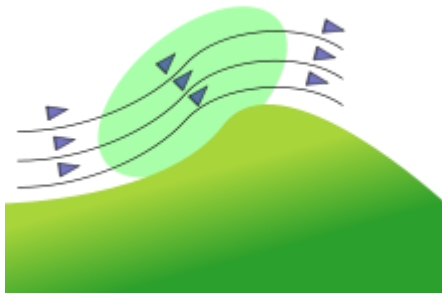




What is ridge lift?

Ridge lift is created by the prevailing wind meeting a hill side or ridge. The air must rise against the ridge and even in light winds this is sufficient for a glider to maintain its height or climb.



Wind climbing up a hillside and over the ridge

By flying along a ridge like this a glider can fly a long way without having to stop to climb.

- The most reliable lift will be at or above ridge height at a 45 degree angle to the top of the ridge.
- One often sees birds flying behind a hedge or ridge but they are better at it!
- Ridge lift is strongest when the wind is perpendicular to the line of the hill

When approaching a ridge

- Fly at a 45 degree angle to the ridge, never straight towards it
- When you feel the lift turn along the ridge
- You will be blown towards the ridge so set off the drift by pointing slightly into wind

When using a ridge

- Fly at a speed that maintains the height that you want. Slow down to climb, speed up if excess height is available.
- Never turn towards the hill below ridge height. Do 'S' turns to climb instead.
- Keep a very good lookout for other gliders. The closing speed can be high
- Gliders with their right wing towards the hill have right of way

