

Dear all

SOLLAS FLY IN - 23rd and 24th JULY 2022

I promised to write to you all as Sollas is fast approaching. It has been a lifetime since the last event in 2019 and so much has happened. We are so very ready for this and I hope you all are too.

Well, I am very pleased to tell you that the beach is perfect - in fact it is in a much better condition than we have ever known it. We have had the most amazing weather in the last few days and the tides were just perfect (similar to the tides we can expect for the flyin) so Iain Macleod very kindly flew down and landed at Sollas. He reported that it was very firm and very dry. I attach a couple of small video clips of his flypast landing and backtrack. He was landing on 04 so to the north you can see the Harris hills. You will notice the huge landing area. The windsock will be located on the dunes to the left as Iain is landing. When he turned to the right to backtrack you will have noticed the width of the landing area as well.

For those first timers I shall set out the format of the event here.

This is a sandy beach. It is not a manicured grass strip or tarmac runway so everything will be at your discretion. It is a very remote location and we want you to be as safe as possible so - We have chosen the dates to coincide with the best tidal range so the beach will be dry even at high tide so there is no danger of your wheels getting wet when parked up if you are camping. Even in damp sections (which is unlikely) it should still be quite firm underneath. We shall have a windsock erected on the dunes to the west of the landing bay. If there are any obstacles they will be clearly marked out with some bunting or streamers but we

don't expect any to be on the landing area itself. If you have any queries or are not confident of landing on the beach please call me beforehand for more instructions and of course on the day we will be on the **safety com frequency** to guide you to the threshold should you need it.

Most, but not all of you, will know the drill for landing on the beach - However, we shall rake a "runway" in the sand on the best landing area with numbers (04 and 22) at each end which will make it a lot easier for everyone. The numbers will be quite visible from the air. The landing area is at least 1800 metres long and wide enough for most types, from Islanders and Cessna Caravans to weight shift microlights and Girocopters. Cars, Tractors, diggers and even livestock use the beach. There will be no livestock on the beach that weekend- the local Crofter will make sure of that!

Expect to see a white tent and some cars on the grass above the landing area at the southern end - so easy to identify the bay itself. In the attached clip the bay is to the right. Do not even think of landing on the sand to the left of the peninsula- that is the Atlantic coast and the sand is very soft! You have been warned!

This year I have had an unprecedented number of enquiries for the fly-in because it has reached a lot of aviators far and wide across Europe through social media, word of mouth, and the flying magazines.

ALL ARE WELCOME BUT FOR CATERING PURPOSES WE DO NEED TO KNOW HOW MANY ARE INTENDING TO ATTEND (even if you have registered your intention please write to me again to confirm). PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT WE DO NOT CHARGE LANDING FEES OR FOR ANY FOOD AND DRINKS. ALL WE ASK IS A DONATION WHICH GOES TO LOCAL CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS MANY OF WHICH HELP WITH THE FREE LOAN OF TENTS, CHAIRS, AND A WHOLE HOST OF OTHER THINGS. THE ISLANDERS WELCOME US WITH OPEN ARMS SO WE LIKE TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK. REMEMBER ALSO THAT THIS IS ALWAYS HELD IN JOHN MACLEOD'S MEMORY AND WITHOUT HIS FAMILY'S HELP THIS EVENT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.

FREQUENCIES -

BENBECULA (EGPL): ATIS: 113.950 VOR BEN
APP/TWR/FIS: 119.205

Please check notams: PPR 3 days + and no AVGAS

STORNOWAY:(EGPO) ATIS: 115.100 VOR STN
APP/TWR/FIS: 119.480

Please check notams: PPR 48 hours - Avgas available by arrangement

SCOTTISH; 127.275- IF THE WEATHER IS GOOD AND WE ARE LIKELY TO GET MORE THAN 2 VISITORS WE SHALL INFORM SCOTTISH INFORMATION AND BENBECULA - they can get a bit excited if they are not expecting large numbers.

SOLLAS: Safety Com: 135.480

Plates are available on AFE, and Pooleys and of course Sky Demon
PLEASE CHECK NOTAMS CAREFULLY FOR ANY DANGER AREAS ACTIVE ON THE WEEKEND

FUEL

We may be able to supply Mogas but if you think you will need some **please let us know in advance**. We have 3 or 4 20 litre cans which we can fill for you . There is also a petrol station nearby which we can drive you to but this is only open on Saturday, so we need to know any fuel requirements in advance. If you need AVGAS this is difficult to ship in but we shall see what we can do to purchase it in advance in 20 litre cans **BUT IT WILL BE VERY LIMITED.**

PLEASE NOTE BENBECULA HAS NO AVGAS AND WILL NOT PROVIDE MOGAS.

STORNOWAY FUEL WILL HAVE TO BE ARRANGED THROUGH THEM IN ADVANCE.

Please note the beach is in a remote area. Mobile phone signals on the beach are average and of course there is no wifi. If you are planning to camp overnight - the nearest CO-OP is a mile away and only open on Saturday. There are a few B&Bs and hotels dotted around and we are happy to ferry you to them as long as they are not at the bottom end of the island.

I should remind you also to pack your sunglasses, sun hats, and do not forget your mosie repellent and ANTI MIDGE NETS! Whatever the weather midges could be around and could drive us all to insanity if not well protected. **ALSO PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR CAMERAS AND GO-PROS**

COVID 19 - Remember that? By July It will hopefully be a distant memory But it is still out there so please may I ask you to do me a favour? Could you please do a lateral flow test before you arrive on the beach - just in case. We do not want to be responsible for bringing it to the island.

I will be writing to you again at the beginning of the week of the fly-in when I shall have a better idea of what weather we

might expect. We shall be on the beach to set up from Friday 22nd and until Monday 25th in case of late departures.

WE CANNOT WAIT TO SEE YOU AND TO WELCOME YOU TO SOLLAS. If you cannot fly in, come by car, boat, bike, walk, or any other method of transport you chose. Everyone is welcome.

Regards

Claudine

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This is Iain's clip of landing and backtrack yesterday at Sollas - the second one below is worth a watch as well to give you an overall view of the peninsula and the bay.

<https://youtu.be/BnMrpjk8UPQ>

SOLLAS

OfT OhPa	1nm NE of Sollas village N5739.51 W00719.33	Alternative AD	Benbecula (EGPL)	
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Non-Radio	ATIS 113.950 (BEN VOR)	Benbecula APP 119.200	Scottish FIS 127.275	Safetycom 135.475
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RWY	SURFACE	TORA	LDA	U/L	LIGHTING	RNAV		
04/22	Sand			1610m	Nil	BEN	113.95	013 10.5

Remarks
AD is a public beach. PPR is not required, pilots are strongly recommended to obtain local info from local PPL – See Operator. To calculate tide time use tables for Lochmaddy. There are no facilities at the beach. Annual fly-in is held in September.

Warnings
Beach flying operations can be dangerous, the information given is for guidance only. Pilots are welcome at their own risk. All dimensions and Rwy headings are approximate. The useable portion is below the high water mark. Pilots should exercise caution during the flare and hold-off as height judgement may be difficult over the featureless surface. Preferred landing technique is to use power down to touchdown.
Caution: S end of strip may be subject to ridging and standing water which will be clearly seen when flying over to inspect. Beach is used by agricultural vehicles as a route to a farm lane. Pilots must ensure that vehicles and pedestrians are clear of beach.

Operating M... SP 55

