



**BRITISH AEROBATICS**  
**OPEN**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP**

British Open & National  
Championships 2026  
SPO/INT/ADV/UNL (Power)

Bulletin v2

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# 1 General

## 1.1 Organiser

The British Open is organised and hosted by British Aerobatics (British Aerobatic Association Limited), recognised by The Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom as the governing body of sport aerobatics in the UK.

If participants have any questions and wish to get in touch with the contest organisers, an email can be sent to [open@aerobatics.org.uk](mailto:open@aerobatics.org.uk)

## 1.2 Location

The competition will be hosted from 21st to 26th July at Sywell Aerodrome (EGBK)

Address: Hall Farm, Sywell, Northamptonshire NN6 0BN

Website: [www.sywellaerodrome.co.uk](http://www.sywellaerodrome.co.uk)

Google maps: [52.29865,-0.79722](https://www.google.com/maps/place/52.29865,-0.79722)



## 1.3 Schedule

Competition flights will be held from Wednesday 22nd July to Saturday 25th July, with Sunday 26th July a weather contingency. All scheduling is weather dependent and subject to change. The CD will advise changes using the Whats App contest group. The intent is to complete all flying between Wednesday and Saturday. Sunday will be used if bad weather delays the contest.

### **Arrivals:**

Pilots can fly into Sywell from Tuesday morning onwards. The airfield is closed on Monday. Hangarage is available on first come first served basis. Hangars will be closed at 1800 each day.

### **Practice:**

A limited number of practice slots in the box will be available to Advanced and Unlimited pilots on Tuesday 21st between 1000 and 1730. Pilots who wish to practice must contact the CD to book a slot in advance. Priority for slots will be given to registered pilots (with entry fee paid) who request slots soonest with the CD.

### **Scheduling:**

Advanced and Unlimited will begin competition flights in the morning of Wednesday 22nd July. All Advanced and Unlimited competitors and Contest Officials must attend the 0800 briefing in person.

Sports and Intermediate will begin competition flights in the afternoon of Wednesday 22nd July. All Sports and Intermediate competitors must attend the 1300 briefing in person.

Aresti style sequences (Knowns and Unknowns) will have priority Wednesday to Friday. The Freestyle contest will have priority on Saturday. The start of the Freestyle contest may be moved to Saturday morning if required due to weather.

Sunday is a weather contingency for Aresti sequences. The contingency will be used to complete the Known and at least one Unknown for all levels. Advanced and Unlimited sequences will have priority. Contest flying will stop at 1230 on Sunday latest.

### **Evening Events:**

The Hog Roast (Thursday evening) will be at the airfield. No cost to contest participants.

The Contest Dinner (Friday evening) will be at a pub (The World's End). Cost to be paid by each participant.

## Contest Schedule:

Tue 21/07/2026 **AM**  
Arrivals  
1000 to 1230 Practice (Adv & Unlimited)  
**PM**  
Arrivals  
1300 to 1730 Practice (Adv & Unlimited)  
Hangers close at 1800 each day

Wed 22/07/2026 **AM**  
Arrivals  
0800 Briefing for Adv, Unlimited & Contest Officials  
0930 Contest Flights (Adv Free Known, Unlimited Free Known)  
**PM**  
1300 Briefing for Sports & Intermediate  
1430 Contest Flights (Sports Fixed Known, Intermediate Fixed Known)

Thu 23/07/2026 **AM**  
0830 Briefing  
Contest Flights (Unknowns)  
**PM**  
Contest Flights  
Evening Hog Roast at the airfield

Fri 24/07/2026 **AM**  
0830 Briefing  
Contest Flights  
**PM**  
Contest Flights  
Evening Contest Dinner - The World's End Pub

Sat 25/07/2026 Freestyle will take priority (may run AM if needed due to weather)  
**AM**  
0830 Briefing  
Contest Flights (Aresti)  
**PM**  
1430 to 1600 Freestyle  
1700 Awards Presentation  
1800 Earliest Departure

Sun 26/07/2026 Weather Contingency  
**AM**  
0900 Briefing  
Contest Flights (until 1230)  
**PM**  
1400 Awards Presentation  
1500 Departures

## 2 Rules

### 2.1 General

The contest will be run according to CIVA Sporting Code Section 6-1 as far as is practical, modified to conform with British Aerobatics General Rules and local circumstances.

### 2.2 Participation at the competition

Participants must present a valid pilot licence and any necessary ratings required to operate the aircraft in which they will compete. Participants must present a valid medical certificate corresponding to the licence on which they are competing.

Aircraft being flown during the competition must be airworthy, certified for aerobatic flight, and insured appropriately with cover for aerobatic competitions. Participants must present a valid ARC/Permit to Fly for the aircraft, along with a copy of the insurance certificate.

**In order to satisfy the requirements imposed by our public liability insurance, competitors will need to request that “British Aerobatic Association Limited” be added as an additional insured party on their aircraft insurance policy. This should incur no additional cost.**

All of these documents can be provided when signing up for the competition online.

### 2.3 Contest Details

#### 2.3.1 Categories

The competition will include the following categories:

- Sports (Power)
- Intermediate (Power)
- Advanced (Power)
- Unlimited (Power)
- Freestyle (4-6 minutes)

## 2.3.2 Programmes

The following programmes will be flown for each category.

**Note:** the Freestyle programme will be open to pilots on an invitational basis only, i.e. select pilots taking part in the Aresti competition in addition to a number of pilots invited to take part only in the Freestyle contest.

