



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Ministry of Defence

Military Low Flying in the United Kingdom

Statistical Appendix – 2010-2011





INTRODUCTION

This appendix provides a statistic report on low flying training activity conducted in the UK Low Flying System for the period from April 2010 to the end of March 2011. This appendix should be read in conjunction with the master document "Military Low Flying in the United Kingdom" both of which are available at www.mod.uk

The overall levels of Low Flying, Operational Low Flying and Complaints are reported. In addition, Low Flying and Complaint statistics for the training year 2010-2011 are given for each of the 18 Low Flying Areas..

Although the Night Low Flying System is slightly different than that by day, the statistics are all based on the 18 Low Flying Areas used during the day, with statistics for night low flying being mapped onto the day Low Flying Areas for ease of comparison.

EXAMPLE AND EXPLANATION OF TABLES

An example of the tables is given below together with an explanation of how to interpret the information.

Low Flying Area Number and the total area available for low flying, excluding those areas where low flying does not take place, for example major conurbations, civil airports etc.

There are 18 Low Flying Areas in total. The figures show how each area compares to others. This Area is the 12th most intense for fixed-wing activity; the 4th most intense for helicopter activity, and the 6th most intense area overall.

LFA 0 9,999 km2	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km2	Relative Intensity Rating
Fixed-Wing	1,234	7	12th
Helicopter	3,456	21	4th
All Aircraft	4,690	28	6th

The amount of low flying conducted during the training year, given in hours, and rounded up or down to the closest whole hour.

The average amount of low flying conducted in one square kilometre during the training year, given in minutes. One km2 is just over 247 acres.

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
254	18.5

This table shows the overall number of complaints for the Low Flying Area during the training year, and also shows how many flying hours are completed within the Low Flying Area for each complaint made. The number of complaints received about Operational Low Flying in Tactical Training Areas is shown in the main body of the report.

LOW FLYING ACTIVITY LEVELS

Routine Low Flying

The amount of routine low flying conducted in training year 2010-2011 is given in the table below:

	Fixed Wing	Rotary Wing	Total – All Aircraft
2010-2011	18394	30757	49151

In this training year, fixed-wing activity accounted for 41.5% and rotary-wing 58.5% of low flying activity. The table below shows a comparison with the previous training year 2008-2009:

	Fixed Wing	Rotary Wing	Total – All Aircraft
2010-2011	18394	30757	49151
2009-2010	23879	33641	57520
2008-2009	20444	31444	51888

This year saw an overall decrease in low flying activity of 8 369 hours or 14.6%. Fixed-wing low flying decreased by 23% overall, due to 2 main factors. In December 2010, 4 squadrons of Harrier GR7/9 aircraft were withdrawn from Service as part of force reductions following the Strategic Defence and Security Review. In addition, the Tornado GR4 Force was deployed on operational duties throughout the period in the Afghan theatre, and from late March deployed to Italy as part of the NATO force conducting operations in Libya. Rotary-wing training levels also decreased by 8.6%, reflecting continued high levels of operational deployment. Fixed-wing low flying is expected to continue to decrease in the forthcoming training year as a further 2 squadrons of Tornado GR4 aircraft are withdrawn from service. With no imminent change to operation posture, rotary-wing training levels appear likely to remain relatively constant.

Complaints

The total number of complaints received in this training year was 3 495, a 14.4% decrease from the previous training year. Whilst this total includes all complaints covering all types of activity, including medium level Close Air Support training and sonic activity that are not attributable to low level activity, the decrease is proportional to the decrease in the overall amount of low flying conducted.

The close correlation between total complaints and total low level hours flown continues.

Operational Low Flying

The amount of operational low flying conducted in training year 2010-2011 is given in the table below:

	LFA 7(T) Wales	LFA 14(T) Scotland	LFA 20(T) Borders	Total Operational Low Flying
2010-2011	19.35	101.13	127.65	248.13

This year, the total amount of operational low flying decreased by 60.75 hours or 19.7% compared to the previous training year 2009-2010. Operational low flying accounted for just 0.5% of all low flying activity this year, indicating that only the minimum amount of operational low flying necessary to meet operational readiness requirements is being conducted.

