

Recreation Ground, Aldington
TN25 7DT

Questions & Answers

Launch Sites and Passenger Information

Launch Sites & Check-in Information



Aldington Recreation Ground is located at the heart of the village opposite the Walnut Tree Public House. There is a children's play area for the young ones. Cars may be parked in a village hall car park adjacent to the Recreation Ground.

From the M20 J10 take the exit titled A20/Sellinge. Follow the A20 for 2.5 miles and then turn right into Station Road. 1.2 miles later turn left into Godwell Lane. Follow the road until you reach Aldington village. At the T junction turn right and the Recreation Ground will be directly on your right.

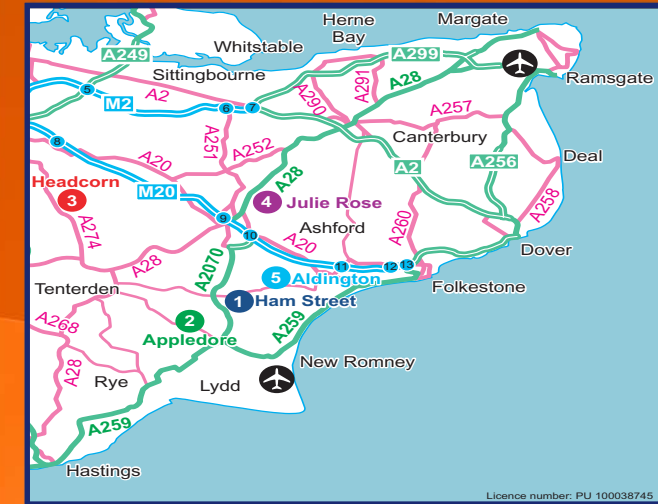
Places to eat in the area:

The Walnut Tree
Forge Hill, Aldington TN25 7DT
01233 720298

The Good Intent
Frith Rd, Aldington Frith TN25 7HQ
01233 720426

The Royal Oak
The Street, Mersham TN25 6NA
01233 502218

- Q: How high do we fly?
A: We fly anywhere from treetop level to about 3000 feet. If the weather conditions allow, we can go even higher.
- Q: Is it windy in the balloon?
A: No. Since we are moving with the wind, you won't feel a breeze at all.
- Q: Is it cold in the balloon?
A: No. The temperatures aloft are about the same as they are on the ground. It might be an idea to have something warmer for after we have landed, especially after the evening flight. We ask that you wear long trousers, hat or baseball cap to protect your head and no open toed shoes or stilettos.
- Q: When do we fly?
A: Flights are scheduled 7 days a week between the months of April and October. (Please remember that you need to register your voucher within 3 months of receiving it.) We launch our morning flights just after sunrise and our evening flights about two and a half hours before sunset. This is when the air is at its most stable and the winds are light. Please allow three to four hours for the whole ballooning experience.
- Q: Can I bring my camera or camcorder?
A: Yes, a hot air balloon makes the perfect platform for photography enabling you to get some amazing shots. During your flight your pilot will take an in-flight photograph of you in the balloon, this will be available for you to purchase after the flight.
- Q: Can I fly if I am pregnant?
A: Unfortunately due to health and safety reasons it is not possible to fly if you are pregnant. You will need to contact our booking office to apply for a voucher extension.
- Q: What to expect during your flight?
A: Upon arrival at the launch site the pilot and crew will greet you and the assembly of the balloon will commence. You are more than welcome to help with the preparation of the balloon and please feel free to ask your crew any questions you may have. You will then have a safety briefing by your pilot after which the petrol fans we use to blow cold air into the balloon will be turned on. This gives the balloon its familiar shape. The pilot will then turn the propane burners on that warm up the air inside the balloon to stand the balloon into its upright position ready for the passengers to climb aboard. Passengers who would rather get into the basket when it is horizontal are welcome to do so. When the pilot has completed his pre-flight checks the balloon gradually leaves the ground and the adventure begins. During your flight we may reach heights of up to 5500 feet to enjoy the view, or drop down to brush the treetops. Once your pilot has chosen a suitable landing site he will brief you and ask you to take your landing positions. In light wind you will have an upright landing but if the wind speed is a bit higher the balloon is traveling at the same speed and the basket tends to drag along the ground before coming to rest on its side. This can be very exciting and often ends in a basket full of giggling passengers. Our retrieve crew will follow the balloon throughout the flight and once we have landed we will pack the balloon away which you are welcome to get involved with. In true ballooning tradition the flight is celebrated with a glass of champagne and as a lasting reminder of your adventure you will be presented with the flight certificate signed by the pilot. Your crew will then drive you back to your vehicles at the launch site.



