

BMAA WINGS SCHEME

UPDATE 2022



Get involved! Enhance your piloting skills within a sport you love!

www.bmaa.org/wings

Some of the courses ...

Here's a selection of the courses available; this includes those already complete and some in development. They're available through clubs & schools or external providers; some as webinars and or self-study. And if it's not on here, let us know and we'll do our best to find something:

BMAA Club Presentations e.g., AAIB

Single-pilot Resource Management (SRM)

Aviation First Aid

Aviation Fire Training

Air Traffic Control Visit

GASCo Safety Evening

GASCo Infringement Awareness

Touring

Intro to High Terrain

Different Control Type Conversion

(e.g. fixed to flex, powered parachute)

GASCo Weather

Aviation Weather School (Pt 1 or pt2)

FAI Colibri (any level)

Wing Rigging Course

Basic Aircraft Maintenance

iRMT Rotax engine familiarisation

Aircraft Mods

UPRT – intro/full

*BMAA Strip Skills

R/T refresher

FI(R) Course

BMAA Safety Events

Advanced SRM

Electronic Conspicuity

Controlled Airspace Course

GPS Flight Planning

GASCo Ditching Course

Astral Aviation Webinars

Flying Abroad Course

Mountain Flying Course

Light aircraft (SSEA)

600kg Differences Training

BMAA Open Series

Aviation Weather Skew Ts

BMAA open series comp

TLAC Oratex Course

UL Powerplants

Amateur Build

*BMAA Flying Abroad

*BMAA Controlled Airspace

*BMAA Circuit Matters

ROCC (A/G radio)

SkyDemon Master Class

KEY





New

in progress

*Flight Diploma course

Why Wings?

The BMAA introduced the Wings awards for both new and existing pilots to develop and gain confidence and experience in their skills. All the modules have been developed by fellow pilots and instructors with the aim of helping new pilots and encouraging existing pilots to maintain currency, explore new skills and to find extra fun in their sport. The awards are simple to get involved with and should be low cost to get started on. The elements involved are:

-  **Navigation** – self-planned routes of increasing length, with adjustments for the slower aircraft types to ensure everyone from SSDR to pocket rocket is equally able to be involved
-  **Safety achievements** – usually requires attendance (in person or online) at a seminar, many of which are free of charge
-  **Skills development** – a long list of ways of continuing to develop your skills as a pilot of your chosen craft from Strip Skills through to Open Competition participation and all points in between
-  **Education achievement** – learn from the comfort of your chair, as these modules generally don't require a flight element. This could be weather skills, maintenance, self-build, or R/T refresher courses. Great for those rainy days over the winter.

We're constantly looking at the list of options available so if you think of something you'd like to suggest we add to the programme, please get in touch.

We have added a couple of **compulsory** elements in this update. **The material is provided free to BMAA Wings members.** There is now a requirement for completion of the Single-pilot Resource Management (SRM) for BRONZE & SILVER and the Advanced SRM for GOLD & DIAMOND awards. These courses are fabulous resources, having been written especially for the BMAA by two highly experienced individuals, themselves Microlight pilots but with a background in commercial & military aviation and decades of experience in the cockpit. They'll help pull together what you learned in your training and what you've discovered in the air.

We think these courses will be a great addition to the Awards and the BMAA plans to host a number of courses throughout the year to make the task of completion easier. If you'd rather learn in person, we've got all the training materials ready and available for clubs & schools to deliver in-house or you can complete by self-study too.

Who are Wings awards for?

The BMAA Wings award scheme is open to **all BMAA members** at no cost.

You will need to be a **qualified pilot** to receive an award, but if you are a **student pilot** you can already be recording Aviation Education and Safety achievements that you can use towards your BRONZE award when you have qualified as a pilot.

All pilots start at the BRONZE award. Take a look at the requirements, decide upon which achievements you will choose and, as you go, complete the application form. Later on in this pack, you'll find the stories of some of our earlier recipients of the awards. If you check out what they did it, might give you some inspiration. But we're all different and the order that you complete the achievements is entirely your choice.

