AIRFIELD FAMIL

Aim: To learn the layout, features and facilities of our local airfield / gliding site.

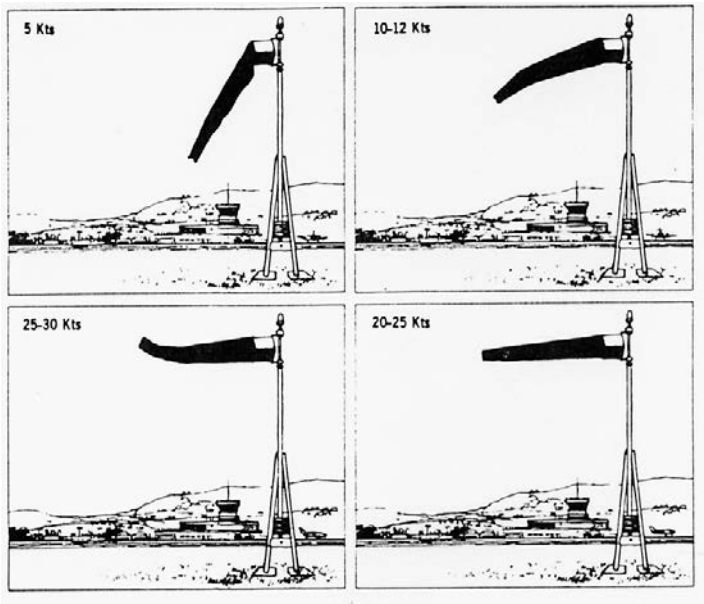
Gliding sites come in a variety of locations, shapes and forms. Facilities range from those of a fully controlled public aerodrome to those of a private paddock out in the countryside. The more familiar we are with the environment we operate in, the more comfortable we are and this is no different to when we go gliding. Here are some things to consider for getting comfortable with the airfield environment.

- Where is the access to the field? Are the gates controlled / secure? Combinations / codes?
- Where can I drive on the field… generally stick to the perimeter or designated tracks/ roads.
- Where are the clubrooms located? How do I get access?
- Where are the gliders kept? How do I access the hangar?
- Where can glider trailers be parked?
- What toilet facilities are there?
- Where can rubbish be disposed of?
- Where is a phone located? What is the club contact phone number? Is there a club website?
- Where is the control point for operations? This is often a caravan or "checkers" van.
- Where are the windsocks located? What colour are they and what strength are they calibrated to?
- What ground hazards exist and how are they marked?
- What are the *vectors* available? How are they designated? Eg. 03 / 21, 09 / 27.
- How long are the vectors?
- Is there any slope on the vectors?
- What are the circuit directions?
- What is the airfield operating frequency?
- Who else uses the field and where do they operate? Eg. parachuting ops; a flying school
- What hazards are near the takeoff and landing areas?
- What are the surrounding airfield areas like for landing in in the event of a launch failure.

Tips:

Get a map of your airfield and learn what is where, standing out on the airfield for orientation. Take time to look at the areas off the end of vectors from the ground as one day you may need to land there if you have a launch failure.

Practise assessing wind strength and direction and determine which vector should be in use. Check to see what strength winds your local windsocks are designed / calibrated for and then read the sock as depicted in the diagram. →



Initially, you will be focused on the site where you are learning to glide. Later, you will have the opportunity to fly at other sites and you should ask the same questions to learn about any site you intend to fly from.

Need To Know:

- The direction and designation of vectors used.
- The safe areas for operating and parking vehicles.
- Where specific local features like windsocks and any hazards are located.

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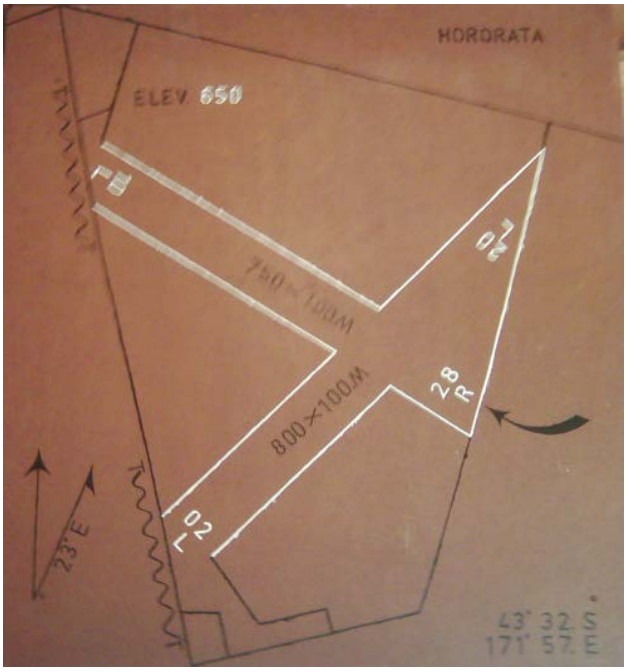
Hororata Airfield and Surrounds

Elevation	650 ft	
Vectors	02 / 20 800 meters 10 / 28 750 meters	
Circuit Direction	02 20 10 28	Left hand Left hand Left hand Right hand
Frequency	133.55, 119.1	
Location	S 43 32’ E 171 57’	



Further Reading:

- NZAIP Planning Manual and Visual Flight Guide (VFG). Good all round info on airfield layouts.