

Vehicle Operations

No private vehicles may be driven on any part of the airfield except on the rigging area when positioning trailers for rigging. (There is an alleviation for 1 car carrying catering if the conditions permit). Gators may be used to tow private gliders with tow out gear. The electric buggies may only be used to tow using the rope.

When positioning both the winch and the caravan, the south track should be used (except when setting up next to the hangar). This includes setting up at the dewpond. This is in order to preserve the north east corner of the airfield which is damaged very easily by this equipment.

Retrieve vehicles (including Gators and buggies) should be driven on the tracks when returning to the winch or going to retrieve a glider. Reduce speed over any bumpy areas.

Cable Retrieve

The retrieve Landrover should be driven at a reduced speed to minimise damage (maximum 15mph). If the tyres start to throw up mud, reduce still further. If damage continues to be caused by the Landrover, use a Gator for retrieves.

Retrieve drivers should be meticulous in following a different track each time they draw cables, and should try to avoid previously worn areas.

The Dyneema cable is not compatible with the tracks. If cable retrieves cannot be conducted without causing excessive damage, winch operations must cease.

Glider Retrieves

Gliders are not 'spun on the spot' during winter operations due to the soft ground.

Gators should position in front of the glider when preparing to retrieve. Once hooked on. The glider should be towed in an arc until positioned parallel to the track. Glider main wheels should be positioned clear of previous tracks. See also the Gator driving instructions in the caravan.

Care should be taken to avoid allowing the rudder to slam over if turning through the wind with the wind behind (if necessary, the rudder should be held. The Puchacz is particularly vulnerable).

Gators / Buggy should be driven at an angle to the slope when towing gliders uphill to avoid wheels spinning.