

GLIDING HERITAGE CENTRE

Aircraft Summary Sheet



KITE 2b (663)	
Manufacturer	Slingsby Type 26, Works No 727. Only one Kite 2, the prototype, was originally built by Slingsbys, and this was destroyed in a crash at Camphill in 1947. The others were built under licence by Martin Hearn Ltd, Cheshire, "663" is MHL 200, it still has the final MHL inspection label in the fuselage date 5 th June 1947.
Year of manufacture	1947 but date of first flight uncertain. First recorded 9 th June 1951 (Lorne Welch) but may have first flown in 1947. Logbook only begins from 1951
Registration marks	Comp No 663; BGA 663;
Airworthy	Yes, as at end 2022 997 hours, 1644 launches
History	8 separate owners/syndicates since 1951. Two of the original syndicate (Frank Irving and Ralph Hooper) with Bill Tonkyn repurchased the glider in 1992, ownership changing to Glyn Bradney in August 2004. Aug 2023 syndicated between 4 at Lasham.
Notable flights	27/5/1957, Bill Tonkyn, Lasham to Perranporth, UK Nationals. Briefly the unofficial holder of the 300km speed record.
Restoration history	The Kite 2 that Slingsby modified to stop the bad spinning characteristics. Further extensively modified by Frank Irving in 1951/52 which resulted in it being renamed the Kite 2b (only one). Completely restored by Frank Irving and syndicate in 1992 – 1994.
Other	



Kite 2b (663) at rest at Lasham (Paul Haliday)

	[insert small photo here]	[insert small photo here]
663 at Lasham	[caption here]	[caption here]

Date last updated

16/08/2023