



Land Use Planning near Airports: Resolving Bird Hazard Conflicts

Andy Baxter
Bird Management Unit
Central Science Laboratory
U.K.



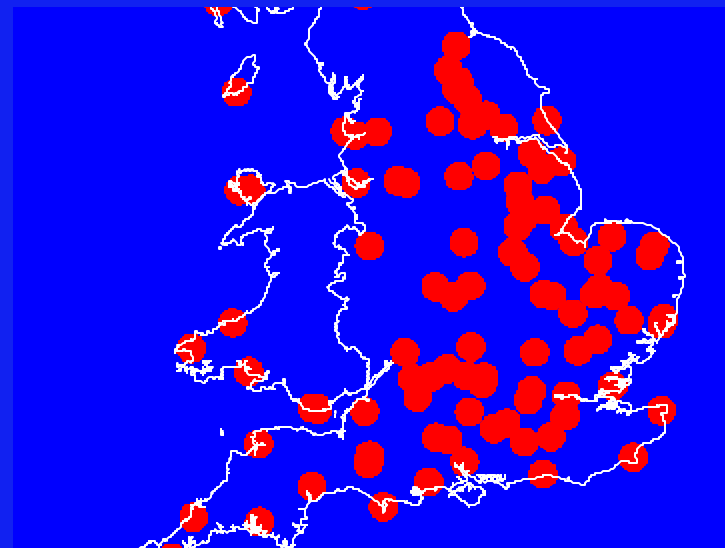
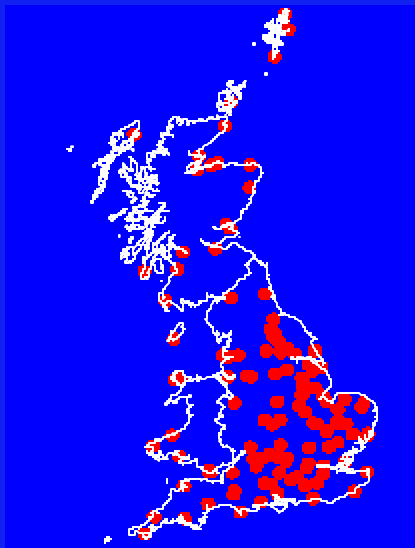
Safeguarding

- Any proposal within a 13 kilometre radius of an airfield *which has the potential to create a birdstrike hazard* is required, by law, to be referred to a safeguarding authority
- Proposals can include:
 - Landfill sites, Water storage reservoirs
 - Nature reserves, Land restoration plans
 - Recreational and amenity sites
- Hazard dependent on the type of proposal and existing bird populations



Introduction

- In the UK, airport safeguarding procedures severely restrict land availability



- Developments outside the safeguarded area may still require control measures or objection.

Examples of Problem bird species in the UK

Geese on nature reserves



Gulls on landfill sites



Examples of Problem bird species in the UK

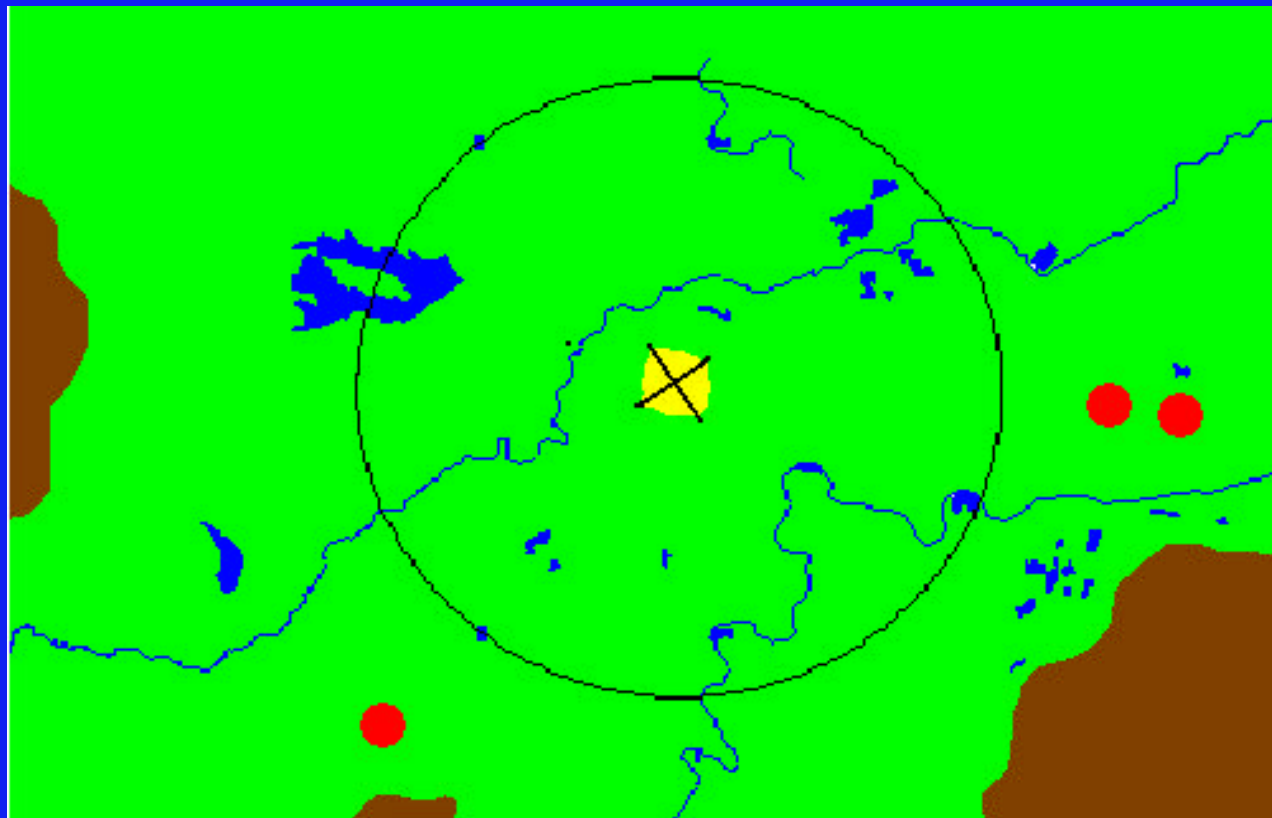
Starlings and corvids
in woodland



Objection or compromise?

- Where is the proposed hazard in relation to the airport?
- What species of birds are involved?
- What effect will the proposal have on existing bird populations?
- Proposals may create an unacceptable risk and an objection must be sustained
- If not, can a compromise be reached?

Locating least hazardous areas



KEY



Airfield



Woodland



Landfill
Site



Water body

Resolving conflict

- Flight safety is paramount
- Safeguarding authorities must oppose outright if a proposal will increase the risk of birdstrike
- Background information; desk studies, literature research and site surveys are essential
- Liaison with landowners, developers and conservationists at an early stage can help with the development of management plans
- Aim to promote biodiversity without compromising flight safety



It can be done!

- Recent UK developments have allowed both landfills and nature reserves to be established close to airfields
- Examples include:

Wildfowl exclusion on rivers near Heathrow



Bird control at Landfill Sites



- Bird netting enclosures near airport
- Alternative bird deterrence at greater distance
- Strict enforceable failure criteria is paramount

Management at Nature Reserves



- Habitat Management: To reduce hazardous birds
- Bird Management : To remove / deter hazardous birds

Summary

- Flight safety is paramount
- Objection must be sustained against proposals where the increased risk of birdstrike is unacceptable
- All proposals should be evaluated on their individual merit
- Background research and information can determine whether a compromise can be reached