Once you've completed the parts for the level you're applying for, fill in the form and send it back to the BMAA. **That's it!**

The main elements of Wings awards

NAVIGATION



With more and more regulated airspace, accurate navigation has never been so important. Although basic navigation skills are taught as part of the pilot licence training, the Wings scheme encourages pilots to be even more accurate, planning time and fuel as well as the route. Modern aids to navigation are encouraged, and results are based upon planning as well as the final flight.

From BRONZE to DIAMOND the [navigation achievements](#) will help you to be more confident, more accurate so you will become a “**better pilot**”.

[Navigation achievements](#) must have been completed within the 36 months* immediately preceding an application.

SAFETY



Always the key driver in aviation, the BMAA wings scheme recognises that “**better pilots**” are safety minded. Within the achievements that count towards each award you will find practical courses such as Aviation First Aid and Aviation Fire Training as well as credit for attending BMAA and GASCo safety events.

At [least one safety achievement](#) is part of the qualifying requirements for each award level.

[Safety achievements](#) should have been completed within the 36 months* immediately preceding an application.

FLIGHT SKILLS



The pilot training syllabus prepares students for the role of Pilot in Command. Fully aware that some skills learnt during training fade if not used often, the BMAA Wings scheme recognises further flight training as a skills benefit.

Courses such as BMAA Strip Skills are achievements counting towards your Wings award.

Flight training achievements must have been completed within the 36 months* immediately preceding an application.

EDUCATION



Are you planning to fly abroad? Have you added a radio operator's licence to your pilot's licence? Do you want to find out more about how weather is forecast? Do you know how Air Traffic Control operates? Attending courses and seminars or making visits to aviation working environments will help you understand more about your flying environment and will make you a "**better pilot**".

The BMAA Wings scheme recognises the value of further aviation education as achievements towards the awards.

Aviation education achievements must have been completed within the 36 months immediately preceding an application.

WHAT IF ...?



The modules we've gathered are our best efforts at finding great things for microlight pilots to have a go at. However, without doubt, you will have some great ideas of your own. If you do, we ask two things

- i. Let us know. We're keen to add new things to this list and your ideas might be just the sort of stuff we're looking for. The more info you can send us the better.
- ii. Let us take a look and let you know how it might fit into the scheme; most of the new courses were proposed by our members. You'll see in the stories of some of our Wings pilots, that some have used training outside the list of modules to fulfil the requirements where they achieve the objectives.

So, what are we looking for?

Safety modules are things which are usually presented in the classroom environment or on the ground where pilots can meet others and learn about a topic together. They are often shorter courses taking a couple of hours, although they can be longer. Some are hosted online to make sure this is accessible to all, regardless of geographical location.

Education modules are also ground based but tend to be over a longer period of time, usually a minimum of half a day.

Flight Skills modules require you to get in the aircraft and develop your skills as pilot in command. How long they take will depend on your personal starting point; the aim is to develop as a pilot and to gain confidence in skills you learned during training.

Some modules qualify as **Diploma** awards as well.

We'll be continually adding to the course content; this is your chance to contribute to the future of Pilot Development in Microlights.

Over to you!

What's new in Wings

The Wings Scheme has been around for a while so what's new in Wings 2.0?

Well, the BMAA has been gathering feedback from people working towards Wings as well as those who have not. We've had a lot of input and a team of volunteers has been set up to support the folks at HQ in extending the options available for Wings modules. The basic requirements are still the same

AWARD	Safety	Flight skill	Education	Navigation
BRONZE	1 + Basic SRM	0	0	100 (1 landout) 1 day
SILVER	1 + FRTOL	1 flight skill or education	1 flight skill or education	200 (2 landouts) 2 days (max)
GOLD	2 + Advanced SRM	1	1	300 (3 landouts) 3 days (max)
DIAMOND	2	1 + 1 other flight skill or education	1 + 1 other flight skill or education	500 (4 landouts) 5 days (max)

Here's the summary of what we've done:

