

TMNP – HG & PG EMP

Annexure 2

Proposed Site Improvements

Lions Head

Table Mountain

Signal Hill

Constantiaberg

SITE NAME: LIONS HEAD LOWER LAUNCH SITE

LOCATION: S 33° 56'. 291: E 18° 23'. 297 (End of Jeep Track)

The launch site currently being used is very unsatisfactory in that it is unfavourably oriented relative to the commonly prevailing wind direction, is somewhat small and is being encroached by Silver trees.

Damage to silver trees and other bushy fynbos in the immediately adjacent area is occurring as a result of aborted launches. Associated damage to gliding equipment is also common (and expensive) and there is also a safety risk to pilots from collision with trees once airborne.

Aborted launches usually entail the glider landing in adjacent bush and silver trees with damage to these occurring when the glider is retrieved. The site useage rate is very high (highest of all the Park sites) so that cumulative abortive launches are already damaging the immediately adjacent vegetation.

Aborted launches are primarily caused by the unsatisfactory orientation of the launch site relative to the commonly prevailing wind direction. The Current location of the site is a legacy from the past (before Paragliding commenced in the Peninsula) and was the launch used by Hang gliders, conveniently positioned at the end of the jeep track at a point where a break in the vegetation permitted launching. When this area became excessively eroded, it was stabilized with gabions in such a manner that it could be revegetated easily if the need ever arose. The site is much more regularly used now and it has become patently obvious that the prevailing winds are SW and that the site should be logically positioned more to the west, as indicated on the attached photograph.

It is requested that consideration be given to rectifying this situation and to this end the following proposals are offered for your consideration:

RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES FOR PREPARATION OF NEW LAUNCH AREA:

- Revegetation of the existing launch site by importation of soil and fynbos seed (professionally conducted by Park approved specialist; financed by Paragliding community)
- Removal of aged mature silver trees which encroach the launch area (as indicated on the aerial photograph). Replanting of equivalent number (or more) of young trees nearby, but out of the way (professionally conducted by Park approved specialist; financed by Paragliding community).
- Construction of a new stone packed gabion launch area in the area indicated, some 15 metres west of the existing site; 15m X 15 m (professionally constructed by Wilfred Krohn and paid for by the Paragliding community).

SITE NAME: TABLE MOUNTAIN GULLY

LOCATION: S 33° 57.616; E 18° 24.363

In order to contain encroachment and at the same time create a more user-friendly launch area, it is requested that consideration be given to the following proposals for this site.

The attached aerial photographic perspective refers.

- Removal of approximately 30 restia plants (to make for easier and safer launching) and replanting of similar away from launch area (to be professionally conducted by Park approved specialists and financed by Paragliding community).
- Removal of loose sandstone boulders, which snag lines on launching (these could be merely moved to the peripheral areas of the site and used to delineate the dedicated launch area).

SITE NAME: TABLE MOUNTAIN FRONT FACE

LOCATION: S 33° 57.723; E 18° 24.702

In order to contain encroachment and at the same time create a more user-friendly launch area, it is requested that consideration be given to the following proposals for this site.

The attached aerial photographic perspective refers.

- Removal of approximately 50 low scrub type fynbos plants (to make for easier and safer launching) and replanting of similar away from launch area (to be professionally conducted by Park approved specialists and financed by Paragliding community).

SITE NAME: SIGNAL HILL CENTRAL (APPLETON)

LOCATION: S 33° 55′. 287; E 18° 23′. 858

In order to contain encroachment and at the same time create a more user-friendly launch area, it is requested that consideration be given to the following proposals for this site. The attached aerial photographic perspective refers.

- Delineation of the area indicated by tannalin treated poles laid as a peripheral boundary and fixed to the ground.
- Removal of the bushes indicated (to make for easier and safer launching) and replanting of similar away from launch area (to be professionally conducted by Park approved specialists and financed by Paragliding community).
- Removal of the spectator bench to a position away from the immediate launch area.
- Provision of a machine compacted, natural gravel (sub-base; gravel road construction material) surfacing to 300 mm thickness (financed by Paragliding community).

SITE NAME: CONSTANTIBERG SE (2)

LOCATION: S 34° 03′. 281; E 18° 23′. 279

Take off for hang gliders is currently from the edge of the tar road just before the gate to the Sentech mast. There is very little erosion potential or potential damage to fynbos plants here due to the side of the road being used as a take off area.

It would improve pilot safety immensely if we could put down a small platform which would allow us to take 3 or 4 steps on take off instead of the current 2. This would allow us to get more speed into the glider for a faster and safer takeoff.

We would gladly supply all materials and labour and put down the platform in accordance with TMNP staff instructions.