

Useful addresses

Civil Aviation Authority

Flight Operations (General Aviation)
Safety Regulation Group,
Aviation House
Gatwick Airport South
West Sussex RH6 0YR
www.caa.co.uk
Telephone: 01293 573526
Fax: 01293 573973

British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association

The Old Schoolroom
Loughborough Road
Leicester
LE4 5PJ
www.bhpa.co.uk
Email: office@bhpa.co.uk
Telephone: 0116 2611322
Fax: 0116 2611323

British Microlight Aircraft Association

The Bullring, Deddington,
Banbury, Oxford. OX15 0TT
www.bmaa.org
E-mail: general@bmaa.org,
Telephone: 01869 338888
Fax: 01869 337116

Aeronautical Information Services

Check NOTAMs, Red Arrows restricted
airspace etc at www.ais.org.uk
Freephone **0500 354 802** to check temporary
airspace restrictions

you can subscribe to free chart updates at
www.caa.co.uk/subscriptions

You can also get hints, tips and news on
airspace safety issues at
www.airspacesafety.com and
www.flyontrack.co.uk

Be a
responsible
pilot

Fly **safely**
and enjoy your
flying

Before you
fly **just**
remember
who's
responsible
for

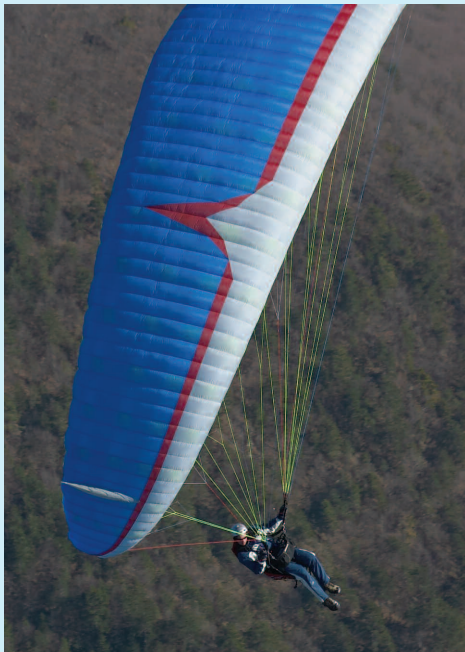
safety...



...you are

Flying a paraglider, hang glider, paramotor or single seat microlight enables you to take to the skies relatively easily.

However, there is still some key information you need, and rules you have to follow, to make sure you safely integrate with the other users of the UK's busy skies.



Different classes of airspace

Most of your flying will take place in uncontrolled airspace. In this airspace you may well not be talking to an air traffic controller and you will keep clear of other airspace users by seeing and avoiding them yourself. This airspace is known as 'Class G' or the 'Open FIR'

However, there are several other classes of airspace to be found in the UK that require communication with air traffic control, extra communications equipment and clearance to operate in. Near larger airports and airfields, these areas of 'controlled airspace' will extend upwards from as low as 1,000ft above sea-level or even from the surface.

Before you fly you need to check that you can undertake your flight without entering into any 'controlled airspace' or other areas that are restricted. Pilots' charts showing the airspace are available from most pilot supply shops. Airspace layouts do change and updates are available from the CAA website.

Temporary Airspace Restrictions

Occasionally areas of airspace are closed on particular dates and times. This could be for a number of reasons such as an airshow, flypast or to allow emergency services priority access following a major incident. These restrictions and other important information are published as Notices to Airmen, known as NOTAMs.

NOTAMs

Every pilot should check NOTAMs before every flight. Even though you fly a route regularly there could be a new tethered balloon cable, parachuting, gas venting or other activity that



wasn't taking place yesterday. You can check NOTAMs at www.ais.org.uk. You need to register but there is a downloadable guide to the service. All of this is free of charge. As well as the online check there is also a freephone number **0500 354 802** to check temporary airspace restrictions such as Red Arrows displays.

Airspace infringements

If you do enter a piece of restricted or controlled airspace without permission this is known as an airspace infringement. This can be very dangerous as you may come into conflict with large airliners or fast moving military jets. If you do infringe there is also a possibility that you could be prosecuted.

Rules of the Air

Regardless of what you fly there is a set of rules that govern UK airspace called the Air Navigation Order (ANO). This is the Highway Code of the air. One of the key aspects of the ANO is the fact that you cannot fly closer than 500 feet to any person, vehicle or object and no lower than 1,000 feet over a built up area.