

CASE STUDY

North Weald Airfield enhances airfield visibility and safety with GuardianUTM



Summary

North Weald Airfield enhances airfield visibility and safety with GuardianUTM

Faced with regular drone activity in the area and a lack of formal airspace protection, North Weald Airfield turned to Altitude Angel's GuardianUTM to boost awareness, improve safety, and support operations.



The challenge

North Weald Airfield, one of the UK's most diverse general aviation sites, was experiencing frequent drone activity in its vicinity, creating operational and safety concerns. Despite a high volume of varied aircraft movements – including vintage jets, Helimed operations, NPAS activity, and multiple flight schools – the airfield is unlicensed and does not have protective airspace designations. This had left it virtually invisible to drone operators unfamiliar with the local area.

"Drones are becoming a norm and use is increasing. We need to make it easier for drone operators to understand the airspace and increase the safety of our air traffic."

Jaden Barber, former Operations Officer at North Weald Airfield, now RPAS Lead for the Central & East Region, Royal Air Force Air Cadets



The solution

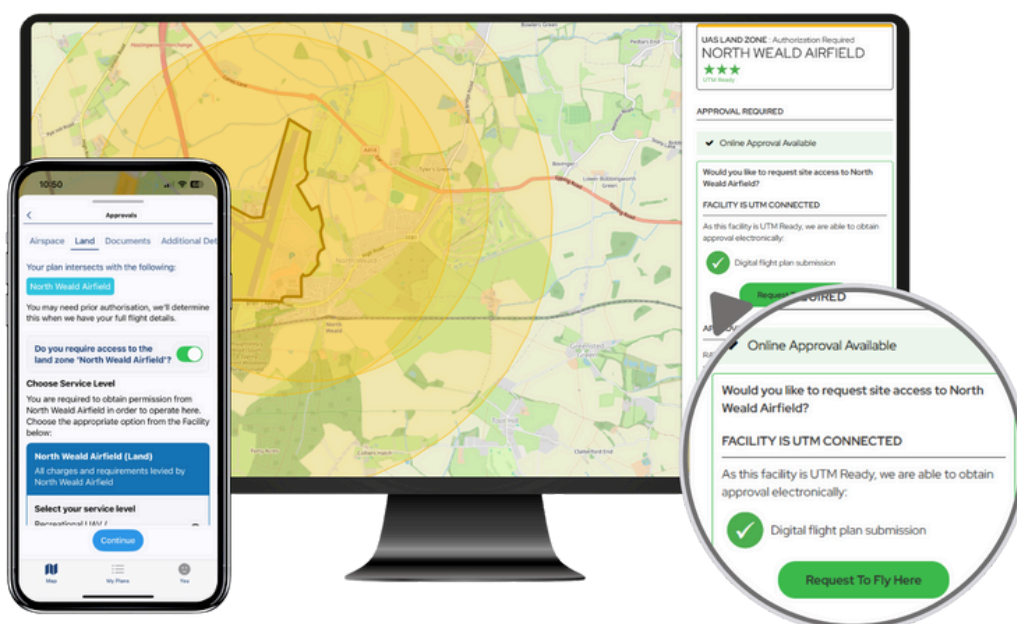
To address the issue, North Weald integrated Altitude Angel's GuardianUTM Approval Services. The benefit of being on the platform allowed the airfield to become visible to drone operators on leading drone flight planning tools, making it easier not only to manage land access authorisations for take off and landing but, crucially, to raise awareness of airspace activity for those planning drone operations.

The drone lead at the time of implementation, Jaden Barber, had already heard of Altitude Angel, having used *dronesafetymap* both personally and while training cadets. His familiarity with the platform made him a natural fit to drive the initiative forward.

With a desire to also improve the situational awareness picture in the immediate area, the team at North Weald also installed one of Altitude Angel's Prism sensor systems to give an improved air traffic picture through ADS-B and other data feeds. The Prism sensor gave improved latency and a richer airspace picture when used alongside their other air traffic feeds.

"The Altitude Angel Prism sensor system has given us improved latency of data, giving a better situational awareness picture of air traffic in the area around the airfield."

