

COCKING TOR (Ravensnest Tor)

NOTE: Cocking Tor is a particularly sensitive site, reliant on close liason between the club and the neighbouring land-users in order for flying to continue. All potential flyers must please contact the club's site officer for this site before flying here. Currently this is Ash Ghinn, who's contact details can be found in the club contacts section at the end of the sites guide.

Wind Direction: North-east

Take Off: SK 347 607

Top Landing: SK 347 606

Bottom Landing: There is no agreed bottom landing. The lower fields offer poor landing options due to undulating terrain, large trees and power lines. This may not be immediately apparent from the top of the hill, but it is strongly advised that you investigate bottom landings personally before deciding to fly. Someone from the stables has complained that paragliders upset her animals, so it would be considerate to avoid landing near horses if possible.

Airspace: 5500 feet Class D. Cross country flights in a NNE wind give an opportunity to negotiate both East Midlands and Manchester airspace and creates the potential for flights to Wales.

Parking: There are no car parking spaces or lay-byes nearby, and the roads are narrow. If parking on verges make sure you do not obstruct the roads. If someone is working at the farm building 300m West of take-off, the metal gate on Holestone Gate Road may be open. If so, pilots may drive through the farm yard to the top of the hill and park on the left immediately before entering the top landing field. They have had security issues so please make yourself known to anyone on site.

Access: Access to launch area is by footpath near Butterley Top Farm about a mile East of Tansley on the B6014.

Characteristics: This is a hazardous, tree-covered 300-foot rocky ridge which requires a committed launch. The site is of little use to anyone except skilled cross country pilots willing to take some risk in launching from a potentially dangerous site. The take-off area is a rough mixture of grass, bracken and brambles, and there are some bushes immediately in front of take-off. There is a (barbed-wire laced) dry stone wall immediately behind. It is recommended that pilots assess the true wind speed and direction from the area marked as Top Landing as the airflow at launch is often gusty and unpredictable. Large trees immediately to the North of take-off create turbulence when the wind is to the North of NE, and trees in front and to the East tend to upset airflow in other wind directions. It is rarely possible to ridge-soar this site but Ravensnest Tor does seem to be a good thermal trigger. Buzzards inhabit this area and have often been seen thermalling immediately in front of take-off. Waiting for clear signs of a thermal is the best way to launch and affords some certainty of gaining a safe height in the shortest possible time.

