Site Guide: Long Reef NE (Paragliders)

Ideal Wind Dir	North East
Height	100 I 30m AMSL
Type	Moderately steep coastal hill.
Rating	PG2 Supervised (as per SAFA requirements)
Coordinates	33.74134:S, 151.31485:E



Comments

This is a good site to build up your hours with easy ridge soaring and great views North to Whale Beach. Take care on Summer days as the sea breeze will nearly always strengthen. Due to site sensitivity;

- The Safety Signs and Cones and Wind sock should be used at all times that flying operations are underway – not just when it begins to get busy. Take the time to prepare the safety of the area before you fly. The signs/cones/windsock are in the lock boxes at launch. If you don't know how to access these safety tools then ask your colleagues. The last person at the site is to return the safety tools to the lock boxes. Yes, even if you are the only one there please install the safety tools before flying.
- Setup & Pack up either side of the launch area – i.e. not in the launch & landing area
- Before Launching make sure that there is no members of the public behind launch.
- Do not ground handle for extended periods on launch/landing and always bring you wing down when other pilots are considering top landing. Do not fly in front of pilots who are top landing. Wake turbulence can cause collapses. This is an important consideration during mixed wings operations.
- Before top landing make sure there are no members of the public behind your landing area and assess clearly whether you have the skills to top land in the prevailing conditions. If not head for the beach – it is easier and safer and your colleagues will quietly applaud your good decision making.

7.1.4.1 HG/PG (Non-powered) Minimum Heights and Distances / Launching / Landing -

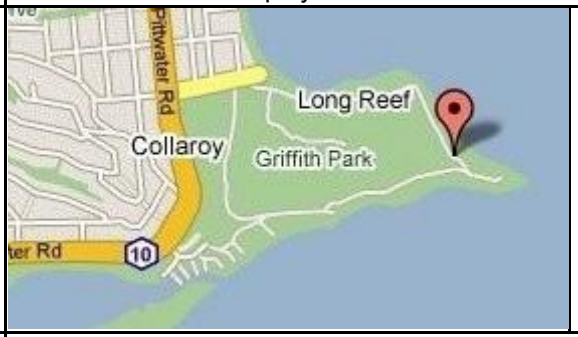
Except during Launch / Landing Phases, a non-powered SAFA aircraft, shall not be flown at a height lower than 100 feet if within a horizontal distance of 25 metres from:

- 1) public roads, or
- 2) a dwelling except with the permission of the occupier, or
- 3) persons not directly associated.

Observe the SAFA separation rules from members of the public and buildings. If you want to practice manoeuvres then move away from the public and buildings. Sure it may be cool to be flying low and "entertaining the crowd" but it is not smart in a public area despite how much you think you are in control. In other words do not spend your flight swooping low near launch or in the front of buildings.

- PG 2 Pilots to display Red Streamer / Ribbon

Location



On the North East face of Long Reef Point. Park in the car park on the northern side of Long Reef (near the golf club) then walk up to the lookout. Alternatively you can park in the Long Reef beach car park on the southern side of the headland and walk along the Greenlink track. There are parking meters in both car parks. Free parking back at Anzac Avenue but a longer walk.

Description

A relatively straight ridge facing NE with a moderate slope. The ridge runs from the rock platform at the eastern end, up to the crown of the headland and then turns slightly more north and continues in a North Westerly direction for approximately half a kilometre. It then turns sharply to the west becoming more cliff like. It is covered in a mixture of tussock grass and low bush, with some small trees.

Takeoff

A grassy area near the crown of the headland that is approximately level. There is space for a couple of gliders. This launch gets quite a lot of compression in stronger conditions.

	
Landing	The primary landing zones are the beach in front of launch and the sand spit on the point when the tide is low. However, at high tide the area of sand is rather narrow or covered by water. Anywhere on Fisherman's Beach (the long crescent beach to the NW) which is easily reached when winds are moderate and the easiest place to land when winds are strong. No landing on the grass in front of the golf club-house. Watch the pine trees though, their lower branches reach out over the sand. Avoid the boat launch which is a raised concrete ramp! Do not pack up your wing next to the clubhouse. The top landing zone is small, surrounded by trees and frequented by walkers and tourists. Only land on top if experienced and well briefed. Beware that due to compression it is easy to be blown behind the trees or ridge. Landing on the grassy bowl to the beach east of launch is also an option, but requires top landing skills
Restrictions	Lower Level of controlled airspace is at 2500' The grassy area on the beach is NOT a Ground Handling or Launch area, unless under instruction. This area is limited to PG5 & Tandems launch / landing in strong wind conditions
Hazards	NE winds can rapidly increase during the day giving more lift, however, beware of the increased compression and wind velocity on top of the ridge. Stay well in front of the ridge and land early- particularly south of the launch. Strong compression results in lack of penetration on top of the ridge and an inability to fly forward towards a safe landing. Do not top-land when strong, better on the spit or Fishermans Beach but be prepared to actively control your wing upon landing. Be prepared to share the air with radio-controlled aircraft and sometimes hang gliders. The site will handle wind direction from the NNE and ENE but it changes the lift characteristics along the ridge.
Alt Sites	For wind directions outside of this range pilots are advised Cooks Terrace (ENE –ESE PG2), Warriewood NE (PG4), or fly elsewhere.

This site is administered by the Sydney Paragliding and Hang Gliding Club. For more information go to www.flysydney.com.au

Disclaimer

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