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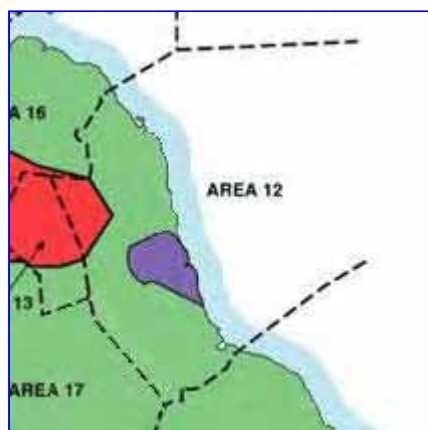
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Defence

About Defence

## Low Flying Area 12



### LFA 12

LFA 12 covers Northumberland, Durham and northeast North Yorkshire. Although there are no major flying stations located there, service establishments include the Army Field Training Centre at Otterburn, Albermarle Barracks at Ouston and the RAF air defence radar sites at Boulmer (which also houses a RAF Search and Rescue helicopter detachment) and Brunton.Â

LFA 12 is ideal for military low flying training. It contains some of the most challenging terrain for aircrew, has more unrestricted airspace above 2,000ft (giving increased flexibility to military aircraft to enter or leave airspace) than many other areas, is sparsely populated and generally experiences better weather than the rest of the country. Day-to-day transiting to low flying activity is also associated with the Army's use of Otterburn and aircraft using the Electronic Warfare Tactics Range at RAF Spadeadam in the adjoining LFA 13.

Usable area: 6,012 km<sup>2</sup> (2,321 sq mls). This represents 3.4% of the total usable area of the UK Low Flying System.

### Exercises and events taking place in LFA 12.

For a complete listing of Exercises and Events across the United Kingdom click the link on the right.

[LowFlying](#)

## in this section:

- [LFAs](#)

## Low Flying Hours Booked per Year

2002/03 : 3,430

2003/04 : 3,528

2004/05 : 3,750

2005/06 : 2,894

2006/07 : 2,724

## Related Pages

[How do I complain about military lowflying?](#)

[Exercises and Events - Complete Listing](#)

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## ANNEX A

### THE AMOUNT OF LOW FLYING TRAINING BY LFA (EXCLUDING DEDICATED USER AREAS)

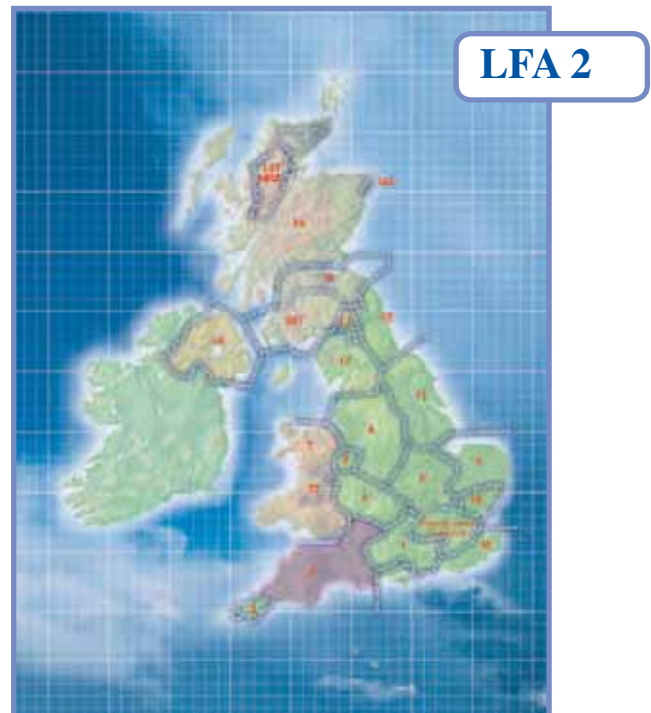
1. The low flying system is divided into a number of individual Low Flying Areas (LFAs). The features of each LFA are described below and the accompanying tables show the number of hours of booked low flying in each LFA for the training year 2006/2007, while the graphs provide an indication of trends in monthly activity over the last three years.

Note: The areas quoted as being available for low flying exclude those areas that would otherwise be within the LFA boundaries from which low flying aircraft are debarred, e.g. major exclusions, towns with populations of more than 10000 people, etc. A review of the usable areas was conducted based on the results of the 2001 Census resulting in additional town avoidance areas. The disparities in the hours booked figures are due to the effects of rounding down periods of just less than ½ hour.

#### LFA 2

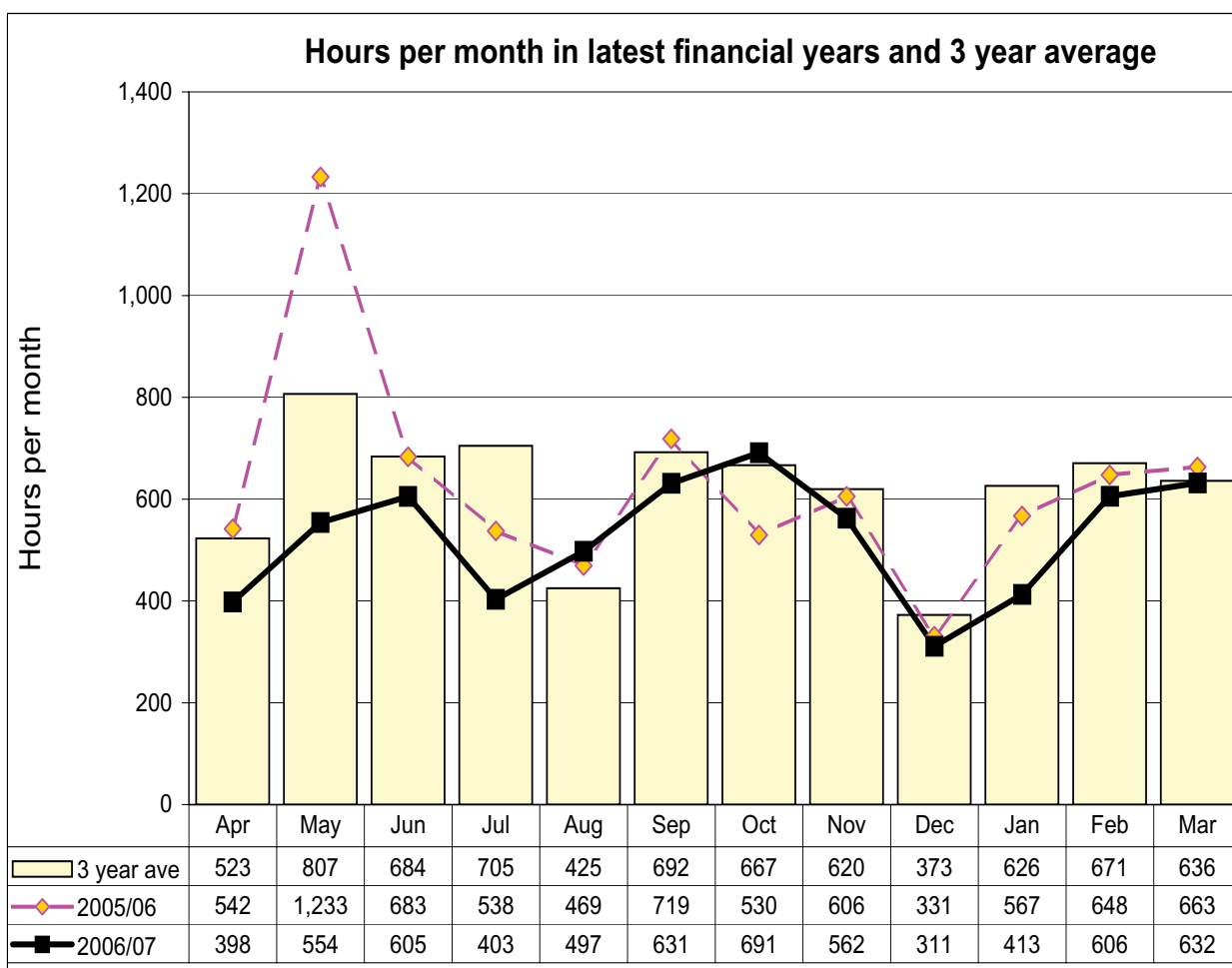
2. LFA 2 includes Devon, Dorset, Somerset, east Cornwall, southwest Gloucestershire and northwest Wiltshire. RNAS Yeovilton and RAF Lyneham (all major flying stations) as well as RAF St Mawgan, RAF Fairford, the Royal Naval Dockyard of Devonport, the Royal Marines barracks at Chivenor and Lymington, and the Army training area on Dartmoor are situated in the area. LFA2 has approximately 15,783 km<sup>2</sup> (6,094 sq mls) of air space available for low flying training, some 8.8% of the total useable overland area of the UKLFS.

3. Helicopters have a comparatively short range and this tends to restrict aircrew low flying training on RN Lynx and Sea King helicopters based at RNAS Yeovilton to areas close to the airfield. Additionally, Yeovilton based aircraft need to transit out and back overland to train over the sea. A significant number of RAF and Army Air Corps (AAC) helicopters train over Dartmoor, and Sea King helicopters routinely support RM training at Lymington and Chivenor. Hercules transport aircraft from RAF Lyneham are a major user of LFA2 because a number of drop zones are maintained on Exmoor, Dartmoor and in the area surrounding RAF Lyneham itself.





