

“Vario” frequency setting for model pilots in the Oxfordshire Ridgeway area

Local Radio Amateurs operate a repeater station on the Ridgeway and have been picking up transmissions from glider ‘vario’ units. These units share their 433 MHz band – but they pay quite expensive license fees for their transmission privileges!

Radio Amateurs operate transmissions on 433.075, 433.450, 433.475 and 434.675MHz in the Ridgeway vicinity and have asked that modellers set ‘vario’ units to avoid these specifically.

Note that the BMFA recommend setting above channel 50 (434.025), however 434.675 is channel 65 so the ‘general’ guidance is no guarantee to avoid annoying other users in the band - and if vario’s are set to avoid the above then they will need to be reset before being used in other regions for the same reason.

Apparently vario transmissions from Ridgeway model flying are currently relayed over about a 100 mile radius through the repeater!

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