

## BALLOON FLIGHT

## MAP PACK



## PLEASE READ

## THIS NOW

Please read pages 1-5 now before you arrange a date for your flight to ensure you understand our procedures. You should also read our terms and conditions sent at the time of purchase and also available on our web site at <http://www.hot-air.co.uk/terms.htm>

## HOW TO ARRANGE YOUR FLIGHT

Go to <http://www.hot-air.co.uk/availability.htm> and register using your Surname, your voucher number and voucher expiry date. Within a few minutes of registering you will be sent an e-mail. You should complete the registration process by clicking on the link in the e-mail and then you can book a date for your flight on-line.



## PLEASE REMEMBER

- Our flying season runs from April to October.
- Flight schedules are generally available for booking up to 30 days ahead and sometimes a little further depending on how far ahead we can arrange them. **Our web site will always have the most up to date information available for you.**
- We cannot guarantee which site you will fly from when you book your flight date. This information and the exact site will be notified on our weatherline message. **Please do not telephone our office number for this information.**
- When you arrive at the balloon launch site we have chosen on the day, please park and make your way on foot to the balloon vehicle and crew who will usually arrive about 15 minutes before the meeting time for your flight. Please Note, toilet facilities are seldom available at our launch sites, particularly on early morning flights, so please make appropriate arrangements before you arrive.
- To change a date for your flight you must give us sufficient notice (see terms & conditions).
- Please use the maps in this booklet in conjunction with a recent road atlas or map. Where post codes are given these may not be for the site but for the nearest feature with a post code. These maps are also available on our web site locations pages should you need them.

**DO HAVE THIS MAP PACK WITH YOU WHEN YOU BOOK  
A FLIGHT DATE OR CALL THE WEATHERLINE.**

## FLIGHT DATE RECORD

Here is some space to record the flight date you book.  
We have left room for a few dates because ballooning is weather dependent and you may be cancelled due to unsuitable weather.

FLIGHT DATE	AM/PM	LOCATION
_____		
_____		
_____		

## WEATHER CALL IN TIMES

Prior to your flight you **must** call our weatherline to check if your flight is going ahead. Please have this booklet to hand when you call. **Make sure you call this number and not our office number.**

When you call our weatherline, there will be a message, telling you if the weather situation permits your flight to go ahead, and if the weather is good, the meeting place and time for your flight.

Listen carefully to all the message. There may be information for more than one flight. Make sure you listen to the part of the message with information for your flight.

**Do not call before these times** – the information will not be available until the times below and you may hear the message for a previous flight. For operational reasons it may be necessary for us to delay, without notice, the time the message is available.

THE WEATHERLINE NUMBER IS

**01252 844316**

**You should call the weatherline number at the following times:-**

PM Flights April – September	call after 2pm on the day
PM Flights October	call after midday on the day
Morning Flights All Months	call after 11pm the night before



If we schedule flights outside our main flying season during November and March and outside British Summer Time, information for pm flights will be available from 11am onwards.

## LAUNCH SITES

Please look at the attached maps which cover the areas we fly. Our arrangements for meeting you may vary depending on wind direction and speed on the day.

You must be punctual for your meeting time as for some flights we meet you at a meeting point and then lead you to the launch site. Or we may need to move to another site because the wind has changed. **Failure to arrive in time will be regarded as cancellation and result in the loss of your flight and monies paid.**

We cannot guarantee which site you will fly from when you book your flight date. The meeting point will be notified on our weatherline message. **Please do not telephone our office number for this information.**

## APPROXIMATE MEETING TIMES

MONTH	MEETING TIME	MEETING TIME
	AM	PM
APRIL	6.30	5.30
MAY	5.30	6.00
JUNE	5.00	6.30
JULY	5.30	6.30
AUGUST	6.00	6.00
SEPTEMBER	7.00	5.00
OCTOBER	7.30	3.30



The above is only a guide as times vary with sunrise and sunset throughout each month. **Exact** meeting times will be given to you when you call our weatherline for flight confirmation. Note in October times become one hour earlier than above after the end of British Summer Time. Don't forget to allow 3-4 hours from the time of meeting for the whole ballooning experience. Ballooning, especially in the summer months when take-offs are later, can mean that you return to your starting point late in the evening. If we are back early enough your pilot and crew will be happy to recommend good pubs and restaurants in the locality if you are hungry!