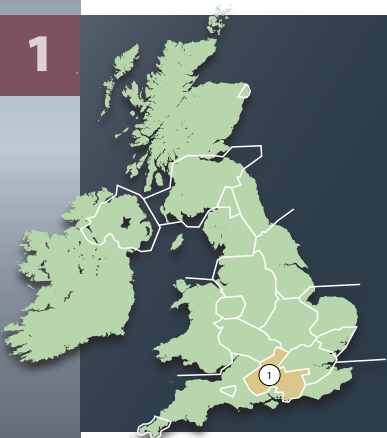
The total number of complaints received about operational low flying during training year 2010-2011 was 32, a 47% reduction, which represents one complaint for every 7.75 hours of activity. The breakdown of complaints for the 3 tactical training areas is given below:

LFA 7(T): 7

LFA(14(T): 2

LFA20(T):23

1

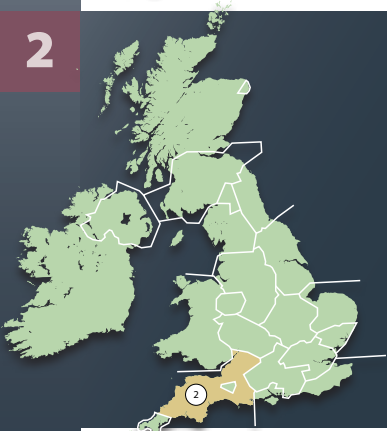


Low Flying Area 1

LFA 1 6775 km ²	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km ²	Relative Intensity Rating
Fixed-Wing	313	3	13th
Helicopter	6365	56	3rd
All Aircraft	6678	59	3rd

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
640	10.43

2

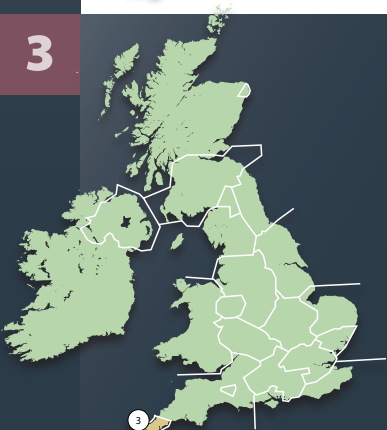


Low Flying Area 2

LFA 2 15,783 km ²	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km ²	Relative Intensity Rating
Fixed-Wing	1066	4	10th
Helicopter	4635	18	5th
All Aircraft	5701	22	7th

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
409	13.9

3



Low Flying Area 3

LFA 3 921 km ²	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km ²	Relative Intensity Rating
Fixed-Wing	411	27	1st
Helicopter	1111	72	2nd
All Aircraft	1522	99	2nd

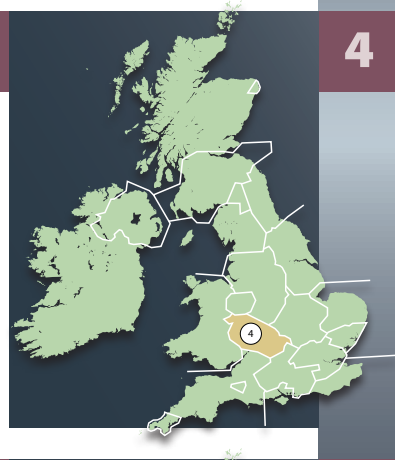
Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
19	80.1

4

Low Flying Area 4

LFA 4 8,264 km ²	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km ²	Relative Intensity Rating
Fixed-Wing	953	6	8th
Helicopter	1351	10	9th
All Aircraft	2304	16	11th

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
183	12.6

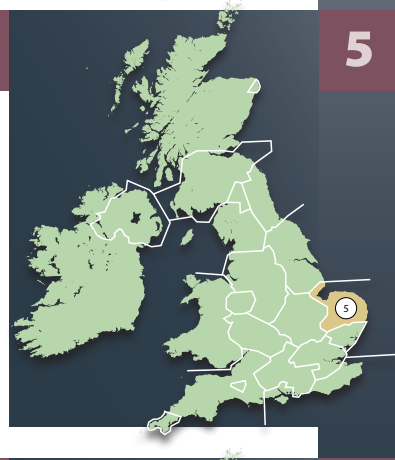


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Low Flying Area 5

LFA 5 5,785 km ²	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km ²	Relative Intensity Rating
Fixed-Wing	1333	14	2nd
Helicopter	1315	13	6th
All Aircraft	2648	27	4th

