



# Maiden Castle

OS Grid Ref: SY 667 886

GPS: N50:41.765 W2:28.370

Owned by:	Duchy of Cornwall	Wind Direction	NNE - NNW (330° to 30°) Best: N (0°)
Managed By:	English Heritage		
Farmed by:	Mr John Hoskins 01305 262356	Height AMSL	370ft (115m)
		Top to Bottom	Negligible
Nearest Phone:	Tesco Store	Pilot Grades	HG not permitted PG Club Pilot
Casualty Units:	County Hospital Dorchester		<b>Site briefing advisable</b>

## See site rules

Notes by Alastair Florence edited from original by Russell Whyte

### General Site info

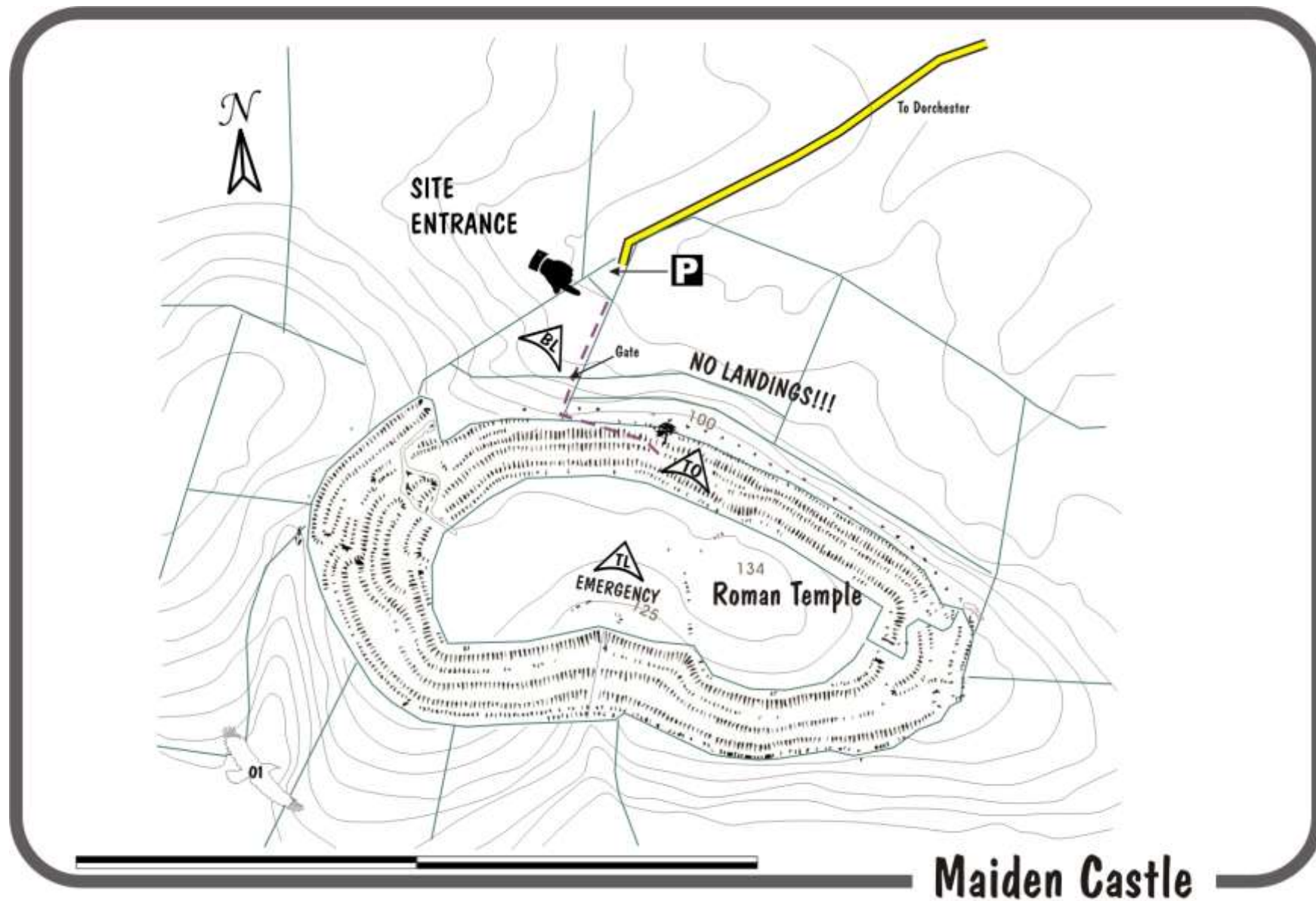
Maiden Castle is an ancient hill fort. The hill is used for grazing by the farmer. It is also a popular walking area and hence has high exposure to the public.

