

# Safe Shared Airspace - Cranfield

This is a self-briefing for sailplane pilots.

The charts included here are illustrative only. Please refer to the current chart and instrument procedures for detail.

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# Cranfield airfield and ATZ

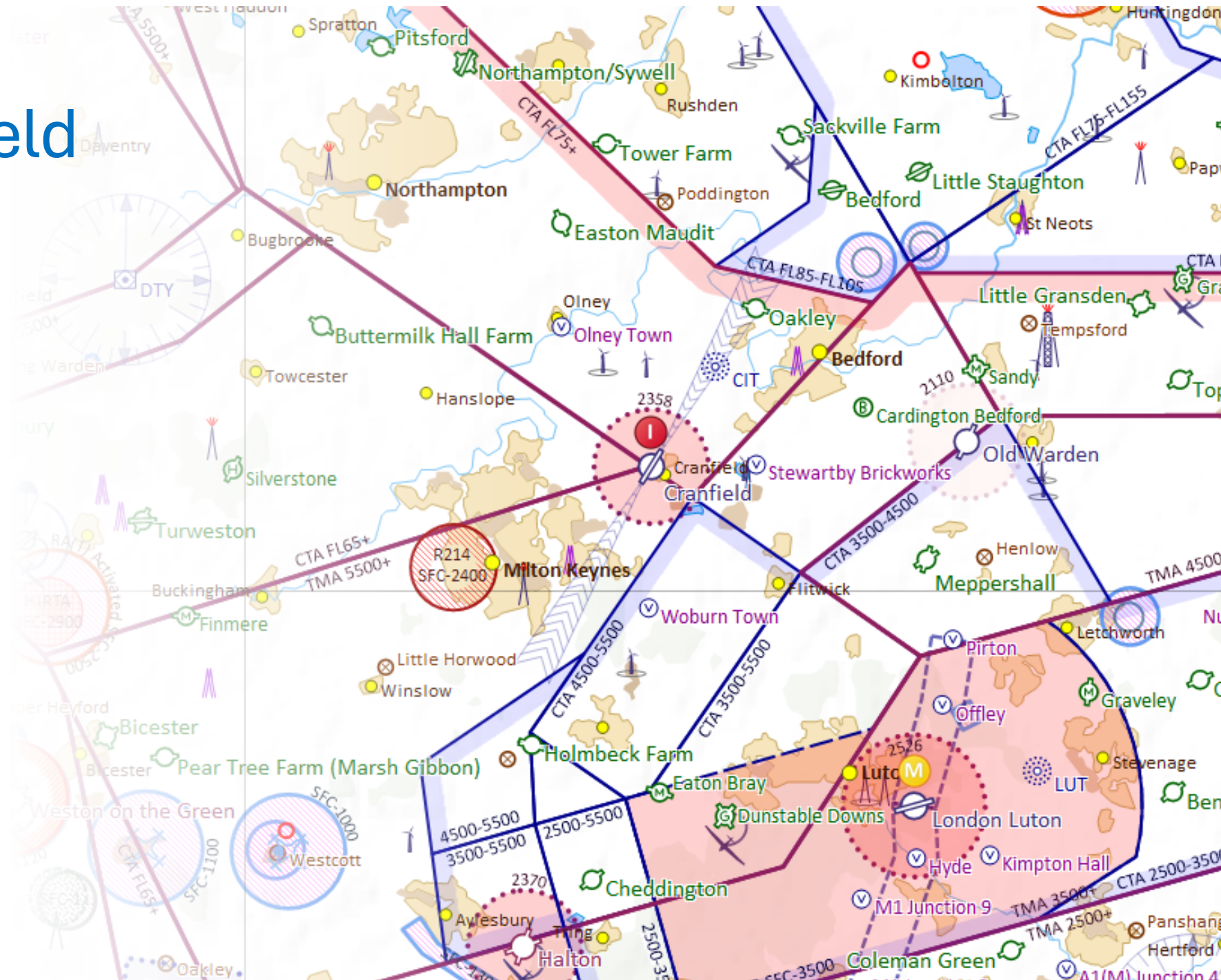


Chart extract from SkyDemon

# Cranfield airfield and instrument procedure tracks

The illustrated instrument procedure\* covers a much greater area than the chart chevrons

The instrument procedure tracks are close to several airfields

The instrument procedure tracks are close to several long-established BGA Turning Points

The instrument procedure in use varies with wind direction. E.g. a SW wind will result in an active procedure to the NE of Cranfield

\*RNP Approach Tracks, Outbound Procedure for NDB and Localiser Approaches plus the hold over the CIT NDB (which is located NE of EGTC).



Image from BGA

# Cranfield airfield flying activity

National Flying Laboratory Centre (NFLC)

- Large twin passenger carrying aircraft
- 2 x single engine training / aerobatic aircraft
- NFLC active all year round, but busiest March-December

Visiting training aircraft use the instrument procedures all year.

Occasional business jet traffic.

Recreational flying club.



# NFLC common operating area

The red/yellow box is most often used for high energy/dynamic manoeuvres by the NFLC light aircraft above 3000' agl (where reasonably possible above cloud)

The NFLC aircraft usually depart and return via the Olney VRP.

NFLC aircraft are equipped with Powerflarm in addition to transponders and ADS-B.



Image from NFLC

# Top tips to reduce conflict

If reasonably possible, aim to avoid the known areas of highest risk of conflict

If equipped with a transponder or ADS-B (e.g SkyEcho), please use it

If about to fly close to the Cranfield ATZ or its active instrument procedures, please communicate with Cranfield ATC

Please be vigilant when operating in the areas of NFLC operations as shown on the graphic.

London GC uses Leighton Buzzard as a cross-country start point – it can be a busy area.

**Always** maintain an effective lookout scan – lookout, attitude, instruments.



Image from NFLC

# More information

## BGA maintaining safe airspace

<https://members.gliding.co.uk/airspace/maintaining-safe-airspace/>

## Cranfield AIP entry

<https://www.aurora.nats.co.uk/htmlAIP/Publications/2026-01-22-AIRAC/html/index-en-GB.html>

## National Flying Laboratory Centre

<https://www.cranfield.ac.uk/Centres/National-Flying-Laboratory-Centre>