



SNOWDONIA SKY SPORTS SITES GUIDE

Flying in Snowdonia can be a uniquely special experience. By following a few simple rules and using common sense this can be a good experience. This sites guide is exactly that a guide, it is not a how to. This guide gives you a run down of the various sites that are available to fly in the area, listing all that you need to know to get by. If you wish to get further information and knowledge on the classic xc routes and how they are usually flown become a member of the club and get full access to all relevant in depth and updated information.

Snowdonia Sky Sports has a relaxed outlook towards sites in as much as they are all 'open' sites. To keep them this way we ask that you **READ** and **UNDERSTAND** this guide, if a site is not mentioned **DO NOT** fly it. We are flying in a National Park and an incident (including an access issue) could easily put the majority of our sites at risk. There could well be delicate ongoing negotiations or disputes that you will have no knowledge of, please respect our sites as you would respect yours.

Snowdonia is a unique flying destination and as with all mountainous areas has a tendency to quick weather changes, there are many sharp spine back ridges that cause rotor, boulder fields and vertical cliffs that make landing vary from extremely challenging to impossible. The sea has an effect on three sides, which often causes very unexpected wind changes when the sea breeze does come in. Just because you took off with the wind in a certain direction does not mean it will be the same one valley over or that it will stay the same where you took off! One day is never the same as the next, even if the forecast is the same. Thermals can be very strong and rough, especially if you are flying close to the mountains. Equally you can have the most serene of flights. A day can just as likely turn from epic to awful as awful to epic.

All this said if you keep your wits about you, don't get complacent and expect the unexpected you can enjoy some unparalleled flying in an amazing situation.



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Bochlwyd/Cwm Idwal

Wind Direction	N-NW.
Height	550m.
Site Type	Mountain.
Top to Bottom	200m.
XC Potential	Still to be explored.
Dont's	Land East of Tryfan on the South side of the road, Until past Craig y Ogof.
Challenges	Can be turbulent in Northerlies or if not truly NW. This site lies directly in the low flying track of RAF jets. Monday to Friday so best used only on weekends.

Harlech

Wind Direction	NW.
Height	200m.
Site Type	Mountain/Coastal.
Top to Bottom	200m.
XC Potential	Good.
Dont's	Forget to pay Mr/Mrs Roberts £2 for parking. Park obstructing any gateways or tracks. Leave any gates open. Land in fields with livestock or crops in. Land in the official Bottom landing Field if it has livestock. in it without 1 st consulting the farmer.
Challenges	Can be turbulent when top landing.

Harlech Cliff

Wind Direction	NW-W.
Height	50m.
Site Type	Coastal.
Top to Bottom	50m.
XC Potential	Good if you can connect with Harlech main ridge.
Don't's	Land on the golf course.
Challenges	Can rotor on takeoff . Can rotor in top landing field.



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Elidir Fach

Wind Direction	NW-S.
Height	795m.
Site Type	Mountain.
Top to Bottom	700m.
XC Potential	Good.
Don'ts	Block the gate ways or Tracks. Take off in the field directly above the Garrett track.
Challenges	Can have VERY strong thermals. Rotors on both lower Garrett take offs. Both lower Garrett take offs have room for one glider only. If you are not proficient at very small takeoffs in rotor do not use either of these the consequences could be bad ones!

Pen yr Helgi Du

Wind Direction	SE & W.
Height	833m.
Site Type	Mountain.
Top to Bottom	400m.
XC Potential	Unexplored.
Don'ts	Land around the farm on the East side of the ridge. Land in areas of livestock. Land South of the main road between Tryfan and Gallt yr Ogof. Park at the bottom of the reservoir road. Park obstructing any gate ways or tracks.
Challenges	Can be turbulent in moderate westerlies. The Ogwen valley is in the track of low flying RAF jets Mon to Fri so best used on week ends only.

Nant Gwytherin

Wind Direction	NW.
Height	300m.
Site Type	Coastal.
Top to Bottom	300m.
XC Potential	Limited.
Don'ts	Drive down the private road past the take off car park. Land by the buildings at the bottom.
Challenges	There is no beach at high tide so be aware. There is no sea level route back from Trefor to Nant Gwytherin. Watch out for the power lines. Can rotor on top landing.