Programme	Sports	Intermediate	Advanced	Unlimited
P1	Fixed Known	Fixed Known	Free Known	Free Known
P2	Unknown 1	Unknown 1	Unknown 1	Unknown 1
P3	Unknown 2	Unknown 2	Unknown 2	Unknown 2
P4	Unknown 3	Unknown 3	Unknown 3	Unknown 3

Freestyle

## 2.3.3 Known sequences

Programme 1 will be a Fixed Known for Sports and Intermediate levels (published on the British Aerobatics website). Advanced and Unlimited levels will use a Free Known (in accordance with CIVA rules). Sequences must be submitted to the Scorer no later than 7th July, 2026. Pilots who do not submit a Free Known will fly the British Aerobatics Default Free Known as published on the website<sup>1</sup> and in the Appendix of this document. BAeA Rules specify the safety, warm-up and practice figures that pilots can fly at each level.

## 2.3.4 Unknown sequences

Unknown sequences will be designed according to British Aerobatics General Rules<sup>2</sup> for Sports and Intermediate level, and CIVA rules for Advanced and Unlimited levels (because Advanced and Unlimited are Open contests). All pilots will fly the same fixed sequence.

### 2.3.4.1 Freestyle Sequences

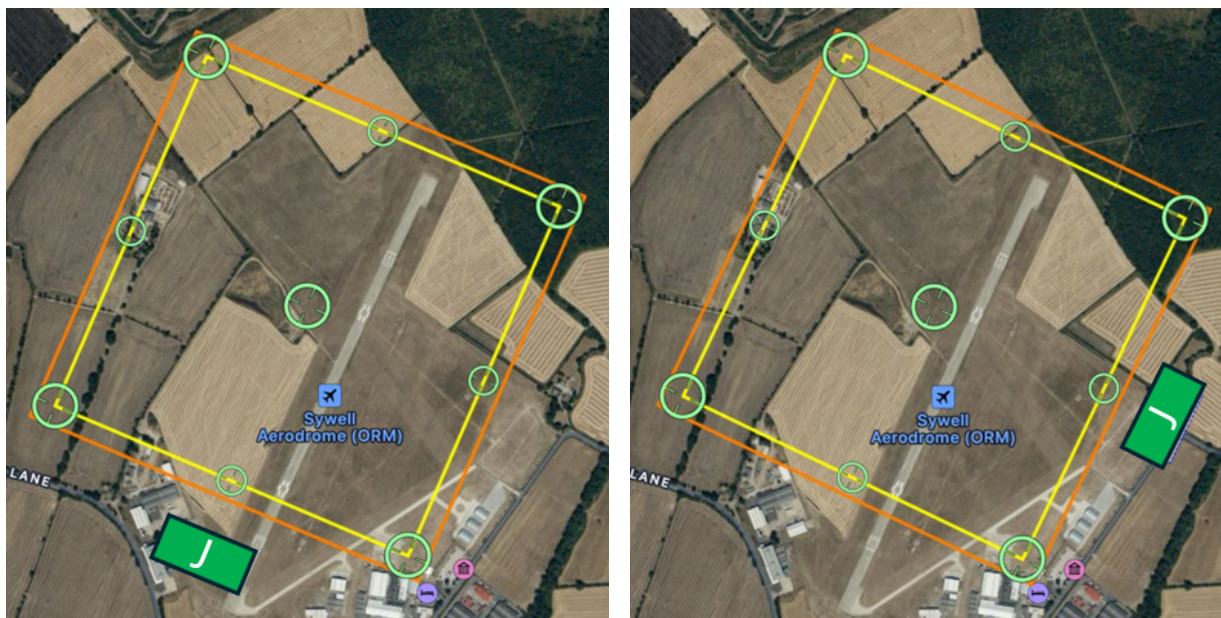
Freestyle sequences can be between 4 and 6 minutes long. Criteria for judging the Freestyle sequences are described in the British Aerobatics Rules.

<sup>1</sup> Sequences: [Sequences for 2026 | British Aerobatics](#)

<sup>2</sup> The General Rules: [Rules & Documents | British Aerobatics](#)

### 2.3.5 Aerobatic box

There will be a partially marked box in the location shown below. Two judging positions will be used; one to the South and one to the East.



Note that viewing restrictions caused by trees requires the Eastern judging position to be closer to the edge of the box than ideal - likely to be around 100m offset from the Eastern edge of the box. Positions and distances of each judging point will be confirmed at contest briefing.

### 2.3.6 Weather delays

Sunday is a weather contingency. All participants and officials should plan to be present on Sunday. If adverse weather causes significant delays the weather contingency will be used to complete the Known and at least one Unknown for all levels. Advanced and Unlimited flights will take priority as a number of competitors will have flown from overseas to compete in the Open. The organisers will decide if the Sunday will be used as soon as is reasonably possible during the contest.

## 2.4 Awards

### 2.4.1 Titles

The contest is open to UK pilots for Sports, Intermediate, Advanced and Unlimited categories, and international pilots for Advanced and Unlimited categories.

The British Open Champion titles, trophies, and medals will be awarded to the best scoring pilots at Advanced and Unlimited categories, regardless of nationality.

The contest scores will determine the British National Champions at all levels. These titles will be reserved for the best scoring British national/resident pilot, as defined in the British Aerobatics General Rules<sup>3</sup> under the section on foreign pilots.

#### 2.4.1.1 British Open Champions (Advanced, Unlimited, Freestyle)

The highest overall scoring competitor across programmes 1 - 4 in the Unlimited category will be awarded the title **British Open Champion 2026**.

