

Epping Forest District Council

North Weald Airfield

Aviation Intensification Study



Interim Report

October 2010

Halcrow Group Limited

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Epping Forest District Council
North Weald Airfield
Aviation Intensification Study
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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) has commissioned the Halcrow Group to undertake an independent study to assess the potential for developing aviation activity at North Weald Aerodrome. The Council has owned the aerodrome since 1980, and has promoted its use as a mixed aviation, recreational and employment site.

The key objective of the study is to identify potential aviation market segments that might be targeted, and that would be viable in providing a positive financial return to EFDC. Any development proposals also have to balance potential economic benefits against environmental and community impacts.

This Interim Report outlines the work done and our initial findings and is based on stakeholder meetings and the data available to date.

1.2 Meetings and Discussions

The following meetings and discussions have been held or arranged with aviation tenants:

- North Weald Flying Services – met with Mr Alan Crouchman on 28th September 2010
- Mr Trevor Archer (S2T Aviation) representing the North Weald Airfield Users Group – initial telephone discussion on 29th September 2010, and met on 21st October 2010
- Mr David Young – met on 5th October 2010
- Weald Aviation (Mr Russell Smith, Mr Geoff Button, and Mr Andrew Vassallo) – met on 11th October 2010
- Mr Peter Teichman of the Hangar 11 Collection was contacted, but declined our request for a discussion/meeting.

All local residents groups identified by EFDC have been contacted:

- Representatives of Theydon Bois Action Group – met on 5th October 2010
- North Weald Parish Council, including District Councillors Anne Grigg and David Stallan – met on 21st October 2010
- Representatives of the Residents Associations of North Weald, Thornwood and Hastingwood – met on 21st October 2010
- Mr Arthur Moreton, North Weald Aviation Heritage – met on 21st October 2010
- Mr Howard Parkinson of Foskett, Marr, Gadsby & Head Solicitors¹ – met on 21st October 2010

There has also been initial telephone/e-mail correspondence, seeking clarification on our remit, with the Epping Residents Group, Waltham Abbey Residents Association, and the Corporation of London as administrators of Epping Forest.

Some preliminary responses arising from our discussions are set out in Section 6 of this report.

¹ Acts a legal representative for a number of clients based on North Weald Airfield, as well as a number of residents groups

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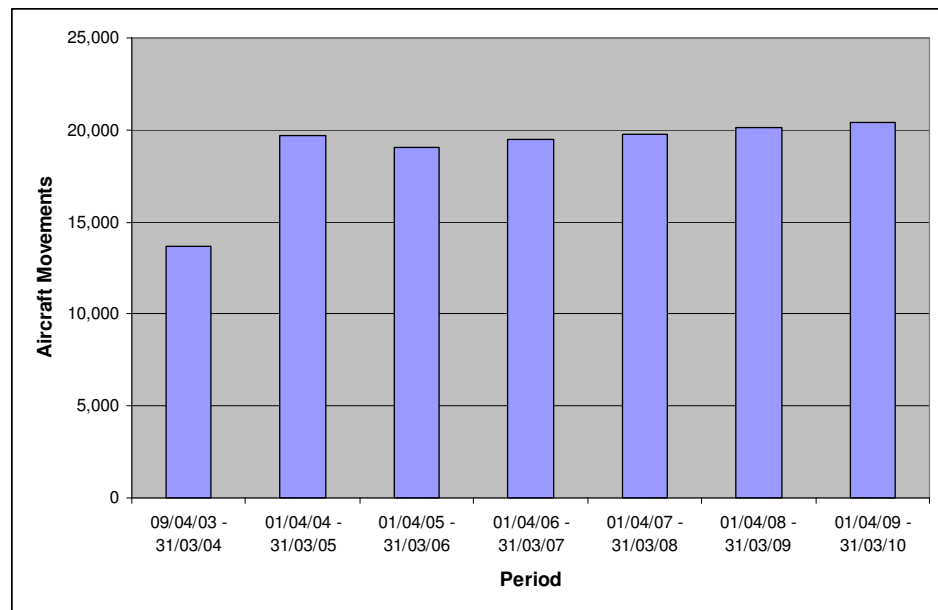
Overview of North Weald Aerodrome

2.1

Aviation Activity

EFDC has supplied aircraft movement statistics for North Weald Airfield for the last 7 years, as summarised in Figure 2.1 below.

Figure 2.1: North Weald Airfield - Aircraft Movements



Source: Epping Forest District Council

We understand that there are a number of anomalies or inconsistencies in the records, and they have been adjusted to show the overall trend in aircraft movements at the airfield. In the period 2009/10, the aerodrome handled 20,382 movements, of which 59% (or 12,060) were allocated to the Squadron.

Figure 2.1 indicates that there has been modest growth in activity from 2005/06.

2.2

Airfield Infrastructure

The critical airfield infrastructure in any consideration of future development scenarios for North Weald is the two paved runways. The main Runway 02-20 orientated NNE/SSW which is 1,920m long and 45m wide².

The secondary runway is orientated 13-31 (NW/SE). Only a 650m portion of this original wartime runway is available for aircraft operations. The remaining eastern part is divided off by a security fence, and is used for driver training and event hardstanding.

We understand that the Scott Wilson pavement evaluation in 1998 is the most recent investigation of the condition and strength of the runways and the taxiway network.

That report noted the deterioration of the main runway subgrade and the relative thinness of rigid concrete pavement sections. Reflective cracking and patching was observed within the flexible construction areas which was considered indicative of '*significant distress*'. Scott Wilson concluded that the Pavement Classification Number (PCN)³ of the main runway ranged from 6-10 depending on the section of runway and its construction. This conclusion had the significant proviso that these PCNs should be regarded as '*the maximum achievable PCN values from pavement materials when new, not the current PCN's which are often impractical to calculate*'.

The report further noted that the rate of deterioration was likely to increase with future use, and recommended bituminous overlays to achieve a PCN of 9.

² Pooley's Flight Guide

³ The Pavement Classification Number (PCN) is an International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) standard used in combination with the Aircraft Classification (ACN) to indicate the strength of airfield pavements (runways, taxiways and apron). This helps to ensure that pavements are not subjected to excessive loading, thus prolonging the operational life.

Aircraft can safely operate on a pavement if their Aircraft Classification Number (ACN) is less than or equal to the pavement load bearing capacity or PCN. Indicative ACNs for range of small/ light business jets for flexible pavements with very low-quality subgrades are as follows:

- Cessna 550 Citation II 6
- Cessna 560 Citation V 7
- Bombardier Learjet 31A/35A/36A 6

Mid-size business jets, such as the Learjet 45 and Citation Excel, have ACNs of 7 and 9 respectively. Business turboprops such as the Beechcraft King Air B200 have ACNs of around 4.

Given over 10 years of use since the survey, and the aforementioned Scott Wilson caveat on PCN values for the main runway, they should be treated with some caution. It would be prudent to conclude that some strengthening work would be needed to ensure the future integrity of the airfield's pavements if traffic is increased significantly or if numbers of business-type aircraft are to be catered for.

2.3

Planning Framework

A review of national and local planning policy guidance has been undertaken to understand the planning context for North Weald Aerodrome. It is appreciated that this is an important and sensitive site in planning terms for EFDC, given its size and location.

