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RAF SHAWBURY - SHROPSHIRE  
RAF VALLEY - ANGLESEY

## Qualified Rotary Instructor Roles



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Our passion

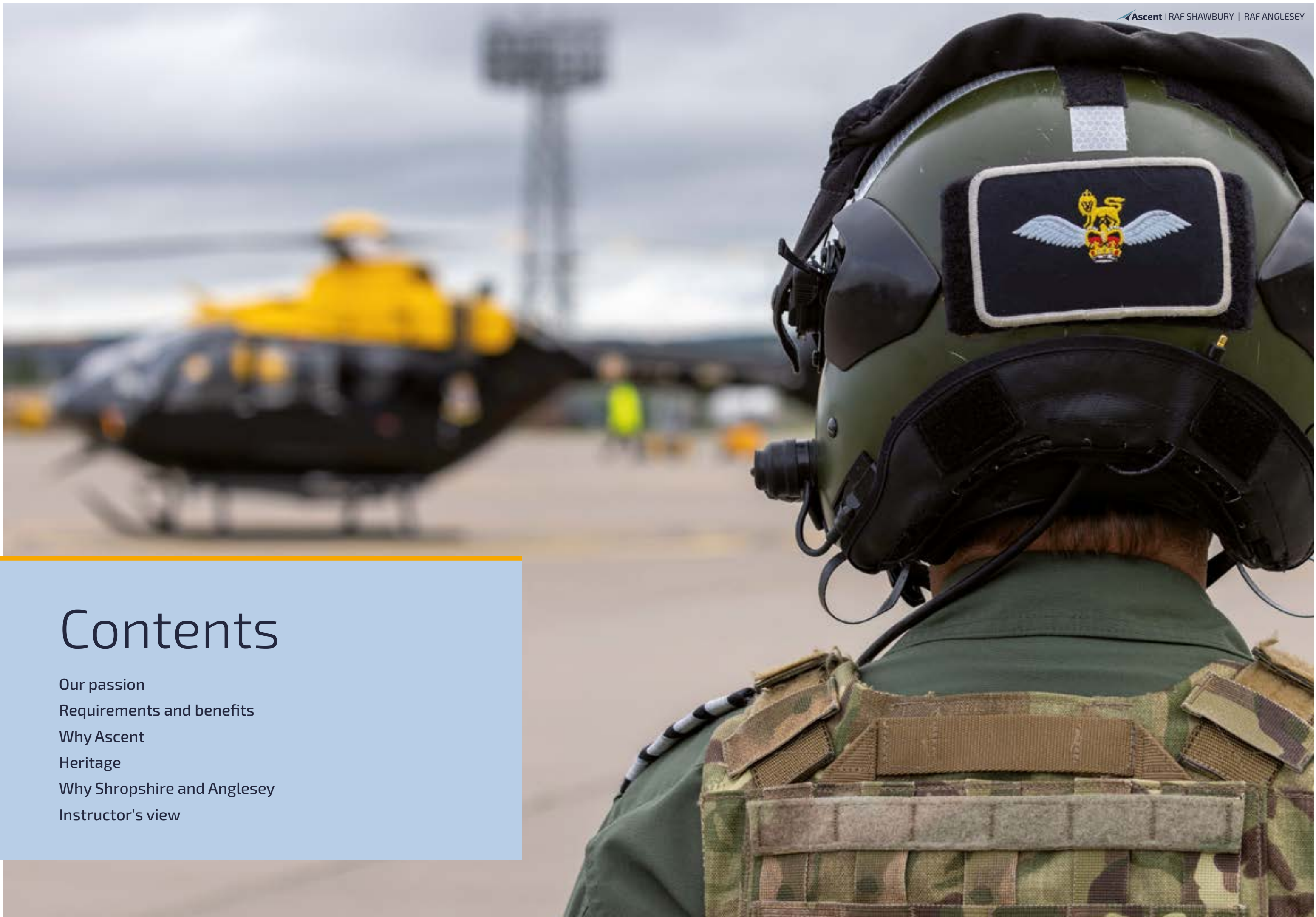
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# Our passion is for training, helping our customers realise their potential and deliver their Mission

Our people are the most important part of the training services we provide.

Ascent is seeking Rotary Flying Training instructors at RAF Shawbury in Shropshire. We are looking to fill flying instructor roles as Qualified Helicopter Instructors (QHIs), Qualified Helicopter Crewman Instructors (QHClIs), Maritime Qualified Helicopter Instructors (QHIs) and Maritime Qualified Helicopter Crewman Instructors (QHClIs)

You would be permanently based at RAF Shawbury in Shropshire, in the West Midlands, or for Maritime, at RAF Valley in Anglesey.

