

637 Volunteer Gliding Squadron Little Rissington

Tel: 01451 810078 Fax: 01451 810229

www.pelicanfts.org.uk

Joining Instructions

1. **Location:** 637 VGS is situated in the Cotswolds just off the A429 between Stow-on-the-Wold and Burford.
2. **Routing:** From Stow-on-the-Wold proceed down the hill along the A429 towards Cirencester. At the traffic lights fork left onto the A424 signposted Swindon (Light Traffic) & Burford. Proceed up the hill and past a garden centre (approximately 2 miles) on your right. Take the next right at a cross-roads, signposted Little Rissington & The Barringtons. At tee junction turn left and immediately right, signposted Great Rissington & The Barringtons. Go past the old main entrance to RAF Little Rissington (now a Business Park) and head towards Great Barrington alongside the airfield on your left. The entrance of the airfield is signposted 637 VGS and is opposite a house.

From Burford take the A424 towards Stow-on-the-Wold, passing the airfield on your left. Look for a left turn signposted Upper Rissington. Follow this road to a tee junction. Turn left and go past the old main entrance then proceed as above to the entrance on the left opposite the house.

3. **On the airfield:** Once on the airfield, follow the track towards the windsock, from this point the Gliding Squadron is clearly signposted. Following the signs, turn left and follow the road till it meets the perimeter track. Turn left again following the white dotted line around the perimeter track passing the green hangar on your right. 637 VGS headquarters is a cream coloured building immediately past the green hangar. The entrance to the headquarters is from the airfield side, there is ample parking space to the front of the building. Report to the Duty-Instructor.
4. **Driving caution:** There is a 30mph speed limit on the airfield. You will be crossing the ends of active runways and driving on active perimeter taxi ways. Look out for aircraft and always give way to them. If an aircraft is approaching to land or taking-off do not cross the end of a runway, wait until the aircraft has passed before proceeding. Keep to the perimeter track, do not be tempted to drive towards the centre of the airfield even if you see the control caravan in position. The only access to the airfield is via the runways, which are active at all times for aircraft in the event of an emergency.
5. **Contact Details:** In the event you need to make contact prior to the day, please call the Cadet Management Officer, Flt Lt Paula Smith on 0121 478 1828 .

On the day call the Gliding School direct on 01451 810078 or the caravan telephone number of 07786 504892..

6. **Arrival time:** Cadets do not need to be at the airfield until 09.30. The unit is usually manned from 08.30 and in inclement weather this will give most people the opportunity to call the school prior to leaving. This could save a wasted journey.
7. **Clothing:** Cadets do not need to be in uniform on the airfield. However, uniforms will be required if a visit to RAF Brize Norton is arranged in the event poor weather prevents flying at Little Rissington. Airfields are draughty places and can be very cold in the winter, Alternatively they can be hot in the summer offering little shade. Cadets should wear sensible civilian clothing for the conditions, preferably cotton, not nylon. On hot summer days most instructors wear shorts and a tee shirt under their flying clothing, a good sunscreen cream will also be beneficial. Cadets should wear soft shoes, without a

deep tread pattern to avoid bringing mud into the aircraft. Aircraft are not fitted with sun visors, so a good pair of sunglasses will also be found useful.

7. **Flying Clothing:** Cadets should be supplied with a flying coverall or denims by their squadron. Cadets flying clothing should be servicable and clean, so do not bring the filthy denims used for a night exercise the previous week, this will only cause discomfort which will interfere with the learning process. 637 VGS does have a small stock of flying coveralls that can be loaned if the squadron cannot supply them.
8. **Documentation fitness for flight:** Cadets attending Gliding Scholarship courses should be in possession of a completed F6424 Medical Form and should not be on medication. If medication is being taken, this should be reported to the duty instructor. Medical Forms for GS students will be examined and returned for retention at the cadet's own unit. Gliding Induction Course cadets do not need a medical, however they should not attend if they have a medical condition that would make flying inadvisable. OC ATC units should ensure all their cadets visiting for gliding are medically fit. **All** cadets must bring a correctly completed 3822 Record of Service book. This contains vital confirmation of parents consent to fly and next of kin details. **Failure to produce a 3822 or a medical for G.S. students will exclude cadets from flying. Accompanying squadron staff for GIC visits should bring with them their green form GIC Programme Sheet completed with the nominal role. This is passed to the Duty Instructor, who will sign it before you leave.**
9. **Messing:** There are no messing facilities at Little Rissington. Cadets are requested to bring a packed lunch. Hot drinks are available in winter and cold in summer.
10. **Cameras:** Cameras may be used at Little Rissington. Cadets may also wish to bring other items to keep them amused between flights. Many bring their homework!
11. **Mobile phones:** Because of the risk of igniting fuel fumes mobile phones are not permitted in or near aircraft.
12. **Smoking:** Is not permitted in the building or in the vicinity of aircraft.
13. **Departure:** In the winter flying stops at dusk. The aircraft then have to be cleaned and put away. Departure time for GS students may therefore be about one hour after dusk. In the summer flying usually ends by 18.30, so expect to depart between 19.00 and 19.30. **Ensure that your cadets get their 3822's completed with details of their flights on that day and you have collected your green form GIC Programme Sheet signed by the Duty Instructor.**
14. **Award of Gliding Wings and Certificates:** Gliding Induction Course cadets will receive a certificate at the end of their day at 637 VGS. Gliding Scholarship Cadets will receive their Gliding Wings on the successful completion of their course. A Gliding Scholarship certificate will be forwarded later from the cadet's Wing Headquarters.
15. **Conduct:** Cadets will be treated like adults and expected to behave as such. VGS's are Royal Air Force units and staffed by senior RAF officers. We expect behaviour to be in a manner befitting of the Air Training Corps and the Royal Air Force. Misconduct will be dealt with by the Gliding School and may result in a student being excluded permanently from the course.
16. **To sum up:** Cadets get an opportunity not available to many, a Vigilant costs about £300 per hour to operate and they should make the most of it. GS students and GIC cadets should be prepared by squadron instructors running over the Principles of Flight book before they attend the Gliding School, paying particular attention to the section on effects of the controls. This will help them understand what is happening when they fly. Above all the aim is to enjoy the course or GIC flight. Cadets should feel free to ask any questions they wish and join in with as much as possible during their stay.
17. **Comments:** If you have any comments to make or suggestions as to how your visit or course could have been improved, please contact, Flt Lt Bernard Tisley Wg GLO on 01327 261103 or email bernardtisley@compuserve.com.