EFDC is currently working on its Core Strategy, the key document of the new Local Development Framework (LDF). The preparation of, and consultation on, the Core Strategy will be used to make decisions about future locations for development. The Issues and Options consultation for the Core Strategy is expected to commence in Spring 2011. The Core Strategy will look at least 15 years beyond the date of its adoption, which would mean the period up to the mid 2020s.

At present, the Council uses a mixture of local planning policies, published in February 2008 as Combined Policies, which comprise:

- Adopted Local Plan 1998 – some of these policies were continued in 2007, but many others were replaced by new policies in the following document

- Adopted Local Plan Alterations 2006 – most of these policies were continued in 2009.

These policies support the development of the aerodrome site as a recreation and leisure centre and showground, covering activities such as airshows / displays, the Saturday markets, other events and enabling indoor sports facilities. The western part, closest to the M11, is promoted as a ‘working airfield’, covering aircraft parking and the provision of facilities to repair, service and store aircraft and helicopters.

Importantly, it is noted that:

‘To enable the airfield to function it should be self-financing, if at all possible. Existing uses will therefore be allowed to continue. This means that Hangar 2 (adjacent to the M11) will continue as a warehouse, if necessary, although air-related uses are preferred). It may be appropriate to permit further development on the airfield if its full potential is to be realised within its intended role.’

The key policies relating to the aerodrome are as follows.

Policy RST27

The Council will:

- *Continue to promote and enable the use and development of North Weald Airfield as a major multi-functional recreation and leisure centre and showground; and*
- *Promote and enable the use of the western part of the airfield as a working airfield*

The Council attaches great importance to amenity considerations, particularly noise, in dealing with planning applications for development on the airfield, or in its capacity as land-owner, leasing any sites or premises.

Policy RST28

The Council will protect the existing open character and historic interest of North Weald Airfield.

EFDC wishes to protect as far as possible the airfield's historic interest and character as an important former WW2 RAF airfield, including its layout, buildings and structures. The Council also wishes to encourage the development of a limited aviation museum facility on the airfield.

Policy RST29

The Council may grant planning permission for further major buildings on North Weald Airfield within:

- The south east corner; and
- The area adjacent to the M11 Motorway

Provided that any such buildings:

- a) Are necessary and appropriate for the development of the airfield either as a major multi-functional recreation and leisure centre or a working airfield; and*
- b) Would not create any air safety hazards; and*
- c) Would not lead to pressure for recreational or airfield-related uses on any other part of the airfield*

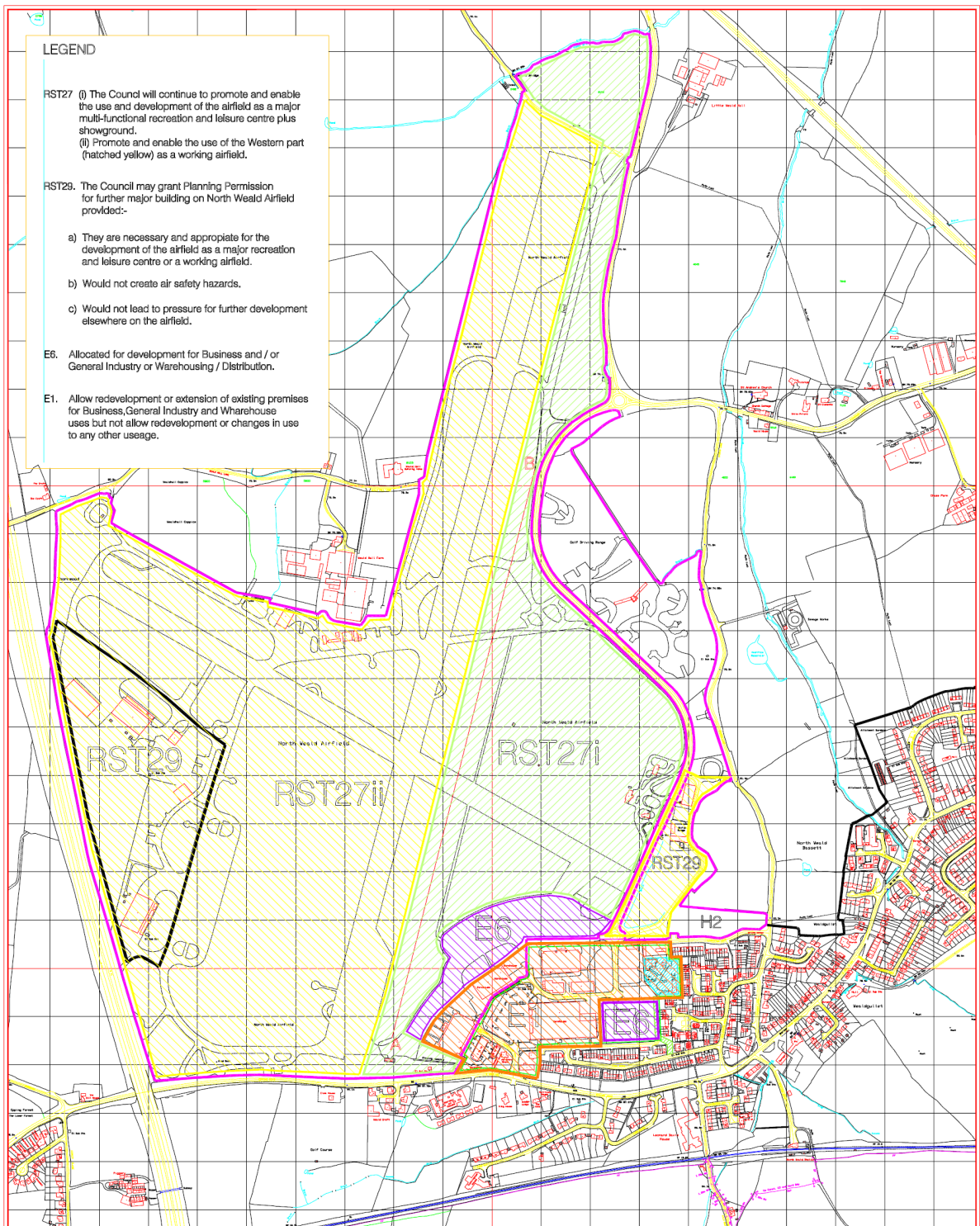
It is intended that any new buildings in the south east corner would be for indoor sports and leisure facilities, close to the existing gymnasium and shooting range, creating a corridor of recreational activities on the eastern edge of the airfield.

Any new buildings on the western side should either be for recreational use or directly aviation related.

New buildings will have to be:

- Of a scale in keeping with the character of the other large or original buildings in the vicinity
- In keeping with the open character of the airfield
- Have no adverse impact upon the historic interest of the airfield
- Have no adverse effect upon the character and appearance of the Green Belt; and
- Not prejudice the development of any of the intended functions of the airfield

Figure 2.2: North Weald Airfield Planning Policies and Land Use



Source: Epping Forest District Council

2.4

Financial Returns

A major rationale for this study is to determine whether there is potential to increase the financial return to EFDC through increased aviation use. This will be considered further in subsequent reports but, for present purposes, we consider in outline the current financial results associated with operating North Weald Airfield.

Table 2.1 below gives a 10-year summary of costs and revenues. In 2009/10, as a percentage of total costs, the following comprise:

- Employee costs - 40.9%
- Premises costs - 27.7%
- Services & supplies - 20.5%

Employee costs cover permanent staff salaries and pension contributions, as well as the costs of casual staff. Premises costs comprise grounds, buildings and runways maintenance and other repair costs and utilities costs. Services and supplies costs comprise a range of equipment, uniforms, materials, stationery, marketing and insurance costs.

