

# Swanwick Centre

NATS operates two air traffic control centres in the UK. One at Swanwick in Hampshire and the other in Prestwick in Ayrshire.

## The Operation

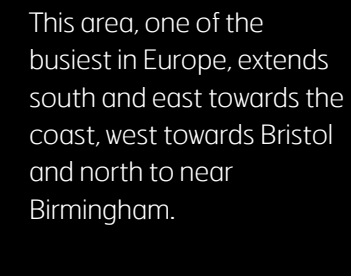
Swanwick Centre handles some of the busiest and most complex airspace in Europe. Opening in 2002, it was designed to be continuously operational for a minimum of 30 years.



The centre is continuously operational

24 hours a day,  
7 days a week,  
365 days a year.

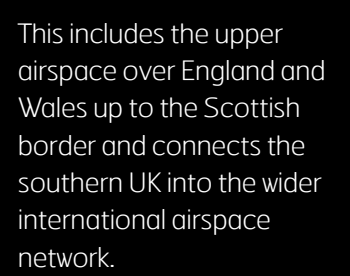
Swanwick Centre is home to the following:



London Terminal Control Centre

LTCC handles traffic below 24,500 feet flying to or from London's airports.

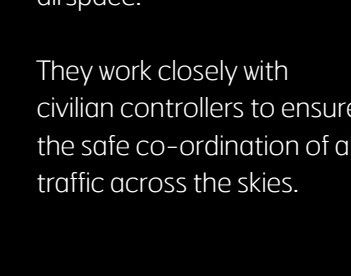
This area, one of the busiest in Europe, extends south and east towards the coast, west towards Bristol and north to near Birmingham.



London Area Control Centre

LACC manages en route traffic in the London Flight Information Region.

This includes the upper airspace over England and Wales up to the Scottish border and connects the southern UK into the wider international airspace network.



