

## ***Beaulieu Heath Airfield Temporary opening for BMFC Flying***

### ***July 4<sup>th</sup> 2020 – July 31<sup>st</sup> 2020***

Please remember that we have a special permission to use the airfield during a period when it has been closed by the Forestry for Ecology concerns. Any abuse of this concession will lead to its termination.

None of us want to contract the Covid-19 virus, and none of us want to spread the virus. If you consider the risk of infection or transmission is too great then it is best not to go there and risk being exposed.

If you are prepared to accept the risk, then it is sensible to go to the flying field, but to protect yourself, and others. You may wish to use a mask, but as we are an outdoor activity, and social spacing is easy to achieve you may consider that it is not essential.

It is up to each of us to protect ourselves, and to respect others, by acting sensibly and keeping within the current Government guidelines, as well as the existing Forestry ByLaws, and the existing BMFC regulations.

### **The story so far.**

The airfield was closed by the Forestry in March, along with most other facilities in the New Forest, in accordance with the Government's Covid-19 lockdown restrictions.

When most of the restrictions were lifted in May and June, the Heath remained closed at the request of the Forestry's Ecology department because it was found that a number of rare bird species had nested in the area. Because of the catastrophic decline in rare species in recent years, and the unprecedented opportunity to help restore them, a total exclusion policy was adopted by the Forestry for the heath. The general public will not be permitted to return to the heath until the end of July, so that normal activities, accessed in the normal way, would probably only resume after August 1st.

The BMFC (your committee) has been in constant touch with the Forestry administration, Ecology scientists, and the local keeper. We have shown that our (model flying) impact in the ecology of the heath is low. Consequently we have been given permission to start our activities on **July 5<sup>th</sup>** (other government relaxations also occur at this time). This access will be subject to whatever government recommendations are in force at the time regarding social distancing, group activities, and protective clothing, if needed.

### **Free Flight model flying**

Free Flight flying activity is NOT permitted at present.

### **R/C model flying**

You may fly normal models within the limits set by our Regulations (no model greater than 7Kg in take-off weight). Please note that:

- Fixed wing aeroplanes, helicopters, gliders, gyrocopters and similar models are fine. They must be flown from the hard runway, and land back on the hard runway.
- Drones (multi-rotor electric self-stabilised aerial vehicles) are NOT permitted (as they require access to heath area beyond the hard runway). They will be permitted when full availability is obtained in August.

No other model types are permitted.

Now is the time to check over your models, re-charge batteries, test radio gear, servo movements,

fuel lines and tanks, and ancillary equipment as necessary - it has been a long time since some of us have been actively flying !

Also, do remember to make sure all models to fly are showing your CAA OPerator number, and that you have your documentation available for insurance (e.g. BMFA membership), competence (e.g. CAA FLYnumber), and permit (e.g. BMFC card).

## **What vehicles are allowed for access**

Because we will be using the old perimeter track to access our normal flying site we must be careful. It is narrow, and in some places it is in rather poor condition. We do want to cause any further deterioration of the track so must only use light vehicles and drive slowly. Large vehicles, such as long-wheel base transit vans and larger, camper vans, trailers, and heavy 4x4s are NOT permitted. If in doubt, do not drive there, but call us and ask first.

## **How to gain access to the Heath**

*Do not use the normal gate on the B3054 Beaulieu-Lymington Road.*

Instead, use the gate on the B3055 Beaulieu-Brockenhurst Road. This gate will have two padlocks, a Forestry key-operated padlock and our own combination padlock. The two locks are linked by a connecting rod, such that opening one padlock will allow the gate to be opened. Forestry personnel and Forest Commoners can use the key padlock. We will use the combination lock.

To operate the gate:

1. stop your car at the gate, off the road
2. use the combination to open the padlock and remove the locks from the gate.
3. Secure the gate open (it may swing back if not restrained)
4. Drive through and stop
5. Replace the locks as you found them, and spin the combination to ensure it is locked.

