

Site Code: 1.057

OS Grid Ref: SU 023 226

GPS N51:00:124 W1:58:033

Owned and farmed by:  
Rawle Family  
Butts Cottage  
Church Street  
Bowerchalke  
01722 780550

Wind Direction NW – N (315' – 360')  
Best: NW and NNW

Height AMSL 656ft (200m)

Top to Bottom 280ft (87m)

Nearest Phone: Bowerchalke

Pilot Grades HG Club Pilot + 10hrs

Casualty Units: Odstock Hospital,  
Salisbury

PG Club Pilot

**Site briefing advisable**

### Wessex Members Only

Notes by Alastair Florence

#### General Site info

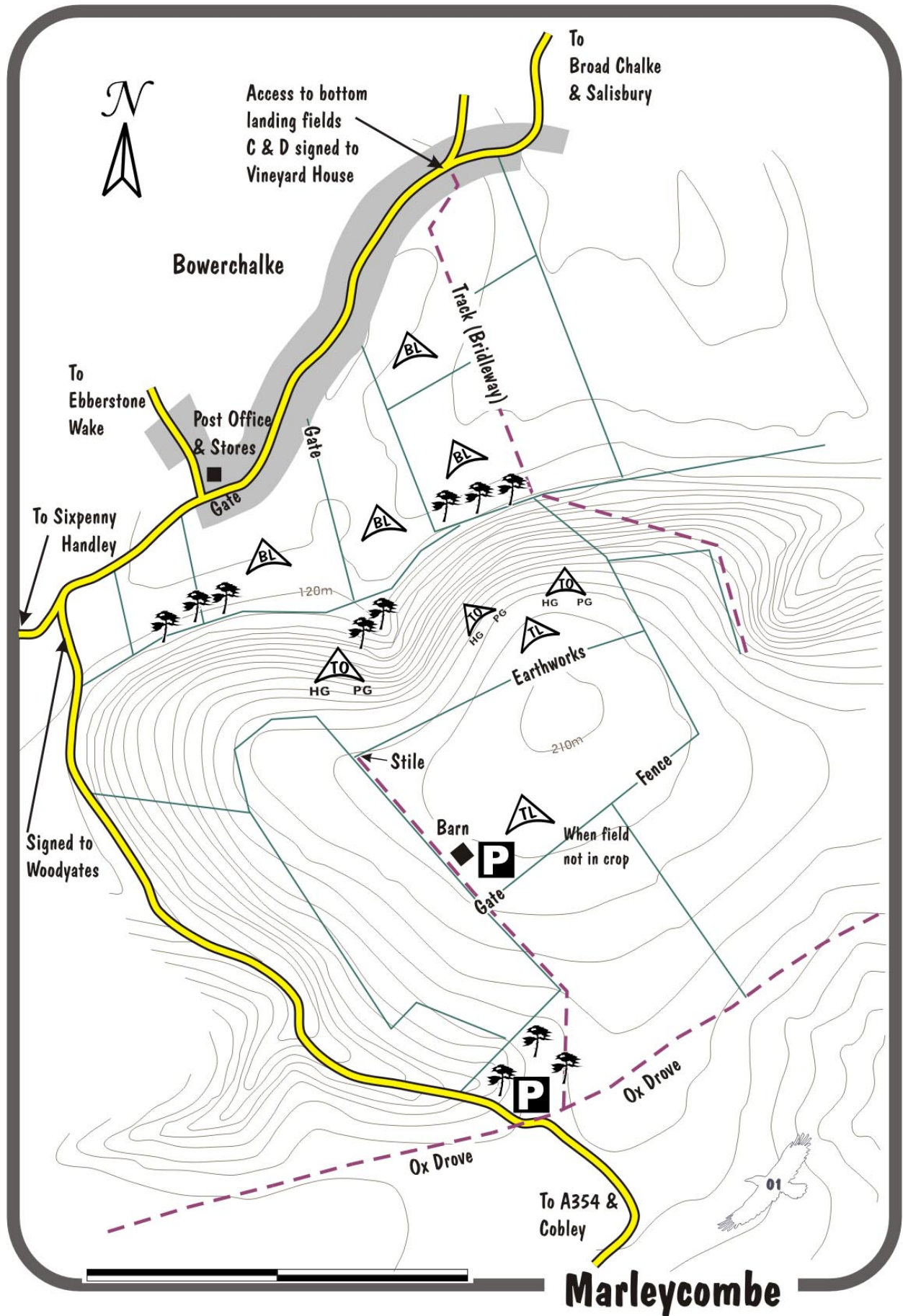
This site was lost to Wessex for some time. It is a condition of our flying here that we make contact with the Rawles before flying to maintain good relations.