Hours booked for day and night low flying			
LFA2	TOTAL	FIXED WING	HELICOPTER
TY 2006/2007	6,304	1,709	4,595

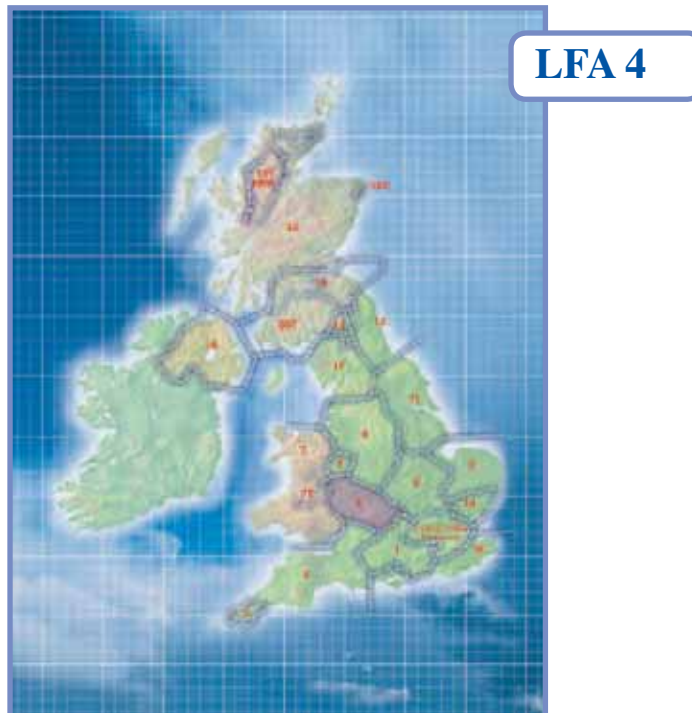




## LFA 4

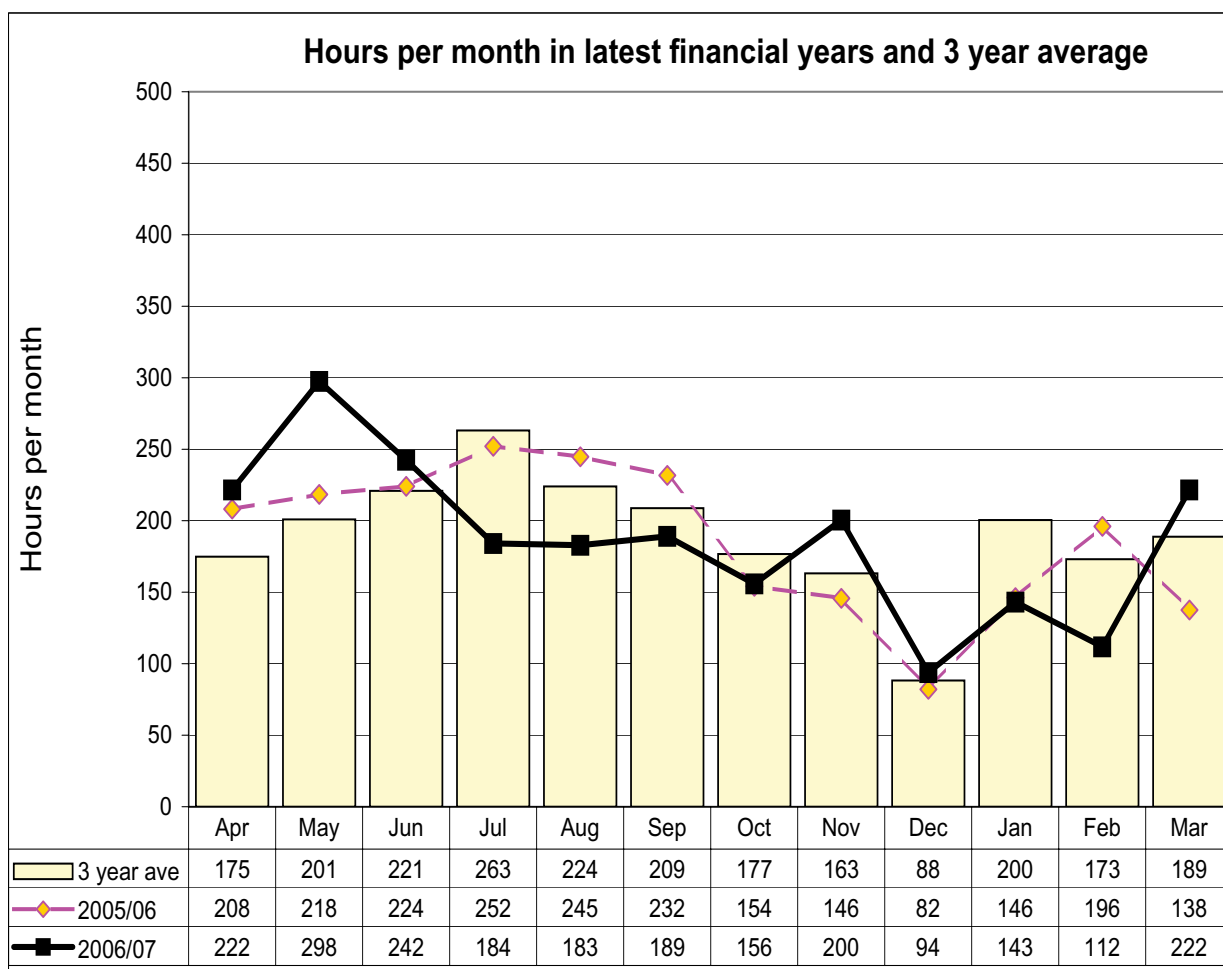
4. LFA 4 includes Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, south Shropshire, southwest Warwickshire and west Oxfordshire. RAF Brize Norton is the only major flying station in the area; other service establishments include RAF Innsworth, RAF Weston-on-the-Green, and the Army establishment at Hereford. It has approximately 8,440 km<sup>2</sup> (3,259 sq mls) of airspace available for low flying training, some 4.7% of the total usable overland area of the UKLFS.

5. As there is only one major flying station in LFA 4 the area is used predominantly by aircraft transiting elsewhere, particularly fixed wing aircraft en route to and from LFA 7 (Wales) and LFA2 (the West Country).





Hours booked for day and night low flying			
LFA4	TOTAL	FIXED WING	HELICOPTER
TY 2006/2007	2,244	1,027	1,217

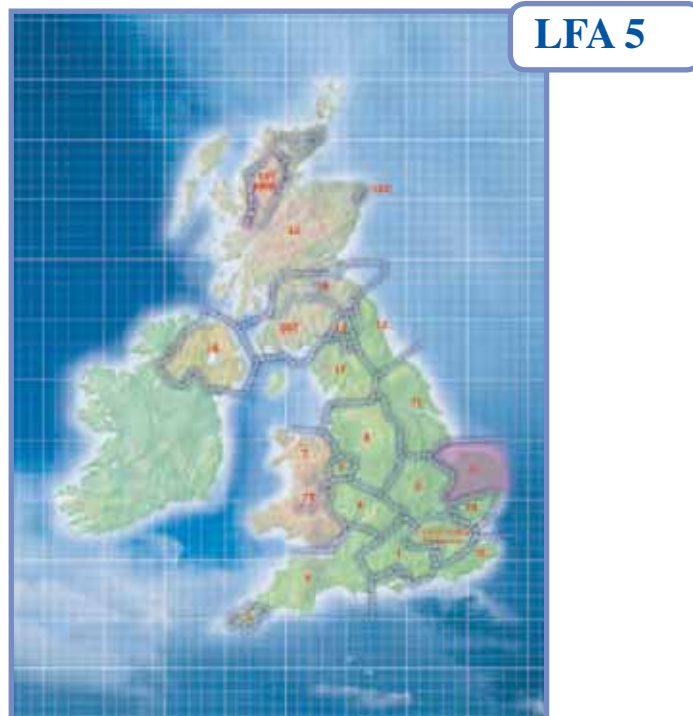




## LFA 5

6. LFA 5 includes Norfolk, north Suffolk and most of Cambridgeshire. RAF Marham, RAF Coltishall, RAF Mildenhall and RAF Lakenheath (all major flying stations), as well as RAF Honington, RAF Air Weapons Ranges at Holbeach and Wainfleet, and the Army training centre at Stanford Camp are situated within it. LFA 5 has approximately 5,782 km<sup>2</sup> (2,232sq mls) of airspace available for low flying training, some 3.2% of the total usable overland area of the UKLFS.

7. LFA 5 is a relatively small area. It is used by fixed wing aircraft, particularly those transiting to the Air Weapons Ranges. Helicopter activity is generally associated with Stanford and the United States Air Force 352 Special Operations Group based at RAF Mildenhall.

