

## FACT SHEET OUR ENVIRONMENT



Protecting our surrounding environment is very important to ensure its around for future generations. So what kinds of things does Newcastle Airport do to limit its impact on the environment?

### **Water**

Did you know that in some places Newcastle Airport is only 0.5 metres above the water table? If you were to dig a hole at Newcastle Airport it would not take very long until you noticed water in the soil. This makes it easy for pollutants to enter the water underneath the Airport.

There are special poles called 'spear poles' dug into the ground all over the Newcastle Airport. Every three months the water in these poles is tested to make sure it is healthy.

Newcastle Airport also has a special 'fuel retention' pond, which looks just like a normal water pond except that it is man-made. All the storm water from around the precinct goes through special filters – called 'fuel interceptors' – to remove any oil and fuel that may have washed off the apron or buildings. This water is then filtered through sand to make it clean and unpolluted, so it can go into the retention ponds and re-enter the water table.

### **Recycling**

Newcastle Airport recycles all glass, paper and cardboard.

### **Terminal design**

The terminal building has been designed with the environment in mind. Water saving taps and sensor lights are installed, as well as lots of windows so there is plenty of natural light.

### **Noise**

Noise is a major issue for all airports. Houses are being built close to airports and there are often complaints about aircraft noise.

There are lots different ways that airport noise is created. The way that the wind is blowing, whether or not it is a cloudy day and what sort of bush surrounds the airport can play a part in the amount of noise that is heard.

To limit the noise from Newcastle Airport on local residents, the following rules have been put in place:

- > We are open between 6.00am and 10.00pm – so that residents are not woken up by aircraft at night
- > We have a limited number of arrivals and departures every hour – so that if there is any noise, it isn't all the time.

- > We have time restrictions on when engineering and maintenance departments can carry out their work – to make sure that loud noise isn't done at night or early in the morning.

Airlines are now using new technology to design quieter aircraft. The Airbus A380 is the biggest plane to ever be built, yet it is quieter than the older Boeing 747s.

**Revision questions**

1. How many metres above the water table is Newcastle Airport?

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2. What is the name of the poles that test the water?

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3. What does Newcastle Airport recycle?

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4. What are the opening hours of Newcastle Airport?

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5. What is the name of the biggest plane to ever be built?

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## Answers

1. How many metres above the water table is Newcastle Airport?

0.5 metres

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2. What is the name of the poles that test the water?

'Spear' poles

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3. What does Newcastle Airport recycle?

Glass, paper and cardboard

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4. What are the opening hours of Newcastle Airport?

6.00am til 10.00pm

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5. What is the name of the biggest plane to ever be built?

Airbus A380

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