



# Kimmeridge

Site Code 2.073

OS Grid Ref: SY 926 795 (Map 194)

GPS: N50:36:55 W2:06:19

What3Words: [///deduced.tempting.reissued](https://www.what3words.com/#!/deduced.tempting.reissued)

Owned by:	Smedmore Estates	Wind Direction	SSW – W (210° to 270°) Best: SW (240°)
Top farmed by:	Mr J.Hole Kimmeridge Farm Kimmeridge 01929 480990	Height AMSL	665ft (218m)
		Top to Bottom	260ft (80m)
Bottom farmed by:	Mr R. Vearncombe Chaldecotts Kimmeridge 01929 480936	Pilot Grades	HG Club Pilot PG Club Pilot <b>Site briefing advisable</b>
Nearest Phone:	Kimmeridge Village		
Casualty Units:	Poole General Hospital		

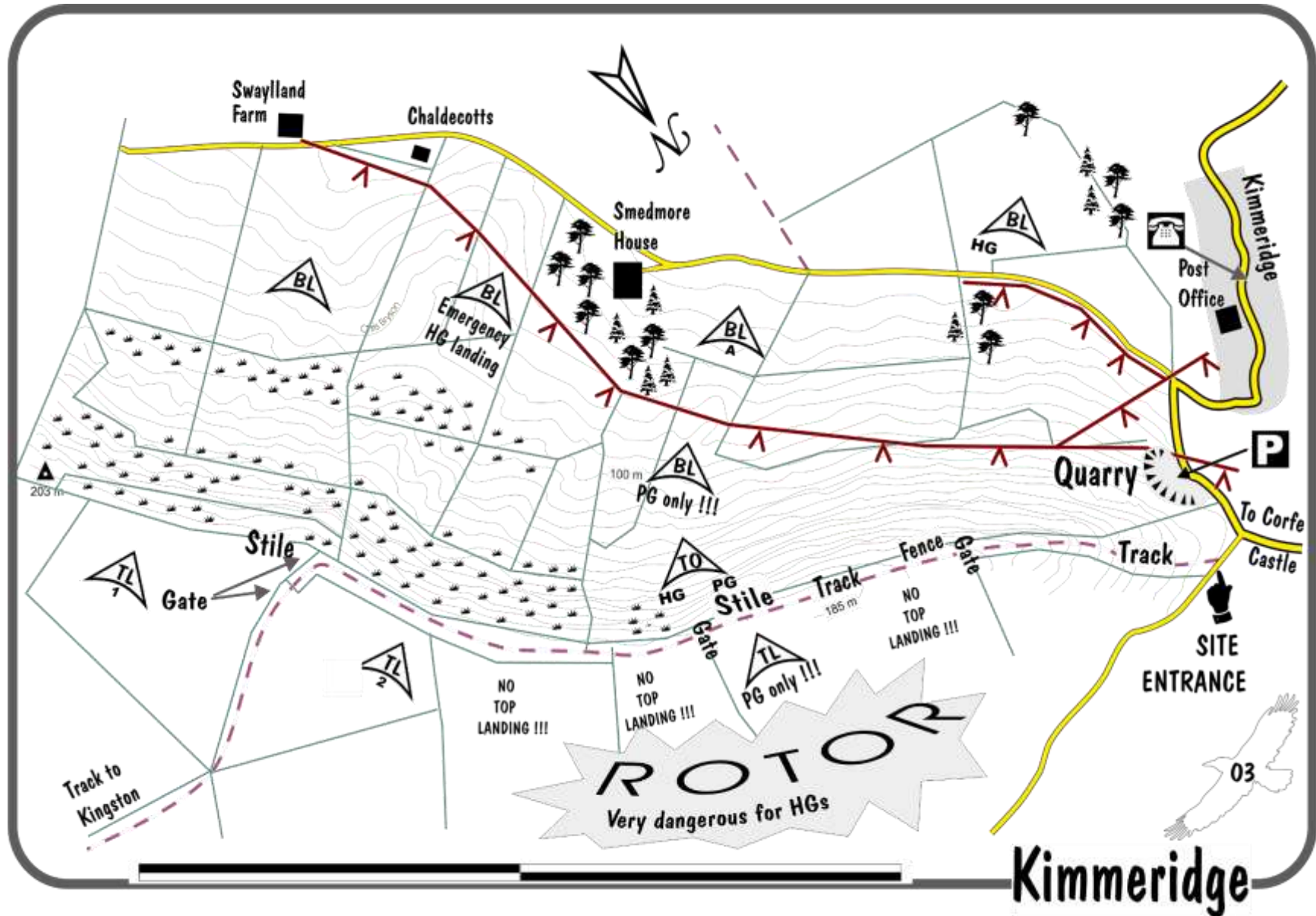
**As with all sites it is advisable to submit a CANP if planning to fly here.**