It can be seen that EFDC benefited from a net positive return over the period. In the last few years this has been in the range of £400,000 to £550,000, although returns have fallen from a peak of £1.1 million in 2002/03.

Although the overall result is relatively healthy, it is heavily reliant on revenues from one particular source, the Hughmark markets, which contributed £853,710 or almost two-thirds (64.4%) of income in 2009/10. Rents and casual rents from tenants amounted to £457,633 in 2009/10, or just over one-third of income (34.5%). Less than 0.5% of incomes were from major events.

Table 2.1: North Weald Airfield - 10 Year Summary Accounts

Cost	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Employees	216,556	231,628	218,908	261,953	280,997	311,319	333,431	342,003	371,059	357,356
Premises	193,636	211,740	257,179	180,790	163,024	167,393	181,048	282,507	260,255	242,170
Transport	-	8,452	10,561	8,559	9,685	12,750	17,771	17,799	15,119	16,601
Supplies & Services	17,891	40,702	65,534	50,495	50,576	50,885	75,941	58,408	64,911	66,063
Third Party Payments	22,873	-	-	400	-	-	-	-	-	988
Support Services	15,719	84,406	111,503	113,417	128,975	135,653	161,999	140,220	170,621	179,291
Capital	401,820	448,620	448,620	340,369	330,516	389,031	4,690	6,745	10,935	11,939
Total Expenditure	868,504	1,025,547	1,112,305	955,982	963,774	1,067,031	774,880	847,682	892,900	874,408
Total Income	1,326,806	1,607,726	2,224,610	1,911,965	1,927,548	1,381,418	1,240,964	1,389,393	1,299,463	1,326,669
Net Operating Profit/Loss	458,302	582,179	1,112,305	955,983	963,774	314,387	466,084	541,711	406,563	452,261

Source: Epping Forest District Council

3 Preliminary Aviation Market Analysis

3.1 Introduction

General Aviation (GA) is a term used to cover a broad range of aviation activities from all forms of recreational flying, private and commercial pilot training, aerial survey and other work, and air ambulance activities, through to the operation of transcontinental corporate jets.

The CAA in its 2006 Strategic Review of General Aviation in the UK⁴ concluded that estimates of £1.4 billion direct economic contribution by GA⁵ were reasonable. GA activity is also estimated to employ over 11,000 people in the UK. The business aviation sector, which has been growing strongly, makes up the majority of overall economic contribution. On this basis, GA represents around 8% of the economic contribution made by all UK commercial aviation.

There are more than one hundred air taxi operators in the UK, not only providing regular charter and ad hoc services for business travellers, but also overnight mail, business data transportation services and freight services.

Pilot training is perhaps the most strategically important aspect of the aviation industry, be it civilian or military. More than one hundred General Aviation pilot training schools and clubs are operating in Britain, producing some 2,500 new pilots each year. Many go on to obtain commercial pilot licences, graduating from the 'grass roots' level of club flying to the air taxi and airline industries. Several commercial pilot training schools are also in operation, attracting airline trainees from around the world.

The following sections consider the key characteristics of the main GA market segments.

⁴ Strategic Review of General Aviation in the UK, Civil Aviation Authority, 2006

⁵ General Aviation Small Aerodrome Research Study, Terry Lober, UCL, 2006

3.1.1 Recreational Aviation and Air Sports

Air sports and recreational aviation are conducted by individuals on their own or through participation in non-profit organisations such as aero clubs or other bodies. This embraces a wide spectrum of activities, ranging from powered flying, ballooning and gliding, to micro-light flying, parachuting and paragliding.

Pilots in this sector fly aircraft owned by them individually or as a member of a group, or owned by flying clubs.

3.1.2 Aerial Work

Aerial work covers a wide range of specialised commercial activities such as aerial survey, agricultural flights, banner towing/advertising flights, environmental surveillance and enforcement, firefighting, traffic surveillance and so on.

A likely future development in this market segment is the development of civil Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) as there is increasing interest by aerial work operators in exploiting this new technology.

3.1.3 Personal Air Transport

GA can be a useful mode of fast personal transport. In Europe, the combination of geography and wide availability of other means of public transport has meant that the use of GA for this purpose has been less developed compared to countries such as the US or Australia. However, with the expansion of the European internal market, the increasing congestion at major hub airports, together with new technologies, such as GPS and new types of Very Light Jet (VLJ) aircraft, it is possible that use of GA for personal transport will increase.

3.1.4 Aviation Training

Aviation training is at the core of GA, and is mostly a commercial activity undertaken by specialist flight schools for commercial pilots' licences, and flying clubs for private licences. GA is an important source of qualified pilots for airlines.

UK flying schools have seen commercial pressures from competition abroad, with a trend for students to train in countries with better weather or lower costs, such as Spain or the United States.

3.1.5

Business Aviation

A recent CAA report on UK Business Air Travel⁶ states that there is no single best definition of business aviation, but rather it is commonly regarded as the ‘use of any general aviation aircraft for a business purpose.’ This includes both commercial and non-commercial operations and can be divided into three categories:

- Commercial – aircraft flown for ad hoc business purposes by an operator having a commercial operating certificate. These include air taxi and fractional operators
- Corporate – non-commercial operators in which a company owns and operates its own aircraft for the carriage of employees
- Owner operated – non-commercial operation for business purposes by an individual as owner of the aircraft.

Thus, companies ranging from individual entrepreneurs to major corporations use business aircraft. These include international companies with long-range intercontinental jets, manufacturing and service companies using smaller jets or turboprop aircraft, even owner flyers, using light twin- or singled-engined aircraft, who enjoy the convenience of flying their own aircraft.

Air taxi operations, typically involving the carriage of a few passengers or light goods for hire or reward, also come under the definition of business aviation. Fixed wing air taxi operators generally use twin piston-engined aircraft seating 6 – 10 passengers. Air taxi operations are classed as Public Transport.

These flights operate on an on-demand, charter basis, flying between points specified by the customer, often where no scheduled service is available. The charter market often involves the use of brokers to match the right aircraft and availability and price with customer needs. A number of corporate aircraft are not exclusively used for the firm’s own business, but are also available for charter, to offset their operating costs.

⁶ UK Business Air Travel: Travel Trends and Characteristics; Civil Aviation Authority, May 2009

Corporate aviation uses a range of more sophisticated aircraft, typically twin turboprop aircraft, business jets or helicopters, owned by the company to transport employees or clients.

There are a number of reasons for using business aircraft, but one of the principle ones is travel time savings for key personnel compared to using commercial airline services. These time savings result from four main factors:

- Departure and arrival times are organised around business need rather than airline schedules, with minimal idle times before and after a flight
- Use of smaller GA airports closer to the trip origin and destination than major commercial airports and with less traffic congestion
- Less en-route elapsed time than scheduled airlines because of less taxiing time, more direct routeing, flexible flight planning and avoidance of routeing via an airline connecting hub
- Significantly reduced ground time by avoiding airline passenger and baggage handling procedure, faster check-in and security procedures, and more convenient ground transport.

3.2 Trends in Business and General Aviation Traffic in the UK and South East

3.2.1 UK GA Trends

It is recognised by the CAA that one of the main difficulties in analysing trends in business and general aviation is the scarcity of basic data. Major airports and larger airfields report their GA movements to the CAA, but smaller aerodromes are reluctant to add to their workload beyond what is statutorily necessary. Therefore, although there are around 65 reporting airports in the UK⁷, movement statistics do not give a totally comprehensive picture of GA activity.