For aircrew with the necessary levels of experience and expertise, we will pay you to convert onto the H135 (Juno) and, dependant on role, H145 (Jupiter), including training you to become a Central Flying School (Helicopters) accredited Instructor.

This is a fantastic opportunity to do what you love doing, in a military environment, and help train the next generation of helicopter pilots and rear crew.

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As a flying instructor you will deliver a varied and exciting syllabus, which includes basic conversion, instrument flying, low level navigation and tactical formation. Our trainees operate initially as singletons and then mature into pairs work as wingman and leader.

As a Maritime QHI/QHCl, you will teach military aircrew how to conduct basic helicopter hoisting operations pertinent to their respective military commitments, with a heavy focus on the maritime environment. Pilots are taught the necessary handling and mission-management skills required to conduct winching operations resulting in the safe, effective recovery of personnel from cliffs, boats or small life rafts.

**We offer a managed pathway for military personnel looking to transition seamlessly into civilian employment.**



## Requirements and benefits

### As an instructor you will have:

- A driven focus on safety and assurance
- Strong values of respect, resilience and integrity
- High professional standards
- Operational experience and a military ethos
- A forward leaning approach to commercial relationships
- A desire to be part of a world-class team, delivering exceptional flying training

### Application requirements:

- ESSENTIAL**  
Previous military experience operating as a pilot or rear crew in a frontline operational environment.
- HIGHLY DESIRABLE**  
CFS Instructor category
- DESIRABLE**  
Aircrew Instructor Course with Enhanced Instructional Techniques add on

### What are the benefits?

- Conversion onto Type (H135/H145)
- Central Flying School (internationally recognised centre of excellence) Instructor category
- Working in partnership with military colleagues
- Bolstering UK Defence by delivering the next generation of helicopter pilots
- Equivalent to 26 days annual leave plus bank holidays (extra days with length of service)
- Private AXA health care for you and your family
- Pension plan (up to 6% matched)
- Life Assurance (up to 3x your annual salary)
- Flexible benefits (buying and selling holiday, BUPA dental, cycle2work scheme, retail discounts)
- Enhanced maternity and paternity leave and pay
- Enhanced company sick pay, which increases with length of service
- Employee Assistance Programme (24/7 free and confidential legal and wellbeing advice)
- Annual reviews of your salary and individual learning and development plan
- Mental health support and subscription to the Unmind platform for you and a plus one



# Why Ascent

Ascent has been a trusted provider of innovative training systems for more than 16 years. Since 2008, we have designed and delivered world-class, bespoke training for the armed services, through the UK Military Flight Training System (UKMFTS).

A joint venture between Lockheed Martin and Babcock International, Ascent employs 420+ staff across six UK sites, **designing, developing and delivering** training, technology products and technical services.