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

For early morning flights, please be **quiet** if the meeting place is near houses! If you are a keen photographer, then remember that morning flights provide better light, getting brighter rather than duskier as the flight proceeds. You are also more likely to see wildlife such as foxes, deer etc as the balloon catches them unaware during the early hours soon after dawn. Bring lots of film or memory and make sure batteries are well charged! Your balloon pilot will be happy to answer a variety of questions regarding ballooning and will point out areas of interest during the flight when they can.

If you have not already ordered an inflight photograph of your flight, these should be ordered and paid for when you fly so don't forget to **bring some money**. See our website for further details.

# BALLOON FLIGHT SAFETY TIPS

The following notes have been prepared to help you enjoy your ballooning experience. Please read them carefully. Our main aim is to give you a pleasant, enjoyable, safe flight. Like all sports, ballooning is safe if undertaken sensibly. You must ensure that you are fit to fly (See our terms and conditions) and that undertaking a balloon flight will not put you at risk regarding any medical condition you may have. As passengers the first thing to consider is: -



## CLOTHING

Wear sensible outdoor clothes as if you are going for a walk in the country. Clothing covering your arms and legs is preferable. Do not wear skirts, shorts, long scarves, synthetic fabrics such as nylon, loose jewellery (large earrings, bracelets) etc.

Temperatures in the air are generally warmer than on the ground due to the heat of the burners, and taller passengers may well appreciate a hat, to avoid the heat from the burners, especially if their hair is a little thin on top! Stout flat shoes are also essential, walking boots that cover the ankles are ideal as you never know quite where you will end up, fields may be damp on morning flights or if there has been recent rain.



**HIGH-HEELED SHOES OR OPEN TOED SHOES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.**

## PRE-LAUNCH BRIEFING

Prior to inflating the balloon, your pilot will give you a full safety briefing. During flight you may hold on to the padded edge of the basket and the inside handles. You must not touch any of the balloon control lines in the pilot's compartment.

Your pilot will ask you to show any cameras or other baggage and will advise you how to best protect them before landing. These are taken at your own risk. We recommend you bring a soft bag to put large cameras or video cameras in for landing. Cameras should be kept away from your face until after take-off and the balloon basket has steadied.



We do not allow glass items in the basket or the carriage of alcohol. The use of mobile phones during the flight is not allowed.

**SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED AT ANY TIME DURING BALLOONING ACTIVITIES BY PASSENGERS OR SPECTATORS.**



## TAKE OFF & FLIGHT

Your pilot will tell you when to enter the basket. Some passengers may be pre-loaded into the basket before the inflation begins. Other passengers entering the basket after the balloon is inflated must always use the footwells at the ends of the basket to get in. Passengers must not walk between the balloon basket and the balloon retrieve vehicle once the inflation has begun. If in doubt as to what you can do or hold, ask your pilot. If flying near or through tree tops or hedges, keep arms (and cameras!) **INSIDE** the basket for protection.

Spectators must stay behind the safety cones well clear of the balloon basket and balloon retrieve vehicles at all times.



## LANDING

Your pilot will advise when landing is likely and will instruct you to stow away all loose items such as cameras. All our large balloons (8 passenger or bigger) have seats for you to sit on for landing. Hold firmly with both hands to the inside handles and keep your head and upper body upright and supported by the padding behind it. Be prepared for the basket to bounce more than once, and lean over on its side and sometimes drag along the ground. Please pay attention to your **pilots instructions** at all times, especially during the landing. Your pilot may ask for silence during the landing.

**DO NOT GET OUT OF THE BASKET** until instructed to do so by the pilot as the loss of one persons weight can cause unintended take-off for those who remain!



## THE WEATHER

Ballooning is a heavily weather dependant activity. For a safe and enjoyable flight we require light winds, no rain and good visibility.

We use the most up to date weather forecasting facilities. Sometimes this reveals brief gaps in the weather that you might not expect. Or we may miss a perfectly flyable opportunity because it was not possible to forecast that conditions would be suitable with sufficient confidence. Equally we may get it wrong and call you out to fly and find conditions are not suitable and we have to cancel on site. Your pilot's decisions in such a situation is final, your safety and enjoyment are our prime consideration.