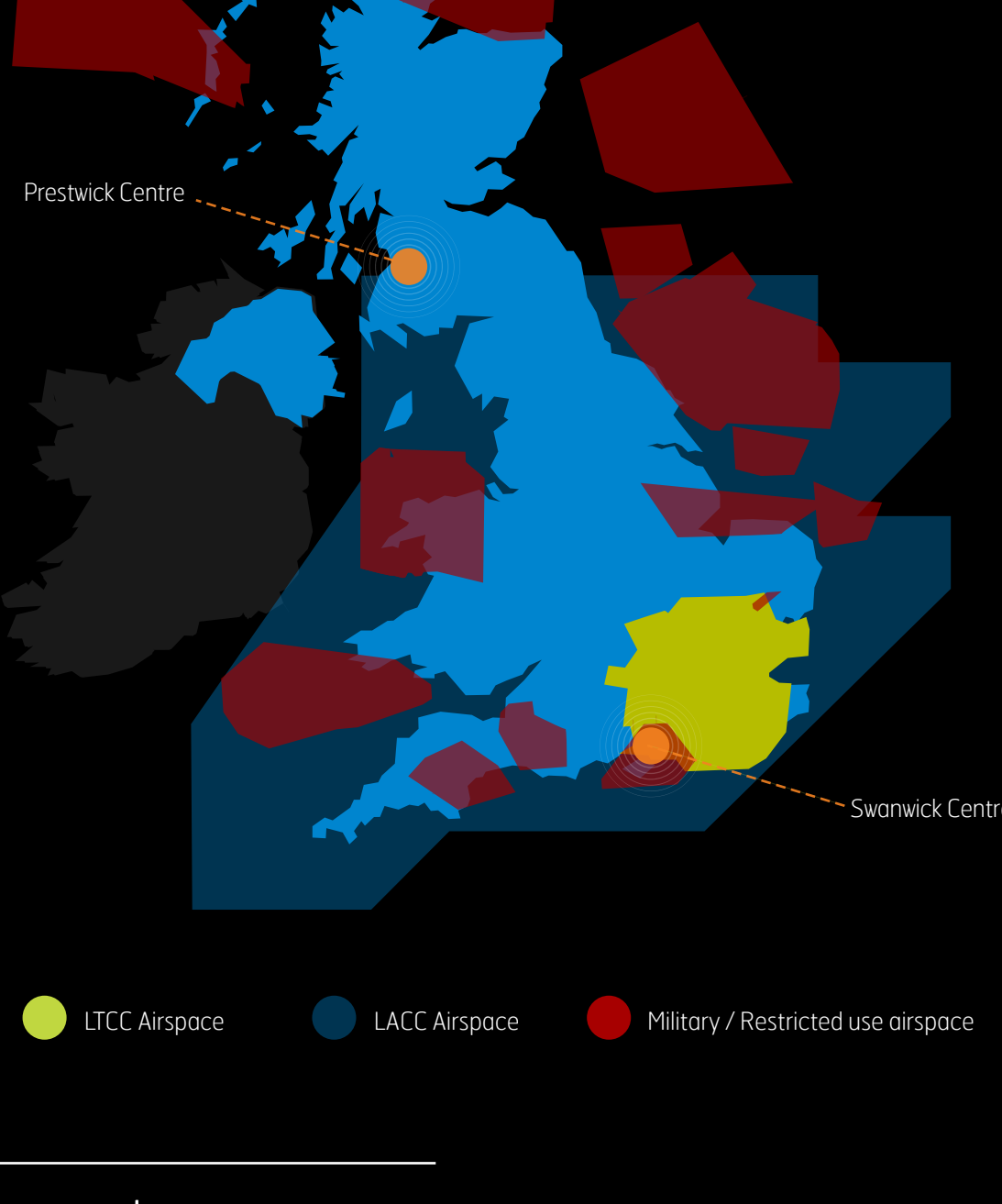
Military ATC

RAF controllers provide air traffic services to military aircraft flying through UK airspace.

They work closely with civilian controllers to ensure the safe co-ordination of all traffic across the skies.

## The Airspace

Swanwick controls 200,000 square miles of airspace over England and Wales as well as the complex airspace above London.



## Flights & Passengers

Managing some of the busiest airspace in the world, Controllers at Swanwick Centre handle over 1.8 million flights and 200 million passengers a year.



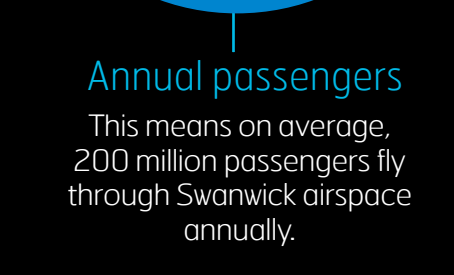
Daily flights

Swanwick handles an average of 5,500 flights each day.



Annual flights

This equates to over 2 million flights handled annually.