The highest overall scoring competitor across programmes 1 - 4 in the Advanced category will be awarded the title **British Advanced Open Champion 2026**.

The highest overall scoring competitor in the Freestyle contest will be awarded the title **British Open Freestyle Champion 2026**.

#### 2.4.1.2 British National Champions (Sports, Intermediate, Advanced, Unlimited, Freestyle)

The highest overall scoring British national or resident competitor across programmes 1 - 4 in the Unlimited category will be awarded the title **British National Champion 2026**.

The highest overall scoring British national or resident competitor across programmes 1 - 4 in the Advanced category will be awarded the title **British Advanced National Champion 2026**.

The highest overall scoring British national or resident competitor across programmes 1 - 4 in the Intermediate category will be awarded the title **British Intermediate National Champion 2026**.

The highest overall scoring British national or resident competitor across programmes 1 - 4 in the Sports category will be awarded the title **British Sports National Champion 2026**.

The highest overall scoring British national or resident competitor in the Freestyle contest will be awarded the title **British National Freestyle Champion 2026**.

#### 2.4.2 Prizes and trophies

Medals will be awarded to the overall top 3 scoring pilots across all programmes completed in each category.

British Open 2026 trophies will be awarded to the winners of Advanced and Unlimited categories.

British National Champion trophies will be awarded to the top scoring British/resident competitors of each category.

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<sup>3</sup> The General Rules: <https://www.aerobatics.org.uk/publications>

## 3 Registration

### 3.1 Entry submission

Contest entry submissions will be open on 1st March, 2026. Pilots should sign up at <https://britishaerobatics.justgo.com/>

International competitors should select the Open membership option to avoid paying any membership fees for British Aerobatics. Once an account has been created, it will be possible to sign up for the Open championship and provide any necessary paperwork (licence, proof of aircraft insurance etc).

Note, in the interest of completing all competition flights, there will be a cap on the total number of pilots permitted to enter the contest. **A maximum of 30 pilots, across all Aresti categories, will be accepted.** Once this number is reached, no further contest entry submissions will be accepted and any other interested pilots will be added to a waiting list from which they may be contacted should a space become available.

### 3.2 Entry deadline and fees

Entry deadline: 9th June, 2026

Entry fees:

- £300 for Open (Sports to Unlimited Aresti - includes Freestyle entry)
- £150 Freestyle only.

Fee includes airfield charges, contest flight videos, goody bag.

Fee excludes hangarage, which will be charged by Sywell based on actual hangar usage at £25+VAT per night.

## 4 Contest officials & Volunteers

Contest Director	Gerald Cooper
Assistant CD	Chris Sills
Chief Judge	Steve Green
Aresti Judges	TBC
Scorer	TBC
Freestyle judges	A panel of judging teams to include Nigel Lamb and the Aresti Judges

The volunteer team needed to support the Open is being recruited now. If you would like to volunteer for any role (scoring, judging, calling figures for judges, video, marking the box, help with organisation and logistics) please contact the organisers using [open@aerobatics.org.uk](mailto:open@aerobatics.org.uk).

The Open is a long contest. Volunteers do not have to attend all days. Any support is welcome on any or all of the contest days.

A What's App group will be set up for volunteers. Information about staffing and scheduling will be provided on that forum closer to the contest. Volunteers involved in the set-up of the event will need to be available on Tuesday 21st July. The first competitive flights start on the 22nd July. Any volunteers planning to help on a particular contest day must arrive in time to attend that day's first briefing.

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## 5 Additional information

### 5.1 Aircraft Hire / Licencing

For overseas pilots that may wish to rent an aircraft registered in the UK (G-reg), there is a licence validation process that allows for up to 28 days of flying without the need to obtain a UK licence<sup>4</sup>. The process is fairly straightforward, starting with the licence/medical verification followed by a brief check ride with a UK instructor.

To start the licence verification process, the form can be completed online in approximately 5-10 minutes.

<https://applications.caa.co.uk/CAAPortal/servlet/SmartForm.html?formCode=TCV>

The cost to complete the verification is £58 and once submitted, the CAA will contact the authority that issued your licence to verify the details.

**It is recommended that this step be completed as soon as possible, earlier in the year.**

Once the licence verification has been completed, the final step is a check ride with a UK instructor. British Aerobatics have arranged with the UK CAA to have a direct contact that will process and return the form quickly.

The UK instructor/examiner will need to submit <https://www.caa.co.uk/SRG2141> - more details to follow on the direct line of communication.

There are a number of aerobatic schools in the UK that can help with this final step, and in some cases, may also provide aircraft to be rented for the competition. See the list of training providers here: <https://www.aerobatics.org.uk/training>

### 5.2 Fuel

Pilots will be able to use the self-serve pumps at the airfield to uplift fuel throughout the contest. Competing pilots may wish to make arrangements with the airfield to pay their fuel bill at the end of the contest, rather than each time they refuel. To do this, please speak with the airfield staff at the fuel pumps.

Fuel is **not** included as part of the contest entry fee.

### 5.3 Hangar space

Some hangar space will be available for the duration of the competition, but this is only guaranteed for the first 20 entrants. Pilots will not need to make prior arrangements unless they intend to arrive or depart outside the contest dates, and require additional hangarage.

Please note that the cost of hangarage is **not** included in the entry fee (£25+VAT per day).

