

Rothera Visiting Aircraft Information

The purpose of this information is to ensure visiting aircrews are aware of the operational procedures, contact information and general guidelines when visiting the Rothera Research Station.

Rothera Contact Information

Rothera Operations	+44 1223 221670	rops@bas.ac.uk	
Rothera Operations Iridium	+881 621 463 301		
Rothera Tower Supervisor	+44 1223 221318	mates@bas.ac.uk	
Rothera Forecaster	+44 1223 221680	rforecaster@bas.ac.uk	
Rothera Forecaster Iridium	+881 677 748 637		
Field Operations Manager	+44 1223 221673	rfom@bas.ac.uk	
Rothera Station Leader	+44 1223 221672	rbc@bas.ac.uk	
Chief Pilot	+44 1223 221675	daland@bas.ac.uk	
Operations Programme Manager	+44 1223 221595	chrdri@bas.ac.uk	
Rothera Emergency All Phones (out of hours)	+44 1223 221696		
Rothera Radio AeroVHF Frequency	118.1MHz		
Rothera Radio HF Frequencies	5080kHz	7775kHz	9106kHz

Further information for aircrews, including weather and NOTAMs, can be obtained from <https://www.bas.ac.uk/polar-operations/polar-science-facilities/aircraft/pilots/>

Use of Rothera Airfield

Operating Hours:

1100Z – 0000Z (Operations Tower from 0945Z)

Monday – Saturday

October – February

Other times by arrangement.

All operations are strictly PPR.

Use of Rothera Airfield requires an advanced request by the company/National Science Program to be made to the Operations Programme Manager. Once granted, use of Rothera requires a minimum of 48 hours' notice by email to Rothera Operations. The email must include the following details: aircraft registration, aircraft type, requested arrival time, crew names, number of male and female personnel and dietary requirements. **Final authorisation to arrive at Rothera will only be given on the day of intended arrival and must be requested by phone from Rothera Operations BEFORE departure.** In general, Rothera's facilities are only available to aircraft engaged in National Science Programs. The airfield may be available outside of published hours when BAS aircraft are operating or on request. **SAR and MEDEVAC operations will be accepted outside operating hours and with minimal notice when required.**

Rothera Runway Restrictions, Procedures and Runway Status

BAS procedures require a sterile runway at Rothera for all periods where the BAS Dash 7 has passed PSR until it has landed. Other aircraft will **NOT** be allowed to depart or land during this period. It is also vital to establish runway status due to snow clearing, ships moored on the wharf, icebergs, runway maintenance, base construction etc. Therefore it is mandatory for visiting aircraft captains to contact Rothera Operations before departure. It is the sole responsibility of the aircraft captain to establish the airfield status, gain final authorisation and ensure the flight is planned to avoid times where the airfield is unavailable. If a captain becomes aware that their ETA may conflict with a planned Dash 7 PSR period or other restrictions, they must inform Rothera Operations as soon as possible. Failure to adhere to these requirements may result in refusal to use the airfield and the aircraft will be directed to divert or return to the point of departure. Dash 7 PSR restrictions do not affect aircraft able to use Rothera skiway when conditions are suitable for its use. However, if the skiway becomes unusable, permission will NOT be given to use the runway under any circumstances during Dash 7 PSR periods. Aircraft captains opting to use the skiway must have a diversion option or enough fuel to hold until the runway becomes available.

Weather Forecasting and Information

During early/late season there may be no forecaster available at Rothera. Depending on staffing levels, there may also be further days when the forecaster is not available due to the requirement for rest days.

Requests for weather information should be emailed in advance to the forecaster. A TAF and Met Pack are normally sent in the morning at 1000Z for the coming day, with a draft TAF and planning pack sent late afternoon around 2100Z. Timings are approximate and can vary. If specific times are required, please request this from the forecaster. Once on station, the daily Met Brief is held at 0745 local time. Operational messages should not be passed via the forecaster and shall instead be directed to Rothera Operations.

Rothera AIROBs will usually commence from 1000Z.

NOTAMs & Airfield Charts

Rothera NOTAMs are published via the standard AIS system. NOTAMs and Airfield Charts are available from <https://www.bas.ac.uk/polar-operations/polar-science-facilities/aircraft/pilots/>

Runway Surface Report Forms

Runway Surface Reports will be sent whenever there is snow and/or ice contamination on the runway.

Use of Facilities and Requests for Assistance

On station requests for assistance with transport, refuelling, flight planning etc should be made to the Field Operations Manager or Station Leader. All requests for use of the hangar or aircraft technical support shall be made to the Field Operations Manager and Chief Pilot. All reasonable requests will be granted wherever possible. Access to the hangar and work carried out in the hangar shall be controlled and authorised by the Chief Pilot. Please note that lone working is not permitted in the hangar at any time (i.e. an engineer should have one of the pilots with them if working on the aircraft unless BAS staff are present). All containers and storage areas on the station (except those allocated for storage of visiting aircraft parts) are off-limits to visiting personnel.

General

Visiting personnel will be met on arrival by BAS staff and will be briefed on station safety procedures. This will normally be completed by the Station Leader.

Personnel are required to wear hi-visibility clothing when outside on station at all times. Personnel should ensure that clothing, boots etc meet biosecurity regulations.

Captains of visiting aircraft are responsible for all crew members and passengers during their stay on station. Any issues should be brought to the attention of the Station Leader.

All visiting personnel are reminded that they are expected to ensure that all bedrooms, living areas, work areas etc are left clean and tidy after use. The runway may only be crossed at the designated crossing point. The tagging in/out system and actions in the event of a fire alarm must be adhered to at all times. Visiting personnel are asked not to leave the base area unless escorted by BAS personnel or having first discussed their intentions with the Station Leader. Smoking is only permitted at designated smoking spots.

At certain periods of the year delays can be expected due to a shortage of staff and weather, particularly during early/late season and ship reliefs etc. However, every effort will be made to support visiting aircraft and personnel during their time at Rothera.