



**RCA Flying Update - Winter 2021**

JANUARY

**We would like to wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year from the team at Solent Airport and to provide the first of a new, quarterly update on our business - Solent Airport E-Newsletter.**

Our plan is to make this available to anyone with an interest in activities here, including local residents' associations, business groups, companies based at the airport and their teams.

We feel that this is particularly important during the Covid crisis as we are not able to meet face to face with those of you who have a close interest in the airport's operations and plans. Whilst so many of us are having to spend time in lockdown, it is hard to ensure that we keep everyone up to date, informed and involved. Our aim through this newsletter is to let you know what is happening at the airport and also address any particular issues that are causing concern.

Despite the crisis, Solent Airport continues to operate successfully with support from the CAA and all our airport users, adding value to the local economy and assisting in the development of regional connectivity.

It also provides a critically important base for the Search and Rescue activity operating from Solent. In the past year alone Search and Rescue movements have exceeded 1,300 in response to incidents at sea and along the South Coast to rescue people and save lives.

Some issues have been raised recently by residents about the airport's operations and future plans. We are particularly keen to address a couple of unfounded rumours which we are aware have caused unnecessary concern.



The annual CAP on aircraft movements (take-offs and landings) as part of the planning conditions for the airport, remains at 40,000 a year. With actual flight movements currently in the region of around 25,000 a year, there are absolutely no plans to seek an increase beyond this.

There are also no plans to introduce more night flights from Solent Airport, beyond the current emergency and Search and Rescue operations that we have today. The plans for airfield lighting for which we have been seeking approval for some time, relate to an aspiration to extend flying hours during autumn and winter months when daylight is restricted, as well as enabling the operation of corporate aircraft and potentially small passenger aircraft. There are no plans to extend our current operational hours.



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Other developments which you may find of interest and which will enable us to provide an enhanced offer to our airport users and future customers include the following:

Aerodrome Flight Information Service (AFIS). This service which was introduced in December 2019, enables the radio officers in the Control Tower to have increased control of the aircraft on the ground as well as providing helpful information to airspace users.

Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) is the GPS of the aviation world and is part of our longer term vision to enhance the operation and future success of the Airport.

The building works in respect of the National Grid Interconnexion France / Angleterre (IFA2), a facility which connects the electricity systems of France and the UK, are now complete.

Between them, these developments represent significant investment in the future success of the airport, the businesses that operate here and the local economy.

We look forward to the time when our doors and those of Café 05 are open again and the Airport tours and visits offered to Residents Associations, local school groups and many others which proved so successful in past years, can be offered again.

In the meantime, please keep in touch either by checking into our website or by using our email address: [ops@solentairport.co.uk](mailto:ops@solentairport.co.uk), which is the best way to contact us about any questions or concerns you may have.





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Finally, we hope that you stay safe and well during these challenging times and look forward to welcoming you to Solent Airport again once it is safe to do so.

With our Best Wishes

The Solent Airport Management Team

**Airport Technical Information**

Runway category:	CAA Licensed - Visual - Code ZB
ICAO Designator:	EGHF
Airfield Location:	1nm NNW of Lee-on-the-Solent
Airport ARP:	50° 48'53" N 001° 12'20" W
Grid Reference:	SU 561 019 GB
Radio:	118.925 MHz Call sign - 'Lee Radio' (AGCS)
Opening Hours:	7 days per week
Airfield elevation:	+32ft

You can also visit us at,

[www.solentairport.co.uk](http://www.solentairport.co.uk)

We look forward to personally welcoming you to Solent Airport in the near future

**Martyn Francis**  
Airport Manager