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.caa.co.uk/commercial-industry/pilot-licences/non-uk-licences/recognition-of-icao-third-country-licences-in-uk-airspace/>

## 5.4 Accommodation

### 5.4.1 On site

The airfield has a hotel on-site, The Aviator ([www.aviatorhotel.co.uk](http://www.aviatorhotel.co.uk)). To book a room, please contact the Aviator Hotel directly by email or phone, as reservations cannot be made online. Competing pilots have priority for rooms at the hotel. A credit card must be provided at the time of booking. It is the responsibility of the participant to inform the hotel of any updates to the booking. British Aerobatics will not arrange hotel rooms for participants, except for core contest officials/staff. Room availability is limited. Book early.

Tel: 01604 642111 Email: [enquiries@aviatorhotel.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@aviatorhotel.co.uk)

### 5.4.2 Local area

To find accommodation in the the local area, please see: [Booking.com](https://www.booking.com) or [AirBnB](https://www.airbnb.com)

## 6 Getting to Sywell

### 6.1 Flying to the UK from overseas

If travelling to the UK from overseas in their own aircraft, pilots will need to submit a GAR (General Aviation Report) at least 2 hours before departure. The GAR may be submitted online via the government website for free or directly through SkyDemon.

[Government website](#)

[SkyDemon manual \(PDF\)](#) - See the section "Filing a GAR"

As usual, pilots will be required to file a flight plan if crossing an international FIR boundary.

**Please note, a valid passport will be required for all overseas visitors; national ID cards are no longer sufficient for entry to the UK. Pilots arriving without a passport may be refused entry by customs officials.**

### 6.2 Arrival at the contest airfield

All pilots are **required** to seek PPR (Prior Permission Required) before flying to Sywell aerodrome.

The Pooley's airfield plate is included in the Appendix.

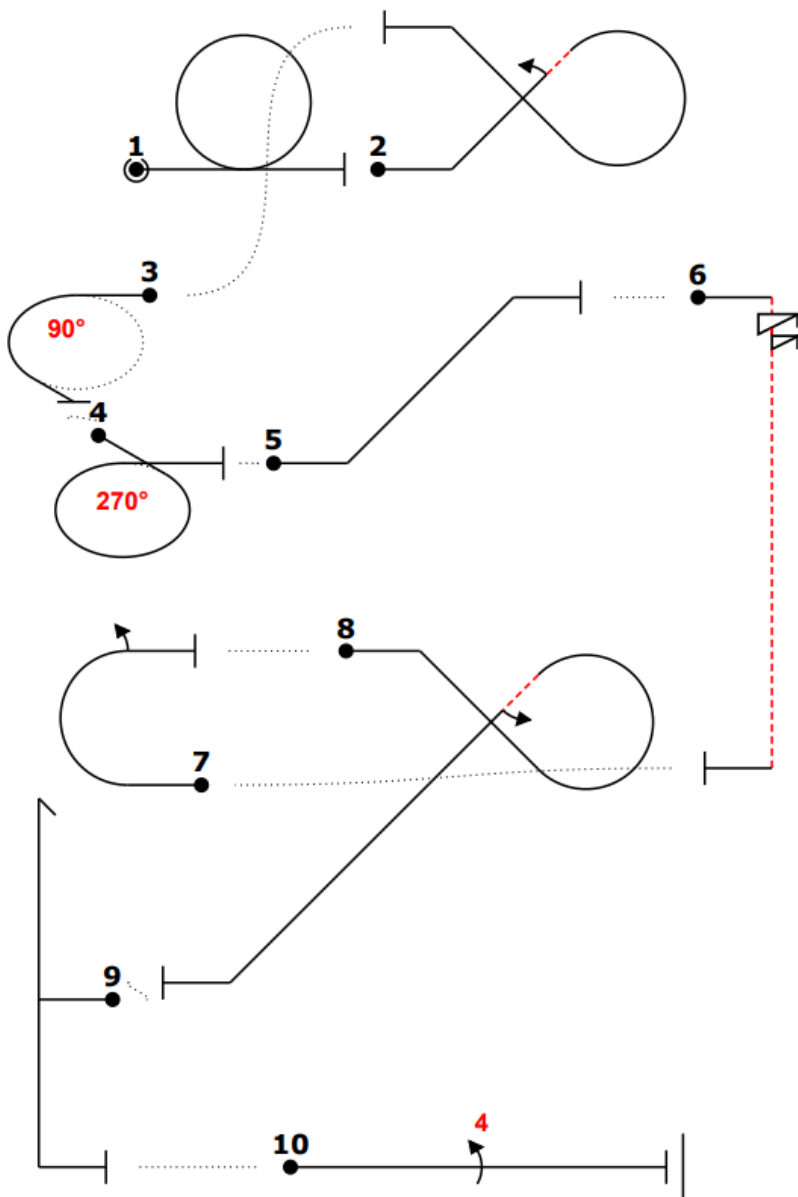
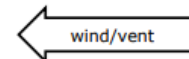
For overseas pilots, PPR is a typical process used by many airfields in the UK, and essentially requires pilots to request permission to visit an airfield. Permission may be requested using the [online PPR form](#) on the Sywell website.