- ✈ We've added some exciting material on **Single-pilot Resource Management (SRM)** which is available **free** to all BMAA members. This can be done as a self-study at **no cost**, however, if you prefer to work with others, it can be run by club or through a flight school. Schools & clubs will make a charge for their time & facilities. There's no end-of-study test but there is a fabulous wealth of experience pulled together by Microlight pilots for Microlight pilots from the best practice in professional single pilot cockpit. Management. We've made completion of the SRM module compulsory for BRONZE and the Advanced SRM module for GOLD.
- ✈ There is a raft of new courses; some already released others in progress. The details can be found on the BMAA website and include new modules in **Engine and Aircraft Maintenance** with suppliers across the country offering to support these sessions. We'll be running some in person and some online material to make this accessible to all.
- ✈ We've now got over 30 flying schools on board as **providers** and we're ready to sign up more. Providers get access to all the material and can offer courses to the whole BMAA membership through BMAA HQ.
- ✈ We've added the **600kg differences training** as Flight Skills and are planning some new **bite sized modules** to make sure there's plenty of variety. Fixed-wing or flex-wing doesn't matter, and we've even adjusted the navigation exercise to allow for slower craft.
- ✈ We've introduced the option to **register** for the Wings award. This means we can send out details of courses and seminars coming up as well as those all-important **discounts** on courses offered by external providers which we've negotiated on your behalf. Plus, we'll keep you updated with new courses as they become available.
- ✈ **One thing we haven't changed** – you can do Wings without spending a fortune. Many of the safety modules can be completed without any cost, while there are some more pricey options on the course list, there plenty which are not; Microlighting is about **safe, affordable flying**.











GETTING STARTED

SPREADING YOUR WINGS

You'll find all the details of the modules on the BMAA website at

www.bmaa.org/wings

There are a number of routes to get support for setting out on your Wings journey so whether you are a new pilot or a seasoned hand, doing this with others to support and encourage you will make the process much more fun. Some of our award holders started their wings journey straight from receiving their licences; others have a collection of logbooks and many years of flying experience.

-  **Instructors:** Ask your instructor for support; a short ground school session as a refresher is a quick and inexpensive way to get started on your BRONZE Navigation.
Please do remember that instructors need to be paid for their time; this is their profession.
-  **Club buddies:** If you're part of a club, find someone who is willing to assist; other pilots are usually keen to help 'newly minted' ones.
-  **Wings providers:** Check if there is a flight school near you that has signed up as one of our Wing providers. *Schools will, of course, need to make a charge for their time.*
-  **Ask HQ:** Contact the Wings team; we can help connect you to friendly pilots and instructors nearby who'll get you started. We've got a list of volunteers who can help you.
-  **Club nights:** Look out for BMAA Wings 'club nights' when we host a session online to help people looking to start their Wings awards.
-  **Microlight Flying Magazine:** Keep an eye on Microlight Flying magazine and our online eMF for articles about other people's experiences to inspire you.
-  **Local contacts – Wingmen/women:** The awards are intended to be accessible for all pilots; if you're having any trouble, please let us know and we'll see what can be done to help. We have a willing team of volunteers to supplement the pros at Deddington.
-  **Award holders:** You'll find examples of how others have worked through the awards and a series of example navigation flights in the online material as your 'starter for ten'.

We've included the summary of the Navigation tasks for each of the awards and the SRM (Single-pilot Resource Management) module in this leaflet so you can get a flavour for what you need to do.

Navigation tasks have been modified to accommodate slower craft on an equal basis as the hotships with pilot declared 'cruise speed' figures for your aircraft with the option to submit your completed flight details direct from SkyDemon or other GPS-based tools if you'd prefer to do it this way rather than just by manual completion of the form, countersigned by a BMAA member.

Meet some of the Wings Pilots

We asked some of our award holders to tell us a bit about their Wings experiences. Here they are in their own words



Terry (NW England)

Well, Terry wrote a whole poem about his Wings adventures!

Terry has a lot of hours in some considerably larger and faster aircraft than we can enjoy in the Microlight fraternity, but he says he **took up the Wings challenges to give him confidence in the new (to him) aircraft.**

His adventures took him to a number of new strips and clearly tested his skills, and not just in Microlight flying! We'll share the whole poem later but, as a sneak preview, for the Navigation challenges, he says:

*"So I pick new strips I've not been to
Places that aren't easy to spot
Small, so I really must work hard
To arrive like a pro, on the dot*

*I build in a few timing doglegs
And keep the odd minute in hand
That way I achieve my planned ETA
Just like BA arriving on Stand"*

Cameron (Berks)

"I started flying relatively recently and passed my GST in June 2018. As soon as I had my licence in hand I wanted to explore and set off to visit as many airfields as I could find; I've just logged my 70th airfield.

