



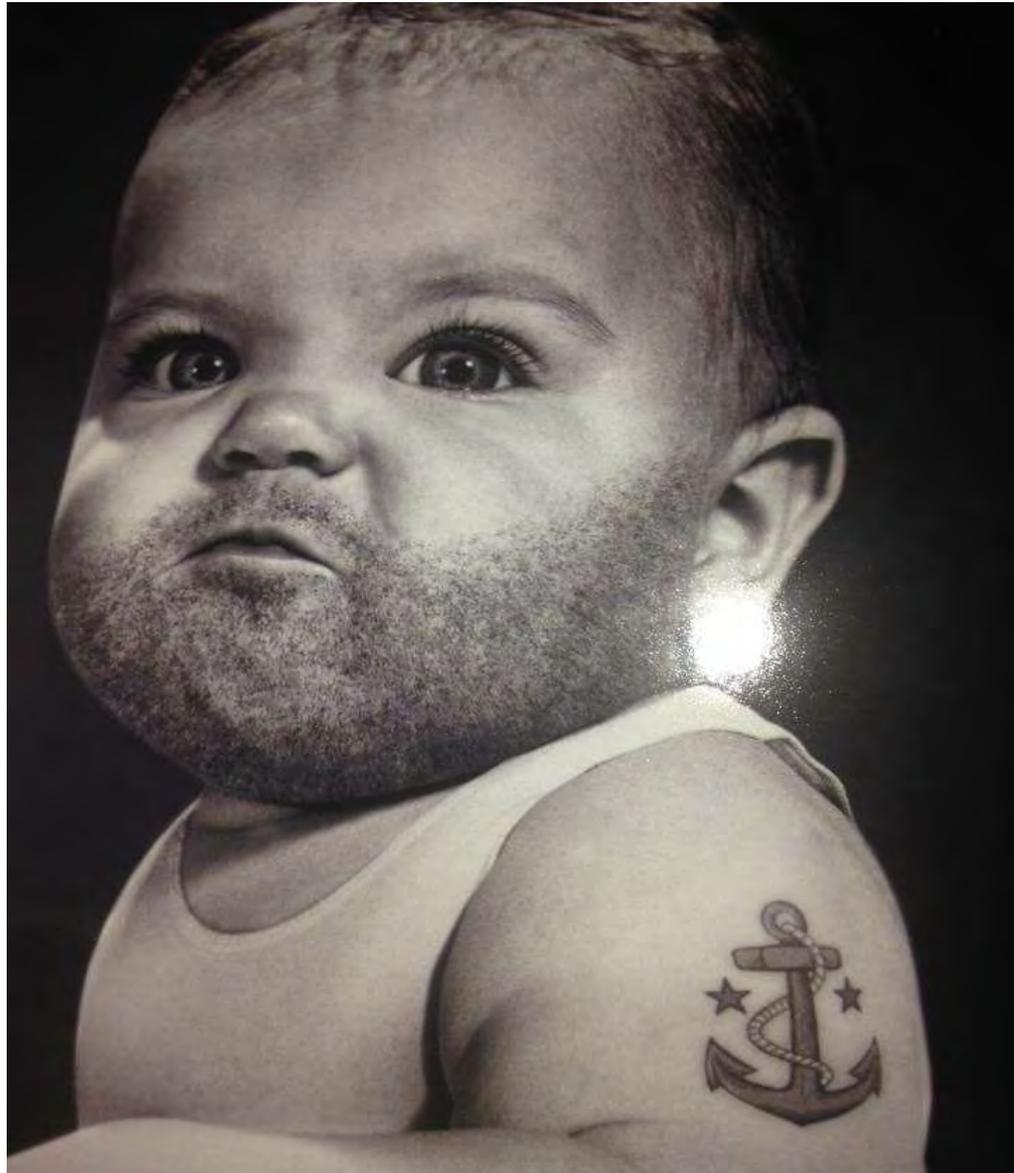
**Bodmin Airfield**  
Home of Cornwall Flying Club

# HOW GREEN IS YOUR AIRFIELD?



**An informal talk to the VAC on BODMIN AIRFIELD  
by JAY GATES**

# JAY GATES – a background look



# JAY GATES – a background look

After Grammar School in North Lancashire, attended Fleetwood Nautical College and went to sea as a Radio Officer, between 1975 and 1990. Included 8 years with the South African National Antarctic Expedition, where one of my additional onboard roles was that of Aviation Co-Ordinator.



# JAY GATES – a background look

The ship carried 2 SA330J Puma helicopters, and duties included keeping a flight watch for all aircraft south of 60 degrees South, in conjunction with the US Coast Guard AMVER rescue programme. Included British, German, Norwegian, Japanese and Canadian aircraft.



