

Site Guide: North Long Reef		
Ideal Wind Dir	North but will tolerate 10 deg to the west and east of North comfortably.	
Height	55' 17m AMSL	
Type	Coastal Cliff with grass slope above which slopes down and away from the cliff edge. Small site and can be quite technical.	
Rating	PG4	
Coordinates	33.73861:S, 151.31222:E	
Comments	This is a great PG4 progression site and adds another wind direction available for pilots who frequent Long Reef. It has its challenges including a launch area which slopes down and away from the cliff edge and a 1.2m fence to get over, but it also often provides the possibility to fly when NE Long Reef is not quite right. If the wind moves more to the east then it is possible to connect to the NE facing ridge and fly to NE Long Reef. When the wind moves too far east of north pilots are sometimes better launching from the NE Long Reef site. It will most likely still be north along the north east face so connecting to the small bowl immediately to the south of the NE Launch will give you the best results. The site is technical because of variations in the angle of the cliff edge to the prevailing wind and the drop in height to the west. Keep your wits about you. But it is a fun site to fly and when there is nothing else available it is just great to be able to fly.	
Location		When travelling north on Pittwater Rd turn right into Anzac Ave and then into the next right that takes you to the car park at the end. The launch site is up a short flight of stairs from the car park.
Description	The site is small with perhaps 60 metres of soarable ridge to the east and 140 metres to the west. Max three wings and less in light conditions. The ridge faces more to the east to the right of launch – be careful to not go too far in this direction and find yourself unable to penetrate back. It is easy to get caught out anywhere on the ridge as conditions strengthen and you find yourself unable to penetrate. Make sure you land before this happens. The site will tolerate 10 deg variation east or west from north. If the wind is any further to the west the site becomes quite turbulent in the lee of the coastline to the north especially in stronger conditions. When the wind goes too far east then there will be horizontal shear along the cliff edge. You are better going to NE Long Reef to launch and fly.	
Takeoff	Launch can be daunting. Firstly, it can be difficult to get your wing up as the ground slopes down and away from the cliff edge and secondly as there is a 1.2 metre fence to be negotiated before a sheer drop on the other side. There is a small opening or chute which lets air through into the grassed area and your best chance of inflating your wing and getting it above your head is behind this chute. Although sometimes it is necessary to lay out your wing west of the chute and bring it up at 45 deg to the ridge. This does give you more runway to bring the wing up. Before attempting to clear the fence ensure that there is enough lift to allow you to soar. You will need to run at the fence and in the right conditions clearing the fence is not an issue. Your wing will be in the lift zone as you clear the fence. Do not unload your wing by stepping on the fence. Before launching, assess the general wind direction to allow you to choose which direction to turn from launch. It is helpful if you have a wind sock located to the left of the chute and near the edge to assess the subtleties in wind direction and speed. The trees behind will also give you clues.	

	
Landing	The safe landing is on Fishermans beach to the west of launch. This applies in light and strong wind conditions. Check the tide before launching as the beach can be quite narrow in high tide. There is also a row of Norfolk Pines along the edge of the beach which can catch wings. If you have enough height flying to the west of the boat ramp will provide more room but again avoid the two Norfolk pines there. Please do not pack up your wing on the grass besides the Golf Club. The pack up area is on the other side of the road toward launch where there is a small fenced off area. It is protected from the wind. There is a large rock platform right in front of launch which on low tide is available for landing but expect to get your feet wet in anything other than low tide. Top landing at launch is possible and the recommended approach is from the west where the trees are lower. If it gets too strong do not attempt this. If you are below ridge height do not attempt this. Because the grass slopes down and away on launch try to remain in the front half of the launch area as there can be dead air toward the rear which may bring you down faster than you anticipate. 
Restrictions	Lower Level of controlled airspace is at 2500'
Hazards	• Fence in front of launch • High tide and large swell • Norfolk pines along Fishermans beach • Quick increase in wind strength; watch your penetration. Having to land on the golf course behind will not be easy in the rotor. • When top landing beware of the trees on three sides of the LZ. Target to land in the front half.
Alt Sites	None

Disclaimer

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