Microlights are phenomenal aircraft and make exploring the UK a real adventure. The more I fly, the more I realise how much there is to learn.

*I love a challenge and the Wings scheme has so many different ones. As part of the Wings process, I've even entered one of the Open Series competitions. **It's really pushed me to try new things** like the longer navigation tasks and precision landing and 'dead stick' skills; a huge boost to confidence and safety if the engine ever does fail. I've now done an SSEA which counts for my flight skills, attended several online safety courses during lockdown when we couldn't fly and added a Radio Operators Certificate of Competence so I can help at out at the airfield."*



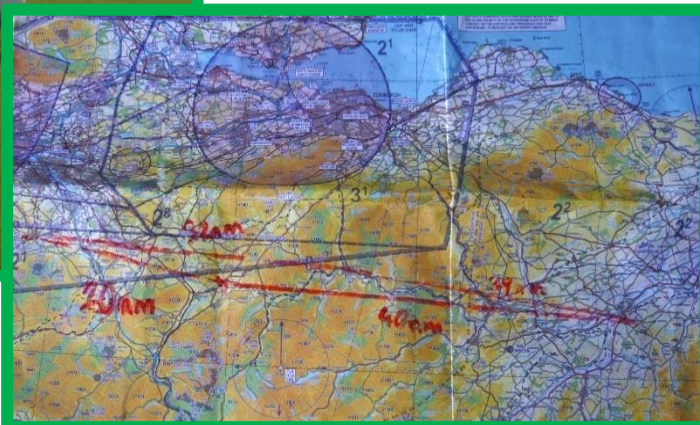
Pilot stories: Ross (West Scotland)

“Building skills in the air is a big part of the attraction of Microlight flying for me. I love technical and flying challenges mixed with the fun element of a cross country flight. It is easy to get complacent and just fly familiar routes when time or weather permits. It adds so much more to the enjoyment of flying to go somewhere new or in a way that adds to the challenge in a fun way.



*I had expected the BRONZE flight to be a piece of cake, but **it taught me a lot about proper planning for a longer flight and risk assessment for fuel use en-route.***

SILVER next...”



Richard (Northants)



“With over 25 years of commercial flying but just 100 hours of Microlighting experience, I found myself predominantly flying within an hour or so of home base. What I needed was a fresh challenge, a reason to push my own boundaries, to gain confidence in myself and my own aircraft (an X’Air!)

***The BMAA Wings scheme provided the impetus I needed** and two years later am just one task away from gaining my GOLD award.*



Make no mistake, I still have much to learn but the scheme has helped me realise the capability of my aircraft and increase my enjoyment of flying.

Which ultimately is what Microlighting is all about, isn’t it?”

Pilot stories: David (Oxford)



At the time of going to press, **David is the only BMAA DIAMOND holder in the world** despite having only obtained his pilot's licence at the age of 71. Following a few early forays with friends around his local areas, he was finally talked into taking a trip from Enstone to Shobdon then progressively further afield.

The launch of the Wings scheme in 2019 was perfect timing for David as he started to look at what he could do with his new skills and slowly growing

confidence. He confesses to feeling more than a little apprehensive as he launched himself into the task of working through all the awards from BRONZE to DIAMOND. Most of the tasks were new and challenging but all aimed at improving flying skills without any further dents in the already depleted bank account. Looking back at the Wings journey, David says the highlights have been MATZ, RT, planning a flight to France, then flying that trip to France and into a fully operational military airfield all stand out for him. The heart of all of the adventures was the planning. Planning, planning & more planning!

It took a little over 4 years from thinking that learning to fly was probably beyond him to David receiving a pilot's licence and becoming the first to complete the DIAMOND award.

Pilot stories: Graeme (Sussex)

"My flying started many years ago as an ATC cadet in the North East in Sedbergh gliders and De Haviland Chipmunks. I completed flex-wing training in 2011 and my Pegasus Q and I set off flying around Sussex on one day hops.

A motorcycle accident and a one year stretch in hospital in 2019 meant my license lapsed. I chose the three-axis route to revalidate. I had read about this scheme called Wings by the BMAA. The various tasks I need to do to revalidate my licence would all qualify for the Wings awards. What a fantastic vehicle to get me back to flight, and expand my knowledge, flights, and skills, in a structured way to re-invigorate my enthusiasm in a sport I love. A short telephone call to Rob at the BMAA HQ and I was off.