# JAY GATES – a background look

In 1990 I switched to Aviation and ended up as Airfield Operations Manager at Humberside, before becoming Airfield Manager at Coventry and Blackpool Airports. I also taught Airfield Management for ICAO, and conducted Aerodrome Safety Audits for ACI all over the world.



# JAY GATES – a background look

By 2017 I was thoroughly cheesed off with the way that my employer was financing the development of the airports under my charge, and I decided that a stress free life was needed. All roads led to Cornwall, and straight to Bodmin Airfield, where I became Airfield Manager.



# A BASIC HISTORY OF BODMIN AIRFIELD



This is the farm 'Treswithick', from the 1900 Ordnance Survey map. It is located just on the upper edge of the village of Cardinham, outside Bodmin. In the late 60s, it was owned by the man who also owned the Trago Mills brand.

# A BASIC HISTORY OF BODMIN AIRFIELD

## Treswithick Farm, Bodmin (Airfield)

Volume 848: debated on Wednesday 13 December 1972

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**Mr. Hicks**

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asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he is now able to announce his decision concerning the application to site an airfield at Treswithick Farm, near Bodmin, following receipt of the inspector's report of the local inquiry.

**Mr. Graham Page**

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I hope to be able to announce my decision shortly.

An avid aircraft enthusiast, he wanted to make aviation available for everyone. To do this you need an airfield. So he made his application, and went through the process.

# A BASIC HISTORY OF BODMIN AIRFIELD



Over 46 years ago, on **June 1<sup>st</sup> 1975** the new airfield at Bodmin was officially opened with a major public event. The removal of hedgerows and some groundworks had changed Treswithick Farm into a GA airfield.

# A BASIC HISTORY OF BODMIN AIRFIELD

Trago Mills even attempted to design a training aircraft for the RAF, as a replacement for the Bulldog, in the early 1980s. Built at Bodmin, it was the Trago Aviation SAH-1. Sadly it was not selected and only one test aircraft was ever built at Trago. Happily, it is still flying today.



In 1983, the airfield had been purchased, and was fully owned, by the Cornwall Flying Club. From this point onwards, no commercial herbicides, pesticides, fertilisers or other ground treatments were knowingly applied to the site. The unwitting start to a traditional hay and wildflower meadow had begun.

# A BASIC HISTORY OF BODMIN AIRFIELD



Today, Bodmin Airfield welcomes all comers, irrespective of it being a weight-shift microlight, a fixed wing aircraft of any description, a helicopter, and occasionally even a hot air balloon.

# A BASIC HISTORY OF BODMIN AIRFIELD



It also includes the Emergency Services, from the Police helicopter unit, the Cornwall Air Ambulance, The Coastguard SAR helicopters and the Utility companies.

# A BASIC HISTORY OF BODMIN AIRFIELD



Despite the numerous NIMBY noise complaints we get, the Army, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force or Tri-Services SARTU are always welcome to utilise the airfield, day or night.



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# A BASIC HISTORY OF BODMIN AIRFIELD



The highlight of any day, and the star arrival, is always the RAF C-130J Hercules, who often request a 'low approach and go-around' when conducting low level training in the area.



**Bodmin Airfield**  
Home of Cornwall Flying Club

# A BASIC HISTORY OF BODMIN AIRFIELD

Bodmin is not just about aviation. We pride ourselves on being part of our community, and we encourage our community to use the airfield to their advantage, and through Pete White and his Feet off the Ground (FOG) Charity we provide events that benefit local charities, especially those aimed at Youth.



Such worthwhile charities such as Bader Braves, Childrens Hospice South West, Country Holidays for Inner City Kids (CHICKS), Help for Heroes to name but a few. Not only do we host local Primary Schools on educational visits, but we also go out and visit them. Cubs and Beavers packs are regular visitors as part of their Activity Badge awards.

# A BASIC HISTORY OF BODMIN AIRFIELD

We also accommodate the young adults in our community and this includes holding two, weekend, Scout Camps for the Scouts of Devon and Cornwall, where club members volunteer their time and aircraft for engine, airframe, navigation and meteorology tuition. Big Children too, with local Radio Control Clubs and Car Owners Clubs are regular users of airfield facilities.



# BODMIN AIRFIELD STATISTICS IN RECENT YEARS

Despite all of this activity and a full events timetable, we are not an extremely busy airfield, compared to those to the East and North of us. Whilst, undoubtedly the busiest GA airfield in Cornwall, our statistics are generally modest.

Covid-19, as with all other airfields, did us no favours, as the following statistics show. In 2020 we lost 221 days, out of 365, which is 61% of the total year, to a mix of lockdown and inclement weather.

