

## **UK Report to FAI Environmental Commission 2014**

Direct interest in environmental matters by UK pilots continues to be limited. Most pilots and organisations only become involved when they see opportunities to reduce costs or to address other problems, or if their activity is threatened by some environmental project.

Jane Randle, Alternate Delegate to the EnvC, attended a Royal Aero Club meeting in late 2013 and presented information on the FAI Environmental Code to the other members. There was some interest expressed and a request for further information. The planned EnvC presentation to inform air sports about the work of EnvC could be of value here.

### ***Renewable energy***

The level of concern about wind turbines continues to be high. Several significant airfields in the UK are threatened by proposed developments. At least two airfields could close as a result of the turbines if the developments go ahead.

Some airfields have registered 'safeguarding plans' with their local authorities, which can provide some assistance in opposing wind turbines and other threatening developments too close to airfield activities. Airfield managers are also being encouraged to establish closer liaison with local planning authorities.

The CAA has secured funding to undertake research into the possibility and effect of turbulence in the lee of turbines. This research is being undertaken at Liverpool University and it is expected that the report will be published shortly.

### ***Fuel***

Two businesses are working actively to develop electrically powered aircraft and a representative of one of those businesses has volunteered to become involved in the EnvC projects to develop electrically powered aircraft.

The Eurofox, powered by a Rotax engine, is becoming very popular with UK gliding clubs, largely due to the reduced fuel requirement.

### ***Bio-diversity and wildlife on airfields***

The British Model Flying Association has updated one of its studies into the impact of model flying on birds and other wildlife on their flying sites. As before, the study indicates that the impact is generally positive, with more birds and other wildlife being observed than on other comparable land.

### ***Security of airfields***

The General Aviation Awareness Council is active, representing all aspects of general aviation, aiming to dispel the public view that 'aviation' is the main cause of global warming pollution and supporting GA in defending its airfields. The airfields used by GA are usually green fields and are often more bio-diverse than farmers' fields.

### ***Volunteers***

A member of the British Balloon and Airship Club has volunteered to assist EnvC with projects. She is a chartered Town Planner, working as an Airport Planning Officer, with experience of noise, air quality and environmental issues (including knowledge of Environmental Impact Assessments and Health Impact Assessments).

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Delegate to EnvC  
Royal Aero Club of the UK

31 January 2014