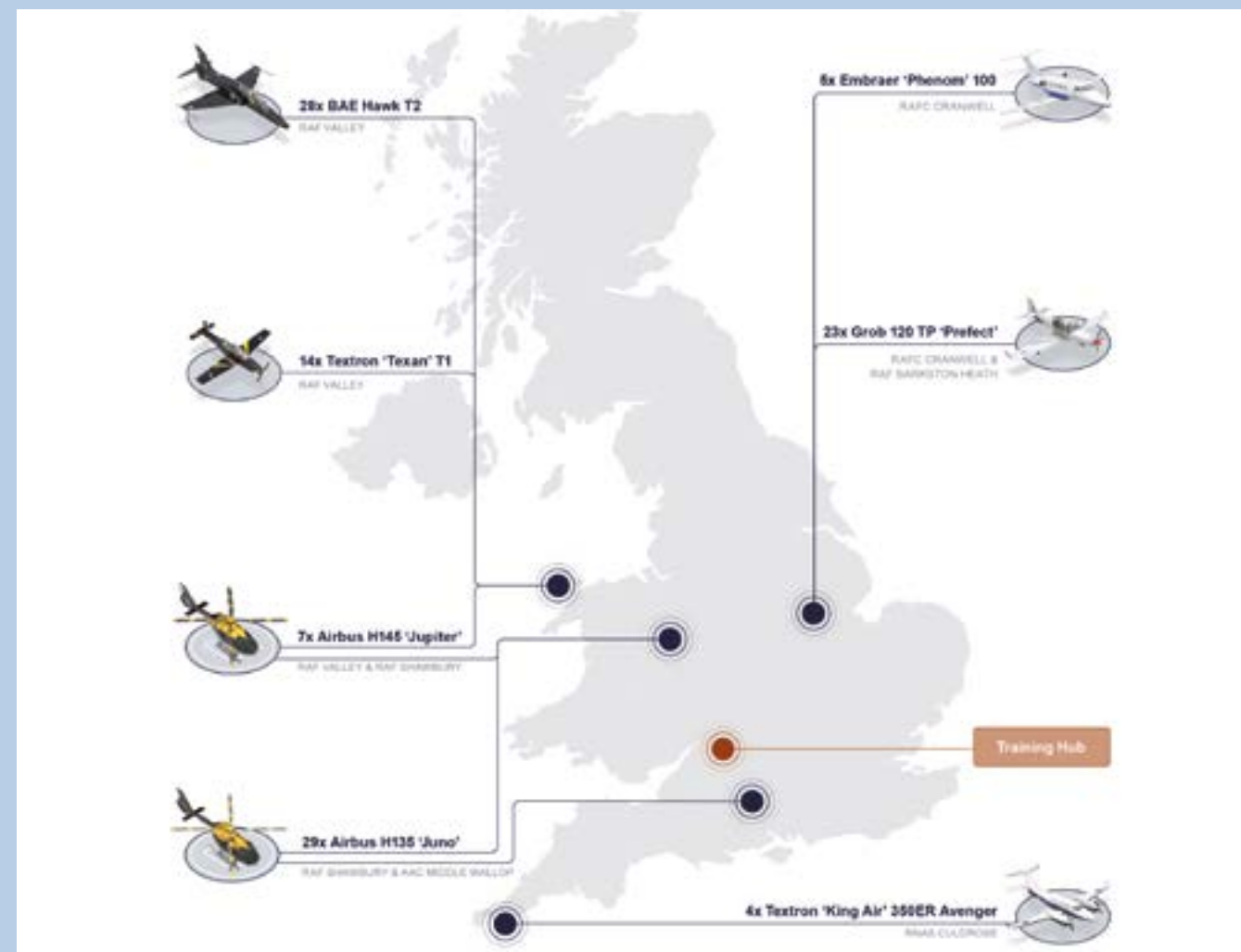
We pride ourselves on our strong partnerships and understanding of our customers' needs, offering bespoke turnkey **training solutions** that generate mission-ready teams, through our unique blend of live and synthetic training.

Ascent trains UK Armed Forces' fast jet, multi-engine and rotary wing pilots and rear-crew/mission aircrew, through Elementary, Basic and Advanced Flying Training. We currently

operate a fleet of 110 aircraft and over 100 simulators at our modern training centres, delivering more than 500 next generation combat leaders to FTUs/OCUs annually, in addition to over 100 instructor qualification upgrades. By February 2025 - as part of UKMFTS - we have flown more than 180,000 accident-free flight hours and 125,000 simulation hours across our sites, with 75,000 hours flown at Shawbury.

At Ascent, our Cultural Values – Accountability & Empowerment, Integrity, Courage and Teamwork – are rooted in respect, for our employees, our partners and our customers. That's why championing diversity and inclusion is so important to us. When we embrace different perspectives and give everyone the chance to be the best they can be, we can think in new, creative ways that grow and enhance our business.

We are committed to equal opportunities for all. We pride ourselves on being a Disability Confident Committed Employer, and are a signatory of the Women in Defence Charter.



# Heritage

RAF Shawbury provides world-class training to the UK Armed Forces and international partners.

No.1 Flying Training School (1FTS) trains helicopter aircrew. The Central Flying School (Helicopter) delivers Qualified Helicopter Instructors. The Defence College of Air and Space Operations trains Air Traffic Controllers, Weapons Controllers, Identification Officers and Flight Operations personnel.

As part of Rotary Flying Training, you will work collaboratively with one of five Squadrons:

**660 Squadron AAC** - A squadron of the British Army's Army Air Corps (AAC), it was formerly No. 660 Squadron RAF, an RAF air observation post squadron associated with the 21st Army Group during WW2. Since 1969, it has operated as a British Army unit, flying various types of battlefield helicopters. It forms part of 1FTS

**705 Naval Air Squadron** - The Squadron was formed in 1936 and operated Swordfish torpedo bombers from battlecruisers. It achieved squadron status in 1939 before being disbanded in 1940. The squadron was re-formed briefly in 1945 and then again in 1947 as a fleet requirements unit. Since the 1950s, the squadron has been involved in the basic training of helicopter aircrew, and is part of 1FTS.

**60 Squadron** - The Squadron was formed in 1916 and is part of 1FTS, flying the Airbus H135 Juno and H145 Jupiter.

**670 Squadron AAC** - A squadron of the British Army's Army Air Corps. It is responsible for the Operational Conversion Phase of the Army Pilots' Course. It was formerly No. 670 Squadron RAF.