## MOVEMENTS

2019: **7,025** (Pre-Covid)

2020: **4,098** (Covid)

2021: **4,320** (to date)

## FUEL DISPENSED

2019: **54,972** litres

2020: **34,151** litres

2021: **38,878** litres





**Bodmin Airfield**  
Home of Cornwall Flying Club

## HOW DID WE ARRIVE AT HAVING A GREEN AIRFIELD?



The outfield is awash with the most vibrant colours. But what is it we are looking at?



## HOW DID WE ARRIVE AT HAVING A GREEN AIRFIELD?

The traditional hay meadow in England has decreased by 97% since the end of the Second World War. This is due to more intense farming methods, use of herbicides and pesticides, land drainage and development of land into housing . The outcome of this is a dramatic decrease in wildflowers in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



The result is that there is now less than 6,000 hectares of traditional hay meadow left. Airfields are pretty much private property, and open public access to all areas is generally prohibited. That means airfields MAY unknowingly be hiding some of the most important, ecologically valuable land in the country.



## HOW DID WE ARRIVE AT HAVING A GREEN AIRFIELD?

The GAAC has 128 listed GA airfields in the UK, but believes there could be as many as 750 airfields, including minor airstrips and farmstrips, around the UK.

If you assume that an average airfield is 800 metres by 400 metres in area, this is equal to an area of 32 hectares per airfield.

Simple maths tells you that 128 airfields x 32 hectares provides an area of 4,096 hectares. This is a potential increase of 68% in possible, new, traditional hay meadows above the known 6,000 hectares.

If you take 750 airfields as your total, and half the area available per airfield, then you get 6,000 hectares, or a potential doubling of the endangered traditional hay meadow.





**Bodmin Airfield**  
Home of Cornwall Flying Club

## HOW DID WE ARRIVE AT HAVING A GREEN AIRFIELD?



The start of it all. On the left is Ian Benallick, who is the Botanical Recorder for Cornwall, and co-author of the 'red book' of Cornish Wild flowers'.

In mid 2019 he was walking his dog past Bodmin airfield, when he spotted an orchid in the airfield verge. He called the airfield and asked if he could come and conduct a botanical survey of the airfield estate.



## HOW DID WE ARRIVE AT HAVING A GREEN AIRFIELD?



The 'quick' two hour survey he conducted on the airfield outfield, not only surprised us at Bodmin, but it surprised Ian Benallick too. He also confirmed the existence of the Orchid he spotted on our airfield, it being a Southern Marsh Orchid.

More than that, he had listed no fewer than 130 species of different wild flower and wild grass species around the airfield. He asked to come back another time, with two other botanical colleagues, to conduct a wider survey of the airfield.





## HOW DID WE ARRIVE AT HAVING A GREEN AIRFIELD?



The next survey conducted for us by Ian increased the species count at the airfield to 156, including 3 Orchids. At this point he informed us that, in his opinion, our airfield was likely to be the largest traditional hay meadow in the Southwest of England. He had come across nothing like it before.





## HOW DID WE ARRIVE AT HAVING A GREEN AIRFIELD?



Ian told us that, due to the abundance of Yellow Rattle and Eyebright in the field, along with all of the other species, we should consider donating hay, complete with seeds, to organisations who are trying to convert fields back to traditional hay meadows.

It was from there that we were contacted by the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group, who specialise in assisting farms who are doing just that. The main reason for the need is to attract pollinators to their land for organic crop growing purposes.



## HOW DID WE ARRIVE AT HAVING A GREEN AIRFIELD?



We made our first donation of hay in July this year, with a two acre cut, made for free by one of our friendly neighbouring farmers. The hay was transported to a nearby 600 acre farm, that is converting two fields to a hay meadow, to assist with organic crop growth.

Word has now got to the National Trust. The Countryside Manager of the local NT estate, Lanhydrock House, has been in touch recently and asked if we would consider a donation of hay next year to assist them convert a 6 hectare field to a hay meadow.



# HOW DID WE MAINTAIN A GREEN AIRFIELD?



Wildlife hazard management at aerodromes

CAP 772



<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>28</b>
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You might think that the best advice would be found in the CAA Wildlife Hazard Management at Aerodromes Civil Aviation Publication document , namely CAP 772.

Chapter 5 of this document outlines Habitat Management, and it is aimed especially at Grassland Management.



## HOW DID WE MAINTAIN A GREEN AIRFIELD?



First and foremost, DO NOT follow the CAA's Wildlife Management CAP772.

