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Enabling RPAS Operations from RAF Fairford  
ACP-2021-078

Airspace Change Proposal  
Assessment Meeting  
7 Dec 2021

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# ACP Stage 1 DEFINE - Assessment Meeting

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- Introduction/Apologies for Absence CAA
- Statement of Need (discussion & review) All
- Issues or opportunities arising from proposed change Sponsor
- Options to exploit opportunities or address issues identified Sponsor
- Provisional indication of the level and process requirements CAA
- Provisional process timescales All
- Next Steps All
- AOB All

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## 1. Introduction/Apologies for Absence

CAA

MOD

USAF



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## 2. Statement of Need

In order to support NATO's Agile Combat Employment concept, the US Air Force is making significant infrastructure investments on airbases in the UK and other allied nations. There is an emerging requirement for military aircraft, including Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), to operate regularly from RAF Fairford. In accordance with CAP 722 – Unmanned Aircraft System Operations in UK Airspace – Guidance and Policy, beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) operations require either a CAA-approved Detect and Avoid (DAA) capability or to remain within a block of airspace that is segregated from other airspace users. This ACP aims to establish suitable segregated airspace to enable RPAS transition between RAF Fairford and medium- or high-altitude transit.



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### 3. Issues or opportunities arising from Proposed Change

#### Issues:

- Timeline for completion (by summer 2023)
- No Detect and Avoid (DAA) for BVLOS flight
- Potentially large volume of segregated airspace required – scope of engagement, complexity



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### 3. Issues or opportunities arising from Proposed Change

Opportunities:

- Support of NATO
- Further development of BVLOS RPAS activity in the UK



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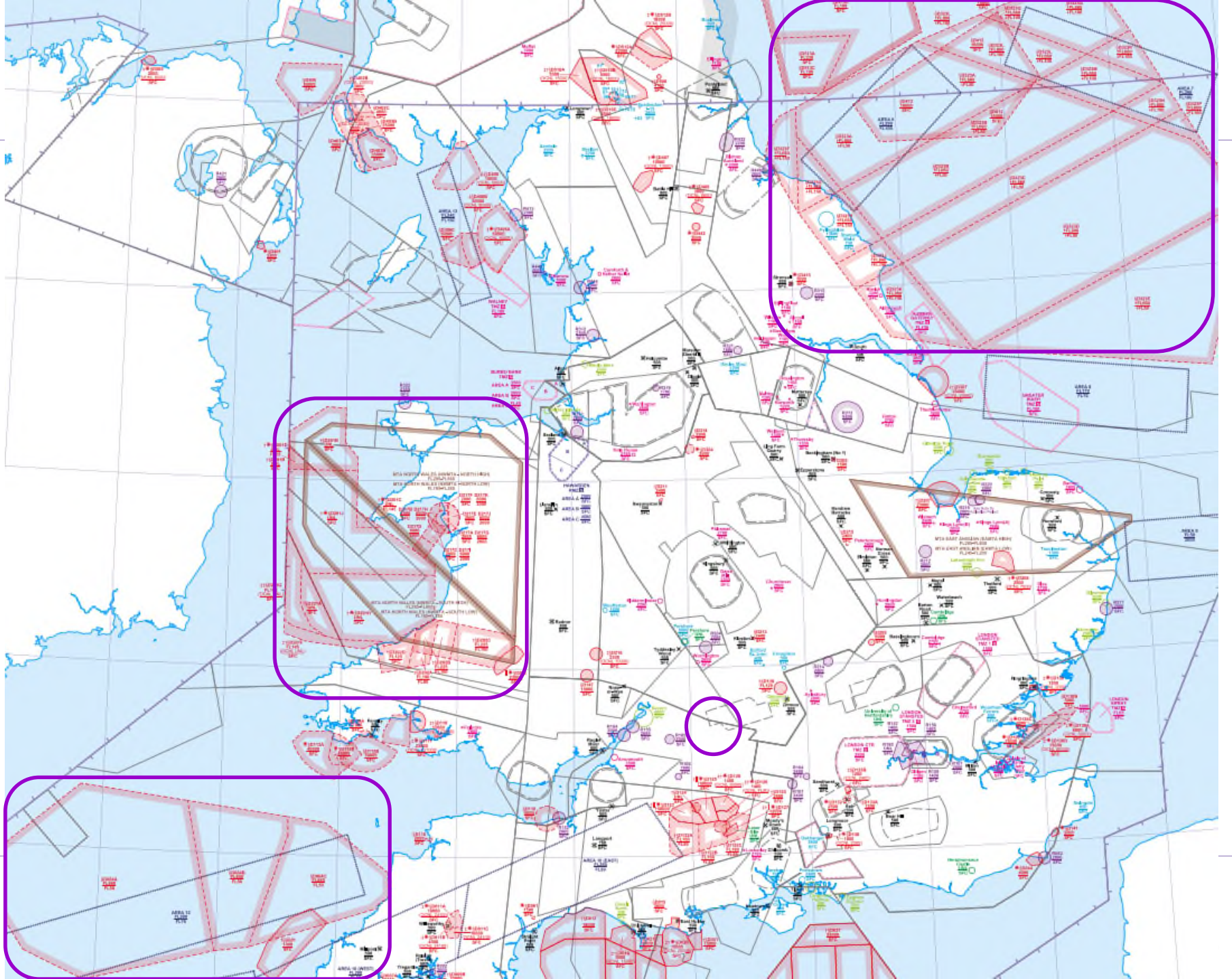
### 4. Options to exploit opportunities or address issues identified

- Use of established DAs to facilitate climb/descent?
  - Would still need low, med and high transit routes
  - Changes of activity designator
  - Deconfliction from other activity (priorities)









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### 5. Provisional indication of the level and process requirements

CAA

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## 6. Provisional process timescales

Define Gateway	28 Jan 22
Develop and Assess Gateway	29 Apr 22
Consult Gateway	29 Jul 22
Update and Submit	21 Oct 22
Decide Gateway	28 Apr 23
Implementation	10 Aug 23

\*Gateway meetings held last Fri of the month with submissions required **two weeks** prior



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## 7. Next Steps

Discussion



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## 8. AOB

Discussion

