

WP/33

17TH MEETING
BIRD STRIKE COMMITTEE EUROPE
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Rome
AERODROME WG/33

PROGRESS IN BIRD CONTROL
AT HELSINKI-VANTAA AIRPORT

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As a consequence of two serious bird strikes at Helsinki-Vantaa Airport in the summer of 1978, a Bird Strike Committee was established at the airport.

The Committee has co-ordinated the bird control work with following progress.

1. Bird patrolling at the airport has been prolonged to cover the daylight hours from March 15th to November 30th. The duty of the patrol is to keep the runways free from the birds before the operations.
2. At the airport several measures have been taken to change the immediate environment in such a way that it will not attract birds. The most important work has been the filling of the ponds near the middle part of the main runway.
3. Earthworm control experiments with benomyl have also been made (annex).
The results show that there was a statistically significant difference ($\chi^2 = 120^{***}$) in the numbers of earthworms between the control and experiment areas (the ratio: 2.1). However, it was not possible to draw conclusions about the influence of the treatment on the future occurrence of the common gulls.
4. In order to reduce the number of gulls in the surrounding regions of the airport the co-operation work with the near-by towns has been continued as follows:

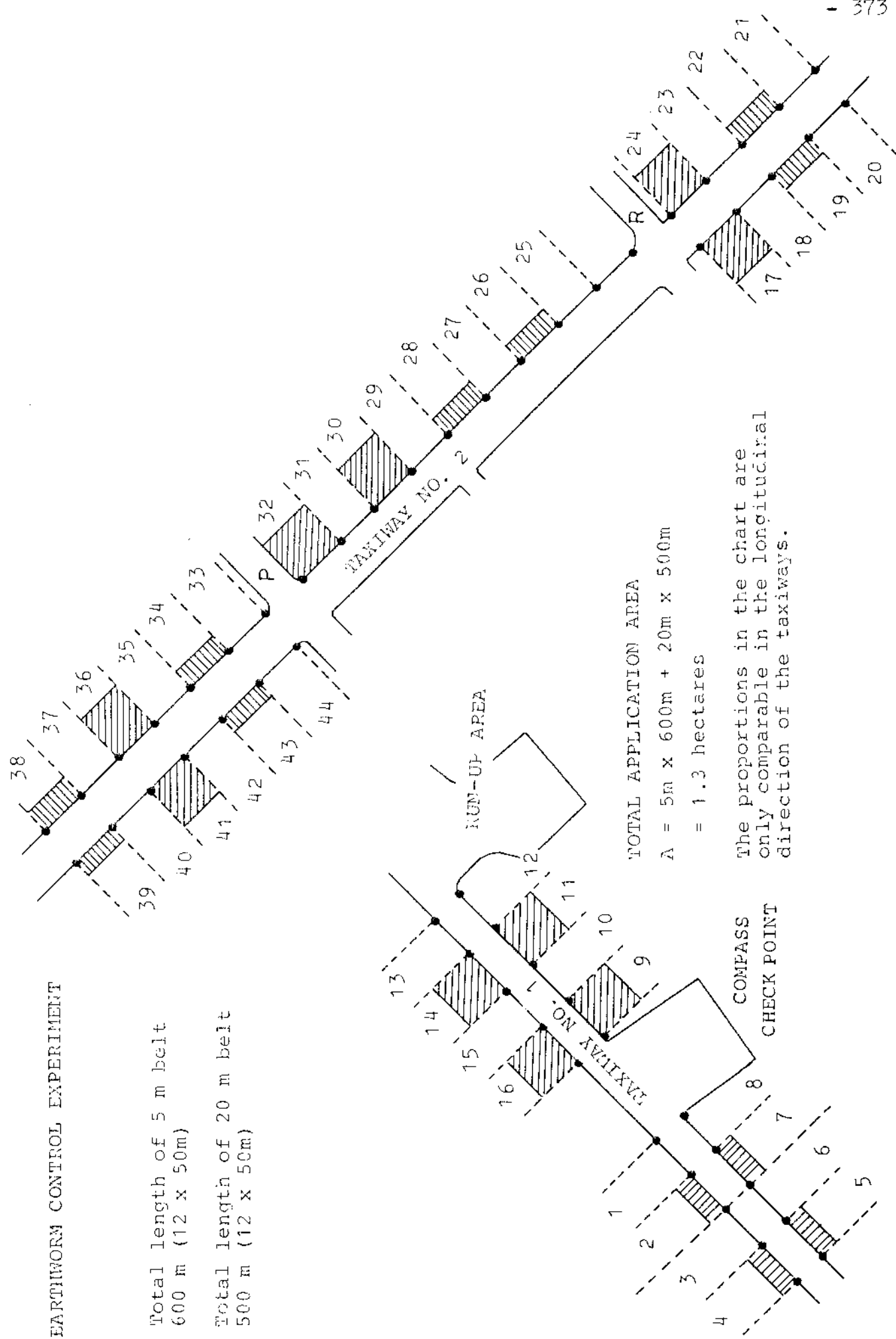
- The maintenance of the dump about 4 kilometers north-west from the airport has been carried out by covering all the garbage with soil.
 - The herring gull population in the archipelago of Helsinki has been controlled yearly.
 - A fur farm near the airport has been covered with wires.
5. During the top periods of the migration of the arctic birds warnings have been given to the air traffic according to the observations made simultaneously in the radar of the airport and on the field in some coasted regions of south-east Finland.

The progress in bird control work at Helsinki-Vantaa Airport has made it possible that no severe bird strikes have happened in the years 1981-84.

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EARTHWORM CONTROL EXPERIMENT

Total length of 5 m belt
600 m (12 x 50m)

Total length of 20 m belt
500 m (12 x 50m)

TOTAL APPLICATION AREA

$$A = 5m \times 600m + 20m \times 500m$$

$$= 1.3 \text{ hectares}$$

The proportions in the chart are only comparable in the longitudinal direction of the taxiways.

COMPASS
CHECK POINT