Chapter 5 of this document actively discourages having anything other than a thick sward of grass, no longer than 10 inches in height. It encourages the use of herbicides and pesticides to assist with the grassland health. It recommends a continuous grasscutting regime, of up to five times a year to maintain a 'long grass' policy.

Nothing it offers as guidance will produce a traditional hay meadow!

# WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF HAVING A GREEN AIRFIELD?

## FIRST AND FOREMOST – WHY WOULD YOU EVEN WANT TO CONSIDER GOING GREEN?

The answer is simple on many levels. All of them will enhance your community standing.

The answer is pollinators. In the same period that we have lost 97% of our traditional hay meadows, which is still increasing due to rural development, the British Bee population has seen the extinction of 13 species, including 3 Bumblebee species, with 35 more Bee species considered as under threat of extinction. No Bee species is protected by UK law.



# WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF HAVING A GREEN AIRFIELD?

## FIRST AND FOREMOST – WHY WOULD YOU EVEN WANT TO CONSIDER GOING GREEN?

There are only 25 species of Bumblebee in the UK, and over 200 species of Bee in the UK.

The vast majority of them are in serious trouble, and struggling to survive, to the point that large corporations like the BBC, C4, the Women’s Institute, Friends of the Earth and the UK Government, plus dozens of major organisations, have been running major campaigns in 2021 to get people to assist Bees in any small, or big, way that they can.





# WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF HAVING A GREEN AIRFIELD?

## FIRST AND FOREMOST – WHY WOULD YOU EVEN WANT TO CONSIDER GOING GREEN?

Whilst most grain crops in the UK are wind pollinated, 85% of all commercial vegetable and fruit crops, both orchard and berry, are pollinated by bees and other pollinators.

Without these important species thriving, you are unlikely to have the range of fruit and vegetables available today. That includes most wines, ciders and other alcoholic drinks.





# WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF HAVING A GREEN AIRFIELD?

## FIRST AND FOREMOST – WHY WOULD YOU EVEN WANT TO CONSIDER GOING GREEN?

And remember, pollinators are not restricted to the Bees. They include Butterflies, Moths, Hoverflies, Beetles and even Wasps. Some wildflowers have evolved to attract specific species as pollinators, whereas some other wildflowers release their scent only at night to attract moth pollinators. In all cases do what you can to assist the pollinators.





# WHERE DO I START IN GOING GREEN?

## FIND OUT WHAT YOU HAVE GOT – ADVICE FROM IAN BENALLICK

“Every County, or ‘Vice-County’, has a system of Botanical Recorders who belong to the Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland (BSBI). The BSBI Recorders of each county are always keen to get access to those areas that are usually out of bounds , and most would love the chance to survey, or assess, airfields. Contact the BSBI via this link” – Ian Benallick.

<https://bsbi.org/local-botany>





# WHERE DO I START IN GOING GREEN?

## FIND OUT WHAT YOU HAVE GOT

Alternatively, contact your local University Botany, or Ecology, Department and ask them if they could come and conduct both a Botanical, and a Pollinator, Survey of your airfield.

We now have a relationship with the University of Exeter's Environment & Sustainability Institute. They now have a Post-Graduate student conducting regular Pollinator Surveys at Bodmin airfield, for the Wildflower Collective Project, as part of her MSc degree.





# WHERE DO I START IN GOING GREEN?

## HOW QUICK DOES A CONVERSION TO A TRADITIONAL HAY MEADOW TAKE?

It is not quick, because you can only transform it at the speed that nature dictates.

It usually takes from 3 to 5 years to create a mature hay meadow from seed.

It can take anywhere from between 5 to 7 years to convert a grassland field to a meadow.

A perennial meadow, with Wildflower diversity, improves over a period of 15 to 20 years.





## WHERE DO I START IN GOING GREEN?

### IF YOU HAVE TO INTRODUCE PLANTS, WHAT SHOULD YOU CONSIDER?

First things first. Just let your outfield grow, and don't be tempted to cut it – PERIOD. A traditional hay meadow is only cut once, at the end of the growing season, and at no other time. So a single cut any time from late July to early September is all you need.

Invite your local farmer to do the necessary. In return for his help, allow him to remove all the cuttings, as bales, for him to use a winter fodder. You get a free airfield cut, and removal of the grass, and he gets free bales of hay. It is a win-win for both sides.





# WHERE DO I START IN GOING GREEN?

## IF YOU HAVE TO INTRODUCE PLANTS, WHAT SHOULD YOU CONSIDER?

Believe it or not, Pollinators are active all the way through to December, and sometimes beyond. Bees will remain active in air temperatures of 6 degrees, and Bumblebees will forage as long as the temperature is 11 degrees or above. The same goes for many of the other pollinators. So have plants, and shrubs, that will flower from January to December.