During lockdown, I attended the GASCo training webinars to maintain momentum and then managed to complete BRONZE & SILVER in the summer, then GOLD in October in what can only be described as challenging weather conditions as the winter set in.

*Wings achieves exactly what it sets out to do, it provides a means for new or existing pilots, to develop and gain confidence and experience in using those skills. All that adds up to a big sense of achievement and more fun from your flying. **Get involved, you won't regret it!"***



Pilot stories: Cath (Berks)



"I've loved getting involved with the Wings awards, I was a very nervous pilot when I first set out and so the structured tasks really helped me build my confidence.

I completed my SILVER Flight Skills in New Zealand just before the pandemic with Willie (seen here) from the North Island Coastguard team guiding me through some intense flying which included zipping up and down the defined low level flying areas out there, managing some complex strips, a bit of valley flying, and I even got the chance to land on a beach.

These were not pre-defined Wings modules, but we put together 2 days of tough training

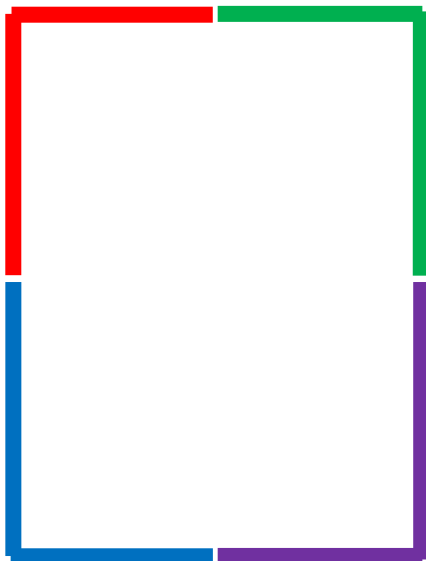
and had this signed off by HQ.

Inspired by experiences in NZ, back in the UK I also took on facing my biggest fear which is getting caught in nasty turbulence. We'd flown through some tough stuff on our way out to the low flying area and Willie suggested that it would be a good thing to find a way to get comfortable with it.

*Taking a recommendation from some fellow pilots, I enrolled on the UPRT (Upset Prevention & Recovery Training) at Goodwood and took to the sky in a Firefly (not a Microlight I know but almost as much fun) to learn some tricks to keep me out of trouble, A fabulous day of ground school and flying and **I left with a new confidence in my skills to pilot an aircraft** in more taxing conditions."*



Your story?



This page is missing just one bit, your story!

