

Chalgrove

Chalgrove Airfield Operations

1. The airfield is owned by Martin Baker and is used by the company to test and evaluate ejector seats. Associated with this there can be fast jets (usually a meteor), ground-based ejector test rigs firing seats upwards and associated helicopter flights in the overhead (usually not above 2000') supporting testing activities.
2. The airfield is sometimes used for training and exercises by military helicopters (usually from nearby RAF Benson)
3. The airfield is also used from time to time by light aircraft on company business.
4. In all normal circumstances these operations will only occur Mon-Fri 9-5pm (excluding bank holidays)

Runway and Airfield

1. Although the runway is quite long and properly maintained there are times when Martin Baker will run explosives over and around the runway. This could even occur when there are no planned flying activities.
2. The grass areas on the airfield have a variety of obstructions and operational apparatus laid out and would always make landing there potentially hazardous.

Landing at Chalgrove

1. **In all normal circumstances, unless specific permission has been obtained (*see below), gliders should NOT land at Chalgrove.** In addition to the hazards detailed above access to the airfield for a retrieve would be complicated. Indeed between 5pm and 9am on working days/nights plus any Saturday, Sunday or Bank Holiday any access will not normally be possible.
2. Aerotow retrieves are also NOT permissible due to the insurance regulations on the airfield.

Flying within 2nm of Chalgrove

1. The CAA air map shows a 2nm drop zone up to 5500' around Chalgrove. This airspace is not used frequently. There is a Letter Of Agreement between RAF Benson and Chalgrove. If this airspace becomes 'active' RAF Benson can be contacted to ascertain its status.
2. When airborne if a pilot wants to check the status of the Chalgrove drop zone they can contact Benson Radar. If a pilot wants to know the status of Chalgrove prior to taking off, they can call Benson Ops on 01491-827017