⁷ This includes the Isle of Man, and the Channel Islands of Alderney, Guernsey, and Jersey

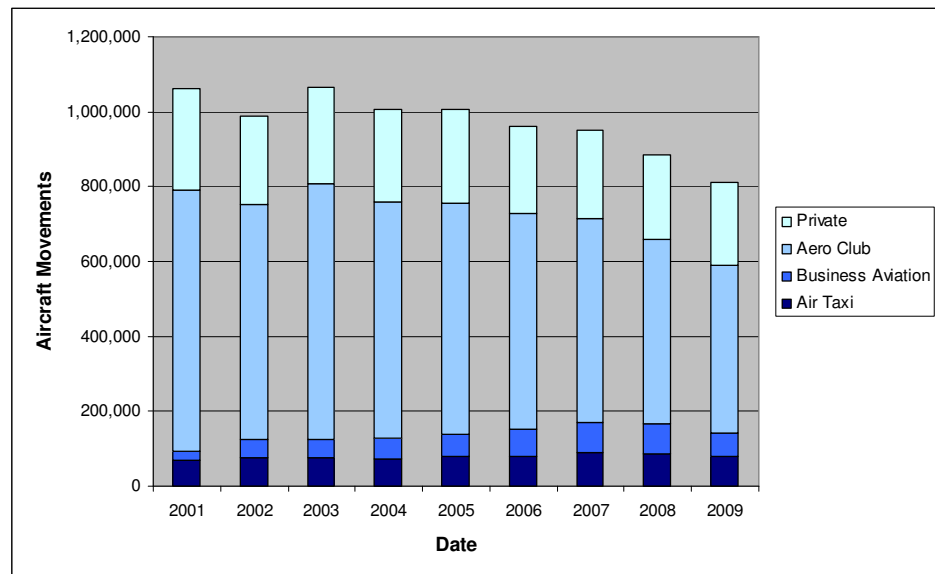
The CAA suggests that, from the limited evidence available for those airfields not included within the CAA data, movements from these aerodromes make up some three-quarters of all UK GA movements⁸.

Business aviation also presents problems of definition, as the distinction between a business or a leisure flight can frequently be blurred, and it is often a matter of chance as to which description a flight will be assigned.

Past trends in business and general aviation activity have been reviewed by examining a range of available statistics, which give the best available indication of the broad trends in the UK and the South East of England.

The trends in GA aircraft movements between 2001 and 2009 at UK reporting airports are shown in Figure 3.1 below.

Fig 3.1: GA Aircraft Movements at UK Reporting Airports 2001 - 09



Source: CAA Annual Airport Statistics

The figure shows that overall GA aircraft movements at UK reporting airports have fallen 23.5% from 1.06 million movements in 2001 to 812,662 movements in 2009.

⁸ Strategic Review of General Aviation in the UK, Civil Aviation Authority, 2006

One possible factor in this decline has been the increase in commercial air transport movements, particularly the development of low cost carriers at regional airports, which has adversely impacted on GA activity at reporting airports.

Part of this overall decline is due to the almost continual decrease year on year in aero club movements, which have fallen by almost 36% from 696,192 movements in 2001 to 447,269 movements in 2009. This may in part be due to the apparent decline in demand for Private Pilots Licences (PPLs). It appears that the amount of training performed in the UK has reduced from previous levels because of competition from flying schools located in countries with lower costs⁹.

The number of private aircraft movements at UK reporting airports has also fallen 17.5% overall, from 270,966 movements in 2001 to 223,691 movements in 2009. This has been countered to some extent by the general overall growth in air taxi and, more particularly, business aviation operations.

Air taxi movements have grown almost 16%, from 68,035 in 2001 to 78,768 movements in 2009. The 2006 CAA GA Review suggested that the air taxi segment may be under pressure, although there was then no data to support it. It reported that industry consensus indicated that air taxi operators were being 'squeezed' by the development of low cost carriers at one end, and more sophisticated corporate charters at the other. However, CAA statistics do indicate a decline in air taxi movements for the years 2008 and 2009, from a peak of 91,209 in 2007. How much of this is due to the aforementioned 'squeezing' or to other factors, such as economic conditions, is not clear.

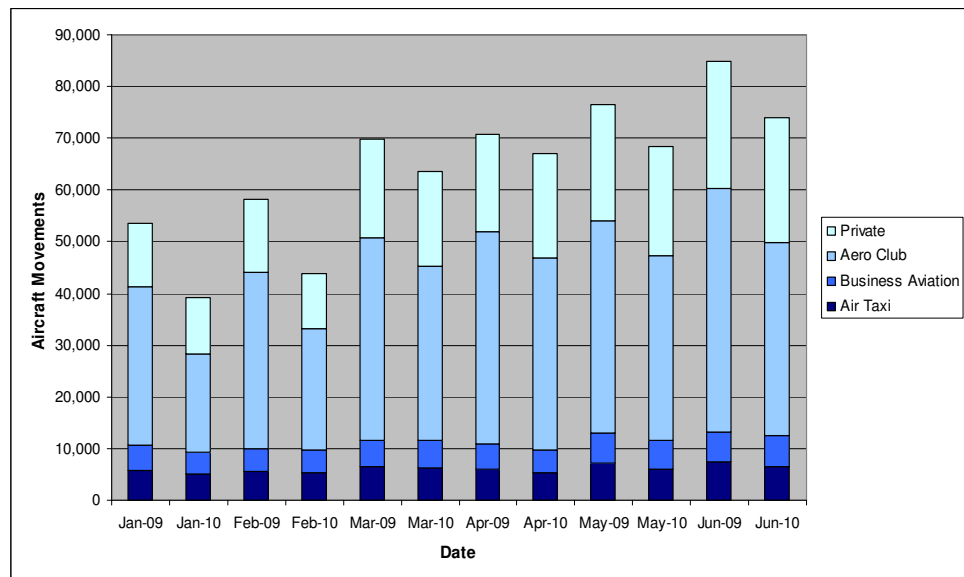
Business aviation activity has more than doubled from 27,080 aircraft movements in 2001 to 62,934 movements in 2009. Business travellers have been increasingly realising the value of time savings and convenience afforded by business aviation over scheduled airline alternatives. However, business aviation movements fell in 2008 and 2009, particularly so in the latter year, due to worsening economic conditions.

⁹ Strategic Review of General Aviation in the UK, Civil Aviation Authority, 2006

CAA GA aircraft movement statistics for 2010 published to date cover the first 6 months of the year. These have been compared with figures for the same period last year, as shown in Figure 3.2, and summarised in Table 3.1.

The table shows that, across GA market segments, aircraft movement levels were lower for the first half of 2010 than in the same period of 2009.

