

Pig Hill– Site Brief

**This brief is for Duty Pilots (generally Safety Officers) to provide to all pilots.
It should provide a basis for discussion of safe operations on the hill.**

Site Description and General Conditions:

- Pig hill is an inland thermic site with no soaring. It has 2 launches, North and East
- Both the launch and the landing are on private property, please close gates.
- Launch: S35° 13'16" E149° 53'47" : 3100' (950m) AMSL
- LZ: S35°13'22" E149°54'45" : 1900' (600m) AMSL
- Controlled airspace starts at 4500' AMSL; see VTC for other regional airspace

Site Rating: [Describe as Guidelines]

- Wind Direction: N to E
- Pig Hill is dangerous due to rotor, be very cautious if there is any southerly or westerly to the winds. The talkers will often miss read due to wrap around. Watch the wind socks carefully before launching.
- If launching from the north launch head immediately over the spine to the east. If it's thermic it's possible to be flushed and trapped.
- Site rating is dependent on conditions. Pig Hill conditions can be anywhere from benign to very dangerous. Some guidelines:
 - Novice PG – Wind Gusting less than 15 km/h
 - Novice HG – Wind Gusting less than 28km/h
 - Intermediate PG – Wind Gusting to 20 km/h
 - Intermediate HG – Wind Gusting 31 km/h
 - Advanced PG and HG – To make own appraisal.
- Launch restrictions:
 - Novice PG/HG – Only to use East launch.
 - Intermediate/Advanced PG/HG – Both North and East Launch.
- Other factors will contribute to the assessment of safe launch conditions:
 - Is the wind strength trending up?
 - What is your airspeed on your wing?
 - Is it morning or afternoon?
 - What are the observations at other regional sites (i.e. Braidwood & Nerriga)?
 - How many other pilots are in the air?
 - Is the sea breeze coming?
 - How thermic is it?

Weather Hazards: [Describe weather information sources]

- Has the sea breeze arrived or still coming in?
- Sea breeze can be very dangerous for PG
- Is there likelihood the wind will shift to have some westerly in it?
- Strong thermic conditions and usually quite turbulent air

Launch Hazards: [Describe launch areas]

- Launching and finding sink, not clearing trees
- Turbulence from trees in strong winds.
- Strong thermic condition possible on launch

Landing Hazards: [Describe landing areas]

- Large open paddock with black berries close to road and fences
- Strong thermic conditions in LZ
- Strong rotor behind launch at Geary's in strong winds

In Flight Hazards: [Describe typical flight areas]

- A strengthening sea breeze
- No landing options over the back of the hill
- Dust devils can be prevalent in the area
- Strong rotor when wind has any South in it
- Strong rotor when wind has any West in it
- The wind strength on launch can be OK with strong winds once you get away from the hill

Site Closure Procedures:

- A Duty Pilot might close the site due to unsafe conditions, or if there is an accident:
 - All pilots in the air must proceed to land immediately if the site is closed.
 - A cross symbol on launch or landing indicates the site is closed.
 - A pilot in the air sitting out of the harness indicating with running legs is another indication the site is closed.

Emergency Procedures:

- In the event of an accident involving injury.
 - Call 000. Describe to the operator that the LZ location is 1km north at intersection of Mountain Creek Rd, and Fairlight in Uriarra
 - The site must be closed in the event of any injury that involves ambulance attendance (air or ground) from the moment the ambulance is called.
 - Report the incident by phone to an ACTHPA SSO to initiate the reporting mechanism.

Site Rules:

- Do not fly low over the house to the south of launch (the owner)
- Do not land at the first property to the north of launch.
- All pilots must be HGFA members.
- Drive on roads only – no driving on grassed areas including paddocks.
- Parking only in carparks at launch or landing.
- No Dogs.

Site Recommendations:

- Pilots should monitor the HGFA UHF frequency (472.125Mhz) while in flight for notifications.