Jaden Barber, former Operations Officer North Weald Airfield, now RPAS Lead for the Central & East Region, Royal Air Force Air Cadets.



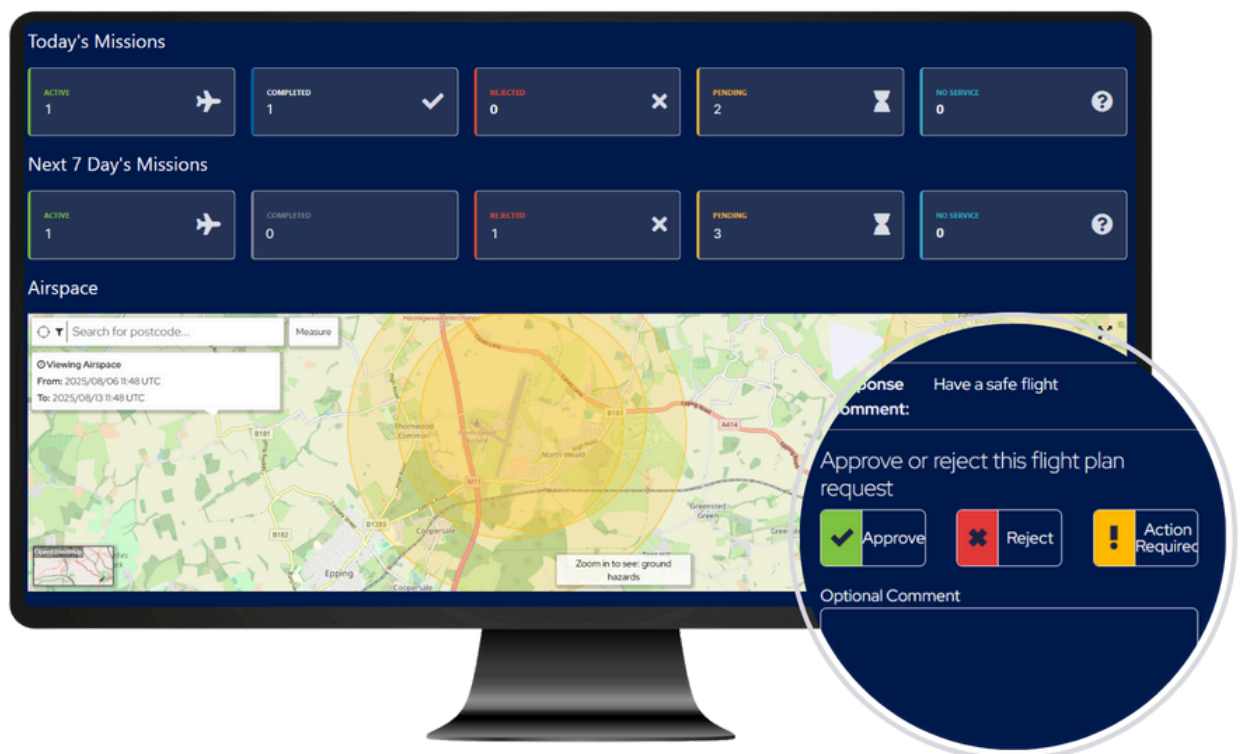
NORTH WEALD AIRFIELD

Drone Safety Map view of North Weald Airfield and approval service requirements on Drone Assist

The results

Before implementing GuardianUTM, the only way to alert drone operators to increased air traffic in the area was through signage placed around the airfield and direct outreach with local organisations and communities. While this outreach remains important to North Weald, the addition of the airfield to Drone Assist, Operator Portal, dronesafetymap, and other solutions integrated with the GuardianUTM platform, has significantly improved visibility. Those planning drone flights or checking airspace in the area can now clearly identify the airfield and better understand the associated level of activity.

Previously, drone operators seeking land access permission to fly from the airfield had to call the tower - an approach that interrupted daily operations. With the introduction of digital approvals, these requests can now be processed seamlessly by the wider team, without disruption. In addition the digital log of requests and land access approvals is readily available to the whole team at any time, without the need of paperwork.