# Appendix

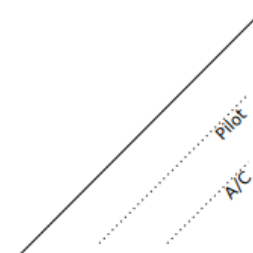
## Sports Fixed Known Sequence:



		Form B
Pilot ID	BAeA Sports Known	
	Flight #	



Power			
Fig	Aresti	K	
1	7.4.1.1	10	10
2	7.3.2.1 9.1.2.2	14 6	20
3	2.1.1.1	3	3
4	2.3.1.1	5	5
5	1.1.2.1	7	7
6	1.1.6.3 9.11.1.6	10 3	13
7	7.2.2.1 9.1.3.2	6 4	10
8	7.3.3.3 9.1.4.2	14 4	18
9	5.2.1.1	17	17
10	1.1.1.1 9.4.3.4	2 11	13
<b>Total K = 116</b>			

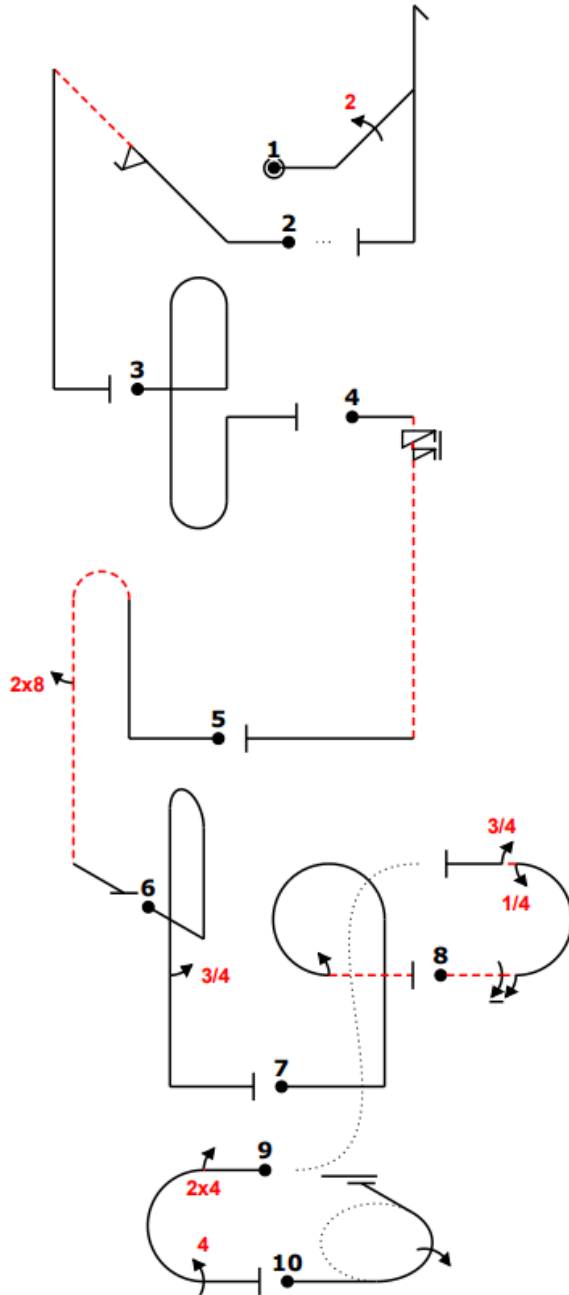


# Intermediate Fixed Known Sequence:



Fixed		Form B
Pilot ID	BAeA Intermediate Free Known	Flight #

← wind/vent



Power			
Fig	Aresti	K	
1	5.3.1.1	18	29
A	9.2.2.4	11	
2	1.2.3.1	12	25
D	9.9.2.2	13	
3	8.8.2.1	19	19
4	1.1.6.3	10	13
	9.11.1.6	3	
5	8.4.3.1	15	18
E	9.8.5.1	3	
6	8.4.1.1	13	19
	9.1.5.3	6	
7	8.6.2.1	12	16
B	9.1.3.2	4	
8	7.2.4.2	6	24
	9.1.3.6	10	
	9.1.3.1	2	
	9.1.3.3	6	
9	7.2.3.3	6	22
	9.4.3.2	5	
	9.4.3.4	11	
10	2.1.3.3	15	15
<b>Total K = 200</b>			
(max K = 200)			

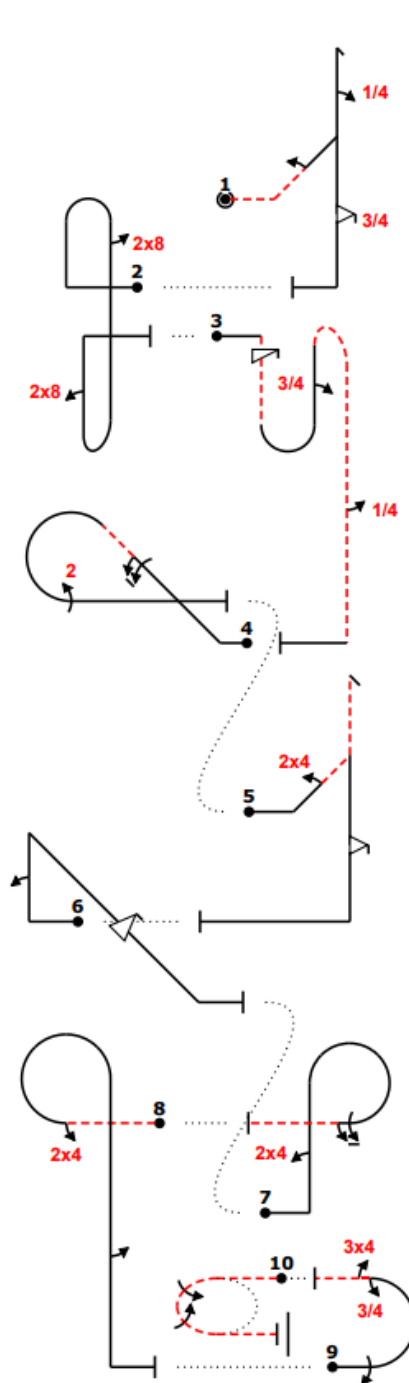
\_\_\_\_\_  
 ..... Pilot  
 ..... A/C

# Advanced Default Free Known:

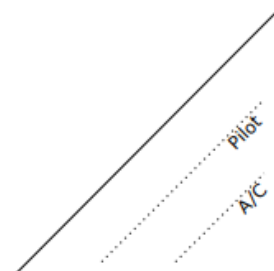
(sequence used if a pilot does not submit their own sequence)



