



## Flying without boundaries

Over the past few months, the attraction of flatland fields and sandy beaches, commonplace to most land based powerkite flyers, have been losing their lustre. That same old, same old feeling doesn't seem to cut it anymore.



*"A truly 3d experience that is totally unique"*

**F**reeride the Future' has become our mantra, inspired by seeing some of the world's elite putting it in practice at last year's Ozone Snow Kite Masters in Utah (*featured in PK 21*). Since then, our eyes have opened wide to the endless possibilities of All Terrain Kiting, inspiring us to try and carry the same style of flying over dirt.

We headed to the hills of the central UK, finding them full of dry stone walls, dense hedges, large rocks and deep mud, a problem snowkiters don't have as all these things these are usually covered in a carpet of snow! We spent quite some time in search of good spots to ride spots and have compiled a comprehensive directory with notes on orientation, distinguishing features and workable wind directions to ensure we are never short of somewhere that is truly challenging to ride ever again.

Our most recent sessions have been up at a 2000 year old Iron Age Hill Fort. This is the highest topographical point in the surrounding country, rising 700 feet above the neighbouring fields and commanding unrivalled views, which of course is why it was there in the first place - another gnarly location to add to our list.

During its Iron Age heyday, the fort was approached by a cobbled roadway and boasted a guardhouse with strong masonry walls to protect the people of the ancient land against anyone and everyone that meant to harm them. These days it's all completely overgrown by grass and grazed by the occasional flock of sheep - so it's no longer murderous marauders that are its main adversary, but instead rabbits burrowing deep and wreaking havoc on its historic slopes. ▶



*“an awesome collection of natural features with untold potential”*

The fort still has a prominent entrance which cuts through the well preserved ramparts, providing an awesome arsenal of natural features, holding untold potential for our new-found style of flying. We have taken our buggies and boards backcountry, hitting hills, gullies and natural features of all kinds. After all kiting is a sport like no other, allowing the rider to explore vast variations of terrain without boundaries. A truly 3D experience that is totally unique. Riding at the fort, we have learnt to carry more speed into our jumps in order to boost huge air and long flights, like our snowbound cousins. We are not there yet but the gap between us and the dirt is increasing with every session.

These days we look for terrain, speed, and big air with a renewed zest for riding. It feels as if we are newbies again, learning new skills and satisfying that much needed hit we have been craving for so long. Our kiting has gone into overdrive and we are beginning to realise what is really possible with a kite, buggy and board.

We are at the beginning of an exciting adventure where everything is once again fresh and new... PK

Words by Butch & Dan Vaughan  
Photos by Jamie Clayton  
Graphics Dan Vaughan  
[www.flyozone.com](http://www.flyozone.com)  
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