Fig 3.2: GA Aircraft Movements at UK Reporting Airports Jan - June 2010 vs 2009



Source: CAA Annual Airport Statistics

Table 3.1: GA Aircraft Movements at UK Reporting Airports H1 2010 vs 2009

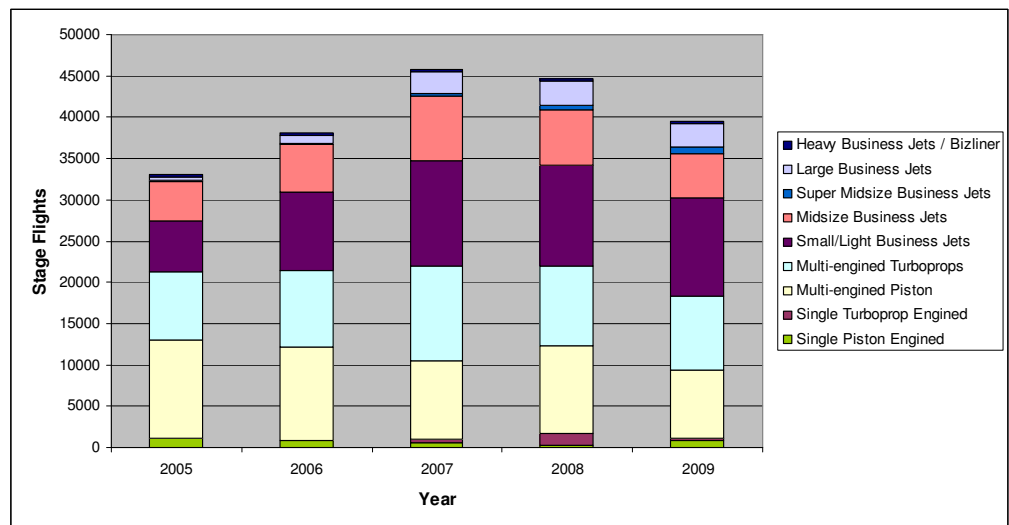
Movements	H1 (Jan – Jun) 2010	H1 (Jan – Jun) 2009	% difference 2010 vs 2009
Air Taxi	34,370	38,337	-10.4
Business Aviation	29,730	30,979	- 4.0
Aero Club	186,518	233,134	- 20.0
Private	105,596	111,392	- 5.20
Total GA	356,214	413,842	-13.9

Source: Analysis of CAA Monthly Airport Statistics

A further indication of air taxi activity can be derived from an analysis of CAA UK airline statistics on numbers of stage flights. These statistics have been adjusted to remove small regional commuter airliner types that would have been used on commercial air services, historic aircraft such as the DC-3/C-47 Dakota which would have been used primarily for pleasure flights, and helicopters. The majority of helicopter flights are related to the support of offshore oil and gas activity, rather than business aviation.

Figure 3.3 shows the total fixed wing air taxi stage flights for the period 2005 to 2009 by UK air taxi operators. The number of flights increased from 33,071 in 2005 to a peak of 45,882 flights in 2007, but then decreased in the following two years to 39,559 flights in 2009. This number of flights equates to 79,118 movements for that year.

Fig 3.3: UK Air Taxi Operators – Stage Flights by Fixed Wing Aircraft



Source: CAA Annual Airline Statistics

The CAA air taxi statistics also show the number of stage flights by individual aircraft type, which helps to draw a picture of the UK fleet and activity (see Appendix A). In 2009, the largest percentage (30.0%) of total stage flights (and hence movements) were by small/light business jets, such as the Bombardier Learjet 35/36, smaller Cessna Citations, and Hawker Beechcraft Premier 1A.

Other significant air taxi operations, in terms of stage flights, were undertaken in 2009 by:

- Multi-engined turboprops (primarily the Hawker Beechcraft King Air 200) - 22.7% of stage flights
- Multi-engined piston aircraft (e.g. Piper Navajo Chieftain and Piper Seneca)) - 20.9% of stage flights

The heavier and larger business jets represent a relatively small portion of air taxi activity.

This data also helps to inform our assessment on which aircraft types North Weald might be expected to handle.

3.2.2

GA Trends in South East England

Tables 3.2 to Table 3.5 overleaf review the trends in business and general aviation movements in the South East of England. As discussed above, available statistics are mostly restricted to CAA reporting airports, but in addition we have added data for Farnborough Airport published on its website. There are other licensed GA aerodromes in the region, such as Blackbushe, Denham, Elstree, Fairoaks and Redhill that do not publish such statistics.

Table 3.2 shows the trends in air taxi movements at airports in SE England. Regional trends follow the national picture, with air taxi movements increasing overall by 66.5% from 13,620 in 2001 to 22,677 in 2009. Both 2008 and 2009 saw a decline in movements from a peak of 28,361 in the year 2007.

Table 3.3 shows the trends in business aviation movements. These increased overall by 225.5% from 17,830 in 2001 to 58,044 in 2009. Both 2008 and 2009 saw a decline in movements from a peak of 75,285 in the year 2007.

Table 3.4 shows the trends in private aircraft movements. These decreased overall by 22.3% from 87,795 in 2001 to 68,223 in 2009.

Table 3.5 shows the trends in aero club movements. These have declined overall by 36.5% from 215,544 movements in 2001 to 136,805 in 2009.

Table 3.2: Air Taxi Movements in SE England 2001 – 2009

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Major Airports									
Gatwick	1,813	1,755	1,139	1,435	1,318	1,688	1,499	1,482	1,313
Heathrow	541	839	1,309	1,655	1,488	1,642	1,309	973	918
London City	1,156	1,248	1,790	3,762	5,483	7,685	8,301	6,192	6,770
Luton	3,849	3,005	2,782	3,335	3,608	4,367	4,688	4,274	3,075
Stansted	2,252	2,689	3,095	2,114	1,833	1,881	1,994	1,712	1,480
Sub Total	9,611	9,536	10,115	12,301	13,730	17,263	17,791	14,633	13,556
Other Airports									
Biggin Hill	2,276	3,378	3301	4,260	3,858	5,654	8197	8511	6,014
Cambridge	60	56	60	57	93	123	39	16	77
Farnborough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kent International	79	71	92	127	231	452	597	258	228
Lydd	66	86	149	82	30	153	163	172	132
Oxford	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,340
Shoreham	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southampton	216	370	281	238	410	384	340	391	272
Southend	1,293	1,487	890	409	452	930	1234	1338	1,058
Sub Total	4,009	5,448	4,773	5,173	5,074	7,696	10,570	10,686	9,121
Total	13,620	14,984	14,888	17,474	18,804	24,959	28,361	25,319	22,677

Source: CAA Annual Airport Statistics, Farnborough Airport website

Note: Oxford only became a CAA reporting airport in 2009

Table 3.3: Business Aviation Movements in SE England 2001 - 2009

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Major Airports									
Gatwick	342	805	747	937	894	614	475	541	361
Heathrow	1,091	1,767	1,291	1,474	1,386	1,523	1,634	1,935	2,407
London City	376	936	941	1,148	984	555	337	283	248
Luton	6,835	11,923	12,908	15,543	17,175	20,898	24,346	20,856	15,284
Stansted	4,386	6,994	6,182	6,348	6,485	7,017	7,269	7,060	4,819
Sub Total	13,030	22,425	22,069	25,450	26,924	30,607	34,061	30,675	23,119
Other Airports									
Biggin Hill	2,485	3,843	3,674	3,849	4,721	5,247	6,080	5,459	4,134
Cambridge	866	1,340	1,537	1,950	2,436	2,742	3,529	3,724	3,243
Farnborough	-	15,015	16,187	17,177	18,469	21,365	26,507	25,504	22,779
Kent International	32	77	214	175	132	68	64	51	46
Lydd	10	30	74	34	45	154	102	61	36
Oxford	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,229
Shoreham	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southampton	1,337	2,279	2,463	2,546	2,240	2,715	3,014	2,617	2,214
Southend	26	0	200	1,305	1,333	1,328	1,928	1,477	1,244
Sub Total	4,800	22,584	24,349	27,036	29,376	33,619	41,224	38,893	34,925
Total	17,830	45,009	46,418	52,486	56,300	64,226	75,285	69,568	58,044