Have you ever noticed that Common Gorse starts flowering in October and carries on into the New Year? Or that Primroses start flowering in December, and carry on into May.





# WHAT DO I NEED TO LOOK OUT FOR?

## IS THERE ANY PLANT YOU NEED TO AVOID, OR EVEN REMOVE FROM YOUR AIRFIELD?

YES. Ragwort. It is one of five native plants that are listed as 'Injurious Weeds' under the Weeds Act of 1959. It is law that landowners should consider removal of Ragwort from their land, to ensure it does not spread to neighbouring property.



7 & 8 ELIZ. 2

Weeds Act, 1959

CH. 54



### CHAPTER 54

An Act to consolidate certain enactments relating to injurious weeds. [16th July, 1959]

**B**E it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1.—(1) Where the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Power (in this Act referred to as "the Minister") is satisfied that there are injurious weeds to which this Act applies growing upon any land he may serve upon the occupier of the land a notice in writing requiring him, within the time specified in the notice, to take such action as may be necessary to prevent the weeds from spreading.

(2) This Act applies to the following injurious weeds, that is to say—

- spear thistle (*cirsium vulgare* (Savi) Ten.),
- creeping or field thistle (*cirsium arvense* (L.) Scop.),
- broad-leaved dock (*rumex obtusifolius* L.), and
- ragwort (*senecio jacobaea* L.);

and to such additional injurious weeds as may be prescribed by the Minister by regulations.

# WHAT DO I NEED TO LOOK OUT FOR?

## IS THERE ANY PLANT YOU NEED TO AVOID, OR EVEN REMOVE FROM YOUR AIRFIELD?

Ragwort even has the distinction of being the only native British plant that had an act against it, the Ragwort Control Act of 2003. Some conservationists were so incensed at these laws that they petitioned Parliament to have the overarching Weeds Act repealed.

So why does it have such a bad reputation?



Ragwort Control Act 2003

2003 CHAPTER 40

An Act to amend the Weeds Act 1959 in relation to ragwort; and for connected purposes.

[20th November 2003]

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—



### Petitions

UK Government and Parliament



This petition was submitted during the 2017–2019 Conservative government

[View other petitions from this government](#)

Petition

## Repeal the archaic Weeds Act 1959 to benefit pollinators and wider biodiversity.

This Act drives destruction of native wildflower species so essential to the survival of pollinators & other wildlife. Plants targeted by the Act include common & creeping thistle - both rich sources of nectar, ragwort with its 177 pollinators & dock an important food plant for many insects.



### Government responded

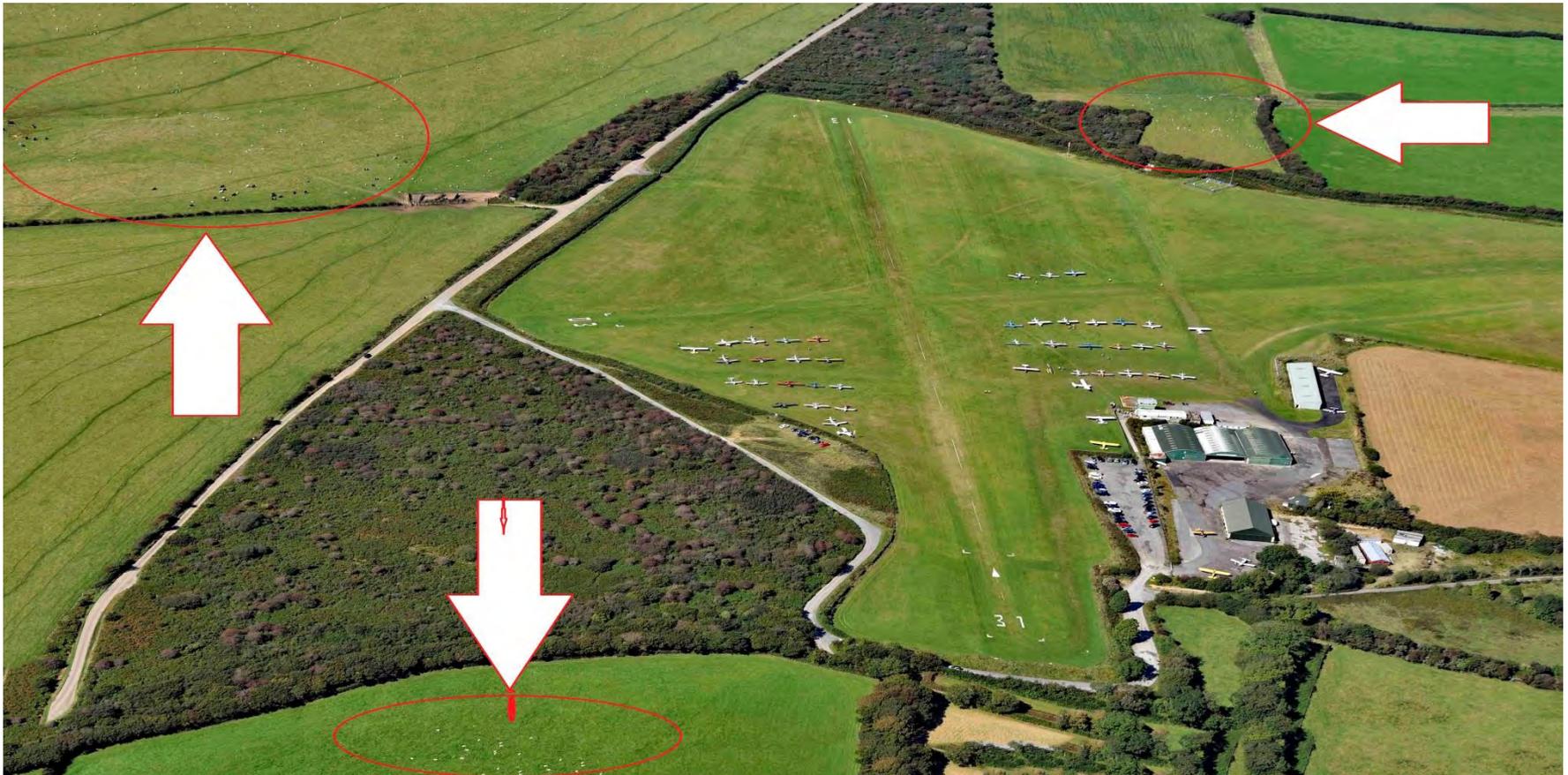
This response was given on 17 October 2019

