



Site Code 2.086

OS Grid Ref: SZ 006 812 (Map 195)

GPS: N50:37:50 W1:59:34

What3Words: [///licks.inch.captions](https://www.what3words.com/licks.inch.captions)

Farmed by:	Mr Alan Helfer 07776 414962 Knitson House	Wind Direction	S-SSW (180° to 230°) Best: SSW (200°)
Nearest Phone:	In Swanage	Height AMSL	650ft (213m)
		Top to Bottom	330ft (108m)
Casualty Units:	Poole General Hospital	Pilot Grades	HG Club Pilot + 10hrs PG Club Pilot Site briefing advisable

As with all sites it is advisable to submit a CANP if planning to fly here.

General Site Info

Knitson takes virtually identical wind directions and conditions to White Horse.

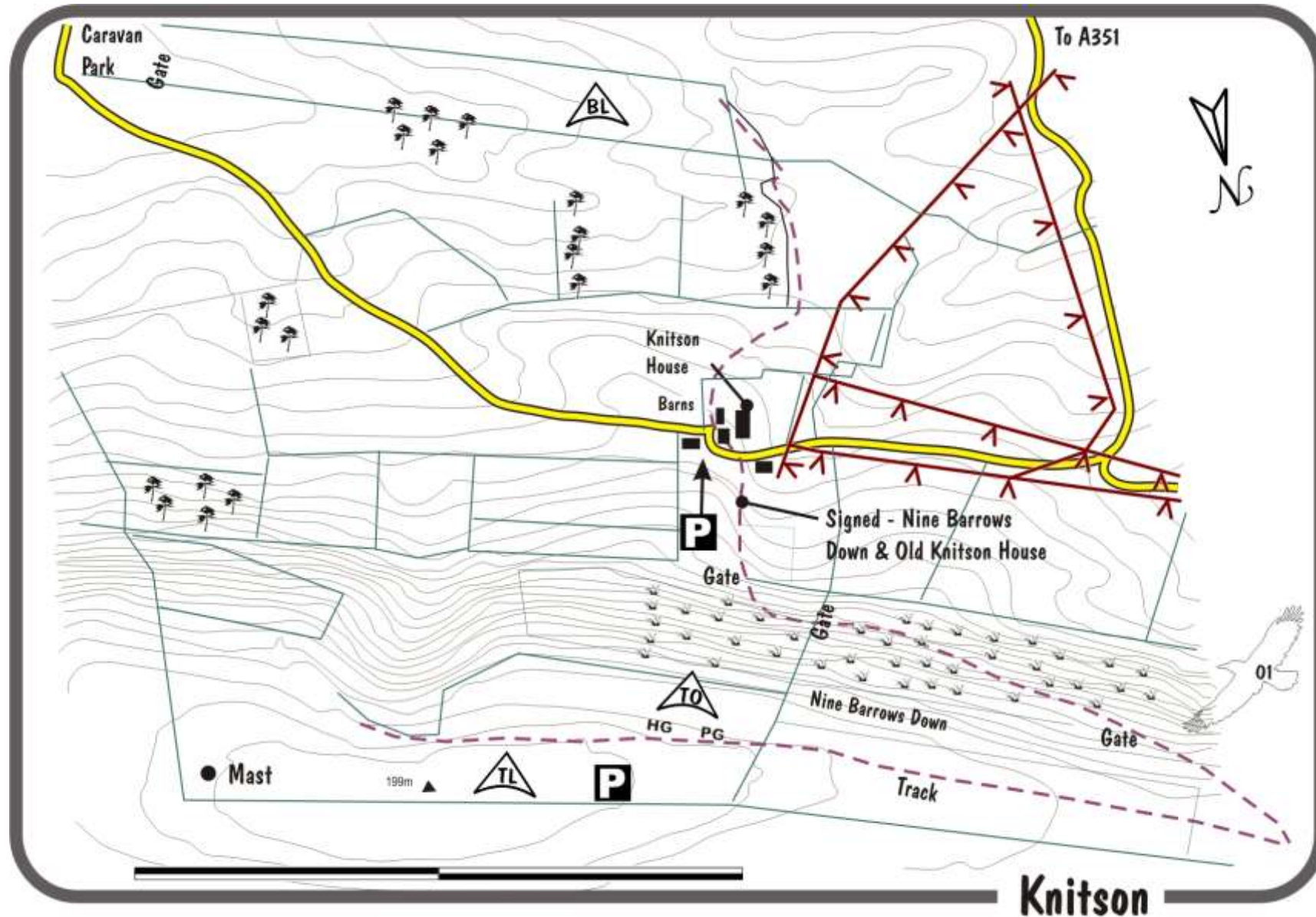
The site is rarely flown, due partly perhaps to its lack of XC potential. White Horse is undoubtedly a better and safer site, particularly for low airtime pilots (i.e. if you are travelling to fly from outside the local area White Horse would probably be first choice) however if you fancy a change of scene or are in the area there is some good and un-crowded flying to be had here with potential for exciting and challenging ridge runs with plenty of thermic activity.