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
323	8.2

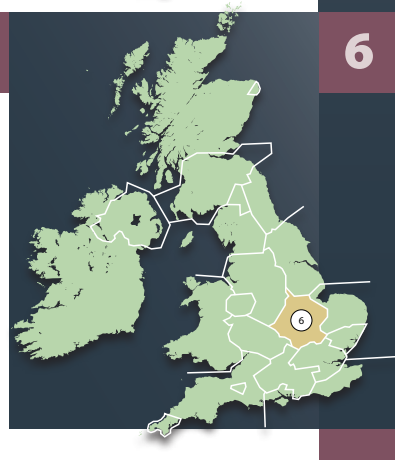


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Low Flying Area 6

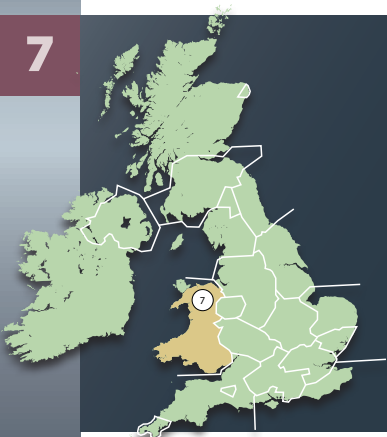
LFA 6 9,308 km ²	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km ²	Relative Intensity Rating
Fixed-Wing	628	4	11th
Helicopter	801	5	13th
All Aircraft	1429	9	14th

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
195	7.3



6

7

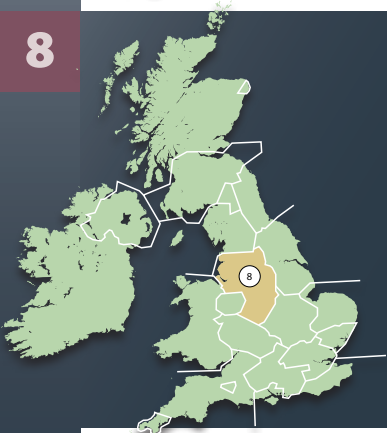


Low Flying Area 7

LFA 7 18,909 km ²	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km ²	Relative Intensity Rating
Fixed-Wing	3179	9	7th
Helicopter	2979	9	11th
All Aircraft	6158	18	9th

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
269	22.9

8

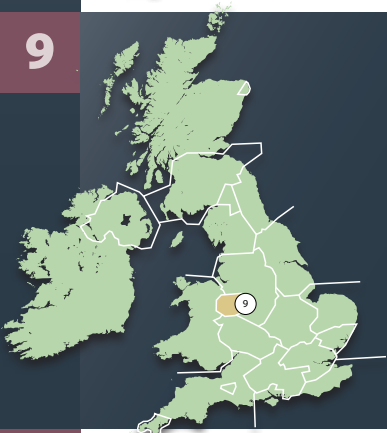


Low Flying Area 8

LFA 8 8,718 km ²	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km ²	Relative Intensity Rating
Fixed-Wing	223	1	15th
Helicopter	559	3	15th
All Aircraft	782	4	17th

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
102	7.7

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Low Flying Area 9

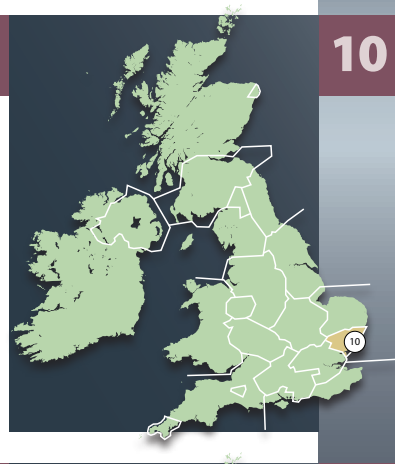
LFA 9 3,525 km ²	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km ²	Relative Intensity Rating
Fixed-Wing	1	0	18th
Helicopter	3986	138	1st
All Aircraft	3987	138	1st

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
262	15.2

Low Flying Area 10

LFA 10 2,900 km ²	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km ²	Relative Intensity Rating
Fixed-Wing	26	0	16th
Helicopter	1182	25	4th
All Aircraft	1208	25	5th

