

We always welcome friends and family to Brentor, but anyone coming to watch should be aware of airfield safety procedures. Whilst at the launch-point they must stay behind the safety chain. If they would like to get a 'better photo', they should tell the duty pilot who will see if it's possible to get them closer to the glider whilst accompanied by someone experienced in launch procedures.

When you have to reluctantly tear yourself away to go off and do something more mundane, tell someone at the launch-point you would like to go back to the clubhouse and they will arrange for a lift. Please don't be tempted to try and walk along the runway.

We hope you enjoyed your visit. Do come and see us again soon!



[www.dartmoorgliding.co.uk](http://www.dartmoorgliding.co.uk)

**Dartmoor Gliding Society is a Community Amateur Sports Club  
supported by West Devon Borough Council**

Photographs courtesy of Kelly College & DGS



## **DARTMOOR GLIDING SOCIETY**

### ***WELCOMES YOU TO BRENTOR AIRFIELD!***

Brentor Airfield is the home of the Dartmoor Gliding Society. We hope you enjoy your visit and invite you to read these notes about our operations. They explain the procedures used to launch and recover gliders. Gliding is not dangerous, but there are some potential hazards on the airfield best avoided. The idea is to explain why we do things rather than just give a list of 'dos and don'ts'.



When you arrive, please leave your vehicle in the car park. If that's not possible, ask someone to show you where else you can park. The airfield is used constantly by gliders and towing vehicles, so you must not drive on to the runway. When you leave your vehicle, make sure you take everything you need with you. It must be stressed that for reasons of safety, dogs are not allowed on the airfield. Dartmoor weather can be fickle, so it may be worth taking a jacket or sweater.

Soft drinks and snacks are available in the clubhouse. There are toilets there but there aren't any at the launch-point. When you are ready, make your way up the slope and wait at the 'Pick-up Point'. Someone will come and take you out to the launch-point. Don't be tempted to walk on to the runway, there's a lot going on out there!

To launch the gliders we use powerful diesel winches. They have two sets of stranded steel cable with a breaking strain of one ton. It is 1,000 yards from the winch to the glider— almost the full length of the runway. You should never touch the winch cables unless you are being shown by a club member. Using them in turn, a cable is connected to the glider and the winch then draws it into the air. From stationary, a glider accelerates to 60 mph in around 4 seconds. The pilot releases the cable when the glider is about 1,000 feet above the airfield.

After every two launches, the cables have to be towed from the winch back to the launch-point using a trolley pulled by a Land Rover. The canvas parachutes enable the winch-driver to pull the cable in smoothly after it is released from the glider.



The people operating the winches and launch-point are trained in the procedures that make sure the gliders are launched properly. Please pay attention to their instructions as they ensure the safety of everyone on the airfield. When you are not involved in flying, make sure to stay behind the safety-chain. Your instructor will give you a briefing before you fly and it is important to remember that when going out to the glider, you must not walk in front of one that is about to be launched.



It is quite something to experience silent flight from the front seat of a glider. Flight times can vary, but they often last 10 – 15 minutes. If the weather is right, they might be longer. Whatever the time aloft, you will be excited when you land, but don't be tempted to dash across the runway, yours may not be the only aircraft around. Gliders make very little noise coming in to land, but you should be aware that one could be approaching the airfield at over 50 mph. It means they can get to where you are quicker than you think!

Walking alongside your glider as it is towed to the launch-point, you may be asked to steady the wingtip – don't worry, it's not heavy.

So, how did you enjoy your flight? It was that good – great! Then why don't you have another go?