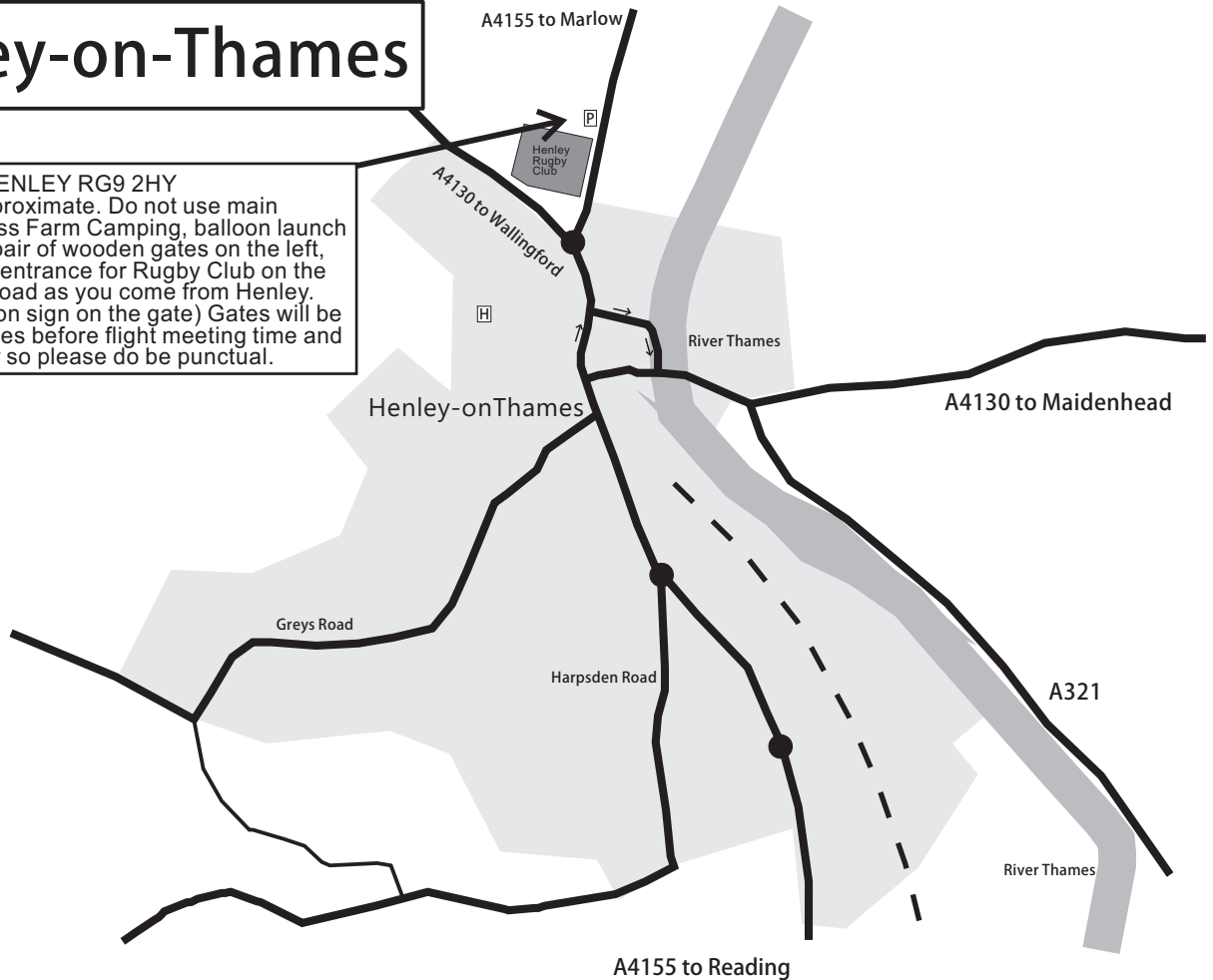
Please bear with the British weather if your booking has to be rearranged, we will be just as disappointed as you!



# Henley-on-Thames

## SWISS FARM HENLEY RG9 2HY

Post Code is approximate. Do not use main entrance for Swiss Farm Camping, balloon launch site entrance is pair of wooden gates on the left, 100 metres past entrance for Rugby Club on the A4155 Marlow Road as you come from Henley. (There is a balloon sign on the gate) Gates will be opened 15 minutes before flight meeting time and then locked after so please do be punctual.