		Form B
Pilot ID	BAeA Advanced Free Known	Flight #



Power		
Fig	Aresti	K
1	5.3.2.4	21
	9.1.2.2	6
	9.1.1.1	6
	9.9.5.3	11
		44
2	8.8.2.1	19
	9.8.5.1	3
	9.8.1.1	7
		29
3	8.8.6.3	21
	9.11.1.4	5
	9.1.1.3	10
	9.1.5.1	2
		38
4	8.5.2.1	10
	9.1.2.6	12
	9.2.3.4	9
		31
5	5.3.2.1	24
	9.4.2.2	7
	9.9.5.2	11
		42
6	1.2.6.1	14
	9.1.1.2	8
	9.9.4.4	11
		33
7	8.6.2.1	12
	9.4.1.2	9
	9.1.3.6	10
		31
8	8.6.7.2	12
	9.4.3.2	5
	9.1.5.2	4
		21
9	7.2.1.1	6
	9.1.3.4	8
	9.1.3.3	6
	9.4.3.3	8
		28
10	2.2.5.2	23
		23
<b>Total K = 320</b>		
(max K = 320)		

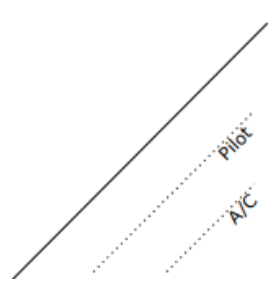
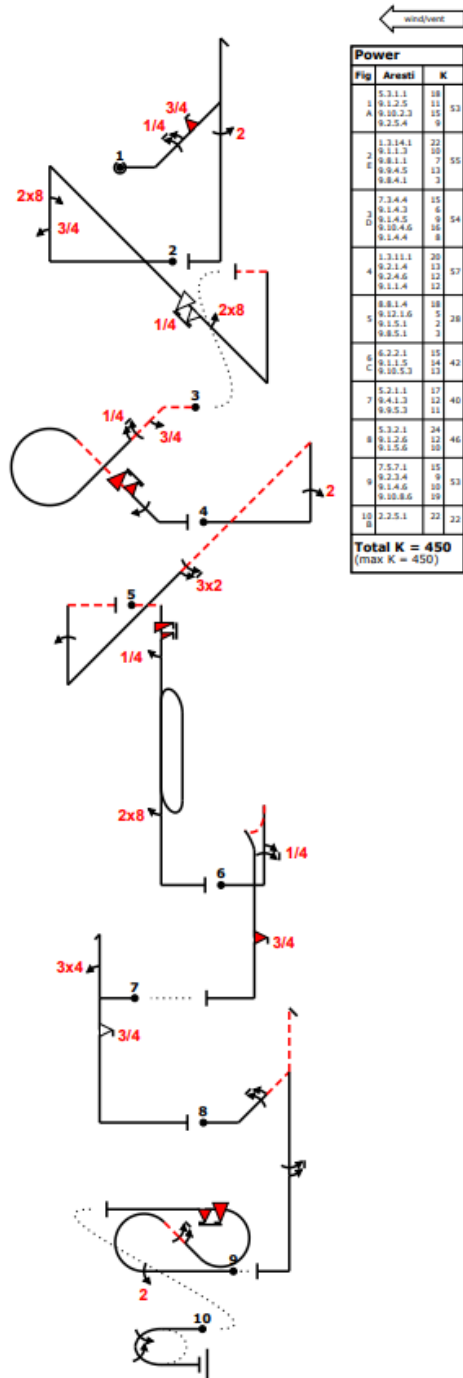


# Unlimited Default Free Known:

(sequence used if a pilot does not submit their own sequence)

