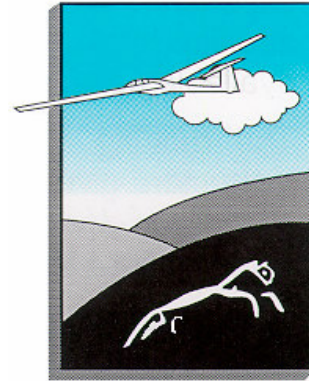


# ***Vale of White Horse Gliding Centre***

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Sandhill Farm Airfield,  
Shrivenham, Swindon.



## ***General Information***

The Vale of White Horse Gliding Centre (VoWHGC) is based at Sandhill Farm Airfield which is about 5 miles north east of Swindon, off the B4000 Shrivenham - Highworth road (see map).

The Club has about 50 members. It owns two twin-seat training gliders and one single-seater for members' use and a light aircraft for aerotowing. The Club flies each weekend and Bank Holidays all year round, weather permitting. In summer we also operate on some weekdays. Visitors and new members are welcome.

## ***Gliding at Sandhill***

VoWHGC is a member of the British Gliding Association (BGA) and we observe their strict operational regulations. This means that our aircraft are subject to regular Airworthiness checks and our instructors are properly trained and qualified, so you will be taught to fly safely.

Flying solo is likely to be your first aim and you will be given every encouragement to achieve this quickly. A beginner's progress varies from person to person but, on average, trainees can expect to go solo after 10 - 15 hours of regular training and practice. After going solo, you will be taught how to stay aloft (for several hours) using rising currents of air and to find your way about the locality. Then, after training on Theory of Flight, Meteorology, Navigation and Air Law, you will be ready to qualify for a "Gliding License" and make cross-country journeys.

Our normal method of launching is by aerotow, where the glider is towed behind a small power plane. Both rise gently aloft until the glider pilot chooses to release; this enables the glider to go to any height and to locations away from the airfield. This allows trainee pilots plenty of time to appreciate the experience of flight and to familiarise themselves with the controls.

The Club is owned and run by its members who, along with the Club's instructors and officers, give their time free. Members are trained to undertake all the tasks essential to the flying and launching operations safely; these will include handling and inspecting aircraft, signalling, log-keeping, operating and maintaining equipment and doing essential paperwork. This helps you to get to know people and gives experience of all the aspects of gliding.

## ***How to Start***

Come out and see us any weekend; visitors are always welcome. We will show you around, try to answer your questions and give you the opportunity of a trial lesson to see for yourself what gliding is about.

On arrival at the airfield, you should seek out a Club member at the launch point, which you will be able to identify by gliders waiting to be launched. You should ask for your name to go on the flying list as flights are normally offered in rotation. A training lesson comprises about 20 minutes' flying (dependant on the "thermals"). You will be launched by aerotow and once aloft you will get the chance to fly yourself under instruction.

There is no upper age limit and the medical requirements are similar to those needed to drive a car, but gliders do have size and weight limits and there may be difficulty accommodating people taller than 2 metres or heavier than 110kg. Persons under 18 must have a parent or guardian's signed permission before flying with us.

We have Clubhouse facilities and amenities, but gliding is primarily an outdoor activity so you are advised to dress accordingly. Ladies may find it more convenient to wear trousers rather than skirts since the gliders don't have doors and you have to climb in and out.

### ***Launch Fees***

Aerotow (2000ft)     £ 21.00

Use of club gliders     £ 15.60/hr.

Trial Lesson:             £55.00 - includes 2 months membership.

### ***Membership Fees***

Full                         £190.00 per year

Student/Junior             £ 75.00 per year

## ***How to find us:***

