

PORTMOAK AIRFIELD SAFETY PROCEDURE

POWERED AIRCRAFT* PASSING WINCH LAUNCH POINT

* [Includes Powered Aeroplanes, Motor-glanders, Self-launching Sailplanes and Microlights]

A SERVICEABLE RADIO IS MANDATORY FOR POWER OPERATIONS!

Effective immediately, the following procedure shall be adopted when Powered Aircraft need to pass the winch launch point whilst en route to or from the North Field or elsewhere on the airfield:

On approaching the winch launch point, the power pilot needs to be aware of the risk posed by winch launch cables present at the launch point. Personnel at the launch point should be vigilant for powered aircraft seeking to cross the launch point and recognise the need power pilots have for assistance in ensuring the crossing is done safely.

1. Approaching the launch point, the power pilot should stop taxiing 30m before and more than 45 degrees from the launch line. This allows winch launching to continue until a safe crossing can be allowed.
2. Power Pilot shall **REQUEST CABLES FOLDED** by radio call to Portmoak Base on 129.975 MHz
 - a. Power Pilot: "**Portmoak Base, G-XX, Request cables folded**"
3. If there are **no cables remaining** and **all personnel and vehicles, etc., are safely clear** of the area through which the Powered Aircraft will pass and the **Cable Retrieve Vehicle is not expected to arrive at the Launch Point imminently**,
 - a. Launch Point Radio Operator: "**G-XX, All cables clear**"
(Note: Replace "XX" with the last two letters of the aircraft's callsign)
4. If there are any cables remaining or the Cable Retrieve Vehicle is expected to arrive at the Launch Point imminently, Launch Point Radio Operator requests Power Pilot to wait:
 - a. Launch Point Radio Operator: "**G-XX, Hold Position**"
5. If there are any cables remaining,
 - a. Launch Point Radio Operator checks that the winch's warning light is not flashing to ensure that there is no danger of cables being moved by the winch
 - b. Launch Point Radio Operator requests an assistant to **FOLD THE REMAINING CABLES BACK ON THEMSELVES** towards the winch by a minimum distance of **TWO WINGSPANS** of the powered aircraft
 - c. When all personnel and vehicles, etc., are safely clear of the area through which the Powered Aircraft will pass, Launch Point Radio Operator advises Power Pilot that cables are clear:
 - d. Launch Point Radio Operator: "**G-XX, All cables clear**"
6. On receiving the *All cables clear* message and when safe to do so, Power Pilot **taxies slowly in front of the Launch Point** (between the Launch Point and winch), maintaining safe clearance from all personnel, animals, folded cables, Launch Point Caravan, other aircraft, vehicles and objects at all times.
7. If the Cable Retrieve Vehicle is expected to arrive at the Launch Point imminently, then the **CABLE RETRIEVE VEHICLE HAS RIGHT OF WAY** and should be allowed to complete its return to the Launch Point. Thereafter, cables are folded and the *All cables clear* message given to the Power Pilot when safe to do so.

In an Easterly wind, the winch should be positioned so as to allow power pilots space to taxi safely behind the winch. In all cases, it is the pilot's responsibility to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the crossing is done safely.