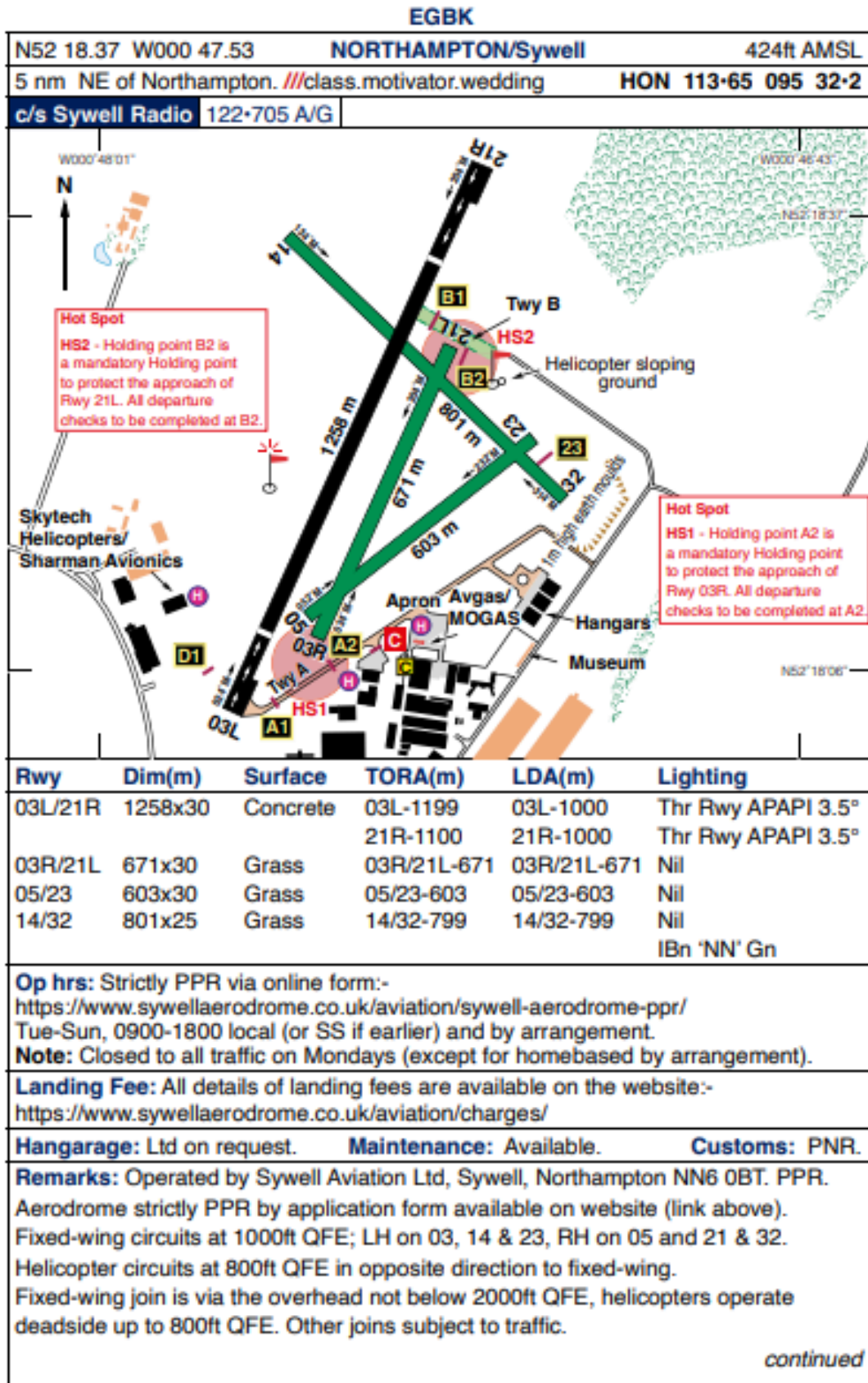


		Form B
Pilot ID	CIVA Unlimited Free Known	
		Flight #



# Sywell Airfield Plate:

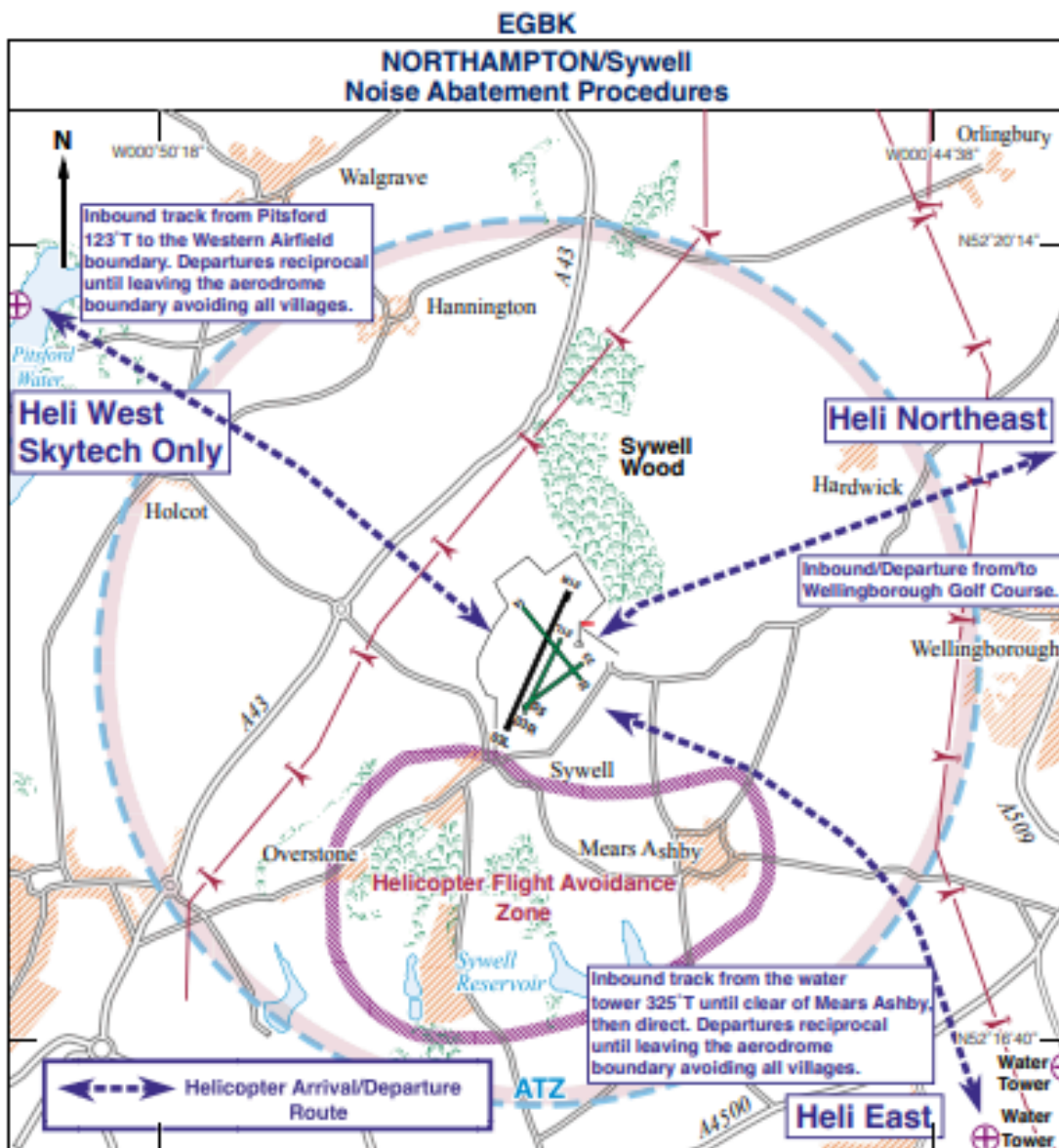
Reproduced by kind permission of Pooleys Flight Equipment