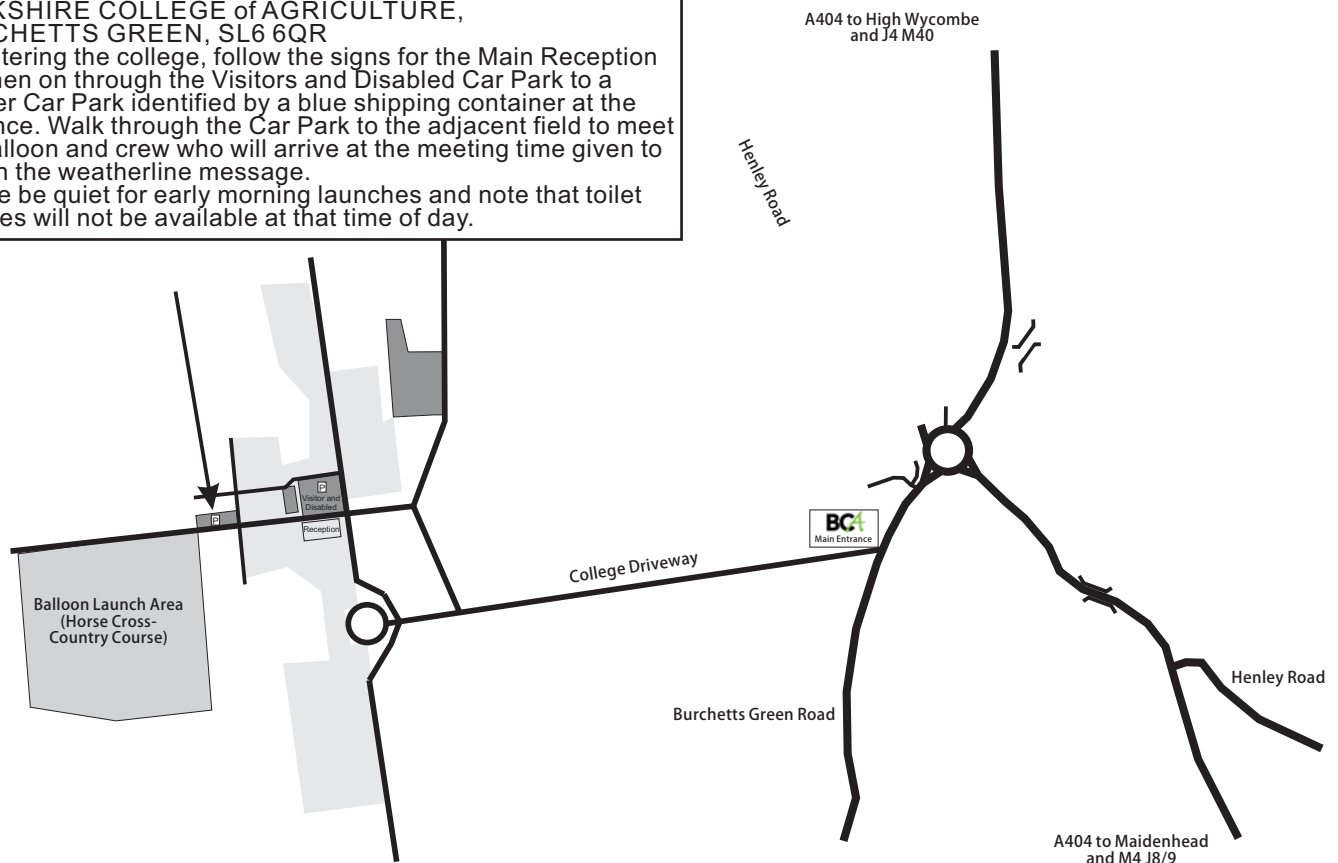


Please Note for Henley Flights which site we use will depend on wind direction on the day. We may need to use one of our sites at Reading as backup. See below and the Reading page for details. The exact site will be notified on our weatherline message. Please do not telephone our office number in advance for this information as we will not know.