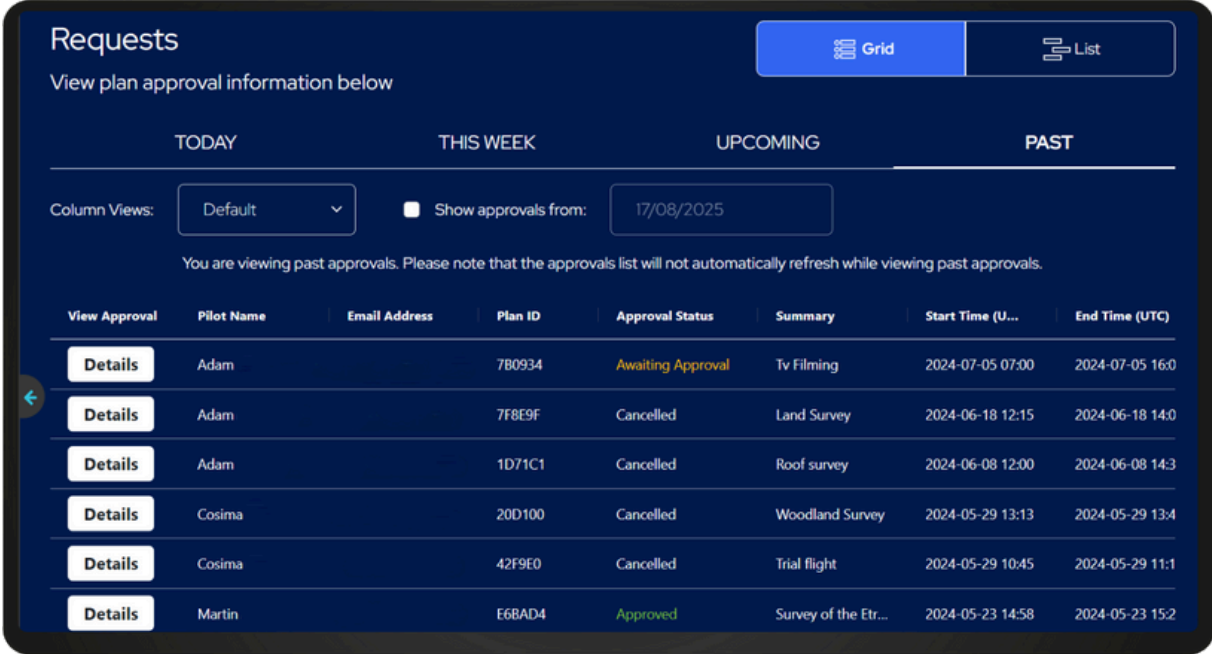
Operator Manager home screen with drone mission summary and approval decision options

Since implementation, the airfield has seen several key benefits:

- Increased visibility of the airfield location for drone operators through digital drone planning tools
- Enhanced situational awareness through improved data feeds
- The system has also enabled Helimed and NPAS crews to build drone risk assessment into their operational planning

“GuardianUTM has definitely improved the process of collecting, authorising and distributing the information amongst stakeholders.”

Michael Witham, North Weald Airfield
Lead Operations Officer



Requests

View plan approval information below

Grid List

TODAY THIS WEEK UPCOMING PAST

Column Views: Default ▾ ☐ Show approvals from: 17/08/2025

You are viewing past approvals. Please note that the approvals list will not automatically refresh while viewing past approvals.

View Approval	Pilot Name	Email Address	Plan ID	Approval Status	Summary	Start Time (U...	End Time (UTC)
Details	Adam		7B0934	Awaiting Approval	Tv Filming	2024-07-05 07:00	2024-07-05 16:00
Details	Adam		7F8E9F	Cancelled	Land Survey	2024-06-18 12:15	2024-06-18 14:00
Details	Adam		1D71C1	Cancelled	Roof survey	2024-06-08 12:00	2024-06-08 14:30
Details	Cosima		20D100	Cancelled	Woodland Survey	2024-05-29 13:13	2024-05-29 13:40
Details	Cosima		42F9E0	Cancelled	Trial flight	2024-05-29 10:45	2024-05-29 11:10
Details	Martin		E6BAD4	Approved	Survey of the Etr...	2024-05-23 14:58	2024-05-23 15:20

Looking ahead

With greater visibility and tools to manage land access approvals, North Weald is now better positioned to protect its complex aviation environment. The team is considering further engagement with the CAA to establish additional airspace protections, supported by the groundwork laid through GuardianUTM.