Table 3.4: Private Aircraft Movements in SE England 2001 - 2009

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Major Airports									
Gatwick	510	41	87	87	40	31	19	17	56
Heathrow	910	135	123	95	96	61	89	57	61
London City	757	3	0	2	0	2	1	8	20
Luton	5,894	529	469	533	475	504	380	281	247
Stansted	3,787	873	719	712	824	874	994	1,005	709
Sub Total	11,858	1,581	1,398	1,429	1,435	1,472	1,483	1,368	1,093
Other Airports									
Biggin Hill	16,940	12,626	12,599	10,022	8,697	8,733	9,712	8,856	9,099
Cambridge	7,048	6,177	5,690	5,285	2,947	2,108	2,762	2,792	3,734
Farnborough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kent International	5,536	4,857	5,097	3,895	4,025	3,591	4,305	3,874	4,294
Lydd	15,737	11,966	14,749	15,077	12,536	11,962	14,730	14,535	14,351
Oxford	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,572
Shoreham	14,124	14,226	16,724	13,528	15,916	16,039	15,541	16,167	17,033
Southampton	4,476	3,210	3,377	2,340	1,764	1,181	941	709	700
Southend	12,076	10,600	11,354	9,282	10,116	9,543	10,208	9,561	9,347
Sub Total	75,937	63,662	69,590	59,429	56,001	53,157	58,199	56,494	67,130
Total	87,795	65,243	70,988	60,858	57,436	54,629	59,682	57,862	68,223

Source: CAA Annual Airport Statistics, Farnborough Airport website

Table 3.5: Aero Club Movements in SE England 2001 – 2009

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Major Airports									
Gatwick	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heathrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
London City	0	6	0	0	0	6	9	0	0
Luton	866	964	1,201	1,073	1,074	565	273	2	0
Stansted	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Sub Total	866	970	1,201	1,073	1,074	572	282	2	0
Other Airports									
Biggin Hill	69,658	59,618	65,624	54,377	52,150	44,662	44,513	38,740	38,501
Cambridge	22,250	37,297	39,055	38,225	34,538	18,735	29,289	31,198	28,580
Farnborough Kent	-	-	727	484	613	393	595	571	585
International	17,218	13,551	16,305	14,051	10,359	8,729	10,318	9,296	9,602
Lydd	9,402	7,937	7,453	4,375	5,592	5,288	5,348	3,862	3,296
Oxford	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	236
Shoreham	58,996	53,885	57,376	51,725	51,620	49,316	50,378	40,810	40,841
Southampton	6,908	6,053	4,630	3,183	2,347	1,196	2	11	3
Southend	30,246	26,581	26,605	23,735	23,972	21,237	19,895	18,286	15,161
Sub Total	214,678	204,922	217,775	190,155	181,191	149,556	160,338	142,774	136,805
Total	215,544	205,892	218,976	191,228	182,265	150,128	160,620	142,776	136,805

Source: CAA Annual Airport Statistics, Farnborough Airport website

4 Airfield Facility Requirements

4.1 Introduction

The previous chapter highlighted the range and diversity of GA operations. It is therefore unsurprising that the various market segments have varied aerodrome facility requirements. These general requirements are reviewed in outline below, as they will serve to determine the likely current and future priorities for the development of North Weald.

4.2 Business / corporate aviation

User requirements follow particularly from the type of aircraft used. Business aircraft can be divided into two broad categories in terms of runway requirements:

Aircraft type	Runway take-off distance requirements
Twin-engined propeller aircraft and Light jets	> 900m
Medium – Heavy Jets	> 1,600 m

Take-off distances and wing spans for a range of fixed wing GA/business aircraft are shown in Appendix B. The take-off distances shown are indicative only, at aircraft maximum take-off weight, and in standardised conditions. In reality, factors such as actual aircraft operating weight, air temperature, wind conditions, runway characteristics, and pilot handling skills are likely to alter the actual take-off distance (or landing distance) required in each case.

Paved runways are preferred by the business user, particularly to avoid the problems associated with some grass runways in wet weather. As well as load-bearing problems, wet grass can increase the distance required to take-off and land. North Weald's paved runways should therefore be attractive to potential business users.

Turboprop business aircraft can generally be accommodated at airfields where the runway length is greater than 800m.

Business aviation aircraft often require access to commercial airways and instrument approach and guidance facilities, including the provision of runway lighting, which North Weald does not have.

Private and corporate aircraft do not have to operate from a licensed aerodrome and there is no legal requirement for aerodrome fire cover for them. However, from the point of view of general safety, including insurance considerations, most operators of business aircraft would prefer to operate from a licensed aerodrome.

Compared with other GA aircraft, business aircraft require relatively large areas for parking and hangarage.

A fixed base operator (FBO) providing comprehensive handling, fuelling and aircraft maintenance and repair is desirable if an airfield wishes to attract significant numbers of business aircraft. A small terminal would also be required, which could include a passenger lounge, flight planning/crew briefing and rest rooms and at least basic catering facilities.

The example of TAG's facility at Farnborough probably represents the upper end of the range of quality of facility which is seen in Europe.



Farnborough Airport Terminal Building

4.3 Private Flying

4.3.1 Twin Engined and Heavier Single Engined Aircraft

This section considers the general requirements of owners of twin-engined and heavier single-engined aircraft used for both business and recreation. This includes aircraft that are owned by companies and by private individuals.

Again, the runway requirements would be determined by the type of aircraft which would use the facility. A runway of 1000m would be adequate for most aircraft types in this category.

Parking and tie-down facilities are important to the private user, and the availability of hangarage and fuel is desirable. Above this basic level, facilities for maintenance and flight planning are desirable, but not essential in every case.

4.3.2 Light Aircraft

Here we consider the requirements of the owners of light aircraft, which are mainly used for recreational purposes.

A landing strip of around 400 – 500m is adequate for this type of aircraft. The availability of hangarage is an advantage and a source of fuel highly desirable.

5 Preliminary Aerodrome Licensing Considerations

5.1 Impact of Licensing on Airfield Activities

An important factor in determining the types of aviation activity that can be undertaken at airfields is whether an aerodrome has been granted a licence by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Part 27 of the Air Navigation Order (ANO) sets out the types of aeronautical activity that require a licensed aerodrome.

Essentially, a commercial air transport passenger or public transport passenger flight (i.e. scheduled and chartered airline services, air taxis/executive charter, pleasure flights and so on) can only operate at a licensed aerodrome.

An amendment to the ANO in April 2010 (Amendment 1/2010), makes provision for flying training and testing for the grant of a pilot's licence or the inclusion of an aircraft rating, a night rating or a night qualification in a licence using aeroplanes under 2,730kg or helicopters/gyroplanes under 3,175kg from unlicensed aerodromes. Aircraft commanders and aerodrome operators must, however, be satisfied as to the adequacy of an unlicensed aerodrome for the purpose of such flying training and testing. The CAA recommends that adequate risk assessments are made and documented before training takes place.

Corporate aircraft do not hold an Air Operator Certificate (AOC) and they do not carry fare-paying passengers, so are not considered public transport flights.

Other uses such as aircraft maintenance/repair, aircraft sales and storage are not governed by aerodrome licensing considerations. They may however be covered by other CAA or European regulations on approved maintenance standards, as well as UK planning legislation.

