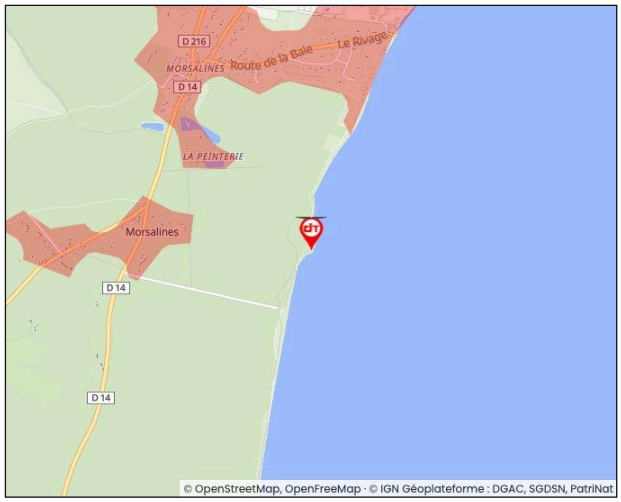
The Morsalines battery

Heritage · Manche

GPS coordinates	49.57184, -1.30466
Elevation	4 m
Maximum height	120 m max
Access	Direct access by car
Nearest aerodrome	Cherbourg-Maupertus Airport (LFRC) 15 km NW · spot 136 m lower
Spot reference	307195



Spot location and restrictions (Drone-Spot map image)

Sun (local times, UTC+01:00)

Day	Dawn	Sunrise	Sunset	Dusk	Day length	Golden hour
Sat 21 Nov	07:50	08:26	17:16	17:52	8 h 50	08:26–09:18 · 16:24–17:16
Sun 22 Nov	07:52	08:27	17:15	17:51	8 h 47	08:27–09:20 · 16:23–17:15
Mon 23 Nov	07:53	08:29	17:14	17:50	8 h 45	08:29–09:22 · 16:22–17:14

Nearby aerodromes

Aerodrome	Type	Distance	Elevation
Cherbourg-Maupertus Airport	Airport	15 km NW	140 m
Centre Hospitalier Heliport	Heliport	23 km W	19 m

Description

The Morsalines battery is a landmark in the Manche department, located in Quettehou, in the delegated commune of Morsalines. It is part of the German Atlantic Wall defense system, under the code name Stp 141. During the Second World War, the Morsalines battery, set up as early as 1941, was the oldest on the eastern coast of the Cotentin. It consisted of six French 155 mm guns dating from the First World War, installed in the open air on concrete platforms. Because of their range, they could reach the Varreville sector, where the Americans had chosen to land. Quite cleverly camouflaged, it escaped the Allies' attention for a long time, but eventually suffered a devastating bombardment in May 1944 that destroyed or damaged half of its guns. It was then moved further back. Because of this new position, and because the Americans mistakenly came ashore on 6 June on a beach two kilometers …

Scan to open the up-to-date spot page: weather, map and restrictions.

https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/fiche-spot.aspx?id=307195

Before every flight: check the UAS zones map, NOTAMs and temporary areas, the weather and the Kp index.

Preparing the flight

Pre-flight Check-List

- ☐ Area checked: UAS zones, restrictions, protected areas
- ☐ NOTAMs and temporary areas checked
- ☐ Weather: wind, gusts, rain, visibility; Kp index
- ☐ Operator number displayed on the drone
- ☐ Training certificate or licence with me
- ☐ Third-party liability insurance checked
- ☐ Batteries charged: drone, controller, phone
- ☐ Propellers, motors and frame in good condition
- ☐ Memory card inserted and empty
- ☐ Software up to date, compass and IMU calibrated
- ☐ Return to home: home point and return height set
- ☐ Electronic signalling or remote ID active
- ☐ Take-off area clear, people informed and at a distance
- ☐ Observer present for FPV flights

Key rules of the open category

Recreational flying in France: European open-category rules, applied by the DGAC.

- Maximum height: 120 m above the ground, lower where a restriction requires it.
- Always keep the drone in sight; when flying FPV, an observer keeps it in sight next to you.
- Never fly over crowds and keep the distances of your subcategory (A1, A2 or A3).
- Respect UAS geographical zones: around aerodromes, prohibited or restricted areas, protected areas, sensitive sites.
- Register as an operator if the drone weighs 250 g or more or carries a camera (toys excepted), and display the number on the drone.
- Training: online A1/A3 certificate from 250 g or for a class C1 drone; A2 certificate to fly closer to people with a class C2 drone.
- Always give way to manned aircraft and land if one approaches.
- Respect privacy: no images that identify people without their consent; aerial photography is prohibited in some areas.
- Check your third-party liability insurance.
- In France: registration and training on AlphaTango (DGAC); a drone of 800 g or more must broadcast electronic signalling (or the remote ID of class-marked drones).

Non-exhaustive summary: rules change. Reference: the DGAC open-category guide and the country's regulations.

Useful links

UAS zones map around the spot : https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/carte-uas.aspx?lat=49.57184&lon=-1.30466
Drone pilot library : https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/bibliotheque
DGAC open-category guide (French) : https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/bibliotheque/guide-categorie-ouverte
Registration and training (AlphaTango) : https://alphatango.aviation-civile.gouv.fr
NOTAMs and temporary areas (SOFIA Briefing) : https://sofia-briefing.aviation-civile.gouv.fr

My flight notes

Information sheet generated by Drone-Spot from community data: it replaces neither official aeronautical information nor the regulations. The remote pilot remains responsible for the flight.