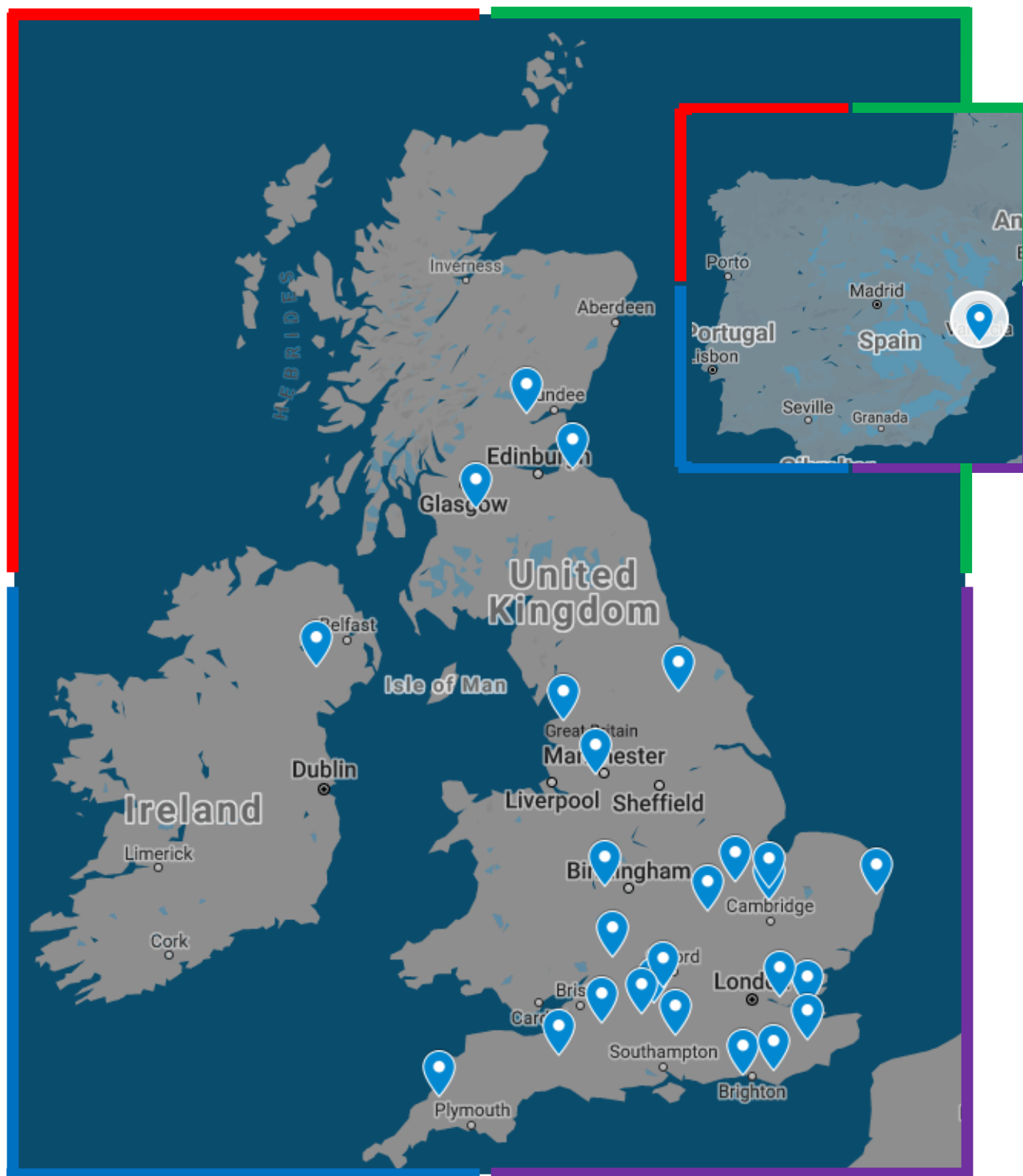
Whether you are an old hand or a new pilot, there's a Wings adventure out there for you. So, this spot is reserved for your photo and your tale of how you achieved your Wings.

We look forward to hearing from you about how you got there and what it meant to you to achieve the awards.

Where will Wings take you? Whether it's learning weather skills, a visit to an ATC, a flight diploma in Strip Skills or a round Wales navigation. Will you learn a new type like flex-wing instead of fixed, do some basic aircraft maintenance training or will you add some valuable GPS flight planning skills to your toolbox.? The choice is yours – we look forward to hearing your story.

Wings Providers: The Story so Far

At the start of 2022 there were almost 30 providers signed up to offer the **flight skills** courses spread right across the UK including **one in Spain** for those who fancy making a holiday of getting the Wings flight skills!



You'll find the latest info on all our registered providers plus links to contact them on the BMAA website – just search for '**Wings providers**'.

Any Questions?

Where do I find the list of achievements I can try?

Good question. We've NOT added it to this leaflet because we're constantly updating it to add new material, so you need to go to the website to get the latest information. The list of modules can be found at www.bmaa.org/wings. There's a QR code inside the back cover to get you there quicker!

How do I apply for an award?

The process is simple. Check the award level requirements, complete the various tasks and then fill in the application form. You'll find the forms for each level on the BMAA website under 'Wings'. When you attend modules, you'll get a certificate of attendance to add to your application.

I can't find a provider near me. What can I do?

If you can't find a provider near you then why not pop along to the nearest flight school – BMAA HQ can help you find the nearest – and ask if they can help. You can even **ask them to sign up**; all they need to do is drop a line to BMAA HQ on wings@bmaa.org and they'll get immediate access to all the material for the courses. Alternatively, contact the **Wings Ambassador Team** via BMAA HQ and they'll help with talking to the nearby schools on your behalf!

Can I use GPS in this scheme?

