



## The General Aviation Awareness Council

President: The Lord Rotherwick

### FACT SHEET 2

#### What is the General Aviation Awareness Council?

##### Background

The General Aviation Awareness Council (GAAC) was formed in 1991 in response to a growing concern that there was no one organisation responsible for protecting and promoting the interests of a wide range of General Aviation (GA) activities in the UK. It was apparent that the lack of any co-ordinated approach to major issues such as Government policy was resulting in the anti-GA lobby being increasingly successful in promoting its aims.

##### The organisation

The GAAC is a national body representing the general and light aviation movement. It is a registered company limited by guarantee, with full public accountability. There is a Board of Directors, drawn from different sectors of GA.

Members of the active Working Group are drawn from a wide range of member organisations. The group meets on a regular basis to ensure that the body's stated aims are put into practice.

##### Aims

The GAAC aims to explain the nature of GA, promote its purpose and value, protect its facilities and ensure its future.

##### Membership

Members include the national aviation associations, companies in the GA industry, including aerodrome operators, flying training organisations and other bodies. Total representation currently stands at some 80 organisations, together with individual members who are registered as supporters.

##### Key areas of work

- **Business:** GA serves local businesses by facilitating rapid links with other parts of the UK and with other countries, which is of ever increasing importance given the single market economy that is the EU. The availability of a local aerodrome can also boost a region's attractiveness to firms wishing to locate there.
- **Pilot Training:** providing the pilots to fly the airliners which carry people on holidays and other personal journeys, and those on professional or other business;
- **Agriculture:** protecting crops and forests;
- **Delivery:** of mail, newspapers and essential items;

- **Life Saving:** transport of dangerously ill people and of urgently needed human organs, medical equipment and medicines;
- **Traffic Control:** monitoring traffic movements from the air;
- **Civil Search & Rescue:** often in conjunction with local police;
- **Law Enforcement:** fighting crime, including drug smuggling;
- **Aerial Survey:** patrols of pipelines and electricity transmission lines, photography for map-making and oil exploration;
- **Protecting the Environment:** pollution control, fire fighting and fishery protection;
- **Recreation:** including flying as a chosen leisure pursuit and flying model aircraft;
- **Helping the Disabled:** to experience the pleasures of flying;
- **Flying for Youth:** giving air experience to young people;
- **Flying Displays:** entertaining hundreds of thousands of spectators each year.

### Education

- Promotion of GA, in all its forms.
- Development of aviation related material that teachers can use in class rooms as part of course work for students.
- Development of a greater understanding of aerodromes and their importance to local communities by publishing suitable material for LPAs, flying clubs and aerodrome operators. Current publications include *“How Green is Your Airfield?”*, *“Your Local Aerodrome”*, *“More Considerate Flying”* and *“Why General Aviation?”*

### Planning

- A comprehensive data-base of planning application/appeal decisions and associated legal issues relating to GA.
- Advice on a wide range of planning relating issues regarding individual sites where there are wider implications for GA.
- Submission of representations to Central Government regarding national policy issues.
- Publication of a range of documents which give advice to both Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) and site owners/operators faced with planning problems affecting GA sites. In particular, publication of a series of free downloadable Fact Sheets.

### Other activities

- Raising awareness of GA issues at European Parliament level and internationally.
- Participation in the development of world-wide standards on noise and emissions through the International Civil Aviation Organisation (I.C.A.O).
- Commissioning independent research into matters affecting GA.
- Advice on the safeguarding of flying sites.

This is one of a series of Fact Sheets available from the GAAC. For further information please contact the above address or go to [www.gaac.org.uk](http://www.gaac.org.uk)