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Moel Y Ci

Wind Direction	NW-SW.
Height	400m.
Site Type	Mountain.
Top to Bottom	50m.
XC Potential	Limited but has been known.
Don'ts	Block the track or Gateways.
Challenges	Can get crowded with more than three gliders.

Glyders

Wind Direction	SSW-SSE.
Height	480m.
Site Type	Mountain.
Top to Bottom	150m.
XC Potential	Limited.
Don'ts	Land in the fields North of Lyn Gwynant campsite. Land south of the main road in the Ogwen Valley between Tryfan and Gallt yr Ogof. Land North of the road between Plas y Brenin and Capel Curig.
Challenges	Watch out for sea breezes mainly from the West. Make sure you have plenty of height if going over the back. Watch out for power lines in the valley towards Llyn Gwynant. Watch out for valley skimming jets on weekdays if you go over the back, because chances are they won't see you! Getting the heather out of your lines if you choose the top take off.



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Moel Berfydd

Wind Direction	E-S.
Height	480m.
Site Type	Mountain.
Top to Bottom	150m.
XC Potential	Good.
Don'ts	Land in the fields North of Lyn Gwynant campsite.
Challenges	Watch out for sea breezes mainly from the west, coming over the back. The southerly portion of Moel Berfydd is marginal and turbulent. In strong winds there is the potential to be pushed over the back and down the Llanberis Pass, you don't want to do this! When flying in the Snowdon bowl it can be very turbulent Beware strong winds when landing at Llyn Gwynant campsite, don't get blown into the lake! It can be turbulent on the pump. There is a lot of turbulence behind the pump, give it a wide berth if going down to land in the campsite.

Ice Cream Van

Wind Direction	SW.
Height	300m.
Site Type	Mountain.
Top to Bottom	N/A.
XC Potential	Good.
Don'ts	Land in the fields North of Lyn Gwynant campsite Don't land below the road unless at Llyn Gwynant campsite.
Challenges	There is no bottom landing to speak of so it needs to be strong enough for you to get away or top land. A daunting task in itself! Can be turbulent if slightly off SW. Can be turbulent behind the ribs S of take off.



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Station 4

Wind Direction	NE-E.
Height	350m.
Site Type	Mountain.
Top to Bottom	N/A.
XC Potential	Good.
Don'ts	Land in the fields North of Lyn Gwynant campsite.
Challenges	There is no bottom landing field except the campsite so you need to know you will make it. When flying in the Snowdon bowl it can be very turbulent. Beware strong winds when landing at Llyn Gwynant campsite, don't get blown into the lake. It can be turbulent on the pump. There is a lot of turbulence behind the pump, give it a wide berth if going down to land in the campsite.

Moel Elio

Wind Direction	N-NW.
Height	350m.
Site Type	Mountain.
Top to Bottom	70M.
XC Potential	Good.
Don'ts	Block the lane, gateways or access for the farmer. Fly the east side of the northerly ridge. Overfly low the Chapel of rest or land in the small fields immediately below and N of Take Off.
Challenges	Clogwyn d Arddu can be turbulent, especially if there is a northerly element to the wind.

Moel Winion

Wind Direction	SW-NW.
Height	580m.
Site Type	Mountain.
Top to Bottom	250m.
XC Potential	Challenging.
Don'ts	Block tracks, paths or gateways.



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Foel Lus

Wind Direction	NE-N-NW.
Height	360m.
Site Type	Mountain/Sea Cliff.
Top to Bottom	360m.
XC Potential	Limited.
Don'ts	Park blocking any gateways or tracks. Land on the golf course. Try to land on the beach at high tide, there isn't one!
Challenges	Can be tricky to top land in strong conditions. Beware the power lines to the west.

Penmaen Bach

Wind Direction	N-NE.
Height	250m.
Site Type	Mountain/Sea Cliff.
Top to Bottom	250m.
XC Potential	Limited.
Don'ts	Park blocking any tracks or gateways. Park in the entrance to Morfa Caravan Park. Try to land on the beach at high tide, there isn't one! Land on the golf course at Penmaenmawr or Conwy.
Challenges	Can suffer a lot of rotor if trying to top land. Getting over the A55 and the Railway if you scratch the hillside too low. In other words give yourself time to make it.