

# Glossary

This document contains some of the more complex or technical terms used in ICCAN's Report on the future of aviation noise management and case for change documents, with brief explanations and definitions given to aid understanding.

For explanations of other subject-specific terms which are not included in the below table, please refer to the following ICCAN publications on the links below:

- [Review of the Survey of Noise Attitudes 2014](#)
- [Review of aviation noise metrics and measurement](#)
- [Aviation noise and public health: Rapid evidence assessment](#)
- [Review of airport noise insulation schemes](#)

Term	Definition
Above aerodrome level (AAL)	The height above the highest point of the aerodrome
Acoustic insulation	Building elements or structures used to reduce sound transmission. For example, acoustic glazing, acoustic ventilators. See also noise insulation and sound insulation
Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP)	A document setting out the detailed structure of the UK's airspace and which is also intended to satisfy international requirements for the exchange of aeronautical information
Airport Coordination Limited (ACL)	Airport Coordination Limited conducts airport slot coordination in the UK
Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP)	A public or private entity providing air navigation services for civilian (as opposed to military) air traffic
Airport Consultative Committee (ACC)	Airport Consultative Committees provide a forum where airports can engage with key stakeholders in the local area, including communities. All airports are required by law to have one

Term	Definition
Airports Commission	An independent body established in 2012 to “identify if, and evaluate how, additional aviation capacity should be met in the short, medium and long term”. The Commission submitted its final report in 2015
Air Traffic Control (ATC)	A ground-based service which ensures the separation of aircraft operating in controlled airspace
Airspace modernisation programme	A programme co-sponsored by the Department for Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority to modernise UK airspace with the objectives of increasing capacity and addressing environmental challenges. This is to be delivered through updating airspace designs, operational procedures and using new technologies
Ambient noise	Background noise or any sound other than the sound being monitored, which is known as primary noise
Auxiliary Power Unit (APU)	Allows an aircraft to have electrical power while on the ground unconnected to Fixed Electrical Ground Power and with its engines switched off
Balanced Approach	The UK Government’s approach to managing aircraft noise is based on principles of the International Civil Aviation Organization’s (ICAO) Balanced Approach. The Balanced Approach is a program for addressing aircraft noise at the individual airport level and considers four elements: (1) reduction of noise at source, (2) land-use planning and management, (3) noise abatement operational procedures and (4) operating restrictions
Beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS)	When an unmanned aircraft is operated by a remote pilot unable to maintain direct, unaided visual contact
British Standards (BS)	A British standard that has been created by a range of expert organisations and published by BSI, the British Standards Institution. A product displaying a BS standard (e.g. BS 1234) shows that the manufacturer claims to have made the product in accordance with the British Standard. BS can also publish guidance, e.g. BS 8233 and codes of practice
British Standards Institution (BSI)	The national standards body of the United Kingdom
Competent authority	The competent authority is the body responsible for operating restrictions at an airport. Currently the ‘competent authority’ is the airport operator, except where the airport is designated under

Term	Definition
	section 78 of the 1982 Civil Aviation Act. In such cases the competent authority is the Secretary of State for Transport
Continuous Climb Operations (CCO)	An aircraft operating technique enabled by airspace design, instrument procedure design and facilitated by Air Traffic Control. It permits an aircraft to climb continuously from the moment it takes off until it reaches its initial cruise altitude without 'stepping up' through intermediate flight levels
Designated Airports	Any airport designated for the purposes of section 78 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 which allows the Secretary of State to require action to be taken to avoid, limit or mitigate the effect of noise from aircraft. Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted are the three airports currently designated for these purposes
Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC) (END)	Directive 2002/49/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2002 relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This has been transposed separately into national legislation by England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland
European Standard (EN)	European Standards are documents that have been ratified by one of the three European Standardization Organizations (CEN, CENELEC or ETSI). These standards include requirements and/or recommendations in relation to products, systems, processes or services. They are also used to describe a measurement or test method. European standards adopted by the UK are denoted by BS EN
Electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL)	A type of electric aircraft that can hover, take off, and land vertically
Grading of Recommendations , Assessment, Development and Evaluations (GRADE)	A method of assessing the certainty in evidence and the strength of recommendations in health care
Ground operations	All aspects of aircraft handling at airports as well as aircraft movement around the aerodrome, except on active runways

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Hedonic Pricing	Hedonic pricing is a model that identifies price factors according to the premise that price is determined both by internal characteristics of the good being sold and external factors affecting it
Instrument Landing System (ILS)	A precision runway approach aid employing two radio beams to provide pilots with vertical and horizontal guidance during the approach. It consists of a localiser and a glideslope
International Organization for Standardization (ISO)	The ISO promotes worldwide proprietary, industrial, and commercial standards. It sets international standards and has representatives from various national standards organizations. International standards adopted by the UK are designated BS ISO
Likert scale	A five (or seven) point scale which is used to measure attitudes, individuals express how much they agree or disagree with a statement
NATS En-Route PLC (NERL)	NERL is the sole provider of civilian en-route air traffic control in the UK and is regulated by the CAA. NERL is funded by route charges for the provision of air traffic services
Noise action plans (NAP)	Noise action plans provide a framework to manage environmental noise and its effects. The Environmental Noise Directive, adopted into UK law after Brexit, requires significant noise sources including major airports to be evaluated every five years and action plans developed. The latest round of action planning was completed in 2019
Noise Envelope	A concept that creates balance between aviation growth and noise reduction and incentivises the reduction of noise at source. A noise envelope should be agreed among stakeholders, take account of new technology and be appropriate for the airport in question. Noise envelopes can give local communities more certainty about the levels of noise they may expect in the future and could take the form of a movement cap, a maximum contour size, a quota count system or a limit on passenger numbers among others
Noise insulation	See Acoustic insulation
Non-designated airports	UK airports other than Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted
Operating restrictions	Restrictions on operation at an airport, such as those that might be put in place to reduce noise

Term	Definition
Perimeter approach	A form of noise insulation that insulates all aspects of the external façade of a building
Permitted development rights (PDR)	Permitted development rights allow the improvement or extension of homes without the need to apply for planning permission
Polluter Pays Principle	Those who produce the pollution should pay the cost to manage it and prevent damage to human health or the environment.
Section 106 agreements	Legal agreements between local authorities and developers, these are linked to planning permissions and can also be known as planning obligations
Seldom heard groups	Individuals or groups of people, more traditionally referred to as ‘harder to reach’, who are less likely to already be involved in aviation or engaged by airports, and who may belong to one or more of the nine ‘protected characteristics’ set out in the Equality Act 2010. This may include people who are disabled, young adults, older people or ethnic minority groups. It may also include people on a lower income
Sound insulation	See Acoustic insulation
Standard Instrument Departures (SIDs)	Aircraft taking off follow pre-defined routes. A SID is a coded departure procedure – a set of established manoeuvring instructions. The choice of SID used is decided by the runway in use, the airline and is predominately dictated by the destination of the aircraft
Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)	Standard operating procedures (SOPs) are universally recognised as being basic to safe aviation operations, that are used by Airlines, Airports, ATCs
Statutory nuisance	An unlawful interference with a person’s use or enjoyment of land or some right over, or in connection with it
The Gunning Principles	The founding legal principles applicable to public consultation in the UK
Unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)	An aircraft without a human pilot onboard. Sometimes referred to as ‘drones’ or ‘remotely piloted aircraft systems’
Urban air mobility (UAM)	Urban transportation systems that transport people by air, sometimes referred to as ‘flying taxis’

*Table 1 Glossary of terms used in ICCAN's report on the future of aviation noise management and case for change documents*