Yes. We encourage the use of moving maps with an airspace alerting system (to help prevent the likelihood of infringements). You will still need to plan the flight and fly accurately to the plan. That part of the task is down to pilot skill.

Can I use a flight I've already completed?

No. As the Wings Navigation achievements require the pilot to declare planned duration and fuel use before the flight, handing that declaration to their observer or emailing to BMAA HQ before departure, so it is not possible to use flights you've already completed.

Can Flight Diplomas be part of a licence revalidation (biennial flight with an instructor)?

Yes, as long as the instructor is approved to do so.

Who classes as an 'approved' observer?

A BMAA approved observer is a person known to and trusted by the BMAA; a fellow BMAA member, flight instructor or inspector would be ideal. The observer should be a pilot or other person familiar with navigation tasks.

How do I measure my fuel use?

Calculating fuel requirement as part of the pre-flight planning is a necessary part of all flight planning so this is not unique to the Wings flights. When calculating the fuel that you will use remember to add enough for the take-off and landing phases of your flight, not just the enroute leg time. You are not limited to taking only the calculated amount of fuel with you; you can take as much as you like. However, the skill is in planning how much you will actually use by knowing your fuel consumption and flying an accurate plan.

If your fuel tank is not already suitably calibrated, we suggest that before you fly you mark the sight gauge or tank with your fuel level and then on return top up the tank to the same level, noting how much fuel you need to put in. Obviously for the longer flights you may add fuel during your journey, so keep a note of fuel added and include that in your final calculation.

Can I take someone on the flight with me?

Yes, that is allowed. However, remember that the Wings scheme is about your own ability and

there is nothing to be gained by having someone else do any of the planning or navigation for you. If you do take someone, why not get them to take photos and send them to HQ for us to share to encourage future Wings pilots. Or you can send them to Microlight Flying magazine for the Photo of the Month competition.

Does the length of the flight have to be exact?

No, the length of the flight for each level of award sets a minimum distance to qualify for each award. We've even arranged adjustments for the slower aircraft. You can certainly fly further than the minimum.

How do I prove that I have completed the flight?

There are two routes. In both cases you must prepare your plan and flight timings and fuel burn and either give this to your observer or email this to BMAA HQ before you set off. You must record your actual duration and fuel use for the flight

1. Verified by observer: complete the actual figures for timing and fuel use on the plan and have the form signed by your observer. Then send a copy to the BMAA with your [application form](#).

2. GPS log: you can also submit using GPS logs by emailing your plan in advance and then sending your fuel details on the form along with a copy of your GPS track.

What classes as an ATC visit?

An Air Traffic Control unit that contains a FISO (Flight Information Service Officer) would be the minimum. Anywhere responsible for controlled airspace would be ideal (such as Class D). This is to allow you to see the range of activities that take place.

I completed a BMAA Pilot Course, prior to starting on the Wings Scheme, can this be used towards an award?

Yes. Only up to 36 months prior to the application for an award.

How do I arrange to visit the AAIB or NATS?

BMAA will arrange visits and evening 'club night' sessions which will include the AAIB and NATS. If you register for the Wings scheme, then we'll make sure you're on the mailing list and we'll send information about upcoming events.

Why should I register for Wings?

You don't need to BUT it will help us to help you if you do. If you register, we can send out details of any courses which are being run, BMAA club nights, visits, online sessions and even requests from other pilots to meet up to work on some of these awards together.

I've got a great idea for a Wings achievement, what should I do?

Get in touch. The new courses which have been added since the original launch of Wings have come from the membership. We'd love to have your suggestions.

Can I get credit for something not on the list?

The aim of Wings is to develop better pilots and to increase the fun in flying. If you have done something which you think is suitable, or have a plan to, please get in touch. If you look at our Pilot's Stories, you'll see an example there. Get in touch and we'll take a look.



Find everything you need at:

www.bmaa.org/wings



Email wings@bmaa.org





Contact the BMAA at

By post to:

British Microlight Aircraft Association
6 Somerville Court
Banbury Business Park
Adderbury, Banbury
Oxfordshire
OX17 3SN

By telephone:

01869 338888

By email

wings@bmaa.org

Office hours

0900 - 1700 Monday to Friday.
Closed on Public Holidays

Website

www.bmaa.org