All hot air balloon flights are weather permitting. Merlin Balloons fly from various launch sites to obtain the best flight path. The launch site will be chosen a few hours before your flight departure depending on the wind direction on that day. To check-in please call our Flightline to verify the weather conditions. You will hear an automated message informing you which launch site the pilot has chosen and the meeting time. In the event of unsuitable weather conditions, you will be asked to contact the Booking Office to reschedule for another day.

If you are booked on a morning (AM) flight please call our Flightline after 10pm (22.00) the evening before your flight, and for the evening (PM) flights please call the Flightline after 2pm (14.00) on the day of your flight. It is necessary that you leave your name & voucher number after the tone.

www.merlin-balloons.co.uk



Merlin Balloons

Booking Office 01233 733588
Flightline 01233 733005

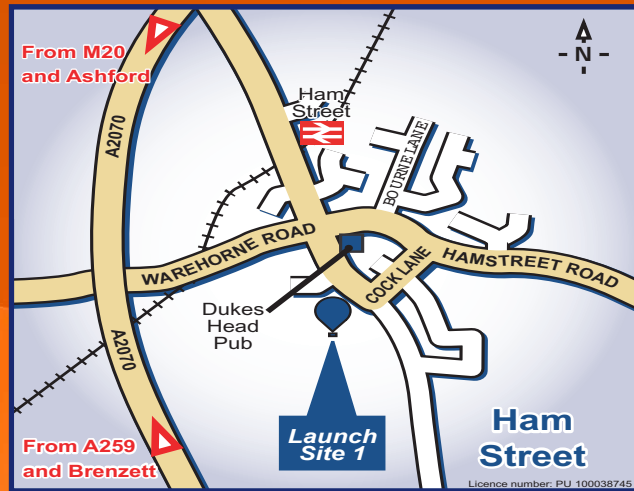


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**Public Car Park, Hamstreet
TN26 2JH**



Hamstreet Public Car Park adjacent to the football pitch/tennis courts is located on the west side of the Ashford road 200 mtrs south of the village centre and the Dukes Head Public House.

From the M20 J10 take the exit titled A2070/Brenzett. Follow the signs for A2070/Brenzett for 6.4 miles until you have reached the turning for Hamstreet. Turn right, at the T-junction turn left and continue down the hill into Hamstreet village.

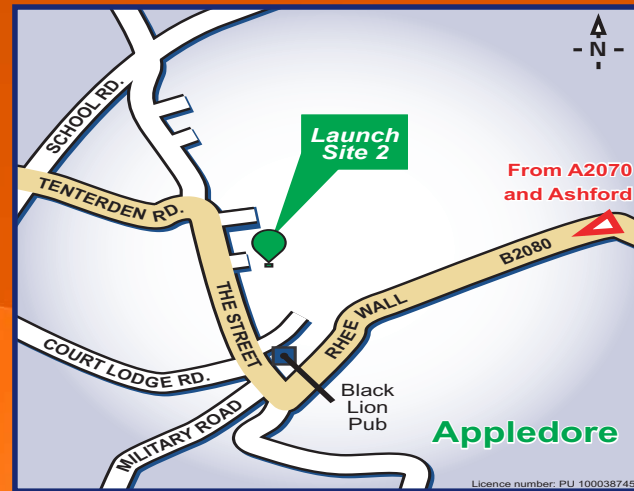
Places to eat in the area:

The School House Indian Restaurant
The Street, Hamstreet TN26 2HG
01233 733350

The Woolpack Inn
Church Lane, Warehorne TN26 2LL
01233 733888

The Queens Head
Ashford Road, Kingsnorth TN23 3ED
01233 620769

**Recreation Ground, Appledore
TN26 2AE**



Appledore Recreation Ground is located on the east side of the B2080 approximately 400 mtrs north of the village centre. There is a children's play area for the young ones. Cars may be parked on the grass verge to the left of the road leading into the Recreation Ground.