**202 Squadron** - Based at RAF Valley, on Anglesey, 202 Sqn delivers the maritime and winning operations elements of the 1FTS syllabus. Formed initially in World War 1, 202 Sqn operated a number of fixed wing types before commencing Search and Rescue helicopter operations with Whirlwinds in 1964. 202 Squadron now operates the Jupiter H145.

**Ascent is very proud to work with these squadrons - which have rich and unique histories - and we aim to maintain their high standards.**





# Why Anglesey?

## Location

There is a lot to discover on Anglesey, with its rich heritage and culture, Jurassic landscapes and vast array of flora and fauna. Much of its coastline is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and its sense of place in the Welsh culture is clear to see and hear, with the Welsh language being widely used on the island, along with local foods, crafts and tales of myths and legends.

The island is suited to many outdoor pursuits and RAF Valley is only a 45 minute drive from Eryri National Park (Snowdonia). Many local villages have quaint cafés and restaurants and if you are pining for city life then Chester is only a 90 min drive away. This old Roman city founded as a fortress in the 1st Century is steeped in history and known for its shopping district, theatres and restaurants.

If you'd prefer to stay closer to home, RAF Valley is situated next to a two mile, practically secluded, sandy beach. Ideal for a quick lunch break, a morning swim or an evening stroll after work.

## Family

There are fantastic opportunities for family life on and off the island. Ascent's work/life balance is second to none, with all the benefits of flying in a demanding environment, without the hassle of military duties and responsibilities and with a settled working pattern. This allows ample time to focus on what truly matters in life.

With incredible places to live, our instructors either buy or rent locally, or commute from as far away as Chester. For those of us with children, there are some fantastic schools that teach a wide variety of subjects.

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# Why Shropshire?

## Location

Shropshire is known for its scenic beauty, with rolling hills, historic towns and a peaceful rural environment. It offers a slower pace of life compared to large cities, which can contribute to a better work-life balance.

The cost of living in Shropshire is generally lower than in major urban areas, including housing costs, making it an attractive option for those looking to maximise their disposable income.

Shropshire boasts a rich cultural heritage with numerous historical sites, museums and festivals. The sense of community is strong, and the area is known for its friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

While it offers rural charm, Shropshire is well connected with good transport links to major cities like Birmingham and Manchester, as well as direct rail services to London - making it convenient for commuting or accessing more amenities when needed.

## Family

Shropshire boasts several high performing primary and secondary schools. Many schools in the county have received good or outstanding ratings from Ofsted. There are also a range of reputable independent and grammar schools within the county, providing many educational options for families.

For those families that enjoy the outdoors, Shropshire offers numerous recreational opportunities such as hiking, cycling, and exploring the Shropshire Hills, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

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# Instructor's view

## George Thompson - Qualified Helicopter Instructor



Following 20 years as a military helicopter pilot, the transition to civilian life with Ascent could not have been easier. Having previously served as an instructor at RAF Shawbury, returning to the fold to work alongside several familiar faces, as well as many new ones, felt both welcoming and engaging.

In my five-year absence from Shawbury, whilst flying overseas, the world-class infrastructure and setup change with the new UKMFTS footprint was extremely impressive and exciting to be a part of. Eight, state-of-the-art flight-sim training devices, capable of providing real-time conjoined formation missions, was not only a huge leap forward technologically, but also in terms of the training potential that could be offered to trainees. Those, coupled with virtual reality training devices for rear crew and advanced cockpit training simulators, were a monumental step forward from the archaic days of learning checks from cardboard cut-outs.

Flying the modern, glass-cockpit Airbus H135 'Juno' and H145 'Jupiter' aircraft has been thoroughly enjoyable and the capabilities they provide are often better than some front line aircraft. From a pilot's point of view, the cutting-edge helicopters are intuitive to fly and provide the perfect platform to instruct a multitude of profiles from. Flying one to two instructional sorties a day to help develop our nation's future military aviators is truly inspirational and thoroughly rewarding each time I step into the cockpit. Every day, every flight, and every trainee, brings a fresh new challenge which keeps the flying both varied and immensely satisfying.

Ascent is an excellent company to work for, with benefits ranging from private healthcare, electric vehicle and cycle-to-work schemes, as well as discount offers for most major shopping outlets. As a father, who regularly has to conduct

school runs, the working day and management are very accommodating with flexible working options for those that need the added domestic versatility.

RAF Shawbury has excellent transport links and is close enough to the Welsh hills for those who, like me, have a taste for the great outdoors. The local, market town of Shrewsbury is idyllic, yet bustling with food festivals and family entertainment, so there's always plenty to do. The base has nursery care for children, a Costa coffee shop and an impressively equipped free-to-access gym to cater for all lifestyle choices.

I can't recommend the job highly enough to anyone who enjoys working amongst a great team of like-minded professionals, all with the common goal of training the next generation of future military aviators.







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