

About Your LAA Coach

Simon Wilson



Simon originally comes from, Co. Down, Northern Ireland. He first flew in microlights with his father, who is a microlight Flying Instructor, at the age of six. Hooked on flying, he took every opportunity to fly with whoever he could convince to let him in the cockpit, going solo on his 17th birthday. He went on to complete his PPL within the following few months.

Simon joined the Royal Navy as a pilot in 2002, completing the flying training requirements of Naval Flying Grading on the Grob 115D Heron, Joint Elementary Flying Training School on the Slingsby T67M260 Firefly and Defence Helicopter Flying School on the Squirrel HT.1, before joining the maritime Lynx Helicopter Force. He was one of the last pilots to complete the final ab initio Lynx HAS Mk3 course, gaining his wings in 2005, and converted to the Lynx HMA Mk8 DSP a short time later. Following on, he joined HMS Sutherland Flight for Operation TELIC in 2006.

He subsequently served on HMS Montrose as the flight pilot, deployed in the Mediterranean, and participated in Operation ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR during 2007. Simon has flown Lynx on a range of demanding tasks in the UK and abroad and converted to the upgraded Lynx HMA Mk8 SRU. He is currently Qualified Helicopter Instructor with 702 Naval Air Squadron and teaches ab initio and refresher pilots how to fly the Lynx. He has also previously flown the Hawk T.1 and is currently a Swordfish Display Pilot with the Royal Navy Historic Flight based at Yeovilton.

In his spare time Simon enjoys flying a wide range of aircraft and is a Single Engine Piston, Class Rating Instructor. He has flown everything from weight shift microlights,

through many different general aviation aeroplanes, to vintage aircraft, many of them LAA types. He owns a Quickie Q2 and has been restoring it to an airworthy condition over the last few years. Simon has accumulated flight time over in 70 different aircraft types to date, of which 20 are taildraggers. He is also a member of the LAA Devon Strut and currently resides in Dorset.