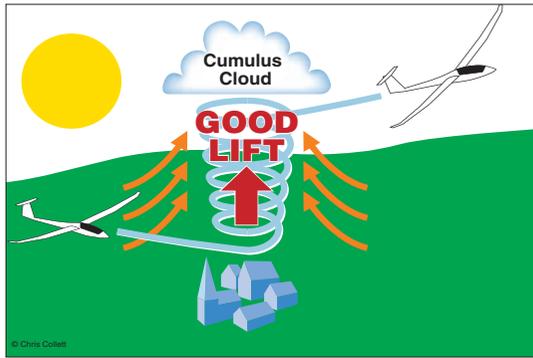


How gliders stay up

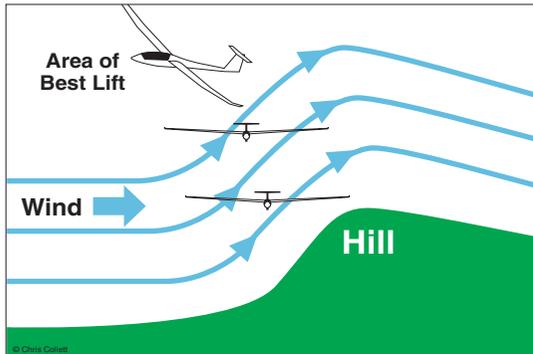
Thermal Soaring – cross-country

The pilot can fly long distances by climbing in rising air and gliding to the next source of lift.



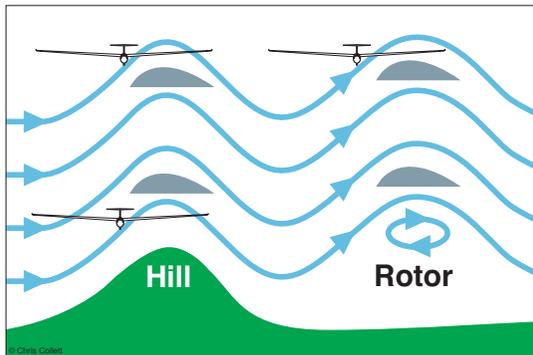
Hill Soaring

Wind against a hill or ridge will produce consistent lift.



Wave Soaring

Wind deflected by a hill forms a wave pattern in which the pilot can climb to great heights.



Sociable

Gliding isn't about booking an aircraft, flying and then going home, after a successful cross-country flight pilots have plenty to talk about, tales to tell, comparing and learning from each other's experiences of the day. And most members enjoy mucking in to help the club operation, rigging, helping to launch, going on retrieves when someone lands out, it's all part of the experience.

Cost Effective

Gliding may not be cheap, but it offers a cost-effective way of getting airborne, and PPL holders who turn to gliding for financial reasons soon find that flying gliders offers a wider range of activities, is much more satisfying and offers more exciting challenges than most power flying.

Did you know ?

- There are over 80 gliding clubs throughout the UK
- The longest glider flight in the UK was just over 1100km
- The UK height record is just under 38,000ft
- Gliding is one of the few sports where men and women compete on an equal basis
- The UK is one of the top nations in international gliding competitions
- Training gliders have a glide angle of around 1:30, and many high performance gliders have glide angles greater than 1:50



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Discover Gliding
Experience the purest most natural way to fly

PPL Part-FCL
Conversion Course

www.bookergliding.co.uk

PPL Part-FCL Conversion Course

Gliding? Is it for me?

Is your idea of gliding wafting around the airfield for 20 minutes? Think again. Glider pilots can and do travel great distances on the right day, flights of 500km or more are not uncommon. This course is aimed at pilots with a flight crew licence, if you would like to extend your flying skills with an understanding of soaring flight – then gliding is for you. Just think! How far can you fly on an empty tank?

Conversion Training

You will be given a check flight with an instructor to evaluate your flying skills, followed by a debrief to plan your conversion training. Your course will include the theory and practice of soaring flight, difference training, exploration of the flight envelope, including stalling and spinning.

Our PPL conversion course includes:

- 14 flights in a glider
- Plus one hour in a motorglider*
- Ground school, textbook, glider flight logbook.

Cost of course £849

You have up to 3 months to complete the syllabus, after which you can join the club as a full member at a discounted rate with the option of buying a top-up package of flying credit.

Please Note:

*In the event of the motorglider not being available for instruction, the club will allow an extra 4,000ft of aero tow.

The club will only offer refunds within 7 days of purchase.

What to expect

Converting to Gliding

If you're a qualified powered aircraft pilot you already know what you're doing and converting to gliding is a very rewarding and enjoyable form of difference training. Even commercial pilots with thousands of hours find that time in a glider improves their existing skills and knowledge.

New Dimensions

Gliding is about the journey, not the destination. The glider pilot is dependent on rising air to stay up and cover cross-country distances, height being the gliding equivalent of fuel, so we rarely fly in straight lines. We are forever reading the sky, looking for the best areas of lift and continuously re-planning as we go on route to our next turning point.

Improve Your Skills

Pilots who fly both powered aircraft and gliders believe that gliding is invaluable in honing their piloting skills. There have been notable occasions when airline pilots have been glad of their gliding experience, one such is Captain Bob Pearson who glided an Air Canada 767 to a safe landing on the Gimli drag racing track in 1986 when both engines shut down for lack of fuel.



The Aircraft

Gliders don't just look beautiful, they handle beautifully too. Flying a glider, you feel part of the aircraft, sensitive to the air around you and able to make the most of its energy. A light touch on the controls is all that's needed, the precision, feedback and fast response is a delight. Maybe that's why so many airline pilots fly gliders as a hobby, to stay in touch with the feel of the air in which they fly.

Safety Training

The British Gliding Association syllabus emphasises safety, understanding the flight envelope and how to avoid dangerous situations. This includes practising stalling and spinning from a variety of entries, including high-speed stalls. No student is sent solo until they are at home with stall and spin recovery. We also practise field landings as a matter of course, since not every cross-country flight ends back at the airfield.

Aerobatics

Learning to fly precise, harmonious aerobatic figures is great fun, and has the added benefit of improving your handling skills and boosting your confidence, as well as giving you an understanding of real power management. At Booker we run winter aerobatics courses, culminating in an informal competition to suit all levels, the Easter Egg Cup.

Something for everyone

As well as flying cross country using thermals, pilots also enjoy ridge running using the rising air along an into wind ridge or climbing to airliner height in lee waves. There are cross-country racing competitions, and tasks for all levels are set most weekends and on good weekdays throughout the season. At Booker we run expeditions to sites in Scotland, Wales and Europe to experience different terrain and conditions and have a holiday, it's not all flying. We have a very active vintage glider section that restores, refurbishes and flies these magnificent and colourful gliders.

Time Effective

Flying training can be booked, though most students soon find that they are happy to stay and help out with the launch point operation, getting to know other members, and take flights when the opportunity is there.