With a view to assessing the development and commercial potential of North Weald, we will be considering its possible licensing, and therefore its ability to meet the standards set down by the CAA. These define the required physical characteristics of a licensed aerodrome.

5.2

Outline Obstacle Limitation Surfaces Assessment

Surrounding a licensed runway is a series of imaginary lateral, longitudinal and sloping planes and ground surfaces that should be kept free from obstacles; the Obstacle Limitation Surfaces (OLS). This is particularly important, as the operation of an aerodrome can be affected by either natural or man made obstructions inside or outside its boundary. Such obstacles could, for instance, restrict the take-off or landing distance available or the navigational aids that can be installed.

To assess the potential for North Weald to be licensed we have undertaken a preliminary assessment of the OLS for Runway 02-20.

The dimensions and characteristics of these surfaces are determined by an Aerodrome Reference Code¹⁰ and also whether the runway to be used by aircraft using instrument or visual approach procedures. The characteristics and required dimensions for an instrument runway being more onerous than for a visual runway¹¹.

A particular consideration is that northern part of the aerodrome site is relatively narrow and constrained by the airfield boundary, and by objects and structures immediately adjacent.

The findings of our initial assessment indicate the following:

- An instrument runway with declared distances of more than 1200m would not appear to be feasible as the Runway Strip, a critical OLS surrounding a runway, would extend beyond the airfield boundary, and be infringed by sections of Merlin Way on the eastern side, and by Weald Hall Care Home, Weald Hall Farm, and by the former fighter blast pens and other structures

¹⁰ The Aerodrome Reference Code is itself determined by the runway distances declared available and by aircraft wingspan/main landing gear span dimensions

¹¹ By the term visual runway, we mean a runway that is intended for the operation of aircraft using visual approach procedures, rather than instrument approaches. An instrument runway is one intended for the operation of aircraft using non-visual procedures like an Instrument Landing System (ILS), which provides at least directional guidance in azimuth adequate for a straight-in approach

adjacent to the Squadron to the west, as well as numerous trees and hedgerows.

- An instrument runway with declared distances of up to 1199m would appear to be relatively more practical as the runway strip could be accommodated within the airfield boundary. However, there are possible infringements of the other OLS that require further investigation. Potential infringements include hedgerow and trees on the north western boundary, and possibly the Weald Hall Care Home, parts of Weald Hall Farm, and blast pens, and any non aviation uses of the northern parallel taxiway (Runway 20 end).
- A visual runway with declared distances of around 1500m would appear to be possible as the runway strip could also be accommodated within the airfield boundary. Similar considerations to the above apply as to potential obstacles.

Runway strength considerations aside, longer runway declared distances potentially available with a licensed visual runway, would allow North Weald to handle a greater range of aircraft, including up to mid-size business jets such as the Hawker 750.

However, the greater operational reliability afforded by the availability of an ILS instrument approach would be attractive to corporate aviation users, which would otherwise have to use or divert to other airfields in conditions of reduced visibility. If North Weald could be licensed with an 1199m instrument runway, it would be capable of handling a range of business turboprop and light jets, and possibly certain mid-size aircraft, such as the Pilatus PC-12, Beechcraft King Air B200, Cessna Citation Encore.

A visual runway may be more suited to smaller scale air taxi operations, and aircraft maintenance activity.

5.3 Aeronautical Ground Lighting

In terms of attracting a wider spectrum of user types, the installation of runway and approach lighting at North Weald could be commercially advantageous. It would give the airfield the increased capability to handle aircraft, which would otherwise have to use or divert to other airfields when darkness falls or in reduced visibility. This is particularly the case if North Weald was to attract corporate aviation users, which rely heavily on the ability to land at a time of their choosing and to return to the airfield of original departure.

5.4 Rescue and Fire Fighting

It is mandatory that a licensed aerodrome provide a minimum Rescue and Fire Fighting Service (RFFS) appropriate to the use of the site. The level of RFFS has to be commensurate with the size of the aircraft using the aerodrome, and should be organised, equipped and trained to ensure rapid and effective deployment in the event of an accident or emergency.

The category of RFFS provision is determined by the overall length and maximum fuselage width of the largest aircraft expected to use the aerodrome regularly. This could range from Category 1 to cover for most piston singles and twins, small turboprops and very light jets, to Category 3 for larger business turboprops, light to mid-size business jets.

5.5 Navigational Aids

There is no specific requirement by the CAA linking the provision of navigational aids (navaids) to the licensing of aerodromes. The level of such aids that is desirable will be dependent on the type of operations attracted to the airfield.

A review of navaids at GA airfields around the UK indicates that many have a Non Directional Beacon (NDB) and Distance Measuring Equipment (DME).

In the longer term, the possible increasing use of the airfield by business aviation operators may require the installation of an Instrument Landing System (ILS). ILS tends to be found at airports with regular commercial airline services, or airports that handle larger business jets (e.g. Biggin Hill, Farnborough and Oxford).

Increasingly however, ground based nav aids such as NDBs are being supplanted by the use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS). Consequently, the installation of new Non-Directional Beacons (NDB's) as navigational aids at airfields is becoming less common.

5.6

Next Steps

The next critical step will be a discussion with the CAA on the requirements for licensing and North Weald's potential to meet them. This will in turn influence our development strategy and investment requirements, and ultimately the business case for further development.

6

Preliminary Consultation Responses

From consultations held with aviation tenants to date, it would appear that most were in generally in favour of the potential development of the airfield for further aviation activity with varying degrees of enthusiasm. Discussion focussed on the possible attraction of corporate/business aviation activity, and the development of a dedicated FBO type facility.

Both North Weald Flying Services and Weald Aviation expressed interest in the potential development of a business aviation facility. The latter organisation has a joint venture agreement with land development company Land Securities, and the development of an aviation facility could form part of a larger mixed-use scheme.

Discussions with these two organisations also appear to support the need for licensing North Weald, citing insurance concerns from corporate aviation operators.

However, concerns were expressed by private owners that any future development plans should safeguard the interests of existing private / recreational users. In particular, there is strong feeling against the charging of landing fees for home-based aircraft.

This feeling is exacerbated by a general concern that the Airport Operations Team reportedly does not appear to coordinate visiting aircraft sufficiently, nor charge these non-resident aircraft landing, circuit, or parking fees. This observation needs to be discussed with the Airfield Manager.

Currently, it is understood that the majority of visiting aircraft movements are handled by the Squadron. Visitors may make a donation to the Squadron in the form of what the Squadron refers to as a temporary membership fee¹².

¹² It is understood that, under the runway licences granted to some tenants by EFDC, a maximum number of annual aircraft movements are associated with a particular tenant, and the lease payment to the Council covers these annual movements. Movements by visiting aircraft are assumed by the

More positively, it is felt that the aerodrome is satisfactorily maintained by EFDC.

As the project is still at a relatively early stage, discussions with residents and other local groups have taken the form of a briefing on the scope of our study. Concerns of a relatively general nature regarding possible aircraft types and numbers of movements, operating hours, noise, pollution and traffic congestion have been raised.

On the issue noise, flying training and increasing helicopter activity were not viewed favourably.

More specifically, clarification on the compatibility of the proposed nearby waste transfer site with aviation use was sought.

Overall, despite some concerns, local residents and North Weald Parish Council appeared generally in favour of attracting further aviation activity to safeguard the future retention of the airfield. The heritage of the site and the continuation of historic flying were seen as important.