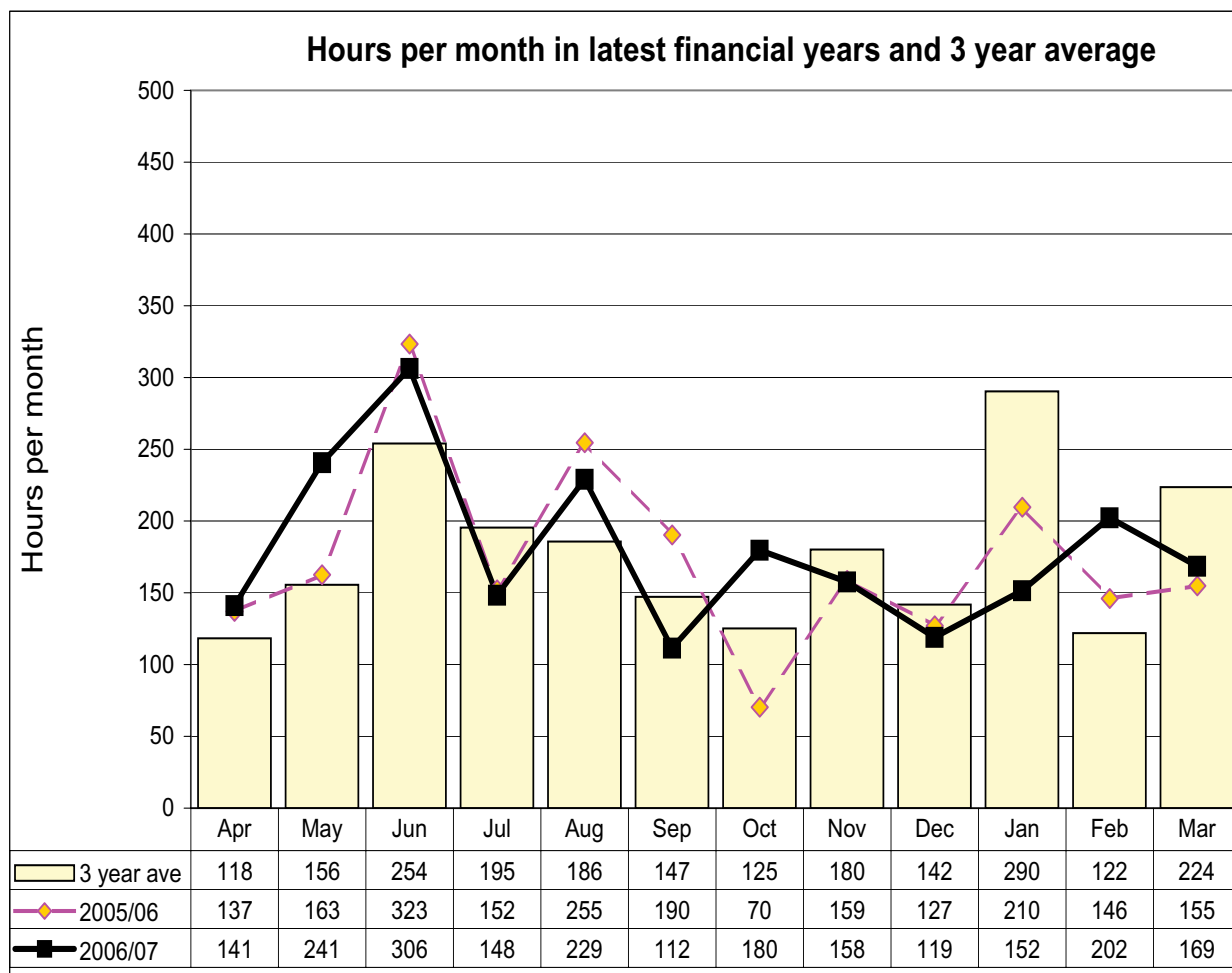


A-5





Hours booked for day and night low flying			
LFA5	TOTAL	FIXED WING	HELICOPTER
TY 2006/2007	2,156	833	1,323





## LFA 6

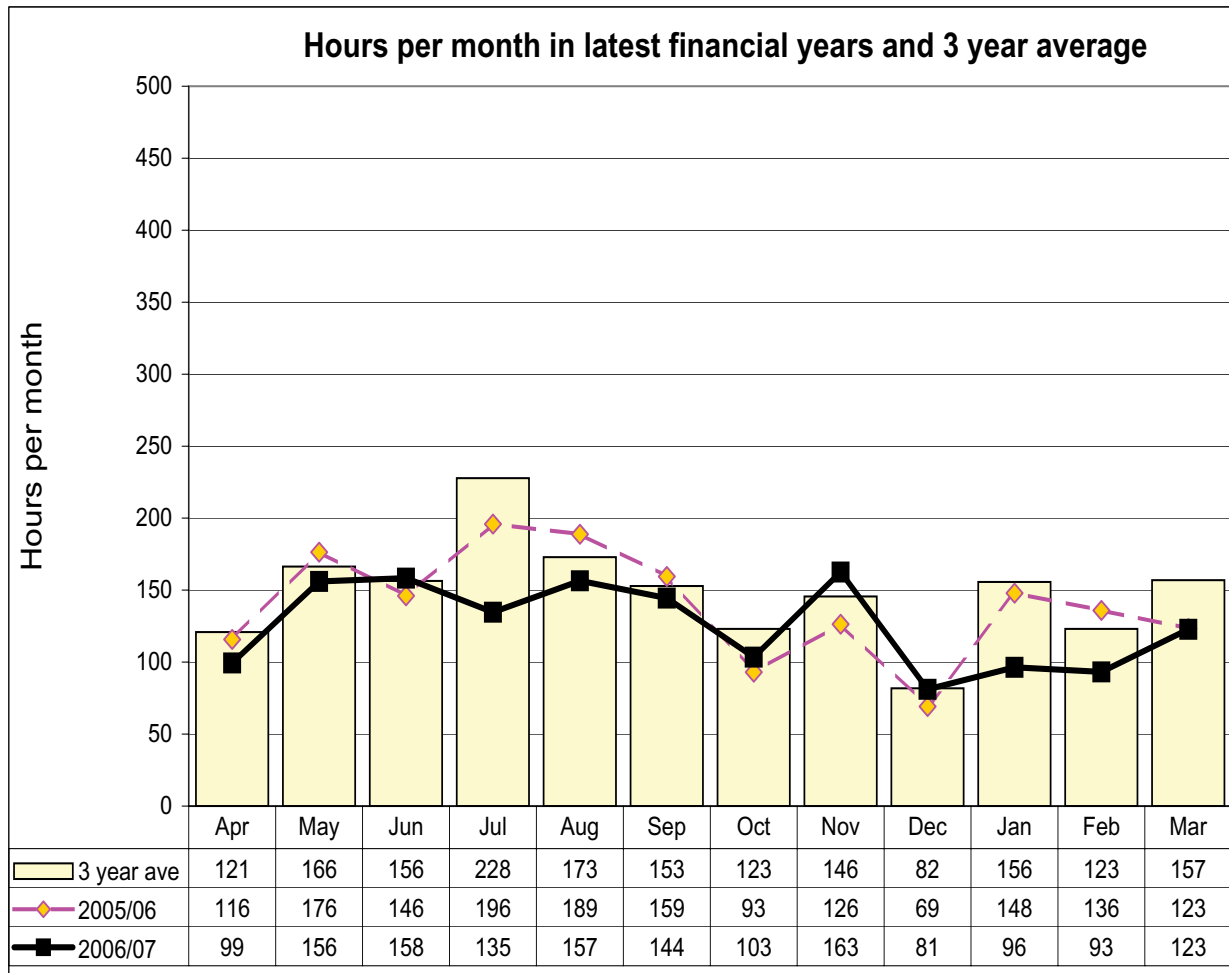
8. LFA 6 includes Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, Rutland and parts of Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire; RAF Wittering and RAF Cottesmore (two major flying stations), as well as RAF Henlow, RAF Brampton, RAF Wyton and Bassingbourne Barracks are located in the area. It has approximately 9,308 km<sup>2</sup> (3,594 sq mls) of airspace available for low flying training, some 5.2% of the total usable overland area of the UKLFS.

9. Much of the low flying activity in LFA 6 involves aircraft transiting to and from the Air Weapons Ranges on the east coast, or aircraft from RAF bases in the area flying to and from Wales and the West of England. It is also extensively used by training aircraft based in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire.





Hours booked for day and night low flying			
LFA6	TOTAL	FIXED WING	HELICOPTER
TY 2006/2007	1,509	736	773

