

Coventry Airport Vortex Protection Scheme

What are vortexes?

Vortexes are circulating currents of air created by the passage of aircraft through the sky. All aircraft shed vortexes, but in most cases they are broken up before they reach ground level. In certain weather conditions vortex's can reach ground level.

At Coventry Airport there are no known incidents of vortex damage.

The majority of vortex strikes are concentrated in small areas near the end of the runway. Only properties with pitched roofs can be affected.

What is aircraft wake vortex damage?

During the later stages of landing it is possible for aircraft vortexes to make contact with the roofs of properties close to an airport. They can occasionally cause the movement and slippage of roof tiles. This is known as aircraft wake vortex damage.

Who is legally responsible for aircraft wake vortex damage?

Under Section 76 [2] of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 legal responsibility for damage caused by aircraft rests with the operator of the aircraft concerned.

Coventry Airport Limited is not liable for vortex damage.

In recognition of the fact that identification of the airline is not always possible, the airport company has introduced a vortex protection scheme as part of its commitment to be a good neighbour.

Aircraft wake vortex damage is generally distinctive and easily distinguished from more common gale damage or general wear and tear, the pattern and location of roof damage from aircraft trailing vortexes will be inspected by the airport company assessor to identify the cause of any reported damage.

The vortex protection scheme will provide for the repair of any property that is the subject of a confirmed aircraft wake vortex strike. If that occurs more than twice consideration will be given to providing a vortex proof roof, these roofs are strengthened down new modern tiles with special metal clips, this has been shown to be the best way to protect homes following extensive independent scientific research. Work is carried out by a contractor appointed by the airport company.

Eligibility

Only properties where the airport company assessor has verified damage to be a result of a wake vortex strike will be eligible.

Properties sharing the same roof will be repaired.

Only the airport company's approved contractor will be permitted to carry out any repair work any repair or replacement work.
No roof betterment will be carried out.

If a new roof is provided the property will no longer be eligible for further repairs.

Only properties that are subject to a confirmed aircraft wake vortex strike will be included in any scheme. The airport company keeps a record of all confirmed vortex strikes.

What should I do if believe my property has suffered aircraft wake vortex damage?

Suspected strikes should be reported immediately to Coventry Airport via their web site.

It is essential that the following information is provided.

The exact date and time of the occurrence.

The extent and nature of the damage.

Your name, address and telephone number.

The name, address and telephone number of the house owner [if different].

Details of the aircraft and airline concerned.

The airport company assessor will assess any damage and if a confirmed aircraft wake vortex strike has occurred repairs will be arranged immediately.

The householder should not repair any damage prior to an inspection by the airport company assessor. Properties can only be included in the scheme once the damage has been verified as aircraft related.

R P Seal

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