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
85	14.2

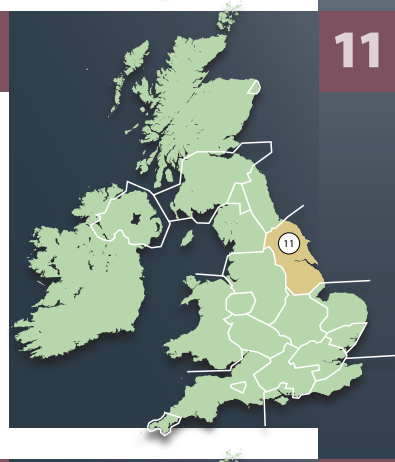


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Low Flying Area 11

LFA 11 11,960 km ²	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km ²	Relative Intensity Rating
Fixed-Wing	1935	10	6th
Helicopter	1435	7	12th
All Aircraft	3370	17	10th

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
190	17.7

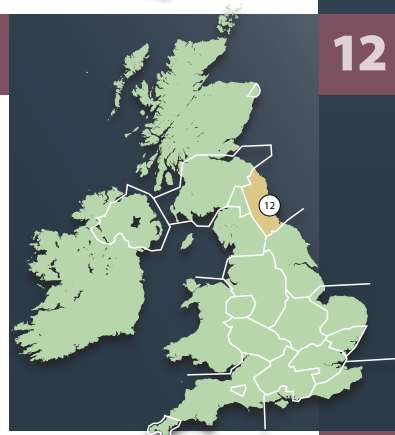


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Low Flying Area 12

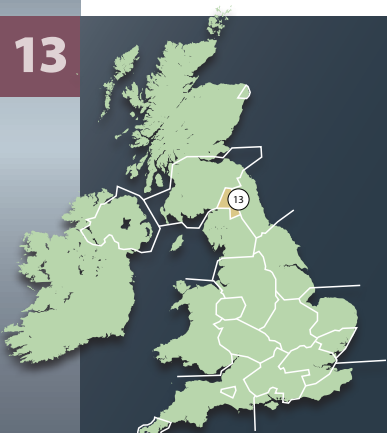
LFA 12 6,012 km ²	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km ²	Relative Intensity Rating
Fixed-Wing	1203	12	3rd
Helicopter	1093	11	7th
All Aircraft	2296	23	6th

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
59	38.9



12

13

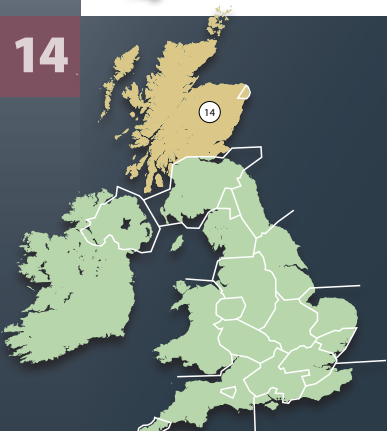


Low Flying Area 13

LFA 13 2,035 km ²	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km ²	Relative Intensity Rating
Fixed-Wing	336	10	5th
Helicopter	303	9	10th
All Aircraft	639	19	8th

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
17	37.6

14

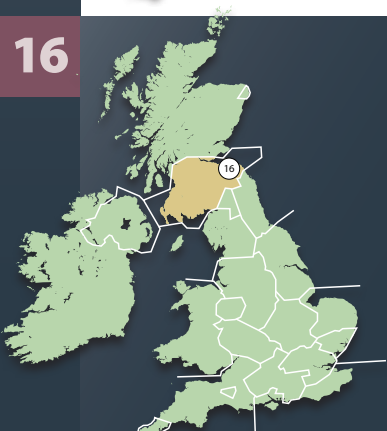


Low Flying Area 14

LFA 14 57,604 km ²	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km ²	Relative Intensity Rating
Fixed-Wing	3218	3	12th
Helicopter	1708	2	16th
All Aircraft	4926	5	16th