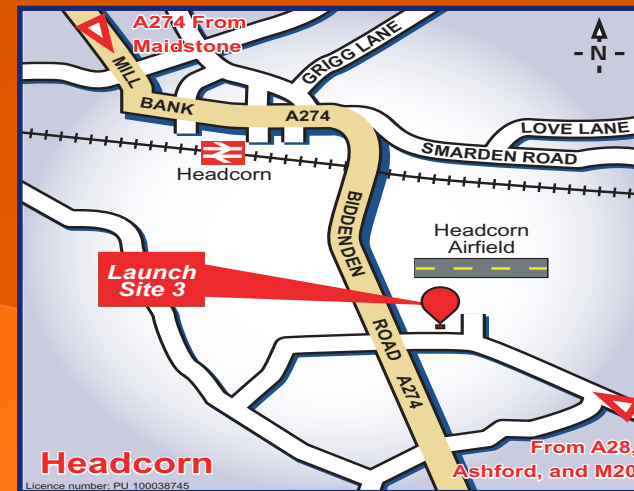
From the M20 J10 take the exit titled A2070/Brenzett. Follow the signs for A2070/Brenzett until you have reached Brenzett petrol station. At the roundabout take the 3rd exit and continue straight over the next roundabout and follow the road until you reach Appledore village.

Places to eat in the area:

The Black Lion
The Street, Appledore TN26 2BU
01233 758206

The Royal Oak
High Street, Brookland TN29 9QR
01797 344215

**Headcorn Aerodrome, Headcorn
TN27 9HX**



Headcorn Aerodrome is located 15 minutes south of J8 on the M20.

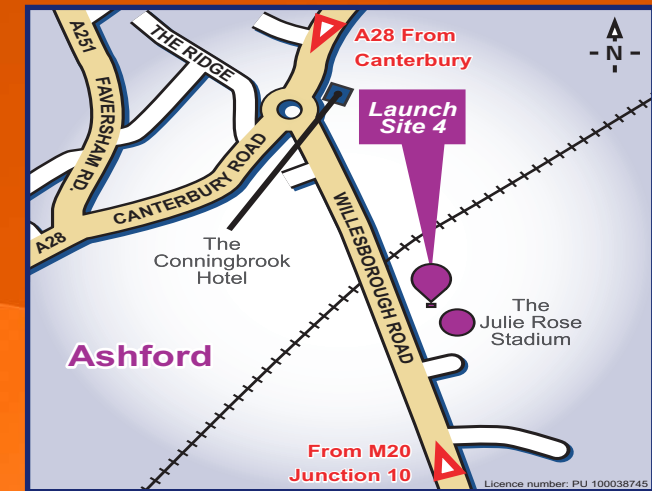
From Headcorn village, follow the A274 south towards Tenterden. The road bends to the right and you will cross over a bridge. Follow the road for approximately 1 mile and take the first road on the left. The Aerodrome car park is the second entrance on the left. Park either in the main car park or continue to the field adjacent to the runway and park by the fence to gain a spectacular view of the arriving and departing aircraft.

Places to eat in the area:

The Bell
Bell Lane, Smarden TN27 8PW
01233 770283

Krishna Indian Restaurant
High Street, Headcorn TN27 9NL
01622 890665

**Julie Rose Stadium, Ashford
TN24 9QP**



Julie Rose Stadium is located only a short distance from J10 on the M20.

From the M20 J10 take the exit B2164 titled A28/Canterbury. At the next roundabout go straight over and continue for approximately 1.5 miles. The Julie Rose Stadium will be on your right. Please park in the main car park, we take off from the overspill car park on the left hand side of the stadium entrance. If the gates are closed, please park in front of the gates and wait for your crew to arrive.

Places to eat in the area:

Hooden on The Hill
Silverhill Road, Wilsborough, Ashford TN24 0NY
01233 662226

The Conningbrook
Canterbury Road, Kennington, Ashford TN24 9QR
01233 636863

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