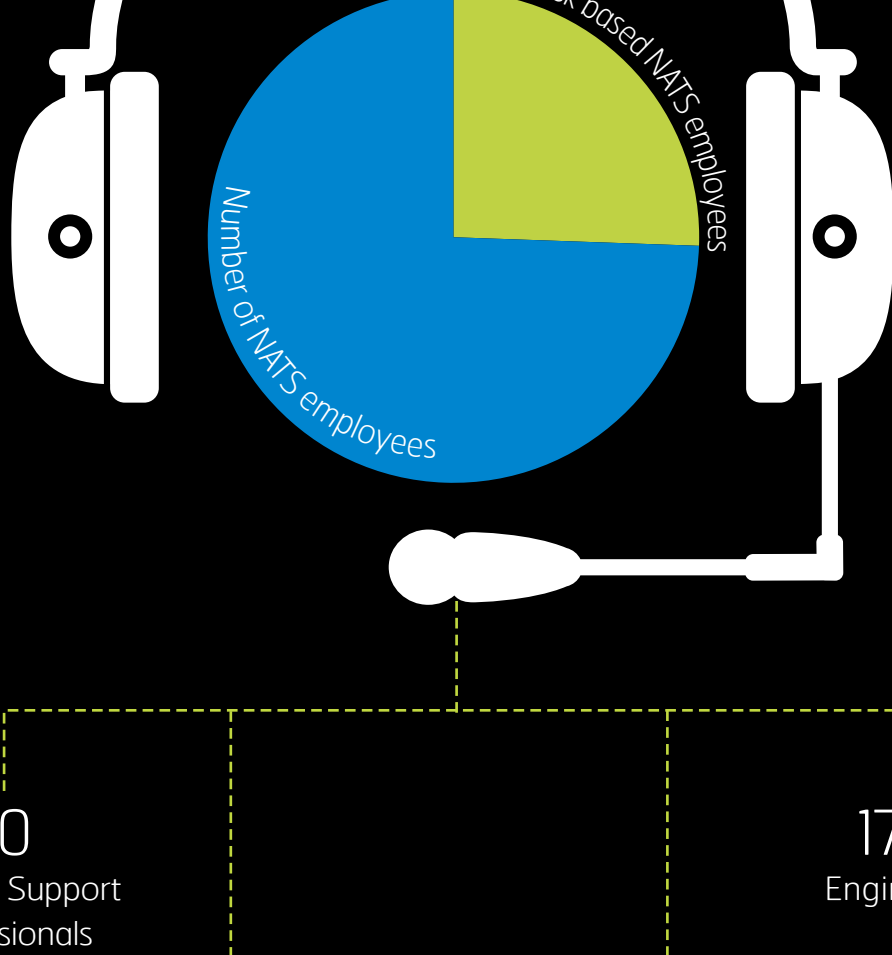


Annual passengers

This means on average, 200 million passengers fly through Swanwick airspace annually.

## The People

NATS employs circa 4,500 people. With approximately 1,150 people, Swanwick Centre makes up a quarter of the workforce.



70 Business Support Professionals

735 Air Traffic Controllers

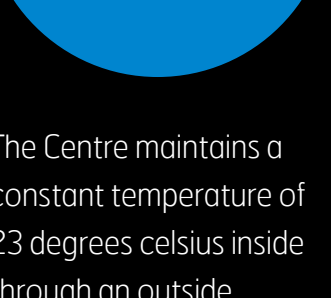
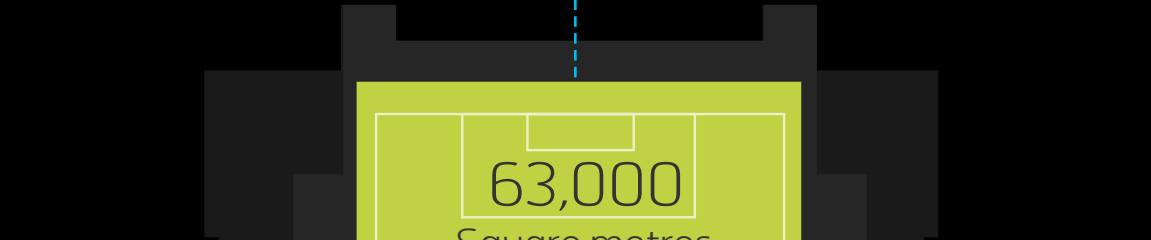
170 Air Traffic Service Assistants

170 Engineers

\* NB numbers fluctuate and those stated are approximations

## The Building

When it opened, Swanwick Centre was the largest purpose-built air traffic centre in the world and the busiest centre in Europe.



The Centre maintains a constant temperature of 23 degrees celsius inside through an outside temperature range from -10 to over 30 degrees.

This is important to ensure equipment works optimally.



23 separate radar sites feed aircraft location data to the controllers.

The centre is also fed by over 50 communications sites across the country that allow the controllers to speak to pilots.

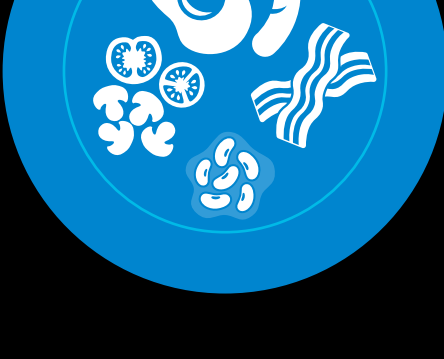


The Swanwick Lakes Nature Reserve was created by NATS in partnership with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

The 36 hectare reserve, adjacent to the Centre, is open to the public and has a local community and educational centre.

## And finally...

It is said that an army marches on its stomach and on average the Centre provides the following every week:



1,960 breakfasts

1,329 lunches

575 sandwiches

Every week!

NATS provides air traffic navigation services to aircraft flying through UK controlled airspace. The work we do at our two centres in the UK ensures we can move more than 6,000 flights every day safely and efficiently.

Find out more about NATS at [nats.aero](http://nats.aero) and [nats.aero/blog](http://nats.aero/blog)