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
219	22.5

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Low Flying Area 16

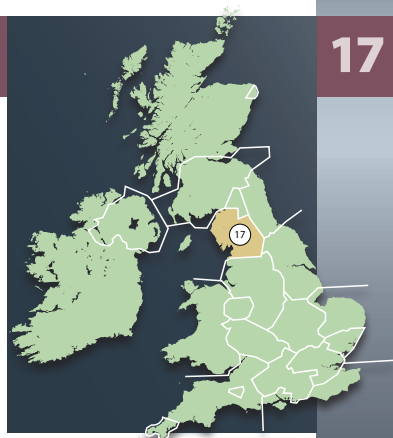
LFA 16 16,142 km ²	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km ²	Relative Intensity Rating
Fixed-Wing	1420	5	9th
Helicopter	382	2	17th
All Aircraft	1802	7	15th

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
107	16.8

Low Flying Area 17

LFA 17	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km ²	Relative Intensity Rating
11,295 km ²			
Fixed-Wing	1995	11	4th
Helicopter	850	4	14th
All Aircraft	2845	15	12th

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
115	24.7

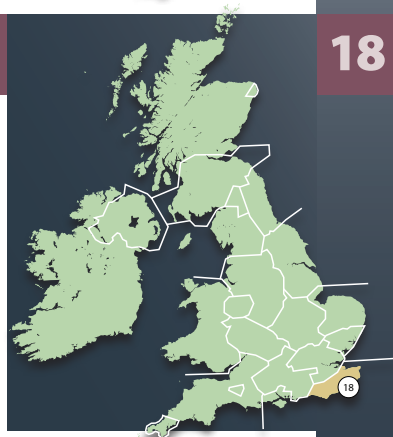


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Low Flying Area 18

LFA 18	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km ²	Relative Intensity Rating
3,390 km ²			
Fixed-Wing	137	2	14th
Helicopter	559	10	8th
All Aircraft	696	12	13th

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
193	3.6

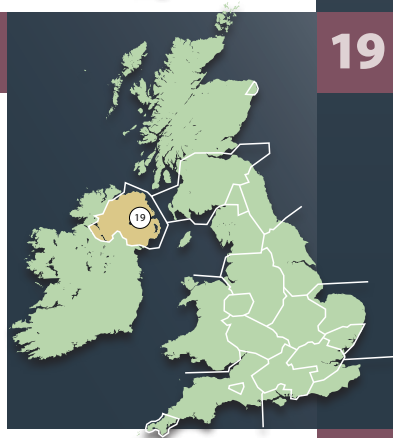


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Low Flying Area 19

LFA 19	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km ²	Relative Intensity Rating
8,337 km ²			
Fixed-Wing	14	0	17th
Helicopter	142	1	18th
All Aircraft	156	1	18th

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
27	5.8



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Useful Contacts

Information about Military Low Flying, planned exercises and planned use of Tactical Training Areas is available from the MOD Low Flying website at the following link:

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/WhatWeDo/AirSafetyandAviation/LowFlying/>

Information about planned Low Flying activity on a daily basis can also be obtained from the free-phone telephone advisory service on 0800 51 55 44.

For further information about Low Flying, complaints and requests for permanent and temporary avoidance status contact:

Ministry of Defence Complaints and Enquiries Unit
Air Staff
Level 5, Zone H
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
Tel: 020 7218 6020
Fax: 020 7218 2680
e-mail: lowflying@mod.uk

Regional Community Relations Officers can assist with more local information and complaints, and can be contacted as follows:

Scotland

Regional Community Relations Officer (Scotland)
Irvine House
Canonbie
Dumfries & Galloway
DG 14 OXF
Tel: 01387 381156
Fax: 01387 380904

Wales

Royal Air Force Community Relations Officer (Wales)
The Barracks
Brecon
Powys
LD3 7EA
Tel: 01874 613 889
Fax: 01874 613 897
e-mail: DEOpsNorth-RAFCROWalesAsst@mod.uk

website: www.raf.mod.co.uk/crowales

Complaints about Low Flying activity in Northern Ireland can be made to:

Northern Ireland

External Relations Unit
G9 Policy (FOI)
HQ 38 (Irish) Bde & Northern Ireland Garrison
BFPO 825
Tel: 028 92263498
e-mail: 38X-ERU-MAILBOX@mod.uk

For claims against the Ministry of Defence resulting from military Low Flying:

Ministry of Defence
Common Law Claims and Policy Division
1st Floor, Zone I
MOD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB
Tel: 020 7218 3545

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