

For immediate release

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## Temperatures aren't the only thing soaring in the UK!



GLIDER pilots have been making the most of soaring temperatures by soaring long distance cross country flights as temperatures in the UK reach record highs. Picture: Alistair MacKenzie/British Gliding Association.

**BRITISH gliding has been enjoying the record-breaking temperatures to make record-breaking long distance engineless flights across the UK.**

Using the same naturally occurring currents of air that birds use to fly, glider pilots have reached heights of 10,000ft, speeds of 114kph and flown for more than ten hours non-stop – all without an engine!

Glider pilots have been harnessing the power of nature since the heatwave began on the longest day to report the longest flights ever flown by soaring across the open countryside in England, Scotland and Wales.

Four flights of more than 1,000km were flown in gliders by pilots starting from airfields in Hampshire, Leicestershire and London. In Scotland, Santiago Cervantes

It's not just temperatures soaring!

flew a total of 1,500 km while Chris Gill flew the first declared 750km starting and finishing in Wales.

British Gliding Association Chief Executive Pete Stratten said: “We’re all very impressed with these recent spectacular flights by very skilful pilots!”

Anyone can experience gliding, no matter what age, physical ability or background, and pilots can go solo from 14-years-old – three years earlier than they can begin to learn to drive a car.

To find out more about gliding or locate your nearest club, visit [www.gliding.co.uk](http://www.gliding.co.uk).

## **Ends**

### **Note to editors:**

#### **For more information please contact:**

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Videos are available for use in online news content. Please visit Glide Britain’s YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQFO13prSR4&t=20s>

For flights details, distances, speed and locations visit the BGA Ladder or see the links below:

Andy Aveling with Gary Coppin, Lasham Gliding Society, Lasham, Hampshire.  
1010km, 10 hours 25 mins.

<https://www.bgaladder.co.uk/dscore.asp?FlightID=71298&RC=X>

Richard Browne, The Gliding Centre, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire.  
1006km, 10 hours 47 mins.

<https://www.bgaladder.co.uk/dscore.asp?FlightID=71368&RC=X>

Santiago Cervantes, Scottish Gliding Centre, Portmoak, Scotland.

Total of 1,500km flown in one day.

<https://www.bgaladder.co.uk/dscore.asp?FlightID=71359&RC=X>

Russell Cheetham, The Gliding Centre, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire.

1003km, 9 hours 24 mins

<https://www.bgaladder.co.uk/dscore.asp?FlightID=71369&RC=X>

Chris Gill, Denbigh Gliding, Lleweni Parc, Wales.

750km, 8 hours 18 mins.

<https://www.bgaladder.co.uk/dscore.asp?FlightID=71253&RC=X>

Tim Jenkinson, London Gliding Club, Dunstable.

1002km, 9 hours 25 mins.

<https://www.bgaladder.co.uk/dscore.asp?FlightID=71335&RC=X>

## Key Facts

- The British Gliding Association (BGA) is the governing body for the sport of gliding in the UK and represents more than 80 gliding clubs stretching from the Highlands of Scotland to the south-west tip of Cornwall in England. Wherever you live, you are never far from your local gliding club.
- Glider pilots fly unpowered aircraft in the same naturally occurring currents of air that birds use to fly. Using these invisible currents of air, known as 'lift', gliders can soar to great heights of up to 30,000 feet, travel at average speeds of over 100 miles per hour and travel distances in excess of 1,000km.
- Gliding is an inclusive sport and enjoyed by people of all ages and physical abilities. Subject to completing the required training, you can fly a glider solo at age 14. There is no upper age limit.
- Many people first experience the thrill of gliding by taking an introductory discovery flight at a BGA member club and become hooked.
- There are currently around 7,500 glider pilots in the UK.
- Each year pilots from gliding clubs across Great Britain represent the UK at World and European Championships. Britain is represented at both Junior and Senior level, and the Women's World Championships which will be held in the UK in 2021.
- Aerobatics are an established and growing part of gliding, and an excellent means of improving and developing pilot skills and confidence. Whether young or more senior in years, aerobatics does not discriminate. It is all about flying skill, airmanship and having fun.