

# CAT'S TOR

*Wind Direction:* West – northwest

*Take Off:* SK 994 759 1640 feet / 500m

*Landings:* 1. Pym Chair SJ 994 766, 1510 feet / 460m.

2. By car park SJ 995 768, 1510feet / 460m.

*Airspace:* Manchester CTA at 3000'

*Hospital:* Stepping Hill, Stockport

*Site Code:* 8.015

*Parking:* Park in the car park north of the ridge, 150 yds. along the road to Kettleshulme. If flying XC do not leave your car overnight without informing Buxton Police. (01298 72100)

*Access:* Cats Tor can be reached by a minor road running from the Errwood Reservoir to the A5002, or from the A537 by a road passing the Lamaload Reservoir. From the car park walk up to the highest point of the ridge as shown on the map, Do Not take-off from the low ridge close to the road (different owner) . If landing below Pym Chair walk to the exit, Do Not climb the fence by the road. If landing by the car park, exit via the gap in the fence in the corner of the car park, or by the stile in the far right corner.

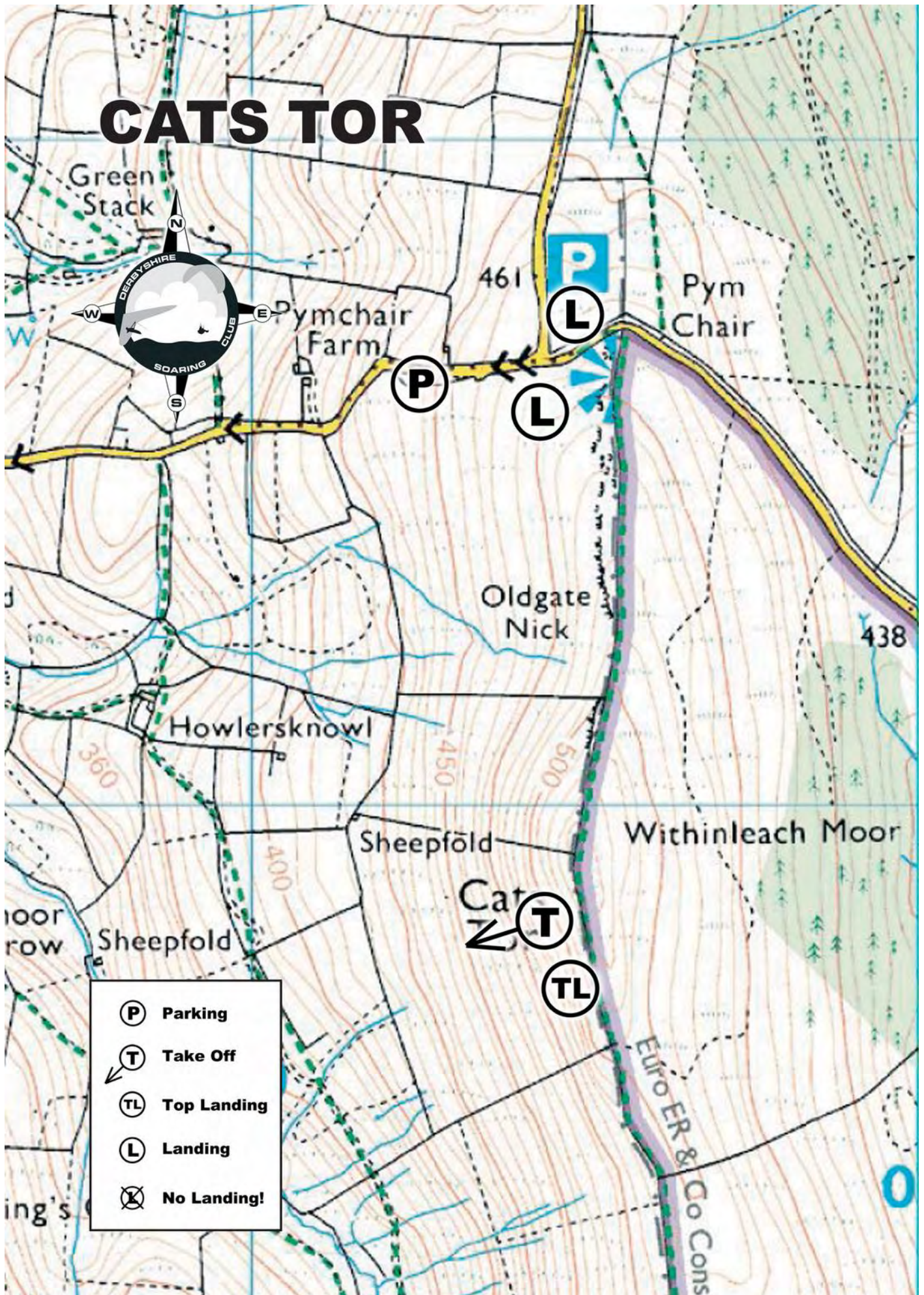
*Characteristics:* A good soaring site in westerly winds. The ridge can be flown south to Shining Tor (a Peak Club site). Top landing is fairly narrow and landings must be made in front of the wall to avoid the rotor behind. Cats Tor is a shared site with the Peak Club.