“ The Government has no plans to repeal the Weeds Act 1959 at this time. The Weeds Act 1959 does not seek to eliminate or eradicate the five injurious weeds named in that Act.



# WHAT DO I NEED TO LOOK OUT FOR?

## IS THERE ANY PLANT YOU NEED TO AVOID, OR EVEN REMOVE FROM YOUR AIRFIELD?



Ragwort is toxic to cattle, sheep and horses if ingested. It can also kill. Bodmin airfield is surrounded on all four sides by active sheep and cattle farms, and ringed by bridleways. We have a duty of care to ensure that Ragwort does not contaminate our neighbouring farms.



# WHAT DO I NEED TO LOOK OUT FOR?

## IS THERE ANY PLANT YOU NEED TO AVOID, OR EVEN REMOVE FROM YOUR AIRFIELD?

As our woolly neighbours do not always follow the rules of respecting property boundaries, we have to ensure that we have removed Ragwort within our airfield. This becomes ever more important, especially so as we also have wild Roe Deer that like to forage on the airfield in the early morning.





## WHAT DO I NEED TO LOOK OUT FOR?

### IS THERE ANY PLANT YOU NEED TO AVOID, OR EVEN REMOVE FROM YOUR AIRFIELD?



So, we clear all Ragwort, not only from our airfield estate, but from all the lanes and bridleways that surround us, despite these being outside our property boundary. Such activity puts us in a very positive light with our neighbours, and equestrian villagers.



# **SIMPLE MAINTENANCE FOR A GREEN AIRFIELD**

## **CUTTING BACK AND BOXING OFF HEDGEROWS**

Hedgerows play a vital part in providing food and shelter for small mammals, birds and insects. The earth banks on which the hedges grow also provide winter homes and shelter for many of the solitary bee species.

At the end of the growing year the hedges are often wild and tangled, and just as our neighbouring farmers do on their own field system, we cut back and box off the hedges.





# **SIMPLE MAINTENANCE FOR A GREEN AIRFIELD**

## **CUTTING BACK AND BOXING OFF HEDGEROWS**

As with your annual meadow cut, ask your neighbouring farmer if he will also cut back and box off your perimeter hedgerows for you. Not only does this make your airfield look neat and tidy, it also improves the next year's growth of the hedgerows, and importantly it encourages more wildlife to the airfield . We also get him to brush cut the road verges, outside of our airfield boundary, even though it is not our responsibility to do this.

By doing this, we provide a community service, by improving the public appearance of the country lane outside the airfield boundary, and the local community support your efforts.