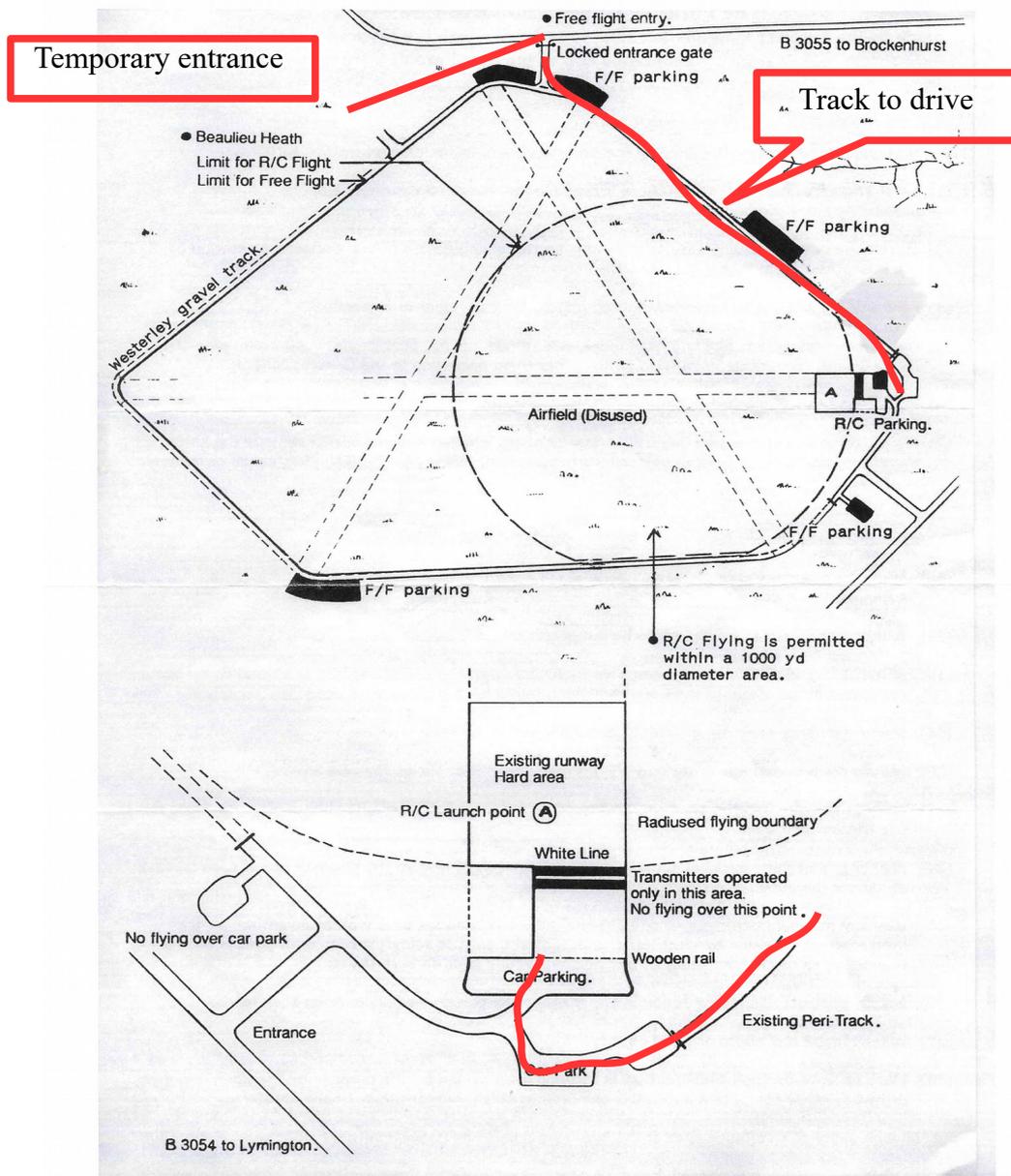
The 4 digit code for the combination lock will be sent to you by email. This code may be changed at the discretion of the BMFC and/or the Forestry.

## **How to gain access to the airfield**

To get to the airfield from the gate:

1. Drive in on the access track to the T-junction with the perimeter track.
2. Turn left (Do not turn right) and proceed along the perimeter track - maximum speed 15mph. Please do not exceed this as there may be pedestrians and other heath users about.
3. There is another gate near the normal car park. If it is open proceed. If it is closed, open it and proceed.
4. Continue to the normal car parking site near the pits area. key

Map of Flying Areas at Beaulieu Airfield, New Forest, Hampshire, England, UK



## Actions in the Car Park

Please park sensibly in the normal way alongside the barrier. Try to give reasonable space between vehicles so that people can pass easily between the vehicles.

Unload your equipment and move it to the pits area as normal.

## Actions in the Pits Area

Please set up your equipment with regard to the governments guidelines on Social Distancing. Ideally you should leave a 2m gap between yourself and the next person.

In order to maintain sensible separation you may have to bring less equipment and/or fewer models than normal. Remember, this is not for ever, just for the temporary period.

## **Actions in the Flying Area**

When you are ready to fly, let others know, and proceed to the Pilot Box. Try to avoid getting tangled up with other people, who may be going to, or coming back from the Pilot Box.

You may position your model anywhere on the hard runway, if it is safe to do so. Please do not use other areas such as the grass verges, or grass area beyond the runway.

## **Actions in the Pilot Box**

There should be a maximum of 3 people in the Pilot Box at any one time. If the Pilot Box is "full" then please wait your turn.

While flying from the Pilot Box be clear to let others know what you are doing, especially when taking off and landing. They may be further away from you than normal.

Do not enter the Pilot Box if you are not flying a model.

Leave the Pilot Box when your model has landed, and return to the pits.

## **Returning from the airfield to the road**

To leave, please take all your equipment with you. Re-trace your steps via the perimeter track to the gate on the B3055. Open the gate, exit, and replace the locks in the correct way. Be sure to spin the combination on the padlock to ensure it is locked.

## **Conclusion**

Thank you for cooperation, and have fun flying. The BMFC wishes you have a successful outing.

BMFC 1st July 2020