*Safety:* Becomes rough if the wind is too far off to the south. There is often turbulence at low level between Cats Tor and Shining Tor. Beware of rotor behind the wall on your top landing approach. The fields in front of take-off slope away very steeply. Paraglider pilots who go down here should note that there is very high wall (about 10ft. high) running along the base of the ridge. If you are going down break right to land on the plateau below Pym Chair. Beware Manchester CTA, which at 3000' above sea level gives not much more than 1000' clear above take off.

When going down to the bottom landing fields, keep a good look out for model aircraft which may be using the lower part of the ridge.

*Restrictions:* The alternative bottom landing by the car park is closed during April for bird nesting. Paragliding is not permitted in the lambing season. This lasts for 1 month sometime between late April and July, but please check before flying around this time. Shining Tor is a site for Peak Club members only.

# CATS TOR





## Cat's Tor

<b>Location (GR):</b>	SJ 995 760	<b>Site code:</b>	
<b>Wind direction:</b>	WSW to NW	<b>Height:</b>	1720 (500)

### Characteristics

**General:** The best wind direction is west, giving good, smooth soaring. It can become bumpy if the wind goes too far south. The wind speed is nearly always slightly stronger here than at Shining Tor to the south.

There is often pronounced compression at take off due to out of phase wave. This can be exploited by pushing well out (over the wall at the foot of the bottom landing field) into the rising phase where good lift can usually be found.

Top landing can be rather technical due to the compression and the relatively narrow distance between the ridge and the wall.

The ridge's characteristics change as you fly further south up the valley. The ridge in front starts to have a greater effect, producing turbulence in the bottom of the valley that can encourage thermals to release. The air can get noticeably more buoyant and lively to the south.

**Grade of flyer:** CP

**Hazards:** Modellers often use the low ridge between Pym's Chair and Oldgate Nick. They launch from the east of the wall as they do not have permission to use the west side. They have been known to go 'XC' by walking along the footpath to Shining Tor; which means they fly past the part of the ridge normally used by us. Be aware that modellers' concentration is usually limited to a very narrow field so be prepared to shout to get their attention (but don't swear).

HG top landings should be made in front of the large stone wall since there is bad turbulence behind. The bottom landing slopes away steeply - PGs should treat it as a slope landing.

The take off point is the most prominent part of the ridge and tends to split the lower wind into two streams: one tracking south up the valley, the other funnelled north east through Oldgate Nick. If you are coming in for a slope landing lower down, then be aware that the wind direction can be well off depending which side of take-off you are. Also the wind speed going into Oldgate Nick can be very high

### Site rules

**Parking & access:** Do not take off from the modellers' ridge (different owner) but walk up to the highest point as shown on the map. If you land by the road do not climb over the fence to get out. Exit via the stile at Pym's Chair. We also have permission to land in the field by the main car park, except for the month of April (due to bird nesting). Exit via the stile in the north east corner

### General

The site is usually closed from May to July due to lambing. Please do not over-fly the site during this time, even if you don't take off or land there, as the farmer will still regard it as a breach of our agreement.

Bottom landings must be made in the specified field and not in the meadow below it.

**Fees:** Fees are paid by the PSA and DSC.

### Ceiling:

Midweek: 3000 to 3500 ft ASL. CTA Class D. All times: 3500 ft ASL. TMA Class A

## Cat's Tor Map