# SIMPLE MAINTENANCE FOR A GREEN AIRFIELD

## MAINTAIN ONLY YOUR RUNWAYS, TAXIWAYS AND PARKING AREAS

Ongoing maintenance on a green airfield could not be simpler, because you are doing nothing to the outfield, and you only need to concentrate on the movement area. It makes life that much easier for you, and the outcome is an ecologically important environment.

Local weather conditions, and manpower availability will be your only concerns as to the frequency you mow your runways. As Bodmin is a grass runway airfield, we try and cut the movement area once a week, or fortnightly, throughout the summer. In early Spring, and early Autumn the cutting regime is only done on an 'as needs be' basis.





# SIMPLE MAINTENANCE FOR A GREEN AIRFIELD

## MAINTAIN ONLY YOUR RUNWAYS, TAXIWAYS AND PARKING AREAS

Leaving your outfield to grow unfettered does make your airfield a colourful place. From May to August it will be a riot of colour, and it will change as the year progresses, as spring species give way to summer species. Some wildflowers, such as meadow buttercups will flower continuously throughout the growing season.

The casual onlooker, who does not know that a traditional hay meadow exists on the airfield, and that no grass cutting takes place throughout the summer, will think that aircraft and helicopters are simply landing in the long grass, and that runways do not appear to exist.





# GREEN AIRFIELDS WILL REQUIRE SOME BIRD CONTROL

## THE RISKS OF ONLY HAVING A SINGLE FIELD CUT PER YEAR – ALL SHORT OR ALL LONG!

One of the reasons for the CAA, as outlined in CAP 772, in having a ‘Long Grass Policy’ is to discourage many dangerous species of bird from loitering, and feeding, on your airfield. Birds such as Rooks, foraging for grubs in the grass, or Starlings using the airfield as a roost.

It is a balancing act to maintain your Safety Management System, in keeping birdstrike risk to a minimum. For a few weeks after your single, annual cut, you do need to up your game in bird control and management. Here, CAP 772 can help with Risk Mitigation suggestions.





# GREEN AIRFIELDS WILL REQUIRE SOME BIRD CONTROL

## THE RISKS OF ONLY HAVING A SINGLE FIELD CUT PER YEAR – ALL SHORT OR ALL LONG!

By allowing your outfield to grow long and unmolested, as part of developing, encouraging and maintaining a traditional hay meadow, is that wild flowers bring insects, insects bring small birds, small birds bring big birds, and so the food chain goes on. Long grass also gives ground cover to small and medium sized mammals, which brings in grassland birds of prey.

Our traditional hay meadow has resulted in our hangars having seasonal colonies of Swallows, between May and September, every year. Our outfield also has a large and thriving colony of Skylarks. Nothing beats the song of the Skylark when working out on the airfield.





# GREEN AIRFIELDS WILL REQUIRE SOME BIRD CONTROL

## THE RISKS OF ONLY HAVING A SINGLE FIELD CUT PER YEAR – ALL SHORT OR ALL LONG!



Short grass does expose the rabbits, who live in three warrens around the airfield. This brings them to the attention of a pair of Buzzards who have nested next to the airfield for the last five years, or more. This hangar is a favoured perch for the Eastern Warren.





## GREEN AIRFIELDS WILL REQUIRE SOME BIRD CONTROL

### THE RISKS OF ONLY HAVING A SINGLE FIELD CUT PER YEAR – ALL SHORT OR ALL LONG!



Both our windsocks are favourite perches for the other Western and Northern Warrens.

One dramatic NIMBY claimed aircraft were scaring local birds of prey. She clearly had not seen our Buzzards ignoring 'run-up' aircraft.





**Bodmin Airfield**  
Home of Cornwall Flying Club

# YOUR GREEN AIRFIELD CAN BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY

**THE WHOLE POPULATION OF BRITAIN IS NOW FOCUSED ON PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE!**

“There is an opportunity for all airfields to be recognised as being environmental heroes, and not the villains, for a change.”

If there was ever a time when you had the golden opportunity to turn your airfield green, then now is that time.





**Bodmin Airfield**  
Home of Cornwall Flying Club

# YOUR GREEN AIRFIELD CAN BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY

## THE YOUTH OF TODAY KNOW ALL ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AND SAVING THE PLANET!

You can be a part of their world, as we at Bodmin are. Invite your local Primary Schools to your airfield as part of their education. Combine education on transport and aviation, with that of wildlife support and pollinator preservation. It is a community winner for you.





**Bodmin Airfield**  
Home of Cornwall Flying Club

# YOUR GREEN AIRFIELD CAN BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY

## THE YOUTH OF TODAY KNOW ALL ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AND SAVING THE PLANET!

You don't need to limit it to schools. Your local Beaver and Cubs all have global issues and wildlife activity badges they can earn by using your airfield to achieve their award.



