



## Evaluation

So... the weather window for an opportunity to fly is looming.....

Where and when (how early or late in the day) to go is a vital decision. This will depend on what type of flight you are hoping for. If you are aiming to soar and stay local you may want to go to a very different site from one if a triangle or XC Distance is your goal.

This decision will be based on your knowledge of:

**The Weather Forecast** (a working knowledge of Skew-T's is a real help. I recommend <https://vimeo.com/435281693> - Sean Staines on interpreting Skew T). There are plenty of on-line weather sites and you will need to work out for yourself which ones you like and trust.

**NOTAMS** (<https://www.notaminfo.com>) - no point in going to a Site for XC if there is a restriction downwind that will be difficult to avoid. If you are flying midweek don't forget to post a NOTAM for the Site that you intend to fly from using CANP (<https://canp.logans.me.uk/>), preferably the day before.

**Telegram Chats** - collective knowledge is probably better than any one individual - where are other pilots going to go and what are they intending to do? It is easier to go XC with other gliders around you in the air, than struggling on your own.

When you have made a decision on where to go, read the **Site Guide**. It may have changed since you last flew there, with new advice, or restrictions.

When you arrive on the hill, if you have any doubts ask other pilots for their advice - there is no such thing as "a stupid question".

Decide where you are going to set up for launch. If it is a small site, do your preparation and line sorting away from the take off area and bunch your wing up ready to go. This leaves the actual take off area free for other pilots to use. If it is a windy day it is generally best to set up a bit down the hill so that you can run up under your wing when it comes up - and if you get dragged you have some leeway space to sort it out. If there is very little wind vision further down the hill is very important. Although it is tempting to go as high as possible, to maximise your height, you may lose out on not being able to see trees and bushes moving further down the hill, when a thermal passes them.