“Being on the Altitude Angel platform has helped the airfield’s safety needs a lot and is a step forward for the airfield to engage with the CAA and explore what more we can do to enhance safety for air users.”

Jaden Barber, former Operations Officer
North Weald Airfield, now RPAS Lead for the Central & East
Region, Royal Air Force Air Cadets

If you need an easier way to manage drone flights in controlled airspace or from your land, speak to a member of our team today about GuardianUTM Approval Services.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
LAND ACCESS APPROVALS

VISIT OUR
WEBSITE

EMAIL US AT
CONTACT@ALTITUDEANGEL.COM



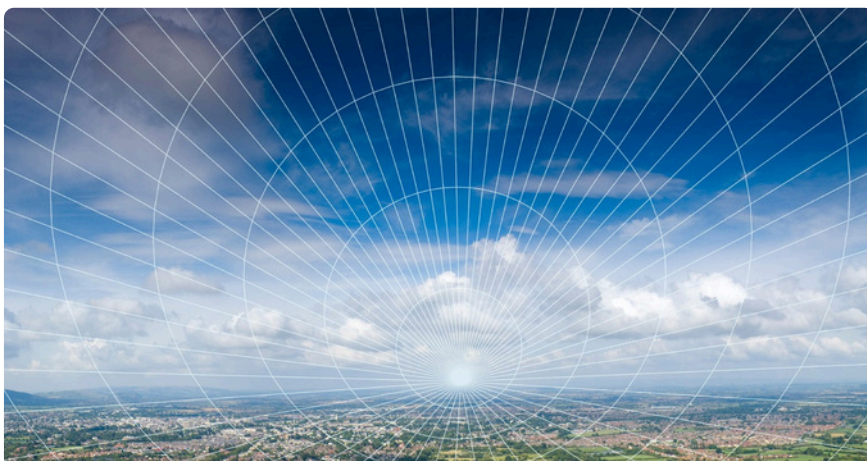
About Altitude Angel

Founded by Richard Parker in 2014, Altitude Angel is an aviation technology company which creates global-scale solutions to enable the safe integration of drones into airspace.

Altitude Angel's core, cloud-based, technology platform is GuardianUTM. GuardianUTM supports both U-space and Unified Traffic Management (UTM) and delivers market-leading services to all aviation stakeholders including ANSPs, national aviation authorities, airspace managers, drone operators, manufacturers, and software developers. Altitude Angel's innovative solutions enable users to access a rich source of real-time airspace, environmental and regulatory data.

Altitude Angel provides drone operators free access to planning tools such as [Drone Assist](#), dronesafetymap.com, and [Operator Portal](#). These tools allow drone operators to efficiently plan flights, check safety information and request approvals in UTM Ready zones (where either land access managers or airspace authorities have integrated their locations into the GuardianUTM platform).

Altitude Angel is also leading the advancement of drone superhighways in the sky, enabling deconflicted automated drone flight to build a scalable drone solution to benefit society, businesses, and industry, on level and fair terms, accessible to everyone.



Contact

International Headquarters:

Altitude Angel Limited, The Blade, Abbey Square, Reading,
RG1 3BE, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)118 391 3503

EU Operations:

Altitude Angel (Netherlands) B.V., Element Offices Leiden,
Bargelaan 200, 2333 CW Leiden, Netherlands
Tel: +31 (0)71 760 1691

[ALTITUDEANGEL.COM](https://altitudeangel.com)



SAFETY TRUST RESPECT INNOVATION

The information outlined in this document is intended to provide a general overview of Altitude Angel's GuardianUTM™ solution. Details and specifications are correct at the time of publication and may be subject to change. The information in this document may not be used without written permission of Altitude Angel.