



### How do I know if I will benefit from the scheme?

If your property has been subject to a confirmed vortex strike, BIAL will keep your details on file until the next Vortex Protection Scheme starts. You will be notified in writing of when your property will be included in the scheme.

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

Suspected strikes should be reported immediately by calling **0121 767 7433**. Please have the following information available:

- The exact date and time of the occurrence if known.
- The extent and nature of the damage.
- Your name, address and telephone number.
- Name, address and telephone number of the house owner (if not yourself).
- Details of the aircraft concerned, if you saw it.

BIAL's appointed assessor will inspect the damage and if a vortex strike has occurred, free remedial repairs will be arranged immediately. The house will then be added to the Scheme for permanent vortex protection. Residents should not repair the property damage prior to an inspection by the vortex Assessor. Homes can only be included in the Scheme once the damage has been verified.



### Contact:

Community Affairs &  
Environment Department,  
Birmingham International  
Airport Limited  
Birmingham B26 3QJ

Tel. **0121 767 7433/7419**

Fax: **0121 767 7065**

Email: **ComAfEn@bhx.co.uk**

Web Site: **www.bhx.co.uk**

## COMMUNITY



**Birmingham  
International Airport  
Limited (BIAL) runs a  
Vortex Protection  
Scheme to protect  
homes around  
the Airport from  
vortex damage.**





### Facts about Aircraft Wake Vortices

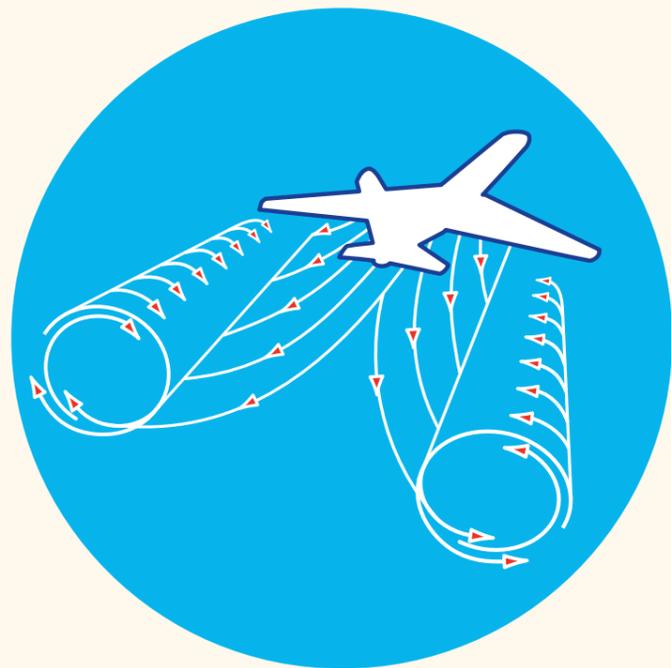
At Birmingham less than 0.005% of flights cause vortex damage. The majority of strikes are concentrated in small areas near the runway ends. Only properties with pitched roofs are affected. Vortex damage has not been recorded at homes now protected under this scheme.

### Eligibility Criteria

Every house which has been damaged by a Birmingham vortex strike, or is damaged in the future, is eligible for vortex protection. The only criteria is for damage to be verified at the time by a BIAL appointed assessor. The damage is very specific in nature and the assessor can quickly identify whether it has been caused by an aircraft vortex strike.

### What are vortices?

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



### What is vortex damage?

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

### Who is legally responsible for 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. BIAL is not liable for vortex damage. In recognition of the fact that identification of the airlines is not always possible BIAL has introduced a Vortex Protection Scheme as part of our commitment to be a good neighbour.

### How do I know if my property has been subject to vortex damage?

The pattern and location of roof damage from aircraft trailing vortices is generally distinctive and easily distinguished from more common gale damage, or general wear and tear. The Loss Adjusters appointed by the Airport are expert in identifying the cause of any reported damage.

### What does the Vortex Protection Scheme provide?

Under the terms of the scheme, any property in the defined vortex risk area that is the subject of a confirmed vortex strike, will be provided with a vortex-proof roof at BIAL's expense. Roofs are strengthened by fixing down new modern tiles with special metal clips. This was shown to be the best way to protect homes following extensive independent scientific research. The work is completed by a contractor appointed by BIAL and is offered at no financial cost to the homeowner.

### What are the rules of the Vortex Protection Scheme?

The rules of the Vortex Protection Scheme are:

- Only properties that lie within a defined vortex risk area will be eligible.
- Only properties where the Airport Company and Airport-appointed Assessor have verified damage to be as a result of a wake vortex strike will be eligible.
- Properties sharing the same roof will be offered a new roof.
- If householders do not accept the offer of a new roof, the Airport Company will no longer conduct repairs in the event of future vortex damage.
- The Airport-appointed contractor will carry out all works.
- Properties provided with a new roof will no longer be eligible for further repairs under the scheme.
- The Airport Company will continue to provide immediate remedial repairs to properties damaged as a result of a vortex strike for the first time. Those properties will then be added to the scheme for permanent vortex protection. Work will start as soon as possible although waiting times may vary.