Marleycombe is situated above the village of Bowerchalke.

The site tends to be under used, possible reasons may be limited XC potential due to airspace or the fact that Monks Down and Bell take similar directions and are just more popular.

The site has slight variations of angle in its slope faces. This feature can produce varied flying conditions dependant on wind direction.

For the opportunity of non record breaking XCs and un-crowded peaceful flying, this site has a lot to offer. Top landing is good, bottom landings depend on crops and slope landings are possible, making this an ideal site for lower airtime pilots too.



- Directions** On the A354 heading from Blandford toward Salisbury, drive 2 miles North of the Sixpenny Handley roundabout. Turn left at Woodyates, signed for Cobley and Bowerchalke. Follow on toward Bowerchalke. You will go around a couple of sharp bends and will approach 'The Ox Drove'. You will now see a distinctive group of mature beech trees on your right with open fields beyond. This is 'The Ox Drove'. If you begin to drop down toward Bowerchalke you have overshot.
- Access** A special requirement of the owners is that we contact them prior to flying on each visit. No need for each individual to ring in but please make sure someone has do not just assume this is the case.
- Either call at Butts Cottage or phone Liz Birkett (nee Rawle) on 01722 780 550
- If you have a normal car and it has been wet recently you may be best to park around the beech trees. It is secluded here and it would be unwise to leave valuables on display inside your vehicle.
- Walk or drive in a north-westerly direction from the beech trees up the well defined track. It is about 1 km to the site but as you are already at 600ft AMSL the walk is not too onerous. The track is deeply rutted, it is passable with care in a car when dry but when wet you will need a true 4x4 to access. You will see a barn to the right of the track. Pass the barn and walk another 100 odd metres to a stile. The launch area is now directly ahead of you.
- Parking** Parking is either by the beech trees on 'The Ox Drove' or off the track alongside the barn on the rough ground. Be careful not to drive on crops whilst turning.
- Hazards** In stronger conditions, venturi can develop on the top landing area. Land a reasonable distance from fences in case of difficulties on landing. The top landing area is mostly amongst ancient earthworks and there are several undulations, dips and badger sets that are hard to discern on your final approach but may hurt if you land in or on them.
- There are large trees at the foot of the hill. Do not get into a situation where you are low behind them as rotor is likely in their lee and you may find them between you and a bottom landing.
- Launching** Take off anywhere along the hill top from a point best suited to the wind direction on the day. The hill slopes gently at the top and rapidly steepens, making launching relatively easy.
- Launch in the bowl to the east of the stile in a north-westerly wind or to the west or in front of the earthworks in a northerly.

**Top Landing** The field around the barn is generally in crop so may not be available for top landing. If no crop is present it can be used.

There is ample space to land on the earthworks area which is rough grazing land.

**Bottom Landing** If you think you may require a bottom landing field, ask the Rawles what can be used when calling in. Many of the bottom fields are regularly in crop.

Side landings are fairly straight forward here as there is little scrub in the way, and with the variations of slope face direction it should be easy to discern the into-wind beat. Remember rotor from the trees if side landing.

**XC** Owing to recent changes in airspace down wind of Marleycombe, XC potential is limited. Check a current airmap.

However the site is quite thermic at times and could provide some good XC if you don't need to break records.

**Flying Generally** This site is unlikely to become over crowded, so if you like a bit of space it is a good place to try for a change. The versatility of slope angles make the site suitable for a variety of conditions. In thermic conditions there is plenty of scope to push out in front of the hill or try XC.

Set amongst pleasant scenery, with reasonable access, the site is suited equally to experienced or low airtime pilots.

License number (100043849) Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved.