

Site Code

OS Grid Ref: SY63700 99900

GPS:

Farmed and Owned by:	<b>Bottom Fields:</b> Mr. Chris Legg Dollars Farm House Sydling St. Nicholas	Wind Direction	W (270°) small tolerance either side of West Best: W (270°)
	<b>Top Fields:</b> Mr Mike Legg Higher City Farm Sydling St. Nicholas	Height AMSL	711ft (217m)
		Top to Bottom	264ft (80m)
Nearest Phone:	Sydling St Nicholas	Pilot Grades	PG, XC Competent and XC intent
Casualty Units:	Dorchester A&E		<b>Site briefing advisable</b>

**Not a soaring site, XC launch pad only**

Notes by Alastair Florence, Map by Roy Menage

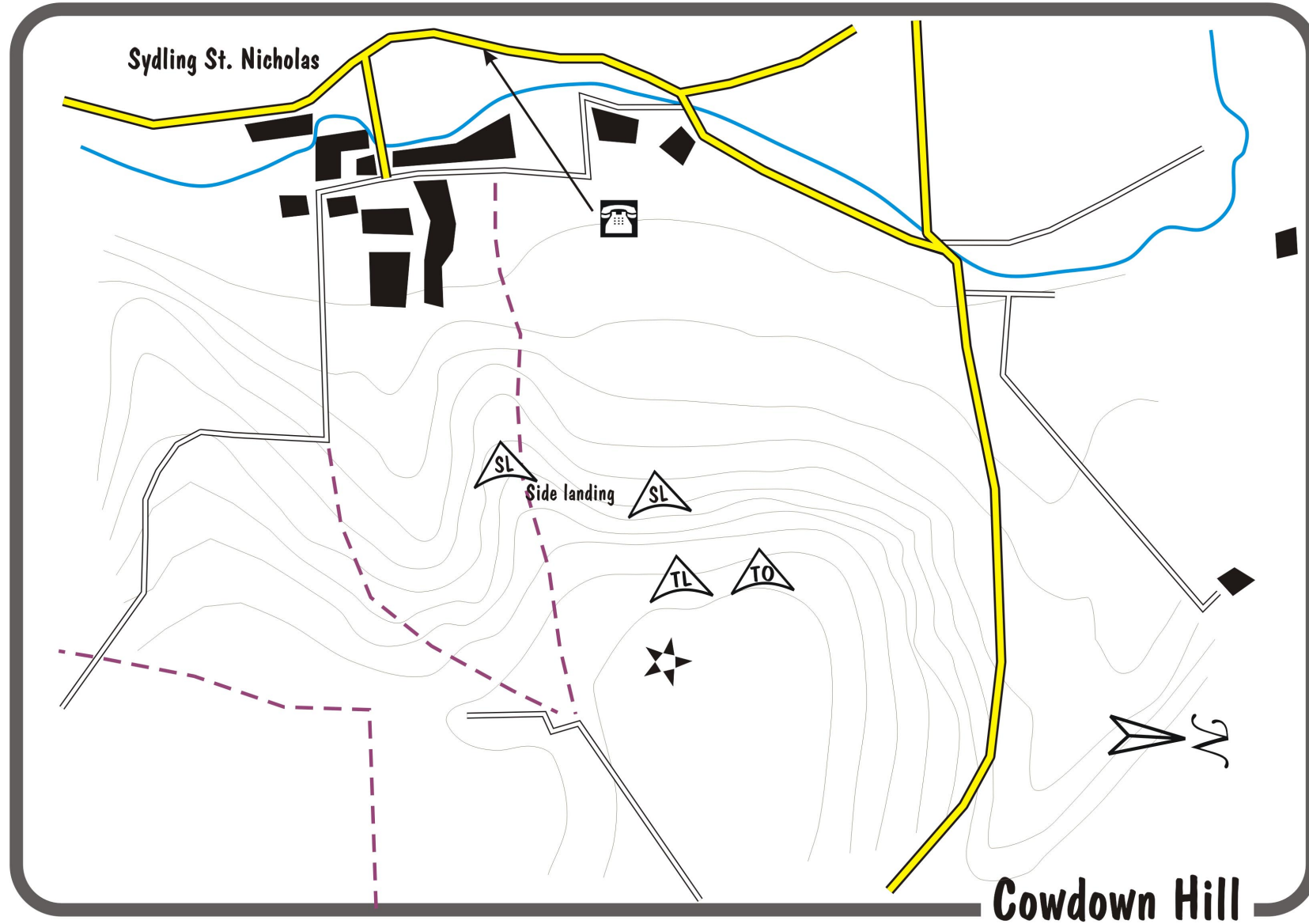
**General Site info** Cowdown has been flown to varying degrees for some years and is an official Wessex club site.

We fly the site on the understanding that our permission is for Cross Country flying purposes. The site is small and is not well suited to soaring. The site should only be flown with the intention of going cross-country.

The site has had a somewhat chequered past in regards to permissions to fly. Some problems occurred from vehicles using an access track to drive to the top of the hill and park near Higher City Farm. Hence access is now restricted to a walk up from the bottom.

The hill is a Chalk Downland and has wild flowers in particular Orchids growing on it. Make every effort to avoid damage to the flowers when laying out your wing.

# Cowdown Hill



- Directions** From the A37 Dorchester Yeovil Road – From Dorchester, drive to Grimstone, you will pass a Public House on your left as you leave Grimstone, now look out for a turn off to the right under a railway bridge, take this road and follow to Sydling St Nicholas.
- From Yeovil, as you approach the Maiden Newton junction turn left, this road runs down the back of Flying Frenzy's 'Folly' site. Then follow the road to Sydling.
- Or, if you missed this junction, as you pass the turn for Frampton on your right take a left turn for Sydling St Nicholas, if you miss it drive to Grimstone and follow instructions from Dorchester.
- Sydling St. Nicholas may also be accessed from A352 Sherborne – Dorchester road by turning off at Cerne Abbas.
- Access** A track runs around the Eastern side of the village, a footpath leads up the spur and onto the hill from here.
- Parking** Park sensibly in the village.
- Hazards** The site is fairly straightforward without major hazards. Some power lines are present below the hill; make yourself familiar with their location.
- The site is prone to a rapid change of wind direction due to sea breeze effects.
- On days when a sea breeze is likely (most thermic days) it is advisable to make an early start as the sea breeze can roll in fairly early in the day. The wind direction will change almost instantly and will significantly alter your down wind beat.
- There are some trees at the slope bottom but these do not appear to create much rotor but be aware.
- Launching** A fairly straightforward launch as shown on the site map with a rolling grassy hilltop. Find a suitable spot between the gorse bushes to lay out your wing. (See note on Orchids).
- Top Landing** Top land back around take off but beware of the gorse.
- Bottom landing** There is no bottom landing on this site.
- Avoid landing in the bottom fields, they are almost invariably in crop, it should be possible to slope land beneath take off or on the spur to the South.
- XC** Bournemouth airspace is directly down wind from this site, however a reasonable distance to Swanage can be achieved with a slight Southerly track and to Fordingbridge and beyond with a slightly Northerly track.
- Be aware of Bournemouth airspace and Compton Abbas.

## **Flying Generally**

This site should be regarded as sensitive and is only to be used as an XC get away site for that reason.

The ridge is not very big and not that brilliant for plain soaring but XC potential is good from here and true Westerly sites are rare.

If you are looking for a true Westerly site purely for soaring Whitesheet has everything you need and is far better suited.

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