

BEGBROKE VILLAGE HALL PLAYING FIELD (BVHPF) MODEL FLYING – FAQs

Date: 30 June 2020

Q1. Why is model flying at BVHPF restricted?

Answer: BVHPF is situated within the London Oxford Airport (LOA) Flight Restriction Zone (FRZ) and, by law, model flying may only take place when authorised by LOA Air Traffic Control (ATC). BVHPF is very close to LOA's main runway, consequently there are tight restrictions upon operating height, area and times.

Q2. Where are the restrictions on model flying at BVHPF laid down?

Answer: Details of the BVHPF operating restrictions may be found in the Letter of Agreement between LOA and OMFC; a copy of this letter is available in the OMFC BVHPF Safety Officer's Guide. Operating times are negotiated with LOA ATC and promulgated by the OMFC Committee.

Q3. What types of models may be flown at BVHPF?

Answer: Any type of model may be flown at BVHPF provided it complies with the following criteria:

- a. Mass at launch not exceeding 500g.
- b. No I/C powered models are permitted.
- c. Control-line model have lines not to exceed 25m.

Q4. Why are models restricted to 500g?

Answer: During negotiations with LOA, one of the arguments used to support limited model flying within LOA's FRZ was that the risk of bird-strike to full-size aircraft was already accepted by the Airport's operators. The example of a wood pigeon (average mass 498g) was used. LOA staff accepted that model aircraft weighing 500g or less, and under a degree of operator control, posed less of a risk to operational safety than an uncontrolled wild wood pigeon.

Q5. What height and area restrictions apply at BVHPF?

Answer: Model flying is restricted to 100ft above ground level and, in area, to within the confines of the Playing Field. For guidance, models should not be flown above tree-top height.

Q6. Where are the permitted flying times laid down, and when can I start flying?

Answer: Flying times are agreed with LOA ATC and promulgated by the OMFC Committee. Flying may start as soon as the Safety Officer has telephoned the airport to inform LOA ATC that flying has started.

Q7. Are all models restricted to the criteria set out in the LOA Letter of Agreement?

Answer: No. Control-line models and free-flight gliders may be flown at any time permitted by BVH Committee provided any control lines do not exceed 25m in length. Free-flight model gliders must have no moveable control

surfaces – note that this means de-thermalisers are not permitted. Technically, such gliders would be restricted to flying below 400' and limited to a mass of 20kg or below; however, it is important to note that:

- a. ANO Articles 240 and 241 apply, and the remote pilot remains responsible for the safe conduct of the flight.
- b. The intention of this dispensation was to permit flying objects and small models such as frisbees, darts, paper aeroplanes and chuck gliders to be flown inside FRZs – not large model gliders.
- c. This dispensation does not appear in the ANO. Its validity was confirmed by the BMFA and is written down on Page 51 of the June 2019 edition of BMFA News (not ideal!).
- d. If a remote pilot elects to operate outside the permitted times set out in the LOA letter of agreement, it is strongly recommended that the limitations set out in the letter are adhered to.

Q8. Can visitors fly at BVHPF?

Answer: Yes; however, any visitors, including parents or guardians of OMFC Junior Members, must be BMFA Members. Temporary BMFA Membership can be obtained for £5 and the insurance is valid as soon as the money is received by a club official. The visitor must then sign the BVH Flying Site List of Approved Flyers (Non-OMFC Members) form in the Safety Officer's Guide. The visitor should either be closely supervised by the person named on the form, OR complete an OMFC Remote Pilot Competency Check Sheet form.

Q9. Can I fly drones at BVHPF?

Answer: Yes, provided they are flown within the limitations set out within the Letter of Agreement.

Q10. Do I need to be registered with the CAA to fly at BVHPF?

Answer: Yes, but only if your model weighs 250g or more at launch. If so, your model must have a registered operator (who must be over 18yrs old) and display a valid Operator ID in accordance with CAA regulations. The remote pilot must hold one of the following: a CAA Flyer ID; a valid BMFA RCC; a valid BMFA Achievement Certificate (BPC or above).

Q11. Who is the Safety Officer?

Answer: In accordance with the Begbroke Model Flying Procedures, the Safety Officer monitors model flying at BVHPF to ensure compliance with the rules and liaises with LOA ATC as necessary. Normally, the Safety Officer will be a Committee member; however, any suitably experienced club member may be nominated.