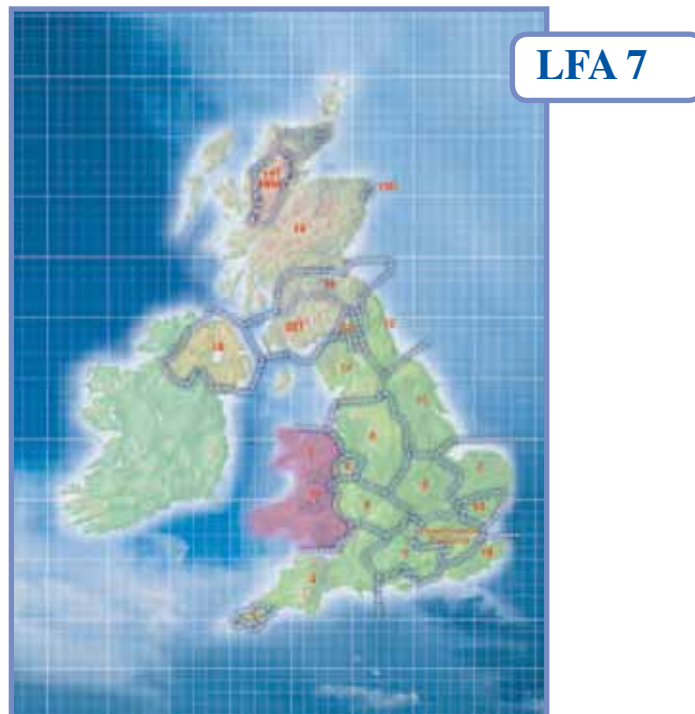




## LFA 7

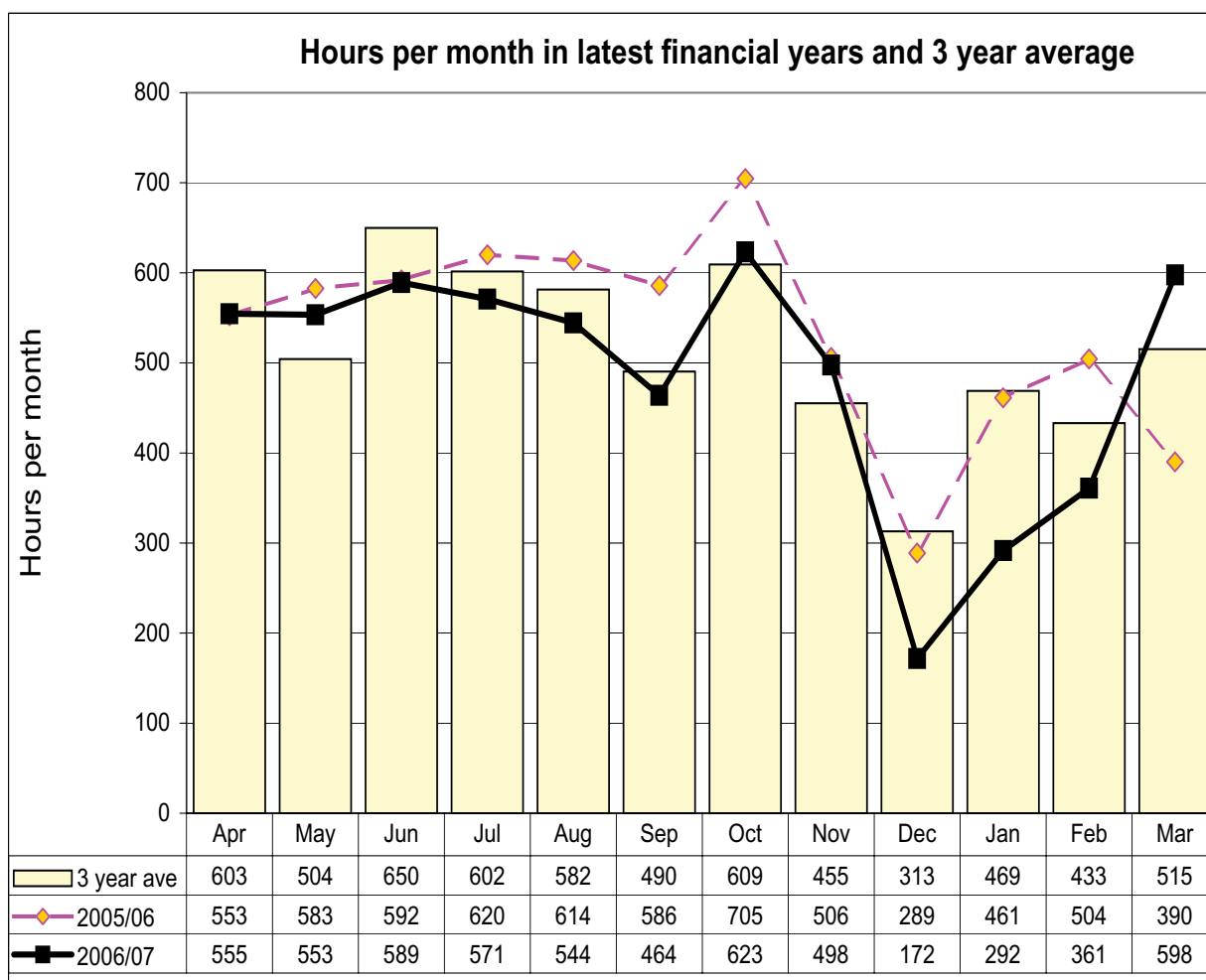
10. LFA 7 includes the whole of Wales except for a small area northeast of Powys, which is in LFA 9 (see Annex C). RAF Valley (a major flying station), RAF St Athan and the Air Weapons Range at Pembrey Sands, Army Barracks at Brawdy and Field Training centres at Castlemartin and Sennybridge, and the Royal Artillery range at Manorbier are all in the area. The range at Manorbier, near Tenby, sees considerable amount of usage for activities where aircraft are working in support of ground forces. It has approximately 20,135 km<sup>2</sup> (7,774 sq mls) of airspace available for low flying training, some 11.2% of the total usable overland area of the UKLFS.

11. The Welsh landscape and little controlled airspace above 2,000ft (offering increased flexibility for military aircraft to enter or leave the lower airspace), combine to make LFA7 a key training are for military low flying training. RAF advanced fast-jet pilot training is carried out at RAF Valley using Hawk aircraft, the range limitations of which generally mean that most of the associated flying activity needs to be carried out locally, some of it using the Pembrey Range. Much of the helicopter activity is associated with Castlemartin and Sennybridge, RAF Search & Rescue training at RAF Valley, Support Helicopter and AAC aircrew pre-deployment training for overseas operations and the Defence Helicopter Flying School at RAF Shawbury in the adjacent LFA9.





Hours booked for day and night low flying			
LFA7	TOTAL	FIXED WING	HELICOPTER
TY 2006/2007	5,820	3,524	2,296

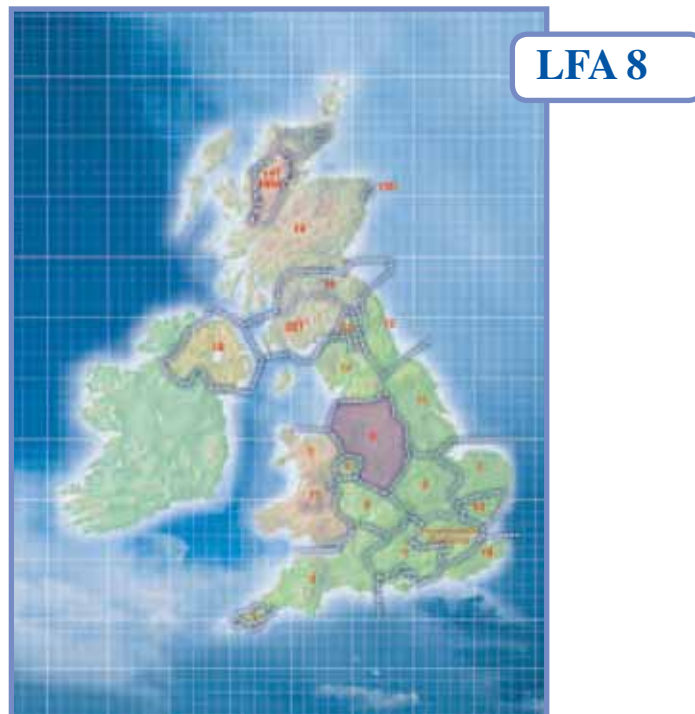




## LFA 8

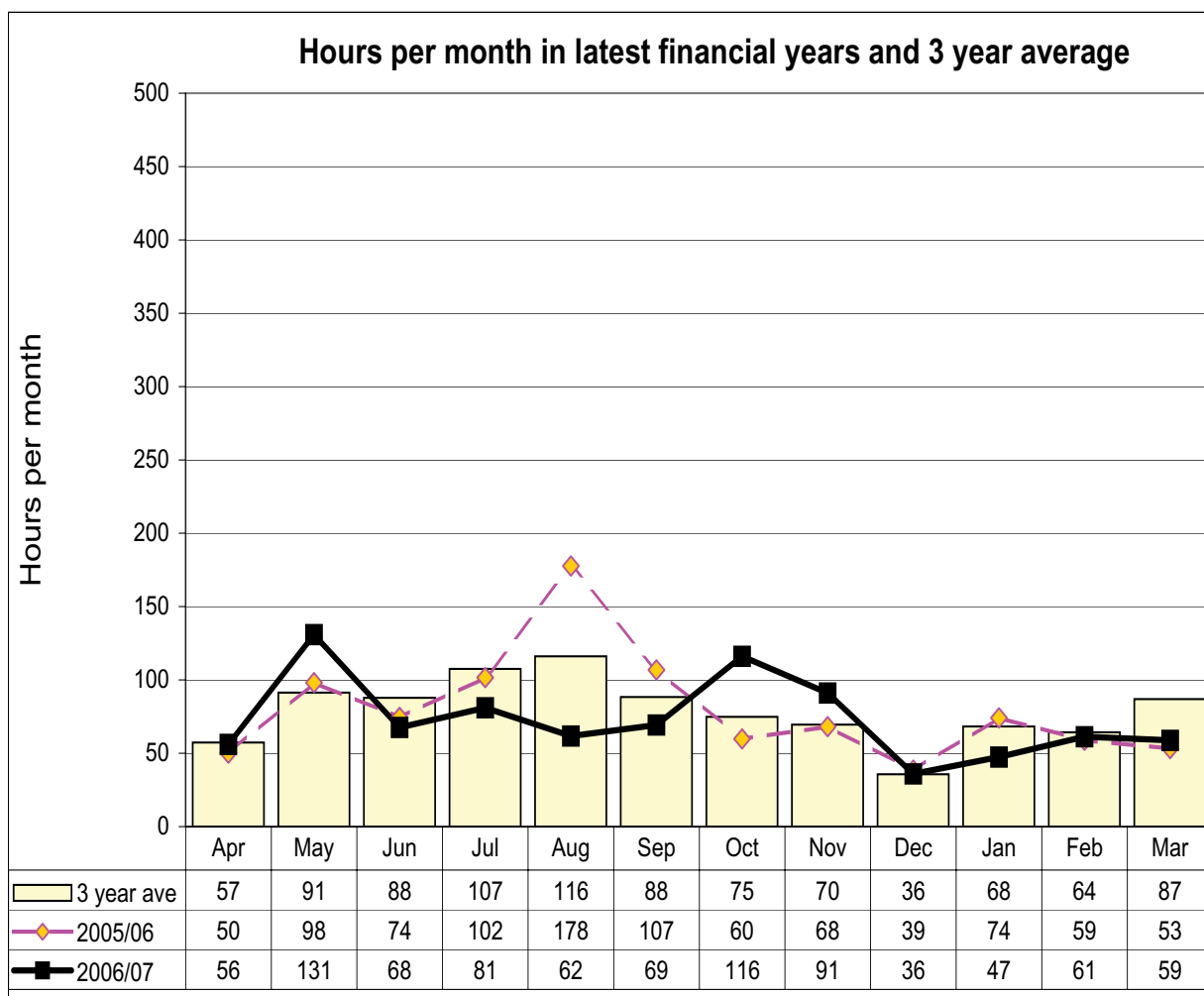
12. Stretching from the Ribble Valley and Forest Moor in the north, to Warwick in the south, and from the Wirral in the west to Doncaster and Nottingham in the east, LFA 8 has no major flying stations but is home to RAF Cosford, RAF Stafford and RAF Woodvale. It has approximately 10,833 km<sup>2</sup> (4,183 sq mls) of airspace available for low flying training, some 6% of the total usable overland area of the UKLFS.