## BERKSHIRE COLLEGE of AGRICULTURE, BURCHETTS GREEN, SL6 6QR

On entering the college, follow the signs for the Main Reception and then on through the Visitors and Disabled Car Park to a smaller Car Park identified by a blue shipping container at the entrance. Walk through the Car Park to the adjacent field to meet the balloon and crew who will arrive at the meeting time given to you on the weatherline message.

Please be quiet for early morning launches and note that toilet facilities will not be available at that time of day.



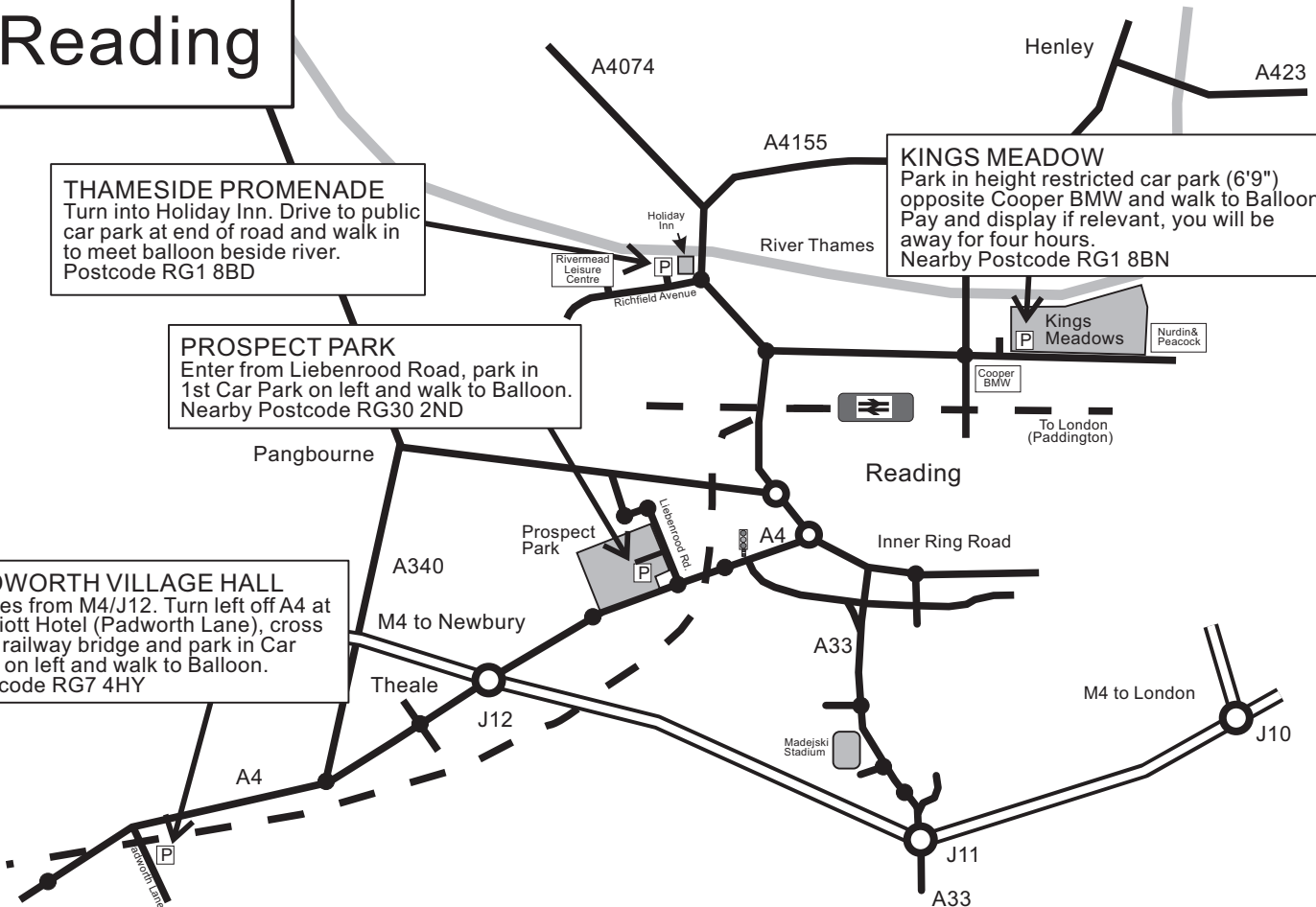
# Reading

**THAMESIDE PROMENADE**  
Turn into Holiday Inn. Drive to public car park at end of road and walk in to meet balloon beside river.  
Postcode RG1 8BD

