



Wildlife Hazard Management

11th May 2023

ASWHM_OAN_068

v4.0

Operational Advice Notice

Solitary Bees

It is the responsibility of all employers to ensure that relevant OANs are brought to the attention of their staff. However, individuals remain responsible for their own actions and those who are in any doubt should consult their supervisor or Manager.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Operational Advice Notice (OAN) informs airside operators, especially airlines, of the layered surveillance and alerting plans linked to insect (mainly solitary bee) activity at London Heathrow Airport. In addition, it advises airline operators to implement additional control measures to mitigate the environmental hazard posed by insects, such as enhanced use of pitot covers or additional pre-flight inspections, when necessary.
- 1.2 Significant insect activity is typically observed in the summer (June to August). However, this risk period can start in early May and continue until September and early October. **Therefore, this OAN will remain in force until further notice.**
- 1.3 Between 9th and 11th June 2021, three separate events occurred at London Heathrow Airport, where aircraft suffered from abnormal pitot/static system events, two of which resulted in rejected take-offs. The subsequent Aircraft Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB) report identified the cause to be the nesting activity of certain species of wasps and bees within pitot probes, resulting in airspeed discrepancies and associated crew actions.
- 1.4 This OAN forms part of Heathrow Airport Limited's (HAL) response following the subsequent Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Safety Notice [SN-2021/014 Pitot Blockage Events](#) and AAIB Investigation and should be read in conjunction with the CAA Safety Notice [SN-2021/014 Pitot Blockage Events](#).



2. Safety Procedure

As outlined in the CAA Safety Notice SN2021/014, airline operators should apply the following during the above risk period:

- 2.1 Maintenance Organisations and Airworthiness Management Organisations should ensure compliance with the Original Equipment Manufacturers / Type Certificate Holders – Operational Suitability Data (OSD) which specifically relates to aircraft storage and pre-flight inspections.
- 2.2 Crews should be made aware of this potential issue, reminded of the importance of the speed checks during the take-off roll and the actions to be taken in the case of a discrepancy, as well as the appropriate unreliable speed indications for their aircraft type should they discover the issue once airborne.
- 2.3 Airline operators should also ensure that appropriate covers are used to cover any inlets when aircraft go into periods of low utilisation.

3. Monitoring

- 3.1 A layered surveillance and alerting plan evolved during the 2022 risk period where HAL Airfield Operations and its nominated subcontractor monitored various 'bug hotel' sites airside and landside for bee and other insect activity.
- 3.2 During the risk period, each monitoring station will be checked at least twice a month. The monitoring frequency will increase (up to daily where required) if insect/bee activity is observed. This will be communicated accordingly.
- 3.3 A detailed map of these monitoring stations can be found in Appendix A.

4. Notification

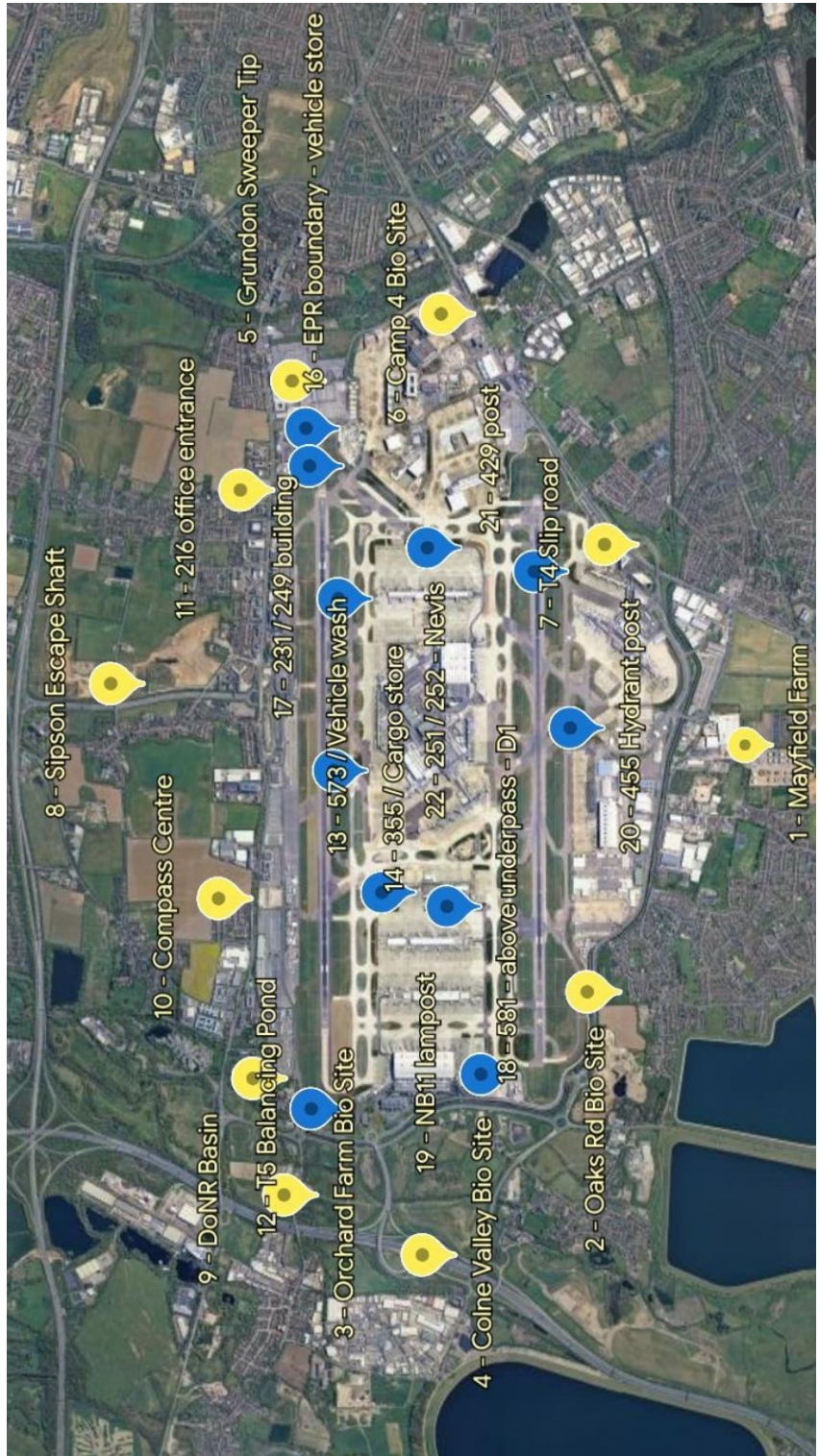
- 4.1 The above monitoring reports will be sent to an established list of recipients. If you wish to receive notification of the output from the surveillance visits, please contact the Airfield Duty Manager (AfDM) at airfield.duty.manager@heathrow.com.
 - 4.1.1 Communication will be sent after the visits are completed for all the sites, which could take several days if no activity is observed.
 - 4.1.2 If a visit identifies bee/insect activity, a notification will be sent to the distribution list, and the frequency of observations will increase accordingly.
- 4.2 Airline operators must notify the Airfield Duty Manager (AfDM) if they are conducting their own monitoring or observing of bee/insect activity as required.



5. Enquires

Any questions regarding this OAN should be directed to the Heathrow Airfield Duty Manager (AfDM) at airfield.duty.manager@heathrow.com or 0208 745 7373.

Appendix A



 Landside

 Airside