13. Much of LFA 8 (42%), particularly around the outer edge is unusable for military low flying because of large avoidance areas over Liverpool/Manchester, Blackpool/Blackburn, Leeds/Bradford, Derby/Nottingham and the West Midlands conurbation. The additional need to avoid over-flying towns such as Stoke, Barnsley, Doncaster, Chesterfield, Sheffield and Mansfield makes the area particularly difficult to access by air and, therefore, reduces the use made of it for low flying training.





Hours booked for day and night low flying			
LFA8	TOTAL	FIXED WING	HELICOPTER
TY 2006/2007	877	144	733

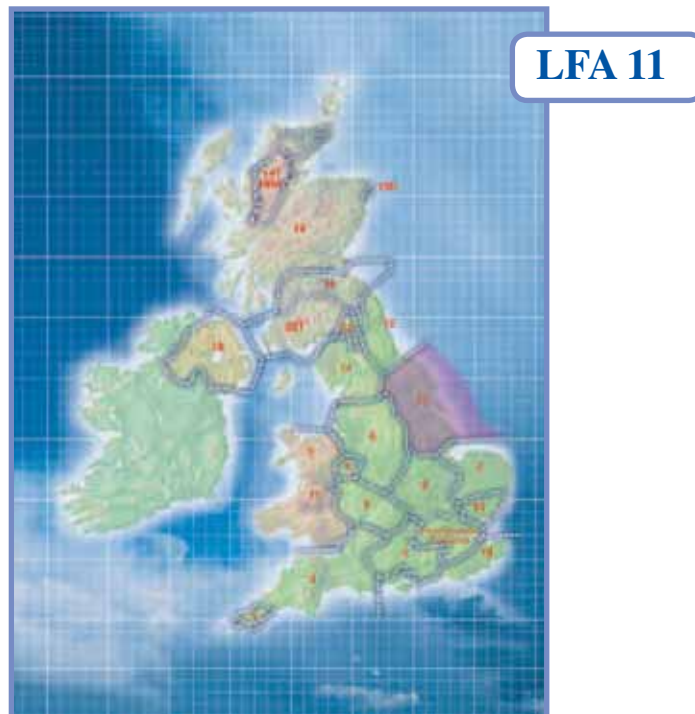




## LFA 11

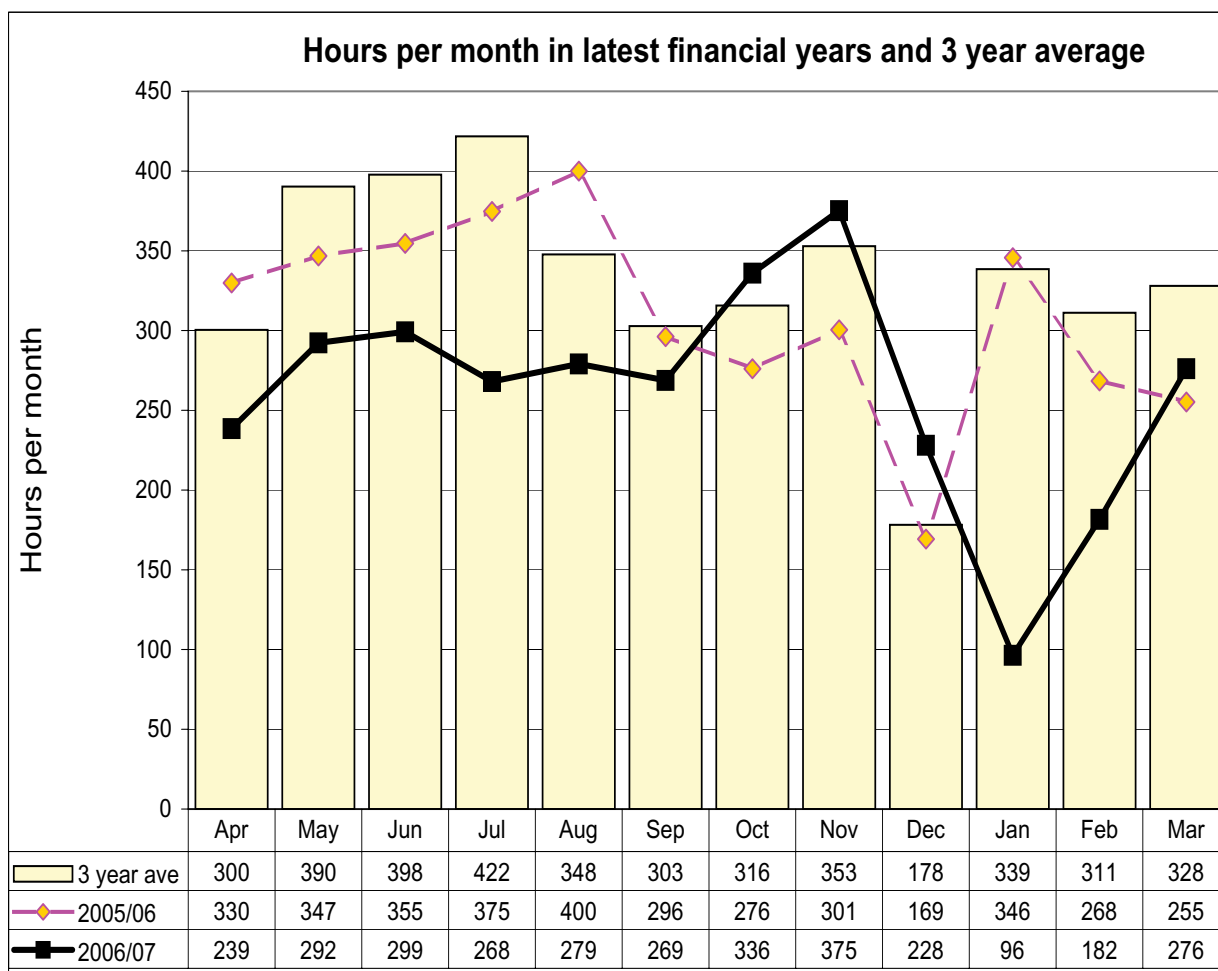
14. LFA 11 includes northeast Lincolnshire, northeast Nottinghamshire and east Yorkshire. RAF Leeming, RAF Linton-on-Ouse, RAF Cranwell, RAF Barkston Heath, RAF Coningsby, RAF Waddington, and AAC Dishforth (all major flying stations), Linton-on-Ouse satellite airfields at RAF Church Fenton and RAF Topcliffe, and the Air Weapons Range at Donna Nook are all situated in the area. It has approximately 11,960 km<sup>2</sup> (4,618 sq mls) of airspace available for low flying training, some 6.7% of the total usable overland area of the UKLFS.

15. Historically, Lincolnshire and Yorkshire have been home to a large number of RAF stations but these have reduced, and only six major flying stations remain. The principal role for three of these; RAF Cranwell, RAF Barkston Heath and RAF Linton-on-Ouse, is flying training and their aircraft generally train locally. LFA 11 is also used regularly by aircraft based elsewhere transiting to and from the RAF Air Weapons Ranges on the Wash, and training areas in LFA 5.





