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RAF Northolt ACP Re Start Update

I am contacting you to provide an update regarding the Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) that RAF Northolt is currently undertaking in line with the Department for Transport's and the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) Airspace Modernisation Strategy (AMS).¹ RAF Northolt is one of 16 airports conducting an ACP to meet the AMS which collectively come under the umbrella of the Future Airspace Strategy Implementation (South) (FASI(S)) group. The ACP is being conducted in accordance with Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Policy.²

Work Conducted

Stage 1. RAF Northolt began its ACP in late 2018 and was assigned an ACP ID: ACP 2018-66 by the CAA. The RAF Northolt ACP was also added to the CAA Airspace Portal which is accessible to all.³ CAP 1616 directs a 7-step process and RAF Northolt embarked upon Stage 1 'Define' immediately and, following engagement with our Stakeholder Community articulated a set of Design Principles in which all future work is to be measured against. Stage 1 activity was completed and submitted to the CAA mid-2019 and following CAA ratification RAF Northolt passed through the Stage 1 Define Gateway on 31 July 2019.

Stage 2. RAF Northolt progressed to Stage 2 'Develop and Assess', and the initial Step 2A 'Option Development'. Utilising the Design Principles identified in Stage 1 RAF Northolt conducted Option Design workshops to identify as many potential route options as possible. The options underwent a series of iterations to provide a set of potentially flyable routes⁴ that took into consideration the design principles. This was followed by a series of engagement activities that RAF Northolt conducted to provide the Stakeholder Community with the opportunity to understand how the Design Options were being developed in line with our agreed Design Principles.

¹ [CAP 1711 – Airspace Modernisation Strategy](https://publicapps.caa.co.uk/docs/33/CAP%201711%20Airspace%20Modernisation%20Strategy.pdf)
<https://publicapps.caa.co.uk/docs/33/CAP%201711%20Airspace%20Modernisation%20Strategy.pdf>

² [CAP1616 – Airspace Change](http://publicapps.caa.co.uk/docs/33/CAP1616_Airspace%20Change_Ed_3_Jan2020_interactive.pdf)
http://publicapps.caa.co.uk/docs/33/CAP1616_Airspace%20Change_Ed_3_Jan2020_interactive.pdf

³ [CAA Airspace Change Portal](https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/PublicProposalArea?pID=50) <https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/PublicProposalArea?pID=50>

⁴ Based on Performance Based Navigational requirements.



Pause in ACP Activity

Unfortunately, in early 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic struck and the majority of the FASI(S) Airports paused their respective ACPs. RAF Northolt continued to conduct some ACP activity however, to ensure a coherent approach with neighbouring airports it was decided to formally pause its ACP in November 2020, the CAA were informed, and the ACP Portal updated.

ACP Re-start

The Government's decision (Mar 21) to allocate funding to the AMS programme which has enabled FASI(S) airports to resume ACP activity. To formally restart ACP activity the CAA requires sponsors to evidence their adherence to the CAA Policy Statement (Dated Oct 20).⁵

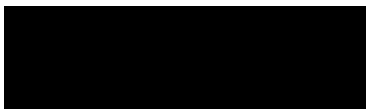
One of RAF Northolt's main considerations when reviewing the CAA Policy Statement was its relationship and interaction with neighbouring airports, particularly Heathrow due to its proximity. Close working relationships will continue as airports restart their respective ACP activity, however, work conducted to this point has very much been conducted independently rather than being directly connected to another airports ACP (as directed by the CAP1616 process). The proximity of Heathrow and Northolt will require very close interaction between the 2 airports. However, thus far all of Northolt's design work has been based on Heathrow's generic location and not any particular runway options. It was therefore assessed that RAF Northolt could continue its ACP from where it was paused in November 2020.

The CAA has accepted RAF Northolt's submission and therefore ACP activity will resume with immediate effect.

Stakeholder Engagement

RAF Northolt will continue to work with its Stakeholder Community throughout this ACP. If you have any questions relating to this update please submit them to the following email address: NOR-AirSpacePortal@mod.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



⁵ ['Guidance for Sponsors currently progressing through the CAP 1616 process: Restarting a 'paused' Airspace Change Proposal \(ACP\)'](#).

https://publicapps.caa.co.uk/docs/33/20201028%20ACP%20restart%20guidance_Final%20for%20publication.pdf