

LASER ILLUMINATIONS OF AIRCRAFT - A GROWING THREAT

Laser Interference - A UK Law Enforcement Perspective

Inspector Mark Callaghan
London Gatwick Airport



Sussex Police
Serving Sussex
www.sussex.police.uk



AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION





► Scale of Problem

► Legislation

► Barriers

► Prevention



Policing at U.K. Airports



AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

U.K. Laser Incidents

- ▶ 2007 - 29
- ▶ 2008 - 178
- ▶ 2009 - 737
- ▶ 2010 - 1,786
- ▶ 2011 - 1,800 (to end Sept)

(U.K. Civil Aviation Authority)



AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

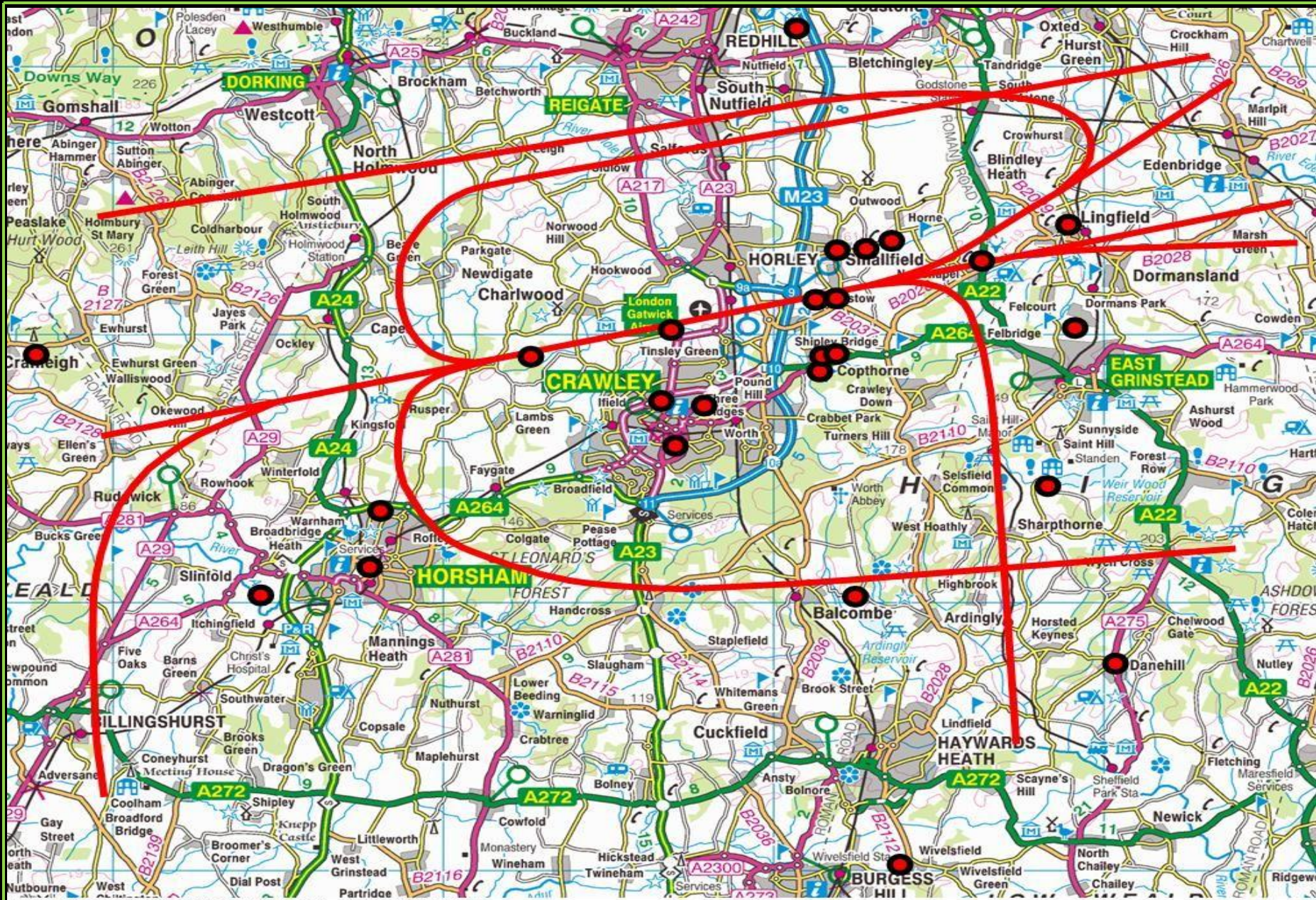




Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Data Crown Copyright, [enter organisation] *100023067*



AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Data Crown Copyright, Sussex Police *10023067*



AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

Legislation

- ▶ Recklessly or negligently acting in a manner likely to endanger an aircraft or any person therein - 5 years imprisonment and or fine £5,000
- ▶ Direct or shine any light at any aircraft in flight so as to dazzle or distract the pilot of the aircraft - fine £2,500





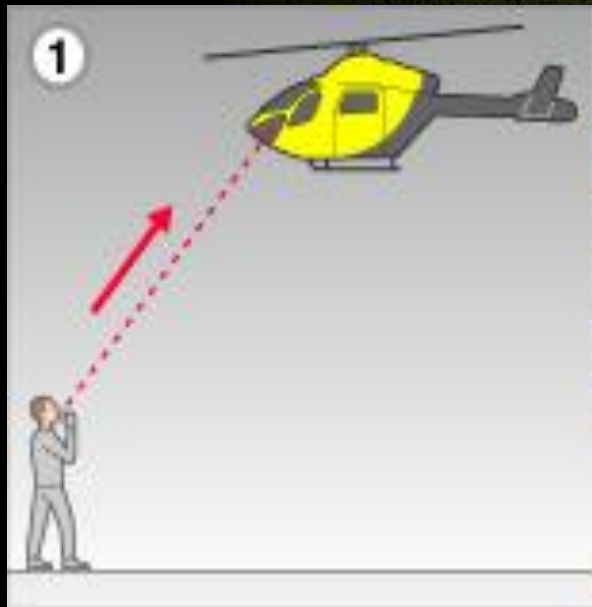
AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION



Evidence Gathering

- ▶ Specific location from flight deck
- ▶ Willingness of pilots to provide statement
- ▶ Timely reporting by ATC to police
- ▶ Availability of police resources to respond





Prevention

- ▶ Preferable to Enforcement
- ▶ Targeted Intervention by Police
- ▶ Media
- ▶ Intelligence Picture



Conclusion

- ▶ Effective legislation in place
- ▶ Co-ordinated approach desirable
- ▶ Targeted prevention key to reduction
- ▶ Legislation to make possession in public an offence
- ▶ Regulate worldwide sales of lasers over 1mw strength



AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION



Food for Thought ...

In the
developed
world, which
is more likely
to bring an
aircraft down?



AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

LASER ILLUMINATIONS OF AIRCRAFT - A GROWING THREAT

Laser Interference - A UK Law Enforcement Perspective

mark.callaghan@sussex.pnn.police.uk



AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