Hours booked for day and night low flying			
LFA11	TOTAL	FIXED WING	HELICOPTER
TY 2006/2007	3,140	1,970	1,170

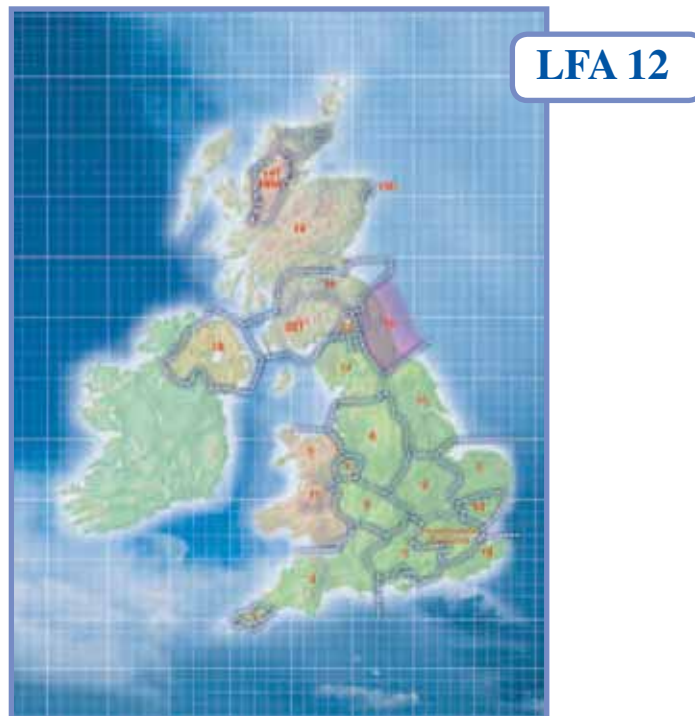




## LFA 12

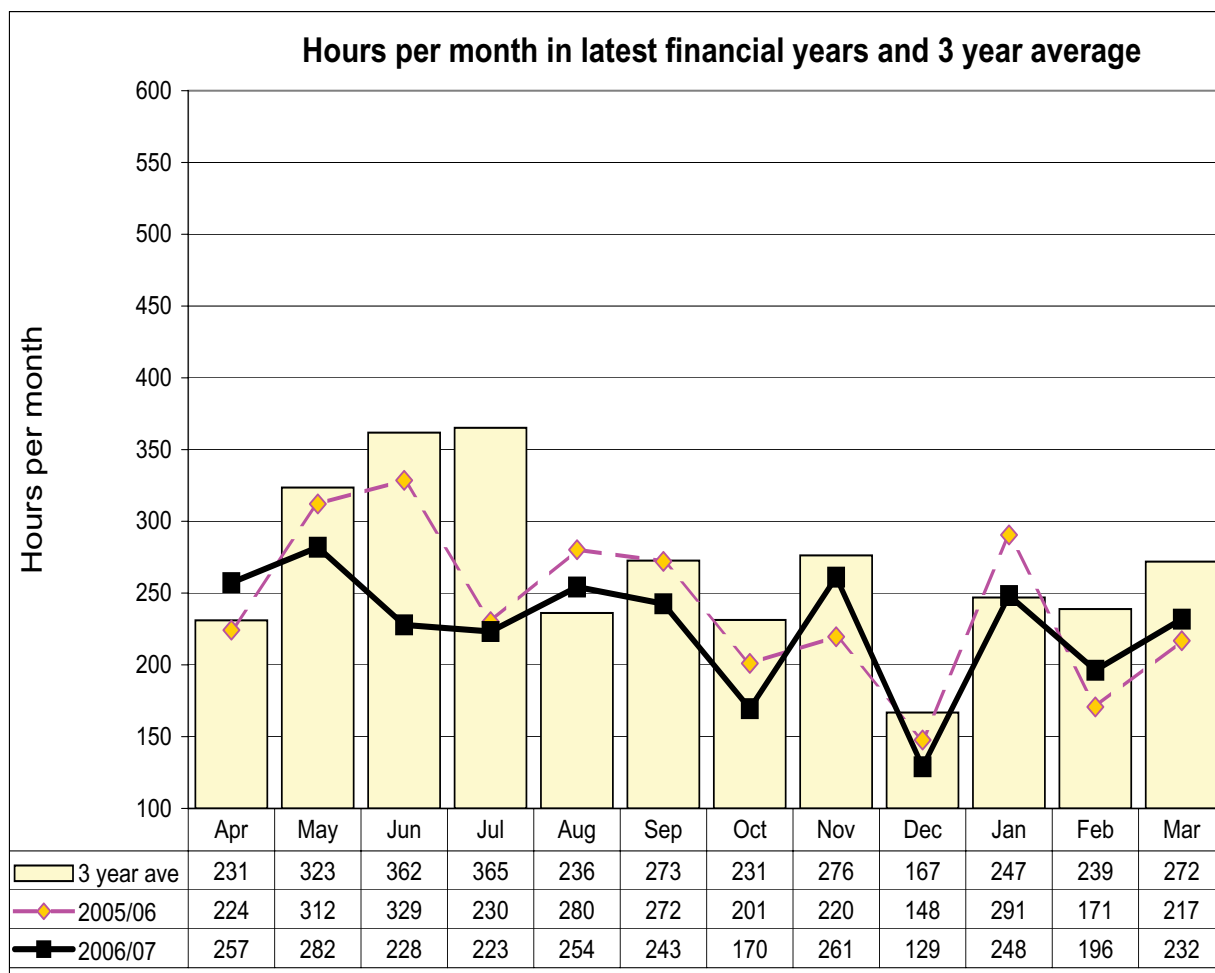
16. LFA 12 covers Northumberland, Durham and northeast North Yorkshire. Although there are no major flying stations in the area, other service establishments include the Army Field Training Centre at Otterburn, Albemarle Barracks at Ouston and RAF Air Defence Radar sites at Boulmer (which also houses an RAF Search & Rescue detachment) and Brunton. It has approximately 6,012 km<sup>2</sup> (2,321 sq mls) of airspace available for low flying training, some 3.4% of the total usable overland area of the UKLFS.

17. LFA 12 is ideal for military low flying training. It contains some of the most challenging terrain for aircrew, has more unrestricted airspace above 2,000ft (giving increased flexibility to military aircraft to enter or leave lower airspace) than many other areas, is sparsely populated and generally experiences better weather than to the west of the country. Day-to-day transiting to low flying activity is also associated with the Army's use of Otterburn and aircraft using the Electronic Warfare Tactics Range at RAF Spadeadam in the adjoining LFA 13.





Hours booked for day and night low flying			
LFA12	TOTAL	FIXED WING	HELICOPTER
TY 2006/2007	2,724	1,983	741





## LFA 13

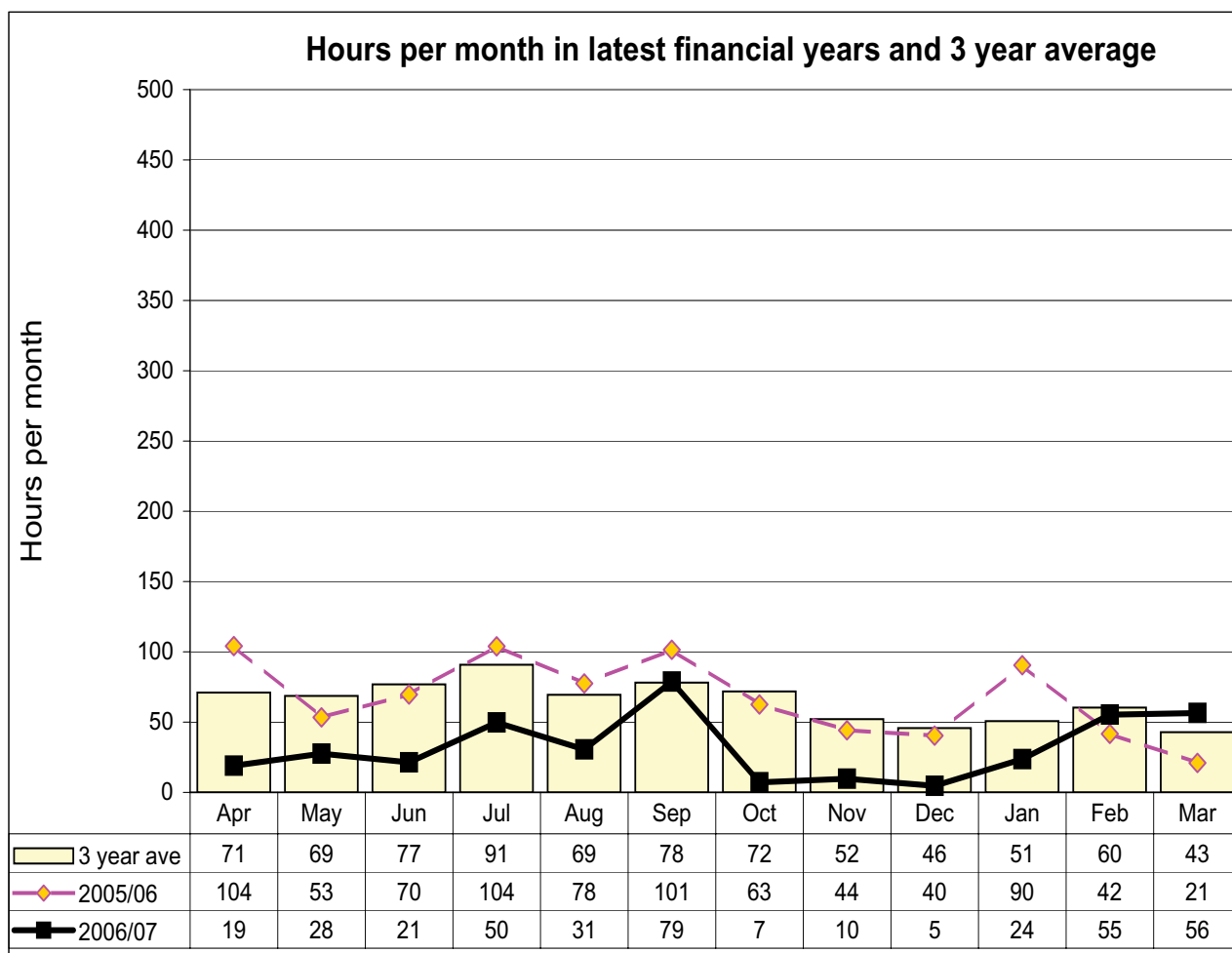
18. LFA 13 includes the south Borders Region, west Northumberland and northeast Cumbria. The area serves RAF Spadeadam's Electronic Warfare Tactics Range. It has approximately 2,035 km<sup>2</sup> (788 sq mls) of airspace available for low flying training, some 1% of the total usable overland area of the UKLFS.

