



Inset pic: caption to come about extra land?  
(Rich Abercrombie)

Main pic: Gold height at Borders GC  
(Graham White)

## > CLUB FOCUS

### BORDERS

#### AT A GLANCE

**Membership:**

Full: £225pa  
Student: £35pa

**Launch type:**

Aerotow: £28 (2,500ft)

**Club fleet:**

2 x Pawnee, Supercub,  
K-21, Grob 103 Acro III,  
Alliance 34, Astir, SF25C  
motorglider

**Private gliders:**

26

**Instructors/Members:**

12/67

**Types of lift:**

Wave, ridge, thermal and  
convergence

**Operates:**

Fri/Sat/Sun and Bank  
Holidays, plus published  
flying weeks

**Contact:**

Tel: 01668 216284  
(Weekends)  
[www.bordersgliding.co.uk](http://www.bordersgliding.co.uk)

**Long and Lat:**

N5535.52 W00205.37

**Radio:** 130.1 (For power  
aircraft the airfield is prior  
permission only)

**B**ORDERS GC was formed in 1969 on the old RAF Milfield site. Nestled at the foot of the Cheviot Hills 3.5nm NW of Wooler, Northumberland, Milfield plain is an area of low-lying ground with glaciodeltaic and glaciofluvial sand-and-gravel deposits fanning out from the valley of the River Glen.

These deposits caused Borders to look for a new site when, in 1986, gravel extraction on the site had reached a point where flying could not be safely carried out due to limited space. Land became available at a nearby farm 'Galewood' and the club took the chance to acquire its own site.

The membership continued to grow and the club operated there successfully until 1993, when British Gas announced plans to build a gas pumping station at the edge of the airfield. Negotiations with British Gas resulted in the donation of a substantial part of the previous RAF Milfield airfield, now re-levelled and grassed over, along with custom-built hangar, workshop, clubhouse, bunk rooms, office and a caravan site.

The move back to this new site was

made on 2 August, 1997. Since then the club has grown and grown. An additional private members' hangar, which houses 22 gliders, was completed in 2004 with a grant from Sport England. We also now operate a fleet of three tugs, four gliders and a Motor Falke, all housed in the main hangar.

Borders offers genuinely fantastic ridge flying along the 8km College Valley in wind directions from 220° - 360° and another 7km ridge in wind directions 360° - 060° from Milfield SE down towards the town of Wooler. Cheviot, the highest hill in the range also gives excellent soaring.

However, where Borders really comes into its own is from the wave generated by the Cheviots. Wave can 'kick off' in almost any direction and, with the Otterburn Military ranges (23km to the SSW) being the only restriction, we have no controlled airspace to worry about. The Northumbria wave box exists for flights beyond FL195 up to FL240.

Although we only operate at weekends and Bank Holidays, we also run various flying weeks through the year. We usually fly all of October and part of September.

**Rich Abercrombie**