It is even more rare for hang-gliders to visit these days, with the vehicle access to the top (cows permitting) and the bottom landing well suited to modern gliders it may well be worth a visit though.

I have experienced days when I have sat on Ballard in a light SE wind waiting for the sea breeze to boost the wind speed - the opposite effect normally happens and the sea breeze completely kills the wind. In this situation go to Knitson. You will often find a perfectly flyable SSW-SW wind here in these conditions.

If at Kimmeridge on a sunny day with the wind South a bit and just enough speed to scratch give up and try Knitson, You will often find that although the wind is still fairly light here the extra distance in land makes the site thermic, providing some good flying.

The site can be excitingly thermic with a mosaic of fields out in front although climbs rarely reach more than 1000ft without committing to going over the back.



Directions

From Wareham take the A351 through Corfe and head for Swanage. Drive through Harmans Cross. You will pass a BP garage (St Michaels) on your left, then down into a dip over the railway bridge and as you climb out of the dip, take a left turn up a narrow lane. Follow the lane up toward the hill (this is Knitson ridge in front of you now) and you will come to a Y junction. Fork right and shortly you will come to sharp right hand bend followed by a sharp left with farm buildings either side of the road. This is Knitson farm.

As you approach the left hand bend you will see a cow mural painted on the barn wall ([///tree.breaches.gliders](#)). Pull in on the right here and call at the Helpers bungalow or try the milking shed. The Helpers are very friendly but do not like people driving fast on the lanes approaching the farm or up the track onto the hill. As well as walkers and cyclists the Helpers themselves are keen horse riders - please drive considerately.

Access

Assuming you have found one of the Helpers they will give you directions up the hill. Failing this as you approached the right hand bend on your way into the farm yard turn sharp left ([///flesh.durations.putty](#)) past the old stone farm house and drive straight ahead up the bumpy track. At the first gate take the left fork and head up the hill closing gates as you go unless they are already open. It may be possible to drive to the top of the track but the gates along the track may well be padlocked shut so you would need to contact the Helpers to ensure access is possible. Also the track can be very uneven, and covered in loose material and a normal car may well sustain damage if driven up

Parking

As you fork left at the first gate and bear up the slope you will see a chalk pit on the right. Park in the chalk pit being aware of uneven ground and avoid blocking any access.

From the chalk pit walk up the track to the hill top or short cut directly up the hill by using the electric fence gate shortly after passing through the gate just after the chalk pit

If cows are in the area be aware they have a habit of licking vehicles which may cause damage.

Hazards

Cows (see above). Thermals are often small and punchy and may feel turbulent at times.

Slope landing is limited due to some gorse cover but this is less of a problem than a few years ago due to recent scrub clearance.

Several lengths of fencing are now present on the take off and top land areas, just take note of where they are.

The ridge is a rounded spine back with trees behind - getting blown back would put you in rotor if low.

- Launching** You may launch in the field east of the parking area, (the one with tumuli in it). This is OK and a good idea if the cows are grazing on the main ridge. If the cows are not intimidating you, launch in front of the marked top parking area or anywhere west on the ridge. On a lighter day you will not find much lift until you fly out from launch over the gorse line.
- Top Landing** In lighter winds land anywhere on top of the ridge, the grass slope in front of the parking area or field to the east.
In stronger winds be careful!
There can be strong venturi over the top of the ridge so check penetration before getting in a situation where you can be blown back into rotor over the ridge back. If struggling, loose height out in front and come in low.
- Bottom Landing** Ask the Helpers about a bottom landing as the fields are often cropped or occupied by cows, sheep or horses.
Warning:- Bottom landing is normally fine, but there are several changes of ground gradient and tree lines which can cause rotor near the ground. Be prepared to PLF.
- Ridge Runs, XC** XC is limited by Bournemouth airspace and Poole Harbour.
The ridge can be run toward Corfe or Ballard with a variety of gaps and height variations. If conditions are right you could in theory get to Ringstead from here (beware danger area in between) with a lot of luck and some imagination.
Be aware of overhead power line's part way up the slope in front of the Comms ariels near Corfe.
- Flying Generally** The small bowl to the east can provide a trigger point but beware venturi in stronger conditions and rotor off the spurs if the wind is off a bit. East of the bowl the hill is stepped. Good lift can be found in front here but watch being blown back into Giants Grave.
To the west of take-off, the hill drops slightly to the point where the track reaches the top of the hill, just west is a gully providing the most consistent trigger point on the whole hill.
A great site for some fun flying with some beautiful views, plus it's a way of getting to see a bit what it's like flying to Swanage from Bell without the hassle of staying up for the first 30 odd km!
The site works very well in a Sea Breeze.