



South East Wales Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club Ltd

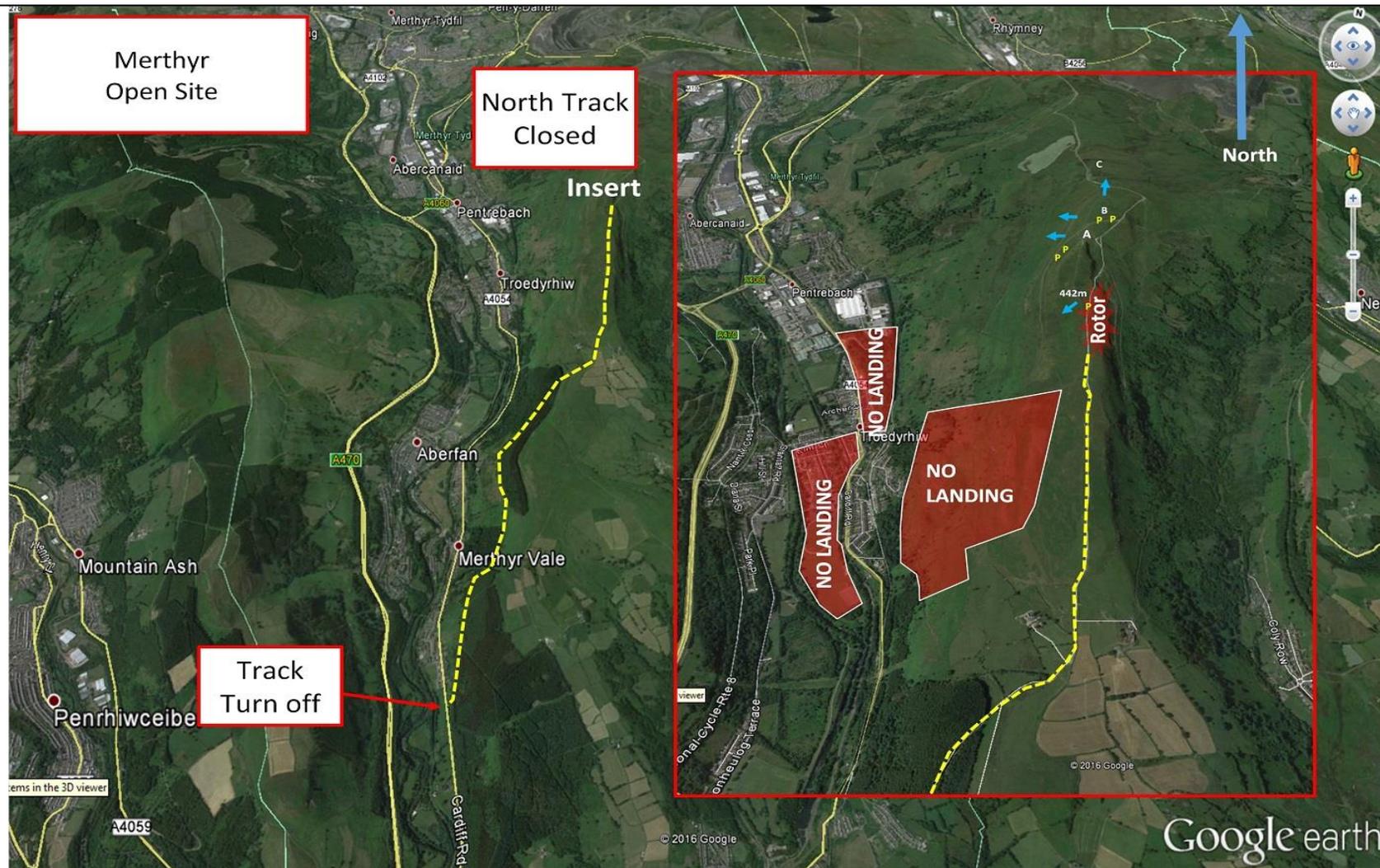
Document Title: Merthyr Site Guide

Reference Number: SG0012

Rev:

2

Site Image:





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Site Latitude:	N51.724323	Height ASL Meters:	430m
Site Longitude:	W003.3357105	Height ASL Feet:	1440ft
Wind Direction:	WNW – WSW & N	Height Top to Bottom Meters:	275m
Best Direction:	W	Height Top to Bottom Feet:	900ft
Minimum BHPA Rating Hang Glidierg:	BHPA CP rating	Members Status:	Open Site
Minimum BHPA Rating Paragliding:	BHPA CP rating	OS Grid Reference and Prefix:	SO 078 038

Parking 1		Parking 3	
Latitude:	N51.723944	Latitude:	N/A
Longitude:	W003.335460	Longitude:	N/A
Parking 2		Parking 4	
Latitude:	N/A	Latitude:	N/A
Longitude:	N/A	Longitude:	N/A

Road Access:

The north track is closed and blocked off with large boulders to prevent fly tipping. The south entrance is located at co-ordinates N51.674630, W003.330329. This is located on the A4054 (Cardiff Road). The entrance is located 0.19 miles south of Merthyr Vale and 0.82 miles north of Edwardsville from the point where you exit the residential areas. At the track junction travel 3.75 miles up the rough track to the top of Merthyr common and turn left off road to the Parking area. Ensure you indicate early for the south entrance to minimise any potential road incidents as the turning is sharp, not sign posted and in a national speed limit zone.

Parking:

Do not drive up to take-off to unload. Park at the base of the mound to the south of take-off. Do not encroach onto the hang glider Landing area (A)

When operating vehicles at this site, keep an eye out for gliders coming into land. Park at the P's on the site map, co-ordinates above. Basically aside the northerly most track, or in front of the mound as per the P's on the map image.



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Take-off:

West: When rigging or inflating paraglider please watch out hang gliders overshooting the top landing. Merthyr is much steeper than Fochriw (immediately behind the hill) with a larger venturi – consequently for a given wind it may be much stronger on take-off.

North: This take-off is mainly used for training top-to-bottoms and can only accommodate 1 or 2 wings.

Southwest: A shallow take-off for hang gliders from the top of the ridge. Watch out for paragliders launching lower down.

Landing:

Top landing areas (A & B) are extensive and fairly flat. Watch out for rotor towards the top of the track on the right hand side. Paraglider slope landings can be difficult because of the steep rough ground and debris dumped in the bracken. There is no bottom landing field, but shoulder landings are possible at (C) to the north of the main ridge. This shoulder is frequently used for ab-initio training so keep a sharp lookout for beginners and try to land to the east of the track.

Top Landing General:

South East Wales sites often have very large, undefined take off and top landing areas, which may change position according to conditions. To avoid the potential for collision, pilots making a top landing should keep well away from gliders taking off, who may in some cases have limited visibility.

Flying:

A friendly site generally. The main ridge has a large capacity and can support more than 50 gliders in good conditions. Capacity falls significantly as the wind goes off to the north or south and the lift band narrows. The north face is small and primarily used for training, but can be soared in the right conditions. When going “over the back” at Merthyr, watch out for paramotors taking off or landing at Bedlinog.

Hazards:

The usual hazards associated with a cliff edge in strong winds. There can be a sharp wind gradient in the top landing area, and strong sink in the lee of the hill. Do not land too far back.



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Other Rules:

Do not land in the sports field adjacent to the railway line, unless it's an emergency.

Paramotoring:

This site can be used for paramotoring take-offs and landings, just to the north of the ridge where the ground is flattest (near C). Beware the ground can be pot holed and bumpy and considerable fly tipping may be present. Respect free flyers right to fly and do not hang around the ridge if significant free flying is taking place.

Site Status:

Open site - This site may be flown by suitably insured visiting hang glider & paraglider pilots.

Site Owners:

TBC.

Site Club Contact:

Dave Tregaskis

Site XC Potential:

This site is excellent for getting away on XC and big distances have been flown into England over the Severn

Carl Wallbank flew 338.73km on a Moyes Rx 3.5 on 24th June 2015.



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Mapping / Imagery:

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General notes:

If you require further advice about a particular SEWHGPGC site please contact a Club Coach. Please report all accidents to The Club Safety & Training Officer Steve Millson and the BHPA. Please visit the BHPA for the most current Incident Report Form.

This document is a guide only.

We advise that anyone Hang Gliding and Paragliding conduct a dynamic risk assessment prior to flying any site. This should be continuously re-assessed due to the changeable conditions of the outdoor environment.

All individuals are advised to take the following into account when making their dynamic risk assessment:

Paragliding and Hang Gliding are dangerous sports that can cause serious injury including bodily harm, paralysis and death. Flying SEW sites is undertaken with the full knowledge that Paragliding and Hang Gliding involves such risks. As the pilot you take exclusive responsibility for all risks associated with your part taking in the sport.

Any liability claims towards the club are excluded.

If you are not sure. **DO NOT FLY.**

Who to Call in an Emergency in the UK:

In the Mountains/Rivers/Lakes

Dial 999/112 and ask for the Police and then Mountain Rescue.