**PROSPECT PARK**  
Enter from Liebenrood Road, park in 1st Car Park on left and walk to Balloon.  
Nearby Postcode RG30 2ND

**PADWORTH VILLAGE HALL**  
4 miles from M4/J12. Turn left off A4 at Marriott Hotel (Padworth Lane), cross over railway bridge and park in Car Park on left and walk to Balloon.  
Postcode RG7 4HY

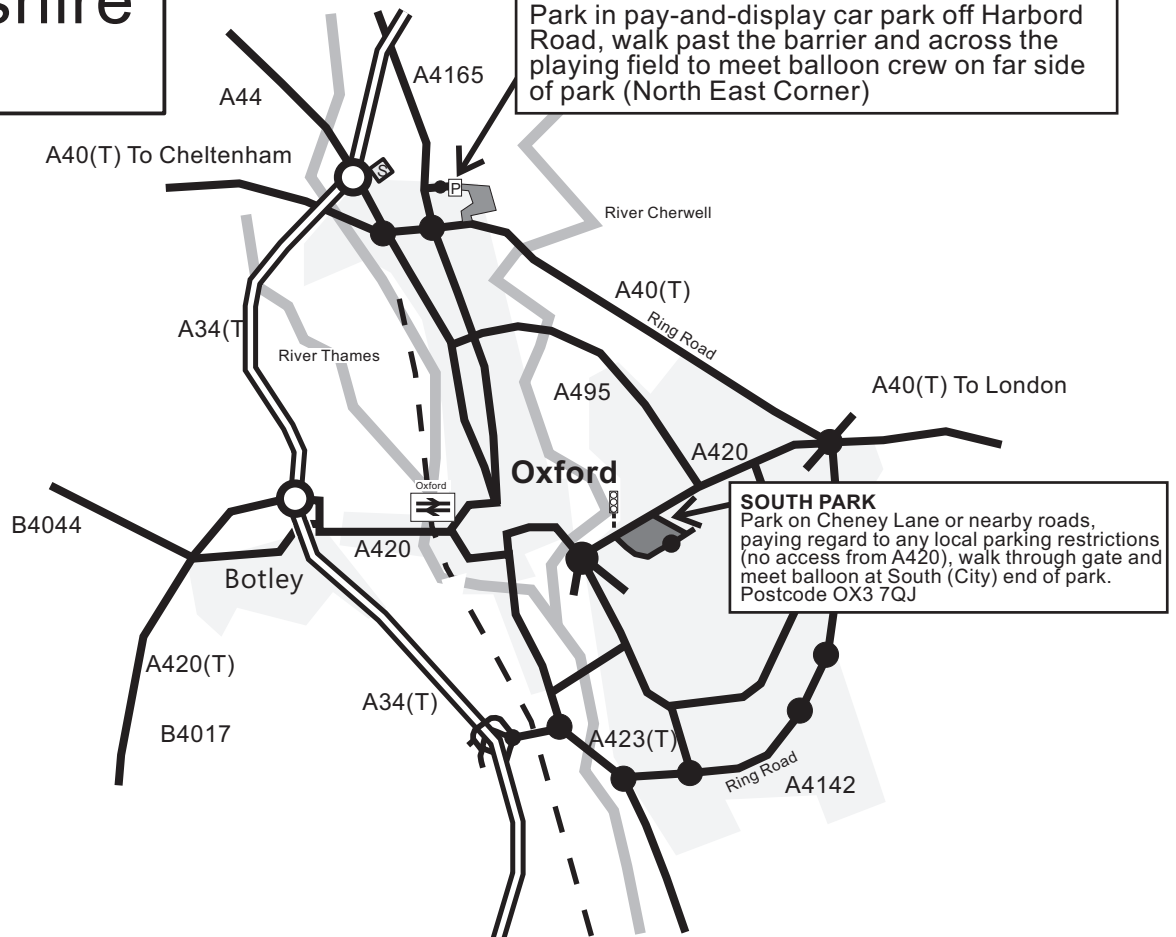
**KINGS MEADOW**  
Park in height restricted car park (6'9") opposite Cooper BMW and walk to Balloon. Pay and display if relevant, you will be away for four hours.  
Nearby Postcode RG1 8BN