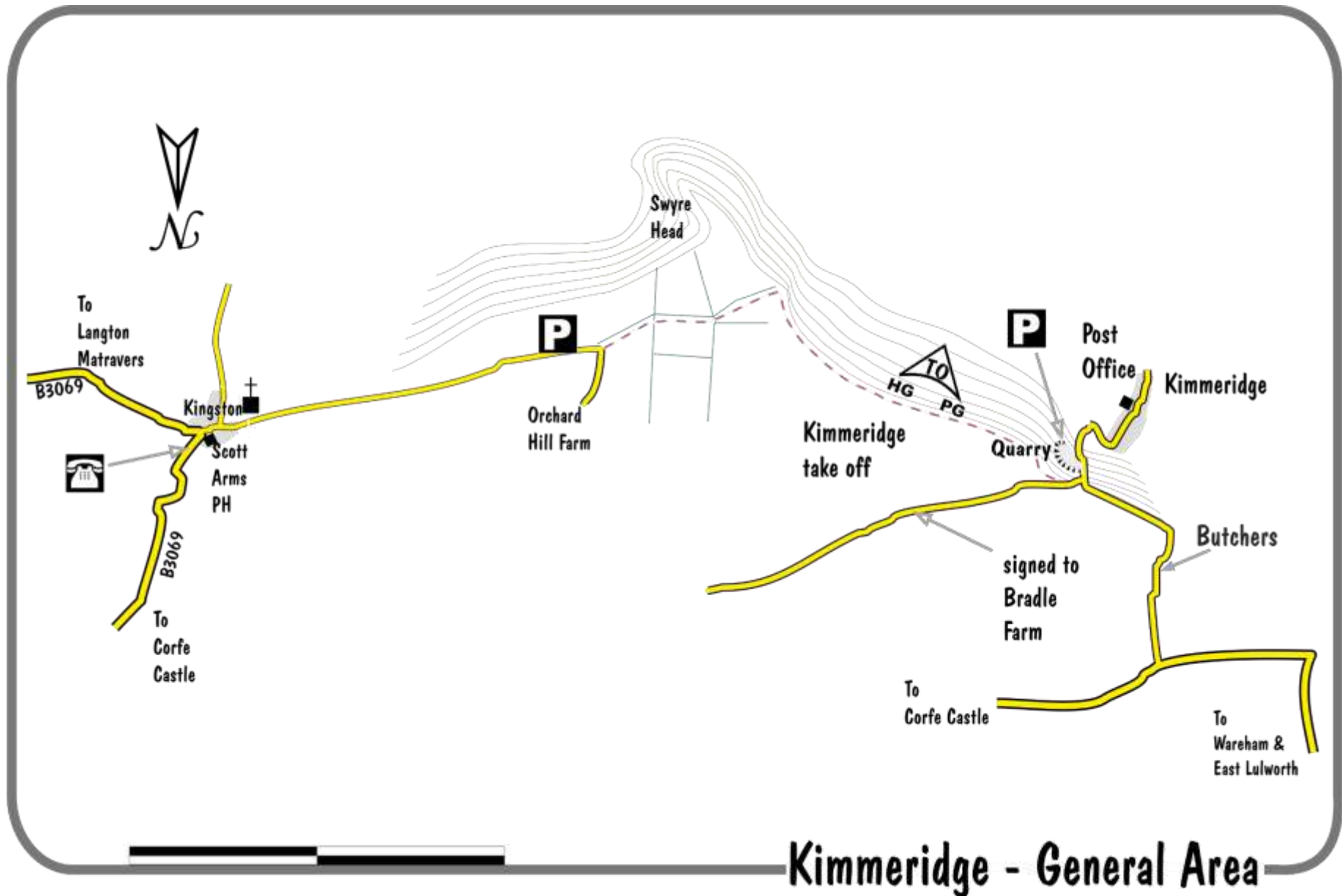
## General Site Info

Kimmeridge is a cross between coastal and inland site. It is close enough to the coast to benefit from sea breeze in summer and also far enough inland to develop significant thermic activity. The large ridge is an elongated bowl that gives some versatility of wind directions. The site has been used in past by schools for training. There are several hazards on this site and when thermic the air can become surprisingly rough. A reasonable top land and adequate bottom landing make it a good site for all levels of ability.

There is scope for rewarding flying here with good height gains on thermic days and the possibility of coastal runs.

The site was once regularly used by hang-gliders although its use is almost exclusively limited to paragliders now due to access difficulties. The Kingston launch was used by hang-gliders. However, this has been overgrown and forgotten for some time now.