If you are away from the road side then dial 999/112 and ask for the Police and then Mountain Rescue explaining your circumstances.

If you cannot make voice calls, you can now contact the 999 Emergency Services by SMS. NB you must register this prior to an emergency.

In an emergency 999 need to know:

Who is Calling?

Your name and mobile number.

What?

Briefly, what is the problem, including the state of the casualty. Ensure you use the buzzword **Fall From Height** and **Remote Location**.

Where? (see page 3 for location details) Description below:

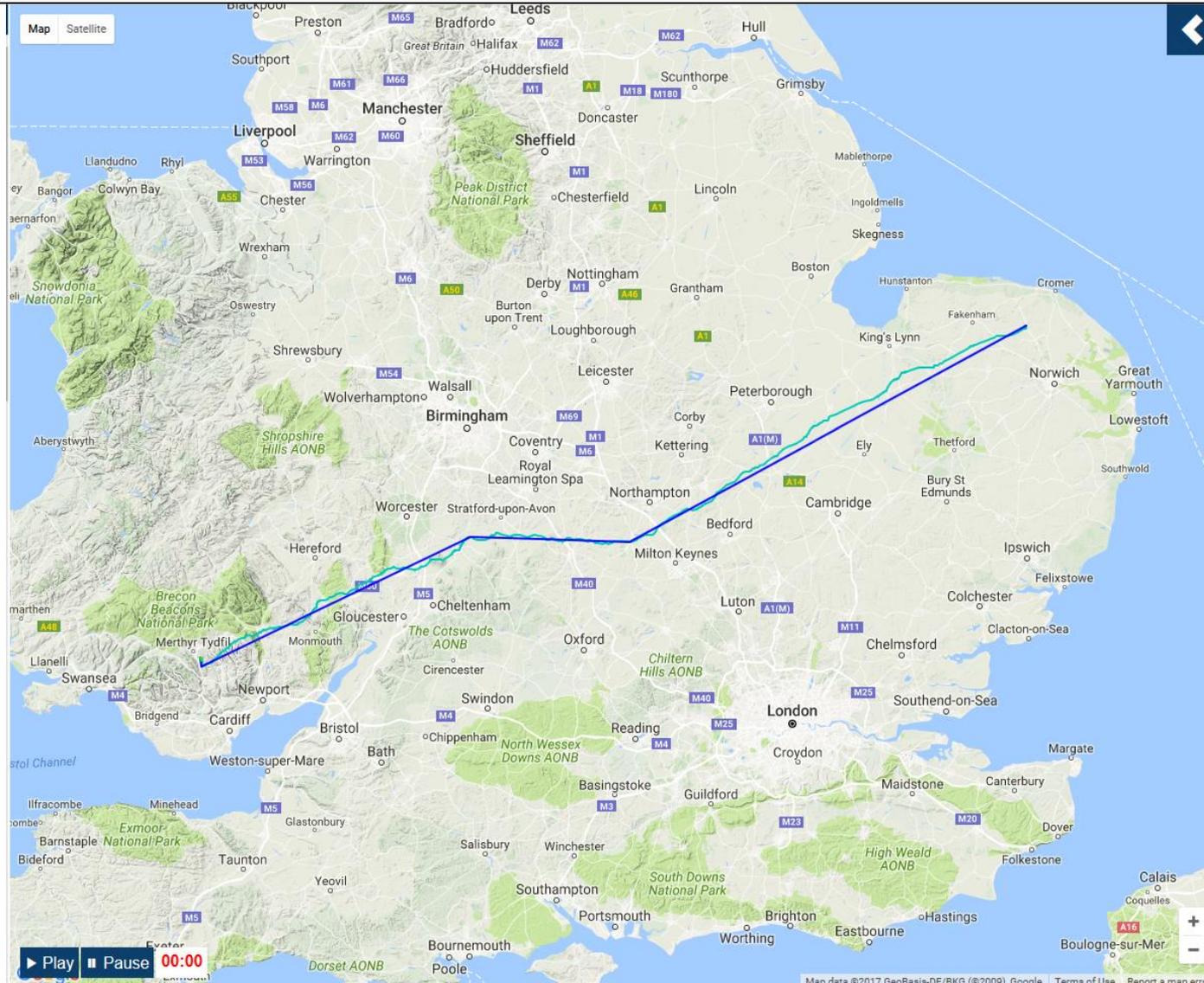
Merthyr Common East of the A470. 4.48km South East of Merthyr Tydfil.



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XC Potential Continued:





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