# Oxfordshire Oxford

**CUTTESLOWE PARK OX2 8LH**  
Park in pay-and-display car park off Harbord Road, walk past the barrier and across the playing field to meet balloon crew on far side of park (North East Corner)

**SOUTH PARK**  
Park on Cheney Lane or nearby roads, paying regard to any local parking restrictions (no access from A420), walk through gate and meet balloon at South (City) end of park.  
Postcode OX3 7QJ



Please Note which site we use will depend on wind directions on the day

# Buckinghamshire

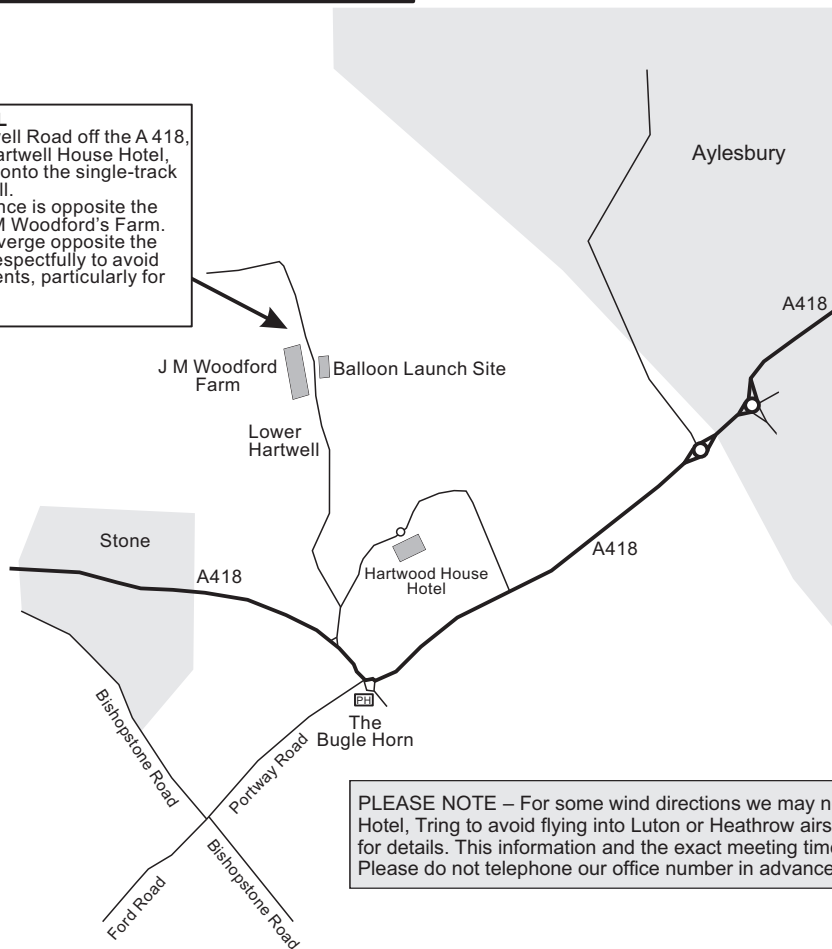
## Lower Hartwell

### LOWER HARTWELL

Take the Lower Hartwell Road off the A 418, sign-posted for the Hartwell House Hotel, then take the left fork onto the single-track road to Lower Hartwell.

The launch site entrance is opposite the barns belonging to JM Woodford's Farm. Park along the grass verge opposite the barns. Please drive respectfully to avoid disturbing local residents, particularly for morning flights.