**Sywell Airfield Plate: Reproduced by kind permission of Pooleys Flight Equipment**
**EGBK**

N52 18.37 W000 47.53	<b>NORTHAMPTON/Sywell</b>	424ft AMSL
<p><b>Remarks (continued):</b></p> <p>No overhead or crosswind joins for Helicopters. Helicopters to land in the grassed central area (referred to as Midfield) remaining clear of active runways.</p> <p>Visiting helicopters are to join via Heli West (Skytech only), Heli East, Northeast (See noise abatement procedures).</p> <p>Heli East is not to be used when Runway 14/32 is in use.</p> <p>Heli Northeast is not to be used when Runway 05/23 is in use.</p> <p>Helicopters must not cross or make an approach to Runway 03L/21R or Runway 03R/21L including the respective runway approach paths. (Except home based operators conducting circuit training or by specific agreement with the Aerodrome Authority).</p> <p>Runway 03L/21R should be referred to as 03 Hard / 21 Hard via RTF.</p> <p>Runway 03R/21L should be referred to as 03 Grass / 21 Grass via the RTF.</p> <p>Departure checks to be completed at Hold A2 (Rwy 03) or at Hold B2 (Rwy 21).</p> <p>Parallel use of Rwys 03/21 Hard/Grass not permitted.</p> <p>When Rwys 03/21 in use, pilots to advise A/G of intention to use hard or grass runways.</p> <p>When grass runways unusable, expect lengthy backtracking of Rwy 03L/21R (Hard).</p> <p>Circuit training should only be conducted on one runway at any time.</p> <p>No apron markings, all parking at pilot's discretion.</p> <p>Start up and taxi intentions must be stated on 122-705.</p> <p>Helicopters requiring AVGAS should park on the circled 'H' at the fuel apron adjacent to the fuel pumps.</p> <p>Noise Abatement Chart - see overleaf.</p>		
<p><b>Warnings:</b></p> <p>All runways have non-standard white centre-line markings.</p> <p>Aerobatics take place through out the year, 3 nm radius ARP, up to 5000ft agl.</p> <p>No movements permitted during displays.</p> <p>A Small Arms Range (.22 Rifle and Clay Pigeon) is located approx 1000m NNW of the ARP between the approaches to Rwy 15 and 21.</p> <p>Intense bird activity at times, mainly Gulls and Corvids.</p>		
<p><b>Restaurant:</b> Restaurant, Refreshments and Hotel (59 bedrooms), with aircraft parking adjacent. Full conference facilities available.</p> <p>'Pilots Mess' Café adjacent to the tower.</p> <p><b>Taxi:</b> Available on request.</p>		
<p><b>Fuel:</b> 100LL, MOGAS, Jet A1. Visa, Mastercard, Switch and Delta.</p>	<p><b>Tel:</b> 01604 801630 Tower <b>Tel:</b> 01604 801621 Admin <b>Tel:</b> 01604 642111 Hotel <b>Email:</b> tower@sywellaerodrome.co.uk <b>Website:</b> www.sywellaerodrome.co.uk</p>	

Sywell Airfield Plate: Reproduced by kind permission of Pooleys Flight Equipment



Pilots are to avoid overflying settlements and noise sensitive areas (Overstone, Mears Ashby, Hardwick, Holcot, Hannington, Walgrave, Oringbury and where possible Sywell village).

Fixed wing circuits at 1000ft QFE; LH on 03, 14 & 23, RH on 05, 21 & 32.

Helicopter circuits at 800ft QFE in opposite direction to fixed wing.

All fixed-wing departures from Rwy 21L, 21R and 23 are requested to climb on runway track to 500ft agl before turning.

Helicopters should enter/exit the ATZ via either;

i. Heli West - Northern tip of Pitsford Reservoir N52 19 53.02 W000 51 23.39

ii. Heli East - Water Tower N52 16 13.43 W000 44 19.93

(Not to be used when Rwy 14/32 in use).

iii. Heli Northeast - Wellingborough Golf Course N52 19 39.27 W000 41 59.15

(Not to be used when Rwy 05/23 in use).