This will keep you well away from the paths of gliders that may be launching or landing. It is best to keep pets in your vehicle and to keep children close-by whilst on the airfield.

Before entering or crossing the airfield, take a good lookout for gliders or our tug (a powered aircraft with a rope attached to its tail) which may be landing. You should do this by looking over the fence or hedge to see if any aircraft are approaching the airfield (on "finals" for landing). If they are, then wait for them to land before you start to cross. If you are already crossing then either return to the clubhouse or proceed briskly to the launch point so that you are clear of the line of the landing aircraft before they arrive at the airfield. Keeping a good lookout is particularly important since gliders are almost silent.

Once you get to the launch point, introduce yourself to one of the club members and they will provide you with further information about viewing our operations or flying with us. To return to the car park, cross the field in the same careful manner.

General Safety Guidelines

- **Keep to the edges of the airfield**, do not walk out towards or onto the middle at any time, gliders are very quiet. And you may not see or hear a landing glider.

- **Propellers are dangerous**, keep well clear of the front of all powered aircraft that may be using the airfield, whether or not the engines are running, they can start quite quickly.
- **Don not walk in front of any gliders** which are lined up facing towards the other end of the airfield or have their wings held level – they may be waiting to launch.
- **Follow the advice of club members** at the launch point and elsewhere who will advise you of where you will be safe.
- If you take a flight in one of our gliders then it is important that you **walk back with your instructor and the glider to the launch point after landing. – family and friends must not run up the airfield to meet you;** they may only go to the glider, for instance to take photographs, if permission has been given by one of our members.
- We launch our gliders by aerotow; the gliders are towed up behind a powered aircraft of a rope until they reach sufficient height to find thermals, typically about 2000' above the airfield. Keep well clear of all ropes and cables, even if they appear to be lying safely on the ground.
- Aircraft can pass quite close to the track at the narrowest point on the airfield, so do not dawdle or linger at this point.
- Common sense goes a long way towards ensuring safety on an airfield. Before you do anything, think whether it may expose you or your party to any danger. If you cannot see anybody else doing what you are thinking of doing, check with any club member to make sure it is safe before you do it. It is better to be safe than sorry.
- Should you suffer any form of accident, or see one occur, or if you see anything which you think could expose anyone to danger then please speak to a club member as a matter of urgency.

Finally – enjoy your visit

Now that we've covered the key points lets return to the central point of your visit. We want you to enjoy your time with us, so let us know what you would like to see, to learn about or do, and we'll do our best to make sure your visit fulfils your aims and provides a pleasant and memorable experience. We hope that you'll enjoy it so much that you will want to visit us again, and perhaps join as a member and learn to fly.