

Possible misunderstandings by FE on nature of model flying

(BMFC note to BMFA, January 2021)

Model flying is a "group" activity - *No, it is an individual activity*

Model flying is organised with "events" at the airfield - *No, flyers attend at will*

Model flying causes large amounts of traffic at the Beaulieu Heath carpark - *No, most traffic is related to dog walking and tourism.*

Model flying is disturbing birds nesting near the runway - *No, birds do not usually nest near the runway, and when they do they do not appear to be affected.*

Model flying disturbs birds over a wide area of the heath - *No, the area overflown is small, about 1% of the total heath area.*

Model flying is responsible for the decline in bird breeding behaviour - *No, this is not proven, and studies have shown that it is unlikely.*

Restricting model flying to the winter only is acceptable - *No, such a restriction effectively destroys the recreation which is a Spring/Summer activity responding to weather conditions.*

Model flying causes pollution from fuels - *No. While combustion engines were mostly used in the past, they now account for only a small fraction of operations which are now most electric powered and thus pollution free. The total amount of pollution from combustion engines is less than that caused by one motor vehicle,*

A five year moratorium is required to establish if birds will return to the area - *this is an unreasonable restriction which is not justified by any research.*

NaturalEngland will not accept an HRA which allows model flying in an SSSI - *No, they accepted it in 2015, and since then good management of model flying as reduced pollution, increased safety, and reduced noise nuisance.*

The New Forest is the last bastion of protection for certain species - *No, a number of other nearby areas, such as RSPB Arne, also hosts these and other species.*

Other recreational pressures have increased and therefore all recreational pressure should be reduced. - *This is an unreasonable assumption. Each recreation should be examined on its merits and conclusions reached which represent that.*

The Beaulieu airfield has been returned to nature and no longer exists as an entity - *No. The Beaulieu airfield was created during WW2 to host wartime bombers. The runways, accommodation areas, and special constructions are still visible on the ground, and especially from the air. Conservative estimates consider that these traces will persist for hundreds of years.*