- Emergency Service Access** Should it be necessary to call emergency services for an injured pilot at this site ask for an air ambulance straight away. A road going ambulance will not traverse the track and valuable time may be lost in re-organising an air rescue.
- Directions**
- From Wareham** - Follow the A351 Wareham bypass south towards Swanage. On the outskirts of Stoborough, 1 mile after the A352 roundabout, turn right at the signpost to Creech / Kimmeridge (West Lane). Follow this road for a further 3.3 miles and at the brow of the hill. The road turns sharply to the left and drops down toward Steeple. After a further mile turn right toward Kimmeridge. Follow this road for 0.8 miles and just after the brow of the hill dropping down towards Kimmeridge village, turn left then immediately right. The access track is through 'Hells Gate' ([///infinite.obligated.listening](#)). There is no permitted parking along this track now and it is extremely rough so not suitable for vehicle access.
- From Corfe** - Follow the A351 toward Swanage. As you leave Corfe turn right onto the B3069 toward Kingston / Worth Matravers. At Kingston, turn sharp right past the Scott Arms, following signs to Encombe. After leaving the village, the tree lined road opens out to fields on either side. Continue until you reach the walkers' Sheep Pens car park ([///snows.worldwide.books](#)), park here and then proceed along the track to the site on foot.
- Parking**
- Park in the Quarry Car Park immediately on the left if one continues down the hill toward Kimmeridge ([///melon.communal.inflamed](#)), and then carry up the track ([///infinite.obligated.listening](#)).
- Alternative parking is available at the Swyre Head Car Park ([///snows.worldwide.books](#)), there is an uncategorised road which goes from the Swyre Head Car Park to [///fearfully.webcams.landowner](#), this is available should you wish to drop-off/pick-up equipment, but there is **STRICTLY NO PARKING** along the road or on any of the land between the Swyre Head car park and the Kimmeridge site. Also the track is deeply rutted and very rough so impassable to most vehicles.
- Be aware that due to the remote nature of the car parks vehicle break-ins have occurred in the past, do not leave anything on view in your vehicle.
- There is STRICTLY NO PARKING along the wall behind take-off or on any private land, please only park in the public car parks.**
- Access**
- From the quarry walk to the track as described above and proceed upward. Once you arrive at the crest keep going ahead. You will now be gently descending. Passing through the next gate you will find a gate on your right. Currently this is very dilapidated and will not open so climb over. Once over the gate you can launch on the steep slope between the gorse clumps or walk approx. 100m West into the small bowl which will allow more space and less steep slope.
- From the Swyre Head Car parking, walk westward along the green lane to the ridge top, turn right and follow the track until you reach the dilapidated gate on your left. There is a footpath access prior to the gate which gave access to a

small launch area but at time of writing the stile has gone and the path completely overgrown.

## Hazards

The more westerly the wind, the more turbulent the conditions can be. Thermals are often small and punchy on the site. Beware of sudden & strong venturi, stone walls, scrub and barbed wire fences. Several gliders have been damaged on launching or landing by being dragged onto the fences that bound the top of the site. Be aware of wind direction when slope landing as with the West – South aspect of the ridge the wind can pull either way and it may feel like a downwind approach in either direction.

Look out for quick forming orographic cloud.

The westerly end of the ridge is used by aero-modellers

Accidents have resulted from pilots catching a foot in animal burrows on the slopes.

## Launching

Launch from the slope below the ridge top anywhere clear of vegetation. If the wind is off to the South or the west adjust your launch location to best suit the direction. The slope is steep in places, you will be pulling your wing up directly into a strong lift band. Be prepared to be pulled off the ground before you have a chance to turn fully when reverse launching a paraglider.

Ensure you are far enough from scrub bushes or fences to avoid harm if you are dragged on launching.

On stronger days the ridge can be very lifty and recommend launching well down the slope.

## Top Landing

There is rotor in the top landing fields particularly in the first 200 yards behind the wall. This is extremely dangerous for hang-gliders in winds above 18mph. hang-gliders should use the Kingston top landing fields but should always be prepared to be dropped 20 ft or more during approach. Land well back.

Paragliders should ideally land within 50m of the wall behind the ridge top.

Toward Swyre Head it is possible to top land in most fields if you find the wind is dying on you. Beware, as you will almost certainly experience some degree of rotor. Only use this option in emergencies.

Avoid landing in any cropped field or where animals are present.

Avoid landing behind the access track West of take off, due to potential rotor as the ground slopes away.

## **Bottom Landing**

The bottom landing field slopes and can be difficult to get into on a modern hang glider.

### **Beware of the power lines.**

Paragliders can side land anywhere but ensure you have an into-wind beat and watch out for badger sets etc. The bottom landing is directly out in front of launch for paragliders and slopes gently.

## **Special Rules**

Do not climb on the dry stone wall. Only cross at the gate as described or other recognised access.

Do not over fly or top land in fields "A" and "B" when there are sheep in them.

**DO NOT fly over Smedmore House and the immediate surrounding land** (see map) as the occupants are sensitive about their privacy.

## **Ridge Runs, XC**

This site can be thermic but, being close to the sea, height gains of more than 1,000ft ATO are uncommon. It may possible to drop onto the Purbeck Hills and run down to Swanage.

From Swyre Head it is possible to fly out onto the sea cliffs and west toward Clavell tower in a strong SSW or east onto St. Aldhelm's Head and back. Both these adventures are quite technical and should not be undertaken without some thought. Bottom landing beneath the cliffs is very limited and changes in cliff angle along many stretches of the cliff will produce areas of sink.

If the Firing range is open coastal runs to Ringstead and back are possible.

## **Flying Generally**

Due mainly to lack of vehicle access the site rarely gets busy and with the size of the ridge crowding is rarely a problem. Some pleasant evenings can also be had on this site during the summer and sea breeze works well here. With punchy thermals it can be a good place to practice active flying.

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