

Parachute Sites

BGGC Airspace Notes are articles produced by experienced Club instructors and pundits. The commentary provides information about local airspace operations and any special arrangements the Club may have in place.

Parachuting and Gliders

Parachuting has become much more popular in recent years and far more dangerous to the gliding community. Most parachuting used to be below cloud base, there was very little free falling and the operations were visible. Now free falling from over 10,000 feet is common, with parachutists often dropping from above and through cloud where they cannot be seen. Free falling parachutists are falling at around 100 knots; it is extremely unlikely to see them before they hit you. The only safe option is to keep clear of the parachute sites.

Prominent Parachute Sites

The most active sites are listed below and their zones must never be entered unless you get definite confirmation that they are not operating. This is especially apt with WOG and Hinton, which also operate gliders.

- **South Cerney**
Brize Norton (119.0 MHz) know if they are active but will often say "active all day".
- **Weston on the Green**
Oxford Gliding Club operates from the same airfield and may tell you about parachuting activity on 130.1 MHz. Brize Norton (119.0 MHz) know if they are active but will often say "active all day".
- **Hinton in the Hedges**
A very busy commercial operation. A collision between a parachutist and a Ka 8 occurred in 2002, it was fatal for both. Free fall parachutists recently came within a few feet of 3 gliders. The glider pilots are being prosecuted as the parachutists read their numbers. Hinton have a telescope that enables them to read glider's numbers at up to 6,000 feet.
- **Redlands**
Just SE of Swindon. Generally operate intermittently on Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Try calling them on 129.825 (the Microlight frequency) Lyneham (123.4 MHz) know if they are active but will often say "active all day".
- **Sibson**
West of Peterborough Very active, frequency on 1/2 M Map.
- **Langar**
Just NE of the East Midlands Zone. Very active.

It is strongly recommend that everyone who flies cross-country has a GPS with airspace on it, which will show all airspace boundaries as well as the parachute sites.

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