

BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION

British Gliding Futures

The BGA is the national body for gliding in Britain. Its primary purpose is to support the British gliding community, comprised of BGA clubs and their members, in securing the capabilities, facilities and freedom to continue to participate in gliding and soaring in the decades ahead.

Gliding is different things to different people, so there are different views of the future, but they are all encompassed by the following statement.

Our vision is of a vibrant and sustainable future for British gliding as an inspiring air sport, open to all, delivered to the highest standards by a thriving network of clubs across the UK.

To ensure we reach and maintain that state, the community will:

- Support a network of strong and sustainable clubs spread widely across the UK.
- Promote awareness of and participation in gliding at a national and local level.
- Foster the sport's spirit of adventure, and of achievement at every level.
- Ensure high standards of training and coaching at all stages of pilot development, delivered by a team of skilled and motivated instructors and coaches.
- Continuously improve safety standards across the sport.
- Encourage and celebrate the volunteer ethos that defines British gliding.
- Maintain gliding's reputation as a respected and responsible partner in UK aviation.
- Operate an effective, delegated, regulatory regime for gliding in the UK.
- Maintain access to suitable airspace and land for gliding.

The next page describes the aspirations of the gliding community (as understood by BGA from our interactions with clubs and their members over recent years) under the themes of Participation, Club Infrastructure, and Operating Environment. Subsequent pages show the roles BGA will play in supporting the achievement of those aspirations.

This document deliberately balances aspiration with the clarity and precision required of a national governing body with delegated regulatory responsibilities.

This document serves the same purpose as previous BGA Strategy documents: to guide BGA in shaping and prioritising its activities. It is important that the vision described above and the aspirations overleaf reflect those of the British gliding community.

The BGA Executive Committee invites you to comment on any aspect of the document.

- Do you feel supportive, neutral, or unsupportive, of the content as a whole?
- Please describe any significant revision or amplification you propose.
- Please describe any significant omission you identify from the roles BGA performs.

Thank you.

Gliding Community Aspirations

Purposes	<p style="text-align: center;">Aspirations</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The outcomes the British gliding community wishes to achieve</p>
Participation	<p>Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Clubs' aspirations to grow are fulfilled, supporting an upward UK membership trend. b. Profile of membership converging with UK adult population, particularly in age and sex. c. Atmosphere of mutual respect between participants of all roles and experience. d. Ethos of volunteering among club members. e. Wide public perception of British Gliding and its value, particularly in aviation careers. <p>Pilot Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> f. Training and coaching for development seen as a continuum across the full spectrum of gliding activities and experience levels, supporting pilots throughout their time in the sport. g. Volunteer instructors and coaches covering the breadth of gliding activities. <p>Competitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> h. UK competition structure which increases participation by pilots and organisers. i. World-leading international team performance.
Club Infrastructure	<p>These aspirations focus on securing the physical, organisational, and environmental foundations needed for clubs to thrive sustainably.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> j. All clubs own freehold or have viable contracted tenure for over 10 years. k. Gliding operation within 1hr drive for 95% of UK population. l. BGA and all clubs operate to regulatory requirements, and to governance best practice as appropriate to their size. m. Tangible improvement in environmental impact from facilities, operations, and aircraft.
Operating Environment	<p>These aspirations describe the conditions required for gliding to operate safely, proportionately, and with appropriate autonomy within the wider UK aviation system.</p> <p>Regulatory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> n. Training & licensing under delegation to BGA, with maximum autonomy. o. Airworthiness & maintenance standards & certification which are proportionate to gliders, under BGA delegation with maximum autonomy. <p>Airspace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> p. BGA respected by CAA and other airspace stakeholders as influential and equal partners in controlled airspace (CAS) development. q. Glider access to CAS seen as routine/normal by pilots and ATC alike. <p>Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> r. Accident & injury rates among the lowest within GA worldwide.

BGA Roles (1 of 2)

Purposes	BGA Roles The following roles describe how the BGA supports clubs and members in achieving the community's aspirations, acting as an enabler rather than a central operator.
Participation	Membership
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coach & support clubs on membership recruitment & retention, self-awareness & image (especially ground facilities), inclusiveness and diversity, engagement with local communities, and supporting pilot development and prolonged participation. 2. Identify potential volunteer expertise & experience. 3. Promote operational & management techniques which further improve performance. 4. Central promotion of gliding in support of club marketing including publicity for achievements & exploits. 5. Engage with organisations in other countries to participate in development of gliding.
	Pilot Development
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. The BGA supports instructors, coaches, and examiners by promoting training pathways and appropriate age distribution. 7. Develop and support formal non-instructor coach qualification for post-SPL development. 8. Promote a range of pilot development pathways (e.g. thermal/hill/wave, aerobatics, passenger carrying, instructing, cross-country, competition).
Club Infrastructure	Competitions
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. UK competition structure which increases participation by pilots and organisers. 10. Manage international comp teams & costs to sustainable level of BGA funding.
Club Infrastructure	<p style="text-align: center;">These roles focus on strengthening clubs' long-term resilience through good governance, secure tenure, and shared best practice.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Support clubs with Best Practice guidance and, where appropriate, shared resources, covering governance & management, planning matters including airfield safeguarding, real estate planning for site security including site acquisition, safeguarding of vulnerable people, accountability and transparency in all decisions and actions, and accessing external funding. 12. Build a reserve fund to support financing of strategic projects and programs. 13. Seek initiatives for low-carbon technologies for gliding, and support clubs in initiatives for environmental improvement.

BGA Roles (2 of 2)

	<p>BGA Roles</p> <p>In the operating environment, the BGA’s role is to enable safe and proportionate participation in gliding while representing the sport effectively within wider aviation frameworks.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Operating Environment</p>	<p>Regulatory</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14. The BGA supports clubs and instructors by maintaining Sailplane Flight Crew Licencing (SFCL)-compliant training syllabi and training materials for club use. 15. Ongoing SFCL licensing & Pilot Medical Declaration development in partnership with the CAA. 16. Provide BGA pilot certification for non-Part21 gliders, to ensure continued safe and proportionate operation of the non-Part21 fleet. 17. Active program to identify & train new inspectors in BGA & Part 66L qualification. 18. Ensure continued operation of the BGA Combined Airworthiness Organisation and pursue opportunities for further simplification for proportionality to gliding.
	<p>Airspace</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19. Proactive approach to participation in Airspace Change, on the principles of gliding’s needs incorporated in policies & initial designs, equal right of access by non-commercial & VFR traffic, and proportionate and flexible CAS deployment. 20. Defend airspace access for gliding in current and new Airspace Change Proposals (ACP), engaging professional airspace expertise where needed in partnership with other GA organisations. 21. Drive club participation in local Airspace User Groups. 22. National recording & analysis of club-reported airproxes & overflights near their airfields, and CAS access refusals. 23. Encourage clubs to train pilots in use of CAS. 24. Encourage electronic conspicuity in gliders, in partnership with product developers, regulators and other GA, to improve shared situational awareness across UK airspace.
<p>Safety</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25. Develop BGA-wide safety supervision knowledge and experience. 26. Active program to train club safety officers and accident investigators. 27. National record keeping, analysis, and safety education. 	