

VISIT TO AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL (ATC)

Aim: To prepare you for your visit to the ATC Centre so as to ensure you get maximum benefit from your time there.

Intro

Here in Christchurch, we are fortunate in having Airways Corporation of NZ's (ACNZ's) primary ATC facility. It is located in Avonhead (see attached map of how to find it) and is the facility used for the bulk of ATC operational control of NZ's airspace. The centre also houses the administrative arm of ACNZ and the ATC Training School. Visits to the centre allow us the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the types of airspace we operate gliders in, who else operates in the airspace, how we work within the rules pertaining to the airspace, the role / job of Air Traffic Controllers and the environment they work in. It also gives us, as glider pilots, a unique opportunity to share information about how we like to operate so controllers gain a wider understanding of our sport and how we would like to make safe and efficient use of airspace.

Visits:

Visits will be organised by a Club Instructor. Once details of timing are confirmed with ACNZ, you will be advised by email and / or phone. We usually aim to do the visits on a morning or afternoon of a weekend or during school holidays. It is important that if you are unable to make it on the day, ensure your visit organiser is informed.

The following conditions are set by ACNZ:

- Visits are restricted to between 0800 and 1800 hours.
- All groups need one escort with up to five visitors.
- No more than two groups of five at any one time in the Centre.
- ACNZ must have the manpower available for escorting visitors.
- All visitors must be met and signed in and issued a Visitor's ID Card
- The Duty Manager must be warned of the visit and retains final authority to approve the visit.
- Cell phones are not permitted in the Operations Room.
- Visitors should keep noise to a minimum and not converse with staff on operational positions unless under active familiarisation at the work station. (as depicted in this photo)
- Photography is allowed with prior approval. No flash photography is permitted.



Tip:

- Study the local airspace maps so you can relate this to what you see in the radar room.
- Note down any questions you may have and ensure you ask them...questions are encouraged as it is the perfect opportunity to learn more and improve our understanding of ATC procedures etc.

Need To Know:

- Who is coordinating your visit and how to contact them.
- How to find your way to the ATC Centre.
- How to contact the ATC Centre with any follow-up questions

Further Reading:

- MOAP. The reference for rules / procedures relating to access and use of airspace.