

**RAF Shawbury Helicopter Liaison Group Special Edition
Newsletter for Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Parish & Town Councils**

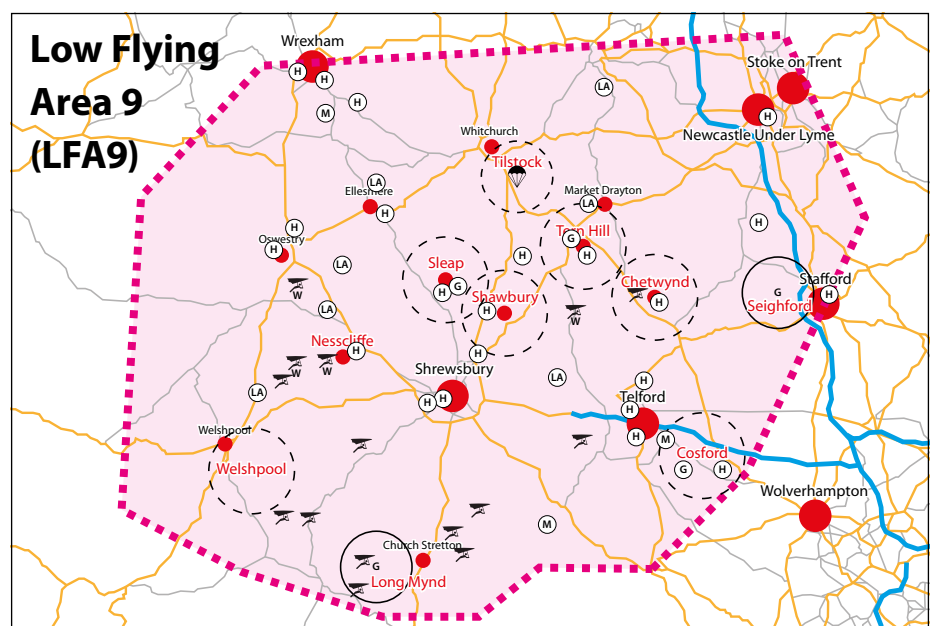
This special edition of the Helicopter Liaison Group Newsletter has been published to seek your support in raising awareness about drone safety in the Shropshire skies.

Drones are becoming more popular and hence prevalent, but not all users are aware of the legal requirements designed to keep all airspace users safe. We would be grateful if, where possible, this information could be shared by you locally.

What You Need to Know About Sharing the Skies Over Shropshire

**WE LIKE DRONES.
HONESTLY, WE DO**

Drones are brilliant, the technology is incredible, the photography is stunning, and the community around them is fantastic. We've even held our own Drone Awareness Day here at RAF Shawbury, and the response from local operators has been brilliant.



But here's the thing, we also fly helicopters. Lots of them. And while drones and helicopters can absolutely share the same beautiful Shropshire skies, it works a whole lot better when everyone knows what everyone else is up to.

We have had a few instances over the last year of drones not being where they should be and presenting themselves as a possible hazard to aviation, be it military or civilian.

So, before you head out for a fly, please give us a quick call or drop us an email, ideally 24 hours before you plan to take off anywhere within Low Flying Area 9 (LFA9). It takes two minutes and genuinely helps keep everyone safe.

Station Operations Flight ☎ 01939 250351 Ext 7163 ✉ SHY-OPS@mod.gov.uk

WHY DO OUR HELICOPTERS FLY SO LOW?

Fair question! It might look a bit dramatic when a helicopter thunders past at treetop height, but there's a very good reason for it.

The RAF has a genuine need to train pilots to fly low, really low, so tactically,

when they're deployed on operations around the world, they're ready for anything. RAF Shawbury is home to No.1 Flying Training School, where the next generation of military helicopter pilots learn their trade right here over the fields of Shropshire.

All of our flying is carefully regulated by the Military Aviation Authority and follows strict rules designed to keep both our crews and the public safe. We don't just make it up as we go along, hours of planning go into every sortie.

THE BIT YOU REALLY NEED TO READ!

We know rules aren't the most exciting part of flying a drone, but these ones genuinely matter, so here's the short version:

You need a Flyer ID. If your drone or model aircraft weighs 100g or more, flying without one is against the law. Getting your ID is straightforward, just follow the CAA Drone Code at www.caa.co.uk/drones and you'll find everything you need.

Breaking the rules has real consequences. Serious offences can lead to fines or even imprisonment. And under the Armed Forces Bill 2026,

military personnel now have the power to deal with drones that threaten Defence sites independently, so it really is worth flying responsibly.

Your drone is a legal aircraft. Under the CAA Air Navigation Order 2016, Articles 240 and 241, flying in a way that endangers another aircraft or person is a criminal offence. Even if it's unintentional.

If you see a drone operating in an area that gives you concern, please also call us. It maybe your call could be key to preventing an incident or accident.

WHERE MIGHT YOU ENCOUNTER OUR AIRCRAFT?

Take a look at the map on this newsletter, it shows the areas in Shropshire where you're most likely to come across low-flying military aircraft. But please remember, our helicopters can legitimately operate almost anywhere and, for tactical reasons, right down to ground level, so it's always worth staying alert wherever you are.

If you want somewhere safe and structured to fly, your local drone or model aircraft club is a great option, they'll help you fly well and fly legally.

DRONE AWARENESS DAY

Each year we open our doors and invite some local drone operators to come and see what we actually do. It's a genuinely great day, they get a chance to see the aircraft up close, understand where our flight paths tend to be, meet the team, and tell us what they need from us too. It's very much a two-way conversation.

STAY IN TOUCH

Whether you want to let us know about a planned flight, report something unusual in the sky, or just ask a question, we're always happy to hear from you.

☎ 01939 250351 Ext 7163 ✉ SHY-OPS@mod.gov.uk

Fly safe, fly legal, and enjoy the skies, there's plenty of room for all of us. If we work together.