The site is relatively small and the top to bottom height not great. This is where the sites benefits become apparent though. If the larger North facing sites are blown out then chances are Maiden Castle will still be flyable.

Many pilots in the area and from neighbouring clubs have flown the site over recent years. Wessex made the site an official club site in 2006 in an effort to agree controlled use with the farmer.

There have been problems with over use, pilots landing in crops and scaring sheep, please observe the rules stated herein or we may lose the site for good.

The site is most popular in winter but can be flown all year round.



Maiden Castle

- Directions** From the A35 Dorchester Bypass take the A354 toward Dorchester, the Football club and Tesco will be off to your right as you turn toward Dorchester. Follow toward Dorchester. As you approach the top of the rise turn left, where it is signed for Maiden Castle, onto Maiden Castle road. Drive straight ahead for approx 1½ miles, you will see the earthworks directly ahead.
- Parking** Park in the free public car park.
- Access** Face the ramparts and walk up the path from the left hand corner of the car park. At the top left hand corner of the field is a small gate, follow the path through and bear left. The path cuts up the first rampart at 45' this is the main take off area.
- Hazards** Dog mess in landing field.  
Bear in mind you will most likely be flying this site in strong conditions, be aware of changes in the weather that may make it just that bit too strong.  
Strong venturi can develop near to the ramparts so take care not to get pinned or blown back. The top of the fort is fairly flat and can provide an emergency top landing. Be prepared for potential rotor.  
There is a barbed wire fence directly in front of take off, so take care.  
Being dragged whilst launching could result in you being dragged over one of the ramparts, resulting in a fall into the bottom of the rampart ditch. If your wing is still flying it may well remain over your head as the ditches are not too deep and do not tend to suffer from rotor at wing top height. If your wing is dragging at ground level, it will deflate as soon as it drops into the ditch.
- Launching** Launch from the first rampart as described. The area is fairly large. Be careful on lighter days that you do not fly down onto the barbed wire fence or into the cropped field in front of take off.  
If the wind is light it is possible to launch from one the higher ramparts. The ramparts are very steep in places.
- Landing** It may be possible to land back on take off.  
The top of the fort is flat and so long as you land as far back as possible can provide emergency top landing.  
The only official landing field is the field directly above the car park - the one you first walked up through.
- Site Rules** 1) No more than four wings in the air at any one time regardless of

conditions and pilots height. The farmer can see us easily and has complained about over use of the site more than once.

- 2) No more than four pilots at take off when sheep are present on the ramparts.
- 3) The only bottom landing is in the field above the car park. Do not land in the field in front of take off other than in dire emergencies. Then leave by a gate even if this means walking a considerable distance. **DO NOT CLIMB THE FENCE.**
- 4) Be polite to aero modellers they are friends of the farmer.
- 5) Maiden Castle is a scheduled Ancient Monument and as such it is an offence to damage the castle or fences in any way. If prosecuted a custodial sentence is possible

## **XC**

XC is not common from this site. However there are often plenty of thermals giving good height gains and the possibility of connecting with the sea breeze front.

## **Flying Generally**

An excellent site just for a bit of fun or on stronger days. Very useful for keeping current over the winter months.

Good thermal development here.

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