19. Practically all low flying training in LFA 13 is associated with the Range at Spadeadam. Therefore, although LFA 13 is technically a DUA, information is included in this Annex because, unlike the other DUAs where intensity of rotary wing flying prevents realistic comparison with non-dedicated low flying areas, LFA 13 experiences more fixed than rotary wing flights.





Hours booked for day and night low flying			
LFA13	TOTAL	FIXED WING	HELICOPTER
TY 2006/2007	384	243	141





## LFA 14

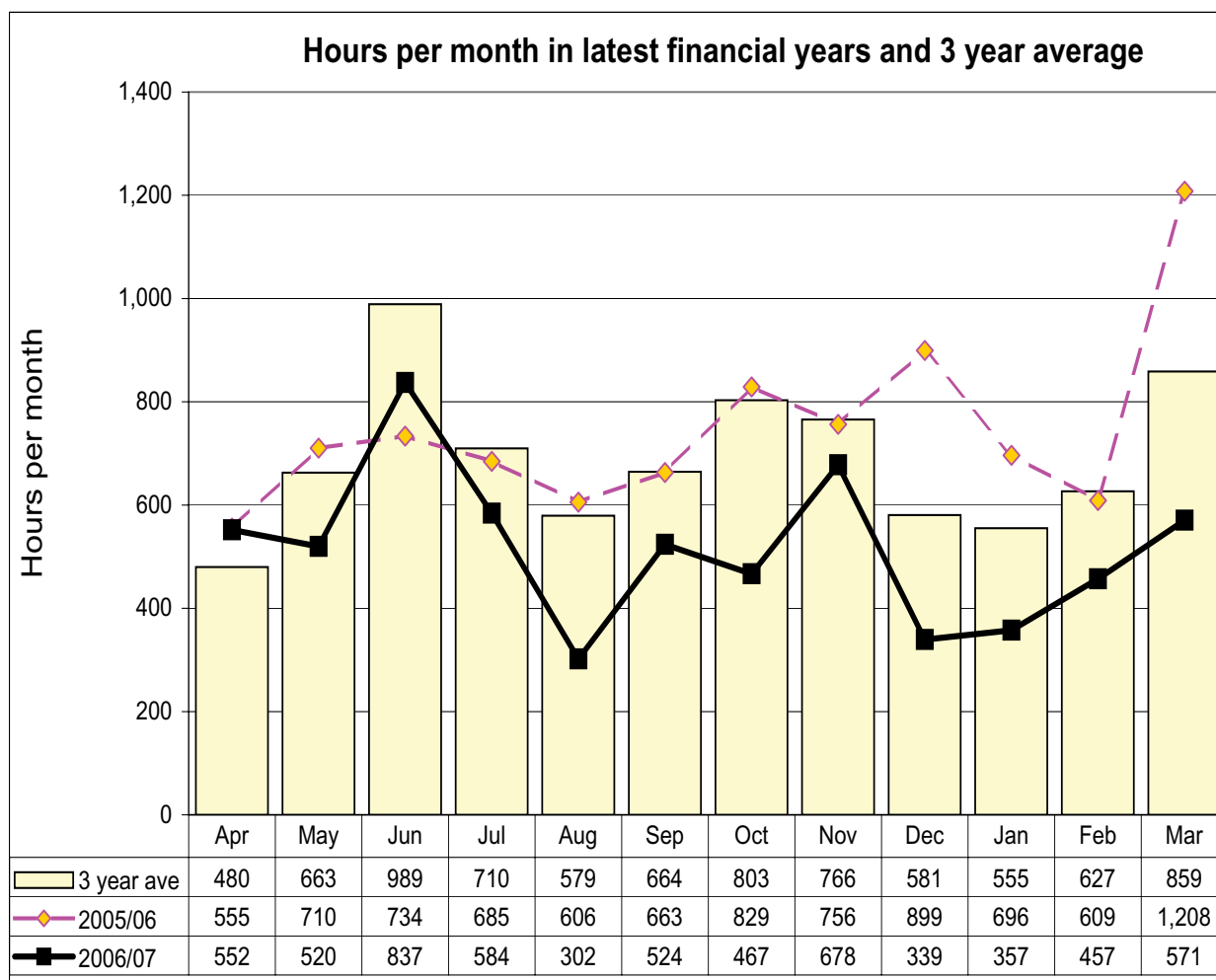
20. LFA 14 covers mainland Scotland north of the Central Region, the Western Isles, Orkney and Shetland. RAF Lossiemouth, RAF Kinloss and RAF Leuchars (all major flying stations), as well as the Air Weapons Range at Tain, Army Training Areas at Barry Buddon, Benbecula, Garelochhead and Inverness, the Royal Marines Barracks at Arbroath, and RN training areas at Cape Wrath and Loch Ewe are situated within it. LFA 14 has approximately 57,604 km<sup>2</sup> (22,241 sq mls) of airspace available for low flying training, some 31.6% of the total usable overland area of the UKLFS. It includes the area known as LFA 14C (a small area between Aberdeen and Rattray Head, with approximately 935 km<sup>2</sup> (361 sq mls)).

21. The use of LFA 14 for low flying training depends on a number of operational, geographical and climatic factors. These include: where aircraft are based; prevailing weather conditions; the location of military training areas; and the incidence of restricted airspace and built-up areas. Although hours booked for low flying are high, the size of the area allows activity to be distributed within it more widely than in other LFAs.





Hours booked for day and night low flying			
LFA14	TOTAL	FIXED WING	HELICOPTER
TY 2006/2007	6,187	4,372	1,815





## LFA 16

22. LFA 16 includes the Borders Region of Southern Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway and other counties up to and including those within the central belt. The RN helicopter base at Prestwick, the QinetiQ range facilities at West Freugh, and the Army training area at Kirkcudbright are located in the area. It has approximately 16,142 km<sup>2</sup> (6,232 sq mls) of airspace available for low flying training, some 9 % of the total usable overland area of the UKLFS.

23. LFA16 is a good area for low flying training. It has challenging terrain which, for the most part, is sparsely populated, a high incidence of unrestricted airspace above 2,000ft (giving increased flexibility to military aircraft to enter or leave the lower airspace), and better than average weather conditions. Additionally, the area is close to the Army Field training Centre at Otterburn, and it borders on the Electronic Warfare Tactics range at RAF Spadeadam.

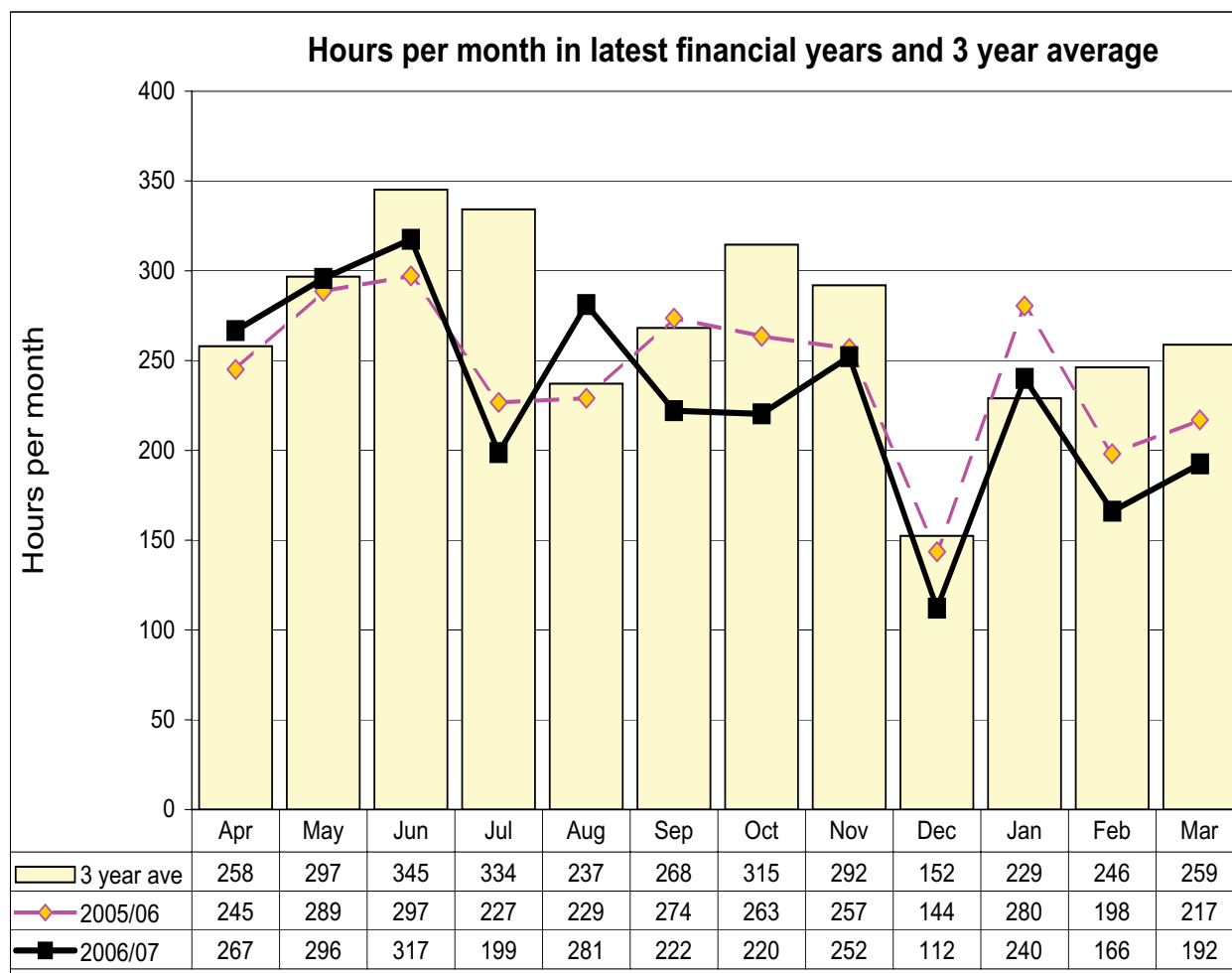


LFA 16





Hours booked for day and night low flying			
LFA16	TOTAL	FIXED WING	HELICOPTER
TY 2006/2007	2,765	2,433	332