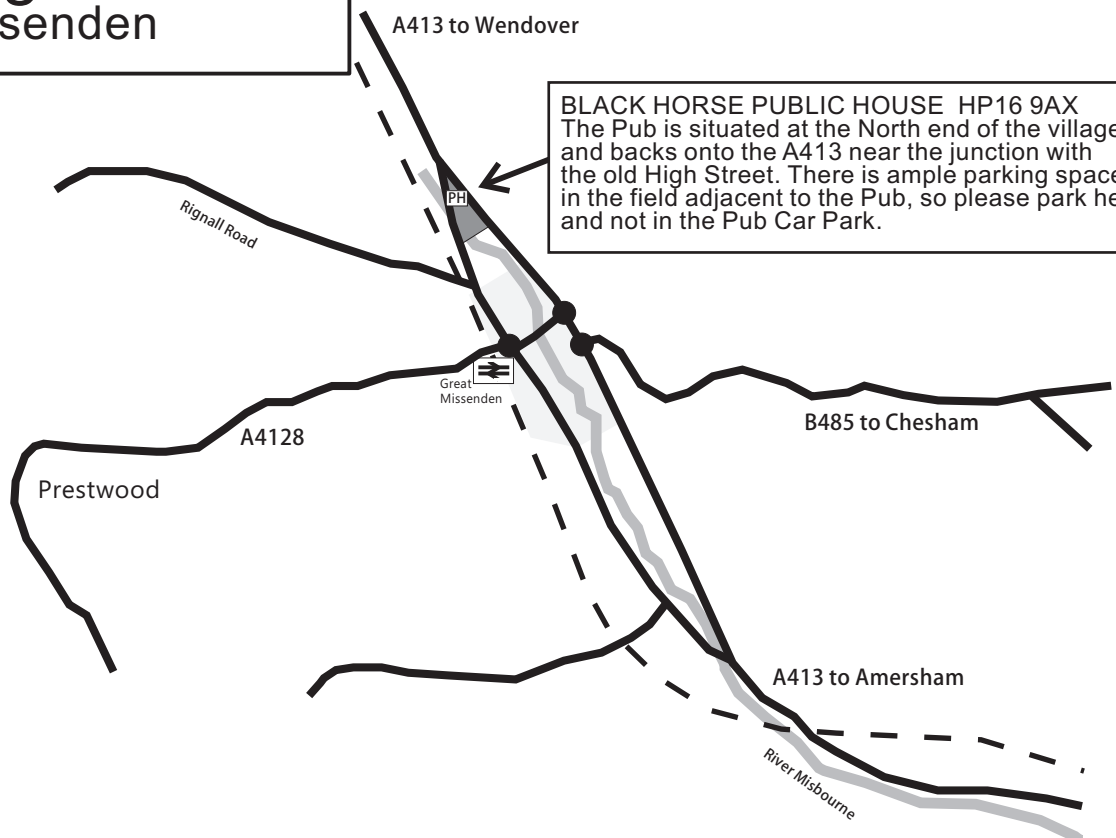
Post code HP17 8NR



PLEASE NOTE – For some wind directions we may need to use our back up site at Pendley Manor Hotel, Tring to avoid flying into Luton or Heathrow airspace. See relevant pages in this map pack for details. This information and the exact meeting time will be notified on our weatherline message. Please do not telephone our office number in advance for this information as we will not know.

# Buckinghamshire

## Great Missenden



**BLACK HORSE PUBLIC HOUSE HP16 9AX**  
The Pub is situated at the North end of the village and backs onto the A413 near the junction with the old High Street. There is ample parking space in the field adjacent to the Pub, so please park here and not in the Pub Car Park.



# Buckinghamshire Tring

## PENDLEY MANOR - BUCKINGHAMSHIRE BACKUP

For some wind directions we will need to use this back up site just over the county boundary in Hertfordshire. From A41 take exit signposted N.Church/Tring. Follow A4251/Berkhamsted over 2 roundabouts, then follow signs for Pendley Manor on A4251. After 1/2 mile turn left into Cow Lane signed Pendley Manor & Tring Station. Pass entrance to Sports Centre take next right signed the Pendley Manor Hotel, slow over speed bumps & take first right through gate into field. Park cars immediately on right close to fence, beneath floodlights. Nearby Postcode HP23 5QY

North  
↑

A4251  
To Tring

A41 To  
Aylesbury

Sign at junction for  
Pendley Manor Hotel

Cow Lane

A 4 251

A 41

A 4251

TRING  
STATION

Sign at junction for  
Pendley Manor & Tring Station

Pendley  
Manor Hotel

Lodge House

A4251  
To Berkhamsted

A41 To  
Hemel Hempsted and  
M25 Junction 20

Grand Union Canal