Beaver – Global Issues  
Activity Badge



Cubs – Naturalist  
Activity Badge



# YOUR GREEN AIRFIELD CAN BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY

## HOW MANY NATURAL HISTORY CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS ARE IN YOUR LOCAL AREA?

You would be surprised how many local societies, organisations, groups and clubs there are in your local community, who have an interest in nature, and who would love to come and see what you have. Every village in your area has some connection to natural history, and whose member's sole interest is the protection, and stewardship, of their local environment.

We have had a number of them, who have asked to visit the airfield, to see the wildflowers. As they are with us, they will be on your side, and will protect your efforts from the NIMBYs.

✿ CARDINHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB ✿





# YOUR GREEN AIRFIELD CAN BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY

## THE MESSAGE IS GETTING OUT THERE – THE QUESTION IS WHO IS GOING TO RESPOND?

The message is being taken up and spread. The two largest GA magazines in the UK, namely FLYER and PILOT have both carried articles on Bodmin Airfield. The LAA have also carried an article in their latest 'Light Aviation' magazine. More exciting is that outside of Aviation, the Trails and Grasslands website has also carried a similar article.



Home | Meadow | Temperate grasslands | Central grasslands

Bodmin airfield meadow sparks scientific interest

October 05, 2021

by *Chris B. Hall*



[Home](#) » [News](#) » **Bodmin: airfields are environmental heroes**

By [Dave Calderwood](#) | 11th August 2021  
15:21 Europe/London



[Pilot](#) > [News](#)

**Bodmin's meadow draws scientific interest**

[Eugenio Facci](#)

Published: 4:28 PM October 5, 2021



**Bodmin Airfield**  
Home of Cornwall Flying Club

# YOUR GREEN AIRFIELD CAN BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY

## THE MESSAGE IS GETTING OUT THERE – THE QUESTION IS WHO IS GOING TO RESPOND?

Happily, there are other airfields out there who are following our lead. The first out of the traps, to our knowledge, is one of our near neighbours, Lands End Airport, down here in Cornwall. They have invited in another environmental organisation to collect seeds of a rare wildflower species for spreading at other local sites.

**Wildflower bonanza – at Land’s End Airport  
Collecting seeds is a vital part of wildflower  
conservation for two West Cornwall  
organisations**

Western Morning News

4 Nov 2021

**Penwith Landscape Partnership’s Seed  
harvester. Volunteers have been collecting  
Devil’s-bit Scabious seeds at Land’s End Airport**

## Western Morning News



Penwith Landscape Partnership's Seed harvester. Volunteers have been collecting Devil's-bit Scabious seeds at Land's End Airport

# Thanks for watching

Thank you Jay for a most informative and educational presentation all about what is probably the UK's first *Aeroecofield*. The seeds are now sown and taking on board this important step we must all do our utmost to ensure that the word is spread especially amongst the aviation community.



Over the years Bodmin Airfield has been a very successful training base, we've held many events including themed Fly-ins, Vintage Aircraft and Vehicle Meets, Charity Days and Scout Aerocamps. We have also been the base for the TOP NAV Competitions and held major Aerobatic competitions. We have even had Wakes and Weddings, Hangar Dances, Theatre, Poetry & Music events and so forth. But we had no idea that we were sitting on the largest natural meadow in the West !



**BODMIN AIRFIELD**  
*Presents a*  
**Ladies Day**  
FLY IN

**Saturday April 30th 2016**

On this special day we invite all ladies to our airfield, whether they are aviators or not, so they can enjoy the joys and thrills of aviation. Perhaps after experiencing a local flight our visiting ladies may wish to pursue flying as a career or a hobby or just sit and absorb the ambience whilst enjoying a cream tea.



[www.bodminairfield.com](http://www.bodminairfield.com)

PPR 01208 821419      Pete White 07805 805679  
Vintage and Classic Vehicles are very welcome to attend



## Action Stations



## Vintage Aircraft Flights

And of course, our very important charity work and youth aviation experiences





Returning to Bodmin Airfield nestled on the edge of Bodmin Moor - Britain's first *Aeroecofield*



Good night from Bodmin Airfield



**Bodmin Airfield**  
Home of Cornwall Flying Club

## **THE GREEN AIRFIELD – HAS IT ALL BEEN WORTH IT?**



**I HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED THE TALK. THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO LISTEN, AND AS I WILL NOT SEE NOR SPEAK TO YOU AGAIN THIS YEAR, ONE FINAL MESSAGE TO YOU ALL.**



**Bodmin Airfield**  
Home of Cornwall Flying Club

# MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AT VAC



R. BUCKLAND