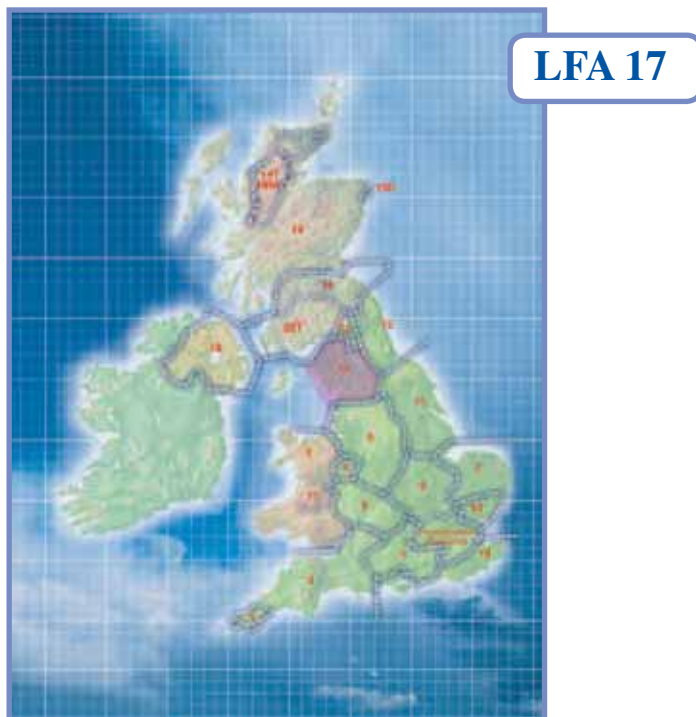




## LFA 17

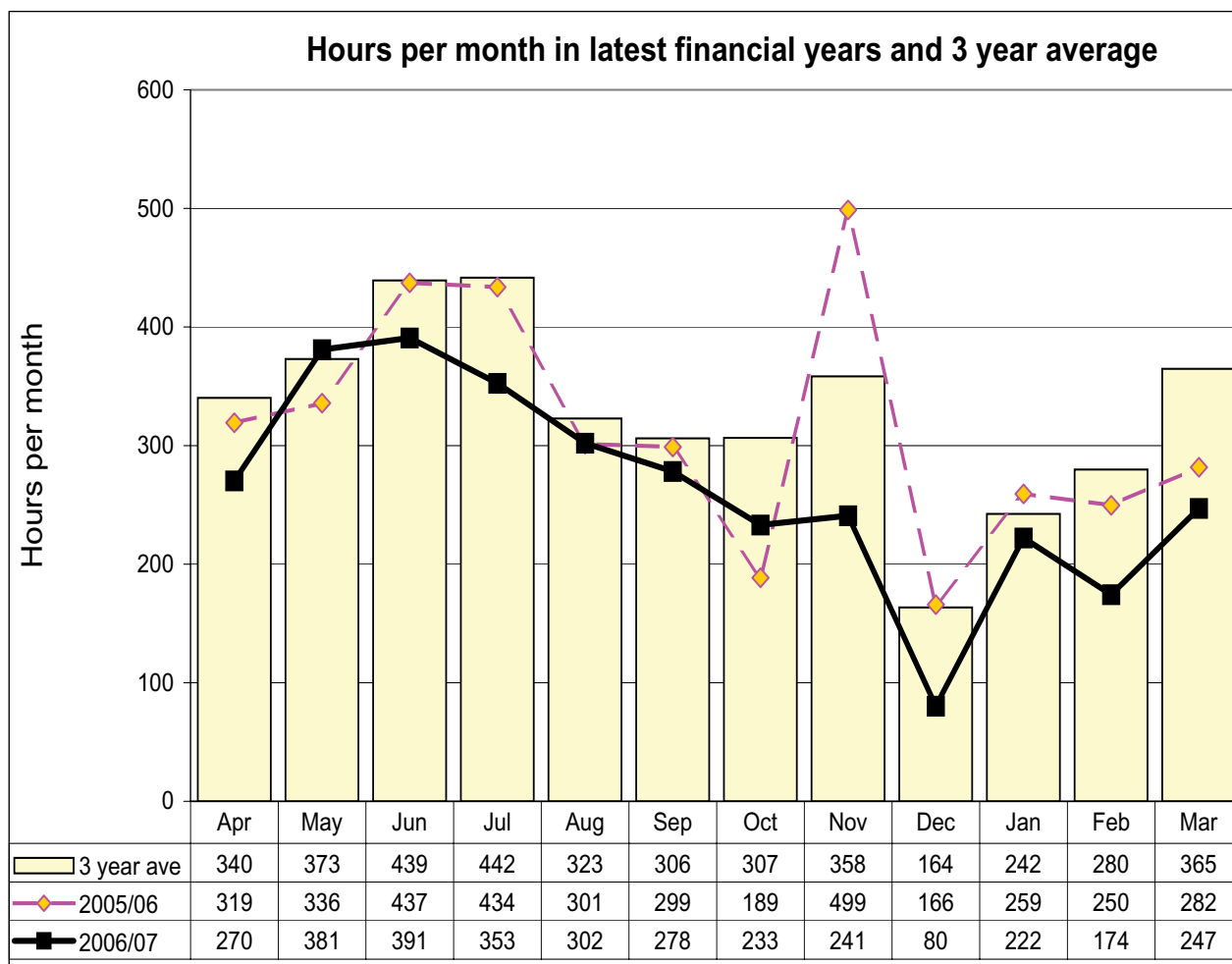
24. LFA 17 includes Cumbria, east North Yorkshire, and north Lancashire. Army Field Training Centres at Catterick and Warcop, along with QinetiQ range facilities at Eskmeals in the west of the Lake District are situated within it. It has approximately 11,295 km<sup>2</sup> (4,347 sq mls of airspace available for low flying training, some 6.4% of the total usable overland area of the UKLFS.

25. The terrain in LFA 17 is valuable in terms of flying training practise, particularly for fast jet aircrew as the area is relatively free from large urban areas. RAF Spadeadam's Electronic Warfare and Tactics Range is located in the adjoining LFA 13.





Hours booked for day and night low flying			
LFA17	TOTAL	FIXED WING	HELICOPTER
TY 2006/2007	3,173	2,465	708

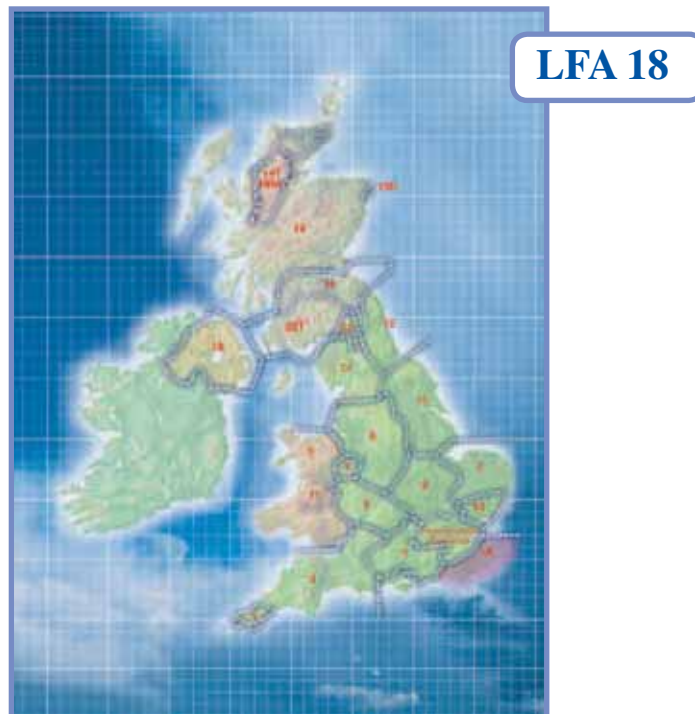




## LFA 18

26. LFA 18 includes Kent, East Sussex and southeast West Sussex; the Isle of Wight, and parts of Hampshire and Dorset are also within the area, although military low flying does not normally take place in these areas. Military facilities in the area include the Royal Naval Dockyard at Portsmouth, the Royal Marine Base at Poole and the Army's Cinque Ports Field Training Centre. It has approximately 3,930 km<sup>2</sup> (1,517 sq mls) of airspace available for low flying training, some 2.2% of the total usable overland area of the UKLFS.

27. LFA 18 is cut off from the rest of the UKLFS by the Thames Valley Avoidance Area (some of the busiest controlled airspace in the world), two separate military Dedicated User Areas (DUAs) and a number of airspace danger areas over the English Channel. A relatively large number of built-up areas and some large light aircraft landing sites are also areas to be avoided and significant airspace restrictions above 2,000ft (reducing the scope for military aircraft to enter or leave the lower airspace), include the Gatwick Control Zone. All of these factors make it difficult for military aircraft, particularly fast jets, to use the area.





Hours booked for day and night low flying			
LFA18	TOTAL	FIXED WING	HELICOPTER
TY 2006/2007	435	114	321