The possibility of using the 2012 Olympics as an opportunity to 'showcase' the aviation potential of North Weald has also been suggested.

Over the next two weeks, we aim to conclude our initial consultations with local stakeholders, and to seek guidance from the CAA on the practicalities of aerodrome licensing, before completing the market assessment.

Council to be connected to one of the tenants, and therefore come within these annual movement allocations.

Appendix A: UK Air Taxi Activity – Stage Flights

Table A.1: UK Air Taxi Activity – Number of Stage Flights by Aircraft Type

Aircraft Type	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Single Piston Engine	1,069	844	525	286	808
Cessna 172 Skyhawk	324	193	137	163	120
Cessna 180 Skywagon	0	0	0	0	21
Cessna 182 Skylane	0	0	0	0	11
Cessna 206 Stationair	654	551	385	110	618
Cirrus SR22	0	0	0	13	0
Diamond DA 42	54	53	0	0	38
Piper PA28 Cherokee Series/PA32	37	47	3	0	0
Single Turboprop Engine	0	0	423	1,415	276
Cessna 208 Caravan I	0	0	423	1,415	276
Multi-engined Piston	11,935	11,388	9,549	10,653	8,283
Beechcraft Baron Model 55/58/58P	141	132	214	53	20
Cessna 310	852	573	0	0	0
Cessna 340	39	45	27	0	0
Cessna T303 Crusader	0	0	0	0	113
Cessna 401/402/411/421	807	947	55	293	29
Cessna 404 Titan	396	440	221	137	118
Partenavia P68B/C	385	390	265	518	453
Piper PA23 Aztec/Apache	450	207	294	511	117
Piper PA31/P Navajo Chieftain	4,745	6,015	6,211	7,304	6,475
Piper PA34 Seneca II	4,120	2,639	2,262	1,837	958
Multi-engined Turboprops	8,311	9,171	11,510	9,616	8,968
Beechcraft King Air B90/C90/A	0	0	19	0	0
Beechcraft King Air E90	16	33	52	0	0
Beech King Air 90	584	449	300	0	0
Beechcraft King Air 200	5,501	6,713	8,960	8,036	8,149
Beechcraft King Air 300 /350	0	26	108	173	122
Fairchild SA-227 Metro III	427	103	0	0	0
Piper PA31T Cheyenne I/II	35	9	52	168	250
Piper PA42 Cheyenne III/IV	0	0	0	132	369
Reims-Cessna F406/Caravan II	1,629	1,747	2,019	1,107	78
Rockwell Turbo Commander 680T-690	119	91	0	0	0
Business Jets	11,756	16,629	23,815	22,757	21,224
Small/Light Jets	6,092	9,609	12,688	12,143	11,864
Bombardier Learjet 35A/36A	0	0	0	0	49
Cessna 500 Citation I	203	22	0	29	134
Cessna 510 Mustang	0	0	0	160	1,289
Cessna 525 / 525 A Citationjet	118	1,256	3,651	5,411	4,472
Cessna 550 Citation II	3,058	3,601	4,496	3,501	3,161
Cessna 560 Citation V	1,977	2,686	2,851	2,131	2,075
Hawker Beechcraft Premier 1	736	2,044	1,690	911	684

Table A.1: UK Air Taxi Activity – Number of Stage Flights by Aircraft Type (cont.)

Aircraft Type	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Midsize Jets	4,841	5,725	7,923	6,771	5,366
BAE 125 (HS 125)	1,574	1,456	2,270	1,510	432
BAE 125-800 Series	0	492	346	0	0
BAE125-1000	0	0	0	0	59
Bombardier Learjet 40/45	3,267	3,773	5,049	4,254	3,226
Bombardier Learjet 60	0	4	185	307	273
Cessna Citation 560 XL	0	0	73	533	491
Hawker 850 XP/ 900 XP	0	0	0	167	885
Super Midsize Jets	45	49	228	614	804
Cessna 680 Sovereign	0	0	0	70	260
Cessna 750 Citation X	45	49	43	219	139
Bombardier Challenger 300	0	0	185	325	405
Large Jets	464	961	2,682	2,864	2,786
Bombardier Challenger 600 series	177	293	1,810	1,533	709
Bombardier Challenger 850	0	0	0	0	90
Bombardier Global Express	0	0	0	0	70
Dassault 7X	0	0	0	0	61
Dassault Falcon 2000	0	0	5	62	89
Dassault Falcon 900	8	0	0	3	104
Dassault Falcon 900EX	277	172	292	531	758
Embraer Legacy 600	2	496	575	735	905
Heavy/ Bizliner	314	285	294	365	404
Airbus A319 Corporate Jet	124	97	127	120	85
Boeing BBJ	41	0	0	0	0
Gulfstream IV	148	188	167	245	224
Gulfstream V	1	0	0	0	0
Gulfstream 500-550	0	0	0	0	95
Total	33,071	38,032	45,822	44,727	39,559

Appendix B: Indicative Aircraft Performance for Selected GA Aircraft Types

Table B.1: Indicative Aircraft Performance for Selected GA Aircraft Types

Aircraft Model	Maximum Take-off Weight (kg)	Take-off Distance (m)	Landing Distance (m)	Max cruise speed (km/hr)	Indicative Max Range (km)	Wing Span (m)
Twin Pistons						
Piper Seneca V	2,155	520	664	365	1,533	11.90
Beechcraft Baron G58	2,495	701	396	374	2,561	11.53
Single Turboprops						
Piper Meridian	2,310	743	643	481	1,885	13.11
Cessna Caravan	3,629	626	504	344	1,726	15.90
Pilatus PC-12	4,760	808	558	500	2,718	16.27
EADS Socata TBM850	3,354	866	741	592	2,815	12.68
Twin Turboprops						
BN2T Turbine Islander	3,175	381	338	315	1,349	14.9
Beechcraft King Air C90GT	4,581	729	717	500	1,900	15.32
Beechcraft King Air B200	5,670	792	867	535	3,045	16.61
Beechcraft King Air 350	6,804	1,006	821	578	2,758	17.65
Business Jets						
Cessna Citation Mustang	3,921	948	729	630	2,130	13.16
Cessna Citation CJ1+	4,853	994	789	720	2,408	14.30
Cessna Citation CJ2+	5,669	1,024	908	774	2,989	15.19
Cessna Citation CJ3	6,291	969	844	770	3,472	16.26
Beechcraft Premier 1A	5,670	1,156	968	841	2,519	13.56
Hawker 400XP	7,394	1,191	1,071	778	2,898	13.26
Cessna Citation Encore+	7,634	1,073	844	793	3,297	16.69
Cessna Citation XLS+	9,163	1,085	969	815	3,441	17.17
Bombardier Learjet 60XR	10,659	1,661	1,042	863	4,380	13.35
Hawker 750	12,247	1,431	808	861	3,663	15.65
Cessna Citation Sovereign	13,744	1,109	808	848	5,273	19.24
Bombardier Learjet 85	15,195	1,463	823	871	5,556	18.75
Cessna Citation X	16,375	1,567	1,036	M0.92	5,686	19.48
Challenger 300	17,622	1,466	792	870	5,741	19.46
Bombardier Challenger 605	21,863	1,780	846	870	6,912	19.61
Bombardier Global 5000	41,957	1,689	814	950	9,630	28.60

Airport Performance: at Maximum Take Off or Landing Weights, Sea Level, ISA

