



APPENDIX 1 -

REGIONAL SIGNIFICANT AREA FOR SPORT (SASP) ASSESSMENT FOR PANSHANGER AERODROME
– PREPARED BY THE LIGHT AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION (2013)

APPENDIX

WELWYN HATFIELD LOCAL PLAN (2013-32)- EXAMINATION

STAGE 3 HEARING STATEMENT APPENDIX PREPARED BY SPORT ENGLAND:

Matter 4: Topic Specific Policies (SADM7: New and existing Community Services and Facilities)

Question 25: Is the permanent loss of Panshanger airfield contrary to national policy, in particular Paragraphs 28, 74 and 70 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)?

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25th January 2018

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Sport / Discipline: Air Sports

Name of Site:

**Panshanger Aerodrome
Panshanger Lane
Cole Green
Hertfordshire
SG14 2NH**

Regional SASP

	Relevance	Notes
<p>Competitions and Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> has held regional championships or events¹ and an inter-regional standard of competition or event, and is sustainable in that it is in a location which provides the support facilities/services necessary for that level of competition or event 	2	<p>More than 10 events have been held at the site since 2009. Some 50 resident pilots attended each event plus approximately 250 visiting pilots in total.</p> <p>The infrastructure and well-maintained grass runway were established in the 1930s and now include a clubhouse and cafe, briefing and demonstration rooms, maintenance facilities, flying instructors, aircraft for hire and hangers. This provides all the facilities needed for the sport at all levels</p>

¹ Regional competitions or events held since 1994 (year to be determined by the individual sport)

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<p>Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> has held regional team training or events², or individual elite training or participation for that or any of its disciplines, and is sustainable in that it is in a location which provides the support facilities/services necessary for that level of training or event 	<p>2</p>	<p>As well as supporting general aviation sport flying by providing the facilities required for visiting pilots and aircraft, the airfield has held regional aerobatic events since 1994 and holds its own annual aerobatic competition.</p> <p>Panshanger has its own aerobatic team of four aircraft. The aerodrome is used for elite aerobatic training by world championship level competitors.</p>
<p>Scarcity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> being the only facility or resource for participation in that sport or any of its disciplines, or one of a limited number of facilities, in that region 	<p>2</p>	<p>The location of the airfield between the three large areas of commercial, controlled air space; Heathrow, Luton and Stansted is of great importance in providing a safe area of operation in the relatively congested air space of the region.</p> <p>There are 2 other sport aerodromes in the area north of London but all are heavily subscribed and are close to capacity for aircraft parking. Because of the proximity of the control zones to the north and south there are no other similar facilities in the region to the north or south.</p> <p>Because of the scarcity of air sports resource in the South-East and within reach of London, Panshanger is important to the region. The site is only 20 minutes drive from North London.</p>
<p>Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> being important due to the longevity³ and continuity of use in that location by that sport and because it cannot be re-created at a different location 	<p>2</p>	<p>Prior to 1940 the airfield was known as Holwell Hyde landing ground and the site has been used for light aircraft flying with some interruptions to the present day. The hangars and facilities, many of which are historic buildings, including the grass runway cannot be re-created in a different location in the area.</p> <p>Land cost and planning hurdles make it impossible to establish a new or replacement facility in the South East and within easy reach of London</p>
<p>Non-competitive users</p>	<p>2</p>	

² Regional team / elite training held since 1994 (year to be determined by the individual sport)

³ Longevity should be considered in the context of the overall lifespan of the sport

APPENDIX 1 -



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • being important to the non-competitive parts of that sport 		<p>The airfield is currently home to the North London Flying School which provides individual pilot training as well as group instruction. Approved by the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) as a Flight Training Organisation (FTO). Training for PPL, NPPL, Co-Pilots, Multi Engine, IMC Rating & Aerobatics and has been an approved maintenance facility since 1993.</p> <p>Training facilities are scarce in the greater London area and Panshanger supports a substantial proportion of the accessible training capacity. Because of its location it is particularly strong in introducing newcomers to the sport.</p>
<p>Facilities Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ having been identified as being regionally important in that sport's strategic development plan documents. 	<p>2</p>	<p>The LAA does not have a written strategy for aerodromes but recognises the pressure on land use particularly near major population centres. It has identified Panshanger as being of regional importance for air sports because it offers facilities in the south-east where it would be extremely difficult to establish alternatives.</p>
<p>Physical Characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Characteristics of site – loss of which would jepodise the quality of the site 	<p>2</p>	<p>Panshanger has an 875m grass runway orientated to align close to the prevailing wind and to deconflict from the commercial controlled airspace to the north and south. It offers several grass taxiways, aircraft parking and hangarage and an excellent clubhouse and restaurant.</p> <p>A very compact site it offers an excellent and well managed sports and recreational aviation facility. Close to London it has good access and is within reach of a large population base.</p>
<p>Number and Range of Users</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is important because of the numbers of people using it from any level of that sport 	<p>2</p>	<p>It is estimated that aircraft movements (a movement being either a take off or landing) at this site number approximately 5,500 per year; the vast majority of these being sports and recreational aviation flights.</p> <p>The location of Panshanger enables the flying school to attract interest from the large population base of greater North London which spreads interest in air sports and provides business security.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">Additional Information	The grass runway is particularly suitable for vintage and other sport aircraft which have a tail wheel configuration of undercarriage.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Is the site a SASP for another sport?	No

N - Neutral	1 - Slightly Relevant
2 - Strongly Relevant	n/a not applicable

GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN SASPS' CRITERIA

'sports facility or resource'	A site which provides the opportunity for participation in sport or recreation, whether that participation is organised or not, and whether it is competitive or not.
'international or national competition or championships'	Competition which is authorised by that sport's international federation or national governing body.
'support facilities or services'	For competition these may be assembly and parking areas, medical treatment and doping control facilities, judging areas, spectator facilities etc. For training these may be conditioning facilities, medical treatment and testing facilities, meeting rooms, accommodation etc. Individual sports should consider how important these are to the operation of their sport.
'national team training'	National team or squad training organised by that sport's national governing body.
'individual/group elite training'	Training by individuals or groups at a world class performance or potential world class level, as defined by that national governing body.
'scarcity value'	Its value because of the demands put on the resource. Individual sports will be able to assess the scarcity value of the facility to the sport because of the demands put on it that cannot currently be met elsewhere.
'rarity value/ uniqueness'	A facility or resource may be rare/unique by being the only one available for that sport, or be only one of a limited number and therefore, by its very nature, is rare.
'cannot be re-created'	Because a resource may be a naturally occurring feature, or particularly relevant to its location, it cannot therefore be re-created elsewhere.
'heritage', 'longevity and continuity of use'	Some long established sports can trace their use of individual facilities back in time by centuries, and can demonstrate a continuity of use at them. Hence those facilities are significant in heritage terms. Individual sports will make a judgement on the age of a site in relation to the total life of the sport.

'numbers of participants'

Because facilities vary in size and capacity, the numbers of participants required to make a particular facility 'significant', will vary greatly by facility and sport. Individual sports will make a judgement of the numbers required to meet this criterion in relation to the facility and the sport.

'strategic development plan'

This will include documents such as NGB Facilities Strategies, Whole Sport Plans or One Stop Plan.

'physical characteristics of site'

All sites will have specific site characteristics which are fundamental to its ability to perform as a national or regional venue. These characteristics should be identified.