

**MINUTES OF ACP-2022-002: RAFAT (RAF SYERSTON) TEMPORARY DANGER AREA (TDA) RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL (RBC) VIA MS TEAMS ON 26 AUGUST 2022**

26 August 2022

Distribution List:  
All attendees

<b>Present</b>	<b>Appointment</b>	<b>Representing</b>
	TDA Lead	MOD
	TDA Support	MOD
	RAF Waddington MCO	MOD
	RAFAT PRM	MOD
	Senior Environmental Health Officer	RBC

Meeting Opening Statement

The purpose of this meeting was to pass a consistent narrative of the proposal across to representatives of Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC) who could then understand its intent and dispatch this across to their members and communities.

	<b>ACTION</b>
<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>All attendees were introduced.</p>	
<p><b>Context</b></p> <p>The <b>TDA Lead</b> provided a detailed brief on the proposed TDA as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team (RAFAT) – The Red Arrows, are currently based at RAF Scampton and utilise airspace in the overhead known as EG R313</li> <li>• The MOD is selling RAF Scampton which it hopes to complete in early 2023 and the Team will relocate to their new home at RAF Waddington in later 2022</li> <li>• Future availability of EG R313 to the Red Arrows for its training over RAF Scampton will be contingent on the sale and the nature of the development delivered at the base</li> <li>• To cater for the eventuality that full use of EG R313 will no longer be available to the Team, the MOD is exploring alternative airspace in Lincolnshire to enable the Red Arrows to continue to train</li> <li>• RAF Syerston has been identified as potentially suitable for the Synchro Pair. To determine whether RAF Syerston is a viable</li> </ul>	

option for establishment of new permanent airspace, a temporary airspace structure is required to test the site and assess what the impact would be on local aviation and ground stakeholders

- The MOD wishes to see the Red Arrows continue as one of the finest display teams in the world and without suitable contingency planning, their future existence could be under threat.

The **TDA Lead** explained the importance of RAF Syerston and its available runway features as follows:

- Focus on the Synchro Pair because it has a runway and is located close to RAF Waddington.
  - The Synchro Pair use the runway to assess miss distance during head-on pass training, each using a different runway edge.
- RAF Waddington is currently assessed as unsuitable for Synchro Pair training making RAF Syerston the only contingency option.
- Should EG R313 become unavailable for RAFAT operations, and no other local sites are considered suitable, it is highly likely that the entire Red Arrows display will have to fundamentally change and would almost certainly lead to the removal of the Synchro Pair from the display routine.

The **TDA Lead** highlighted that RAF Syerston would be used on an annual basis for 2-3 months for early training sorties over the period 9 January 2023 until 7 April 2023. More advanced training would then be transferred to RAF Donna Nook Air Weapons Range on the east coast. The individual training slot times would be as follows:

- Slot 1: 0830-0915 (45 mins)
- Slot 2: 1200-1245 (45 mins)
- Slot 3: 1450-1530 (40 mins)

██████████ asked whether after the short-term activity at RAF Syerston if the location would then no longer be required. The **TDA Lead** confirmed that RAFAT would only use the location for a minimum amount to achieve their necessary training. Only if RAF Scampton airspace was to no longer become available would there be any future requirement for training at RAF Syerston.

██████████ then asked what level of noise would be expected in the locale. The **TDA Lead** explained that there would likely be impact on local communities, particularly those within the 5nm TDA radius which would impact RBC to the South. It was made clear that it was hoped that any disruption would be minimal, however it was expected there would be an increased immediate noise footprint during the training slots.

### **PR and Messaging Strategy**

The **TDA Lead** explained that a strategy would be devised so that messaging of the activity at RAF Syerston and potential impacts could be put across to local community. This strategy would be prepared in

anticipation of the approval decision by the Civil Aviation Authority on the TDA and could include direct engagement with District and Parish Councillors, social media and other options to enable members of the public to voice their concerns.

██████████ agreed and suggested that RBC would be happy to support this messaging and communication.

At this point the **TDA Lead** invited the **RAF Waddington MCO** and **RAFAT PRM** to discuss their initial strategy for engagement with communities and their representatives.

The **RAF Waddington MCO** explained that despite RAFAT having their own Public Relations Manager, RAFAT activity would fall within the responsibility of RAF Waddington. Mechanisms would be made available on how feedback can be made. The MCO office would deal with any enquiries and flying complaints as first port of call. The **RAF Waddington MCO** stated that contact details would be emailed to all attendees post the meeting. Any issues would be addressed by the RAF Waddington MCO team who would aim to send out appropriate responses or forward to the correct team. Longer term, once the CAA had decided on the status of the proposal, a campaign would be undertaken to inform the public of the proposed activity including use of social media and direct engagement with local stakeholders to capture all concerns and inputs.

The **RAFAT PRM** echoed these comments and that RAFAT were keen to be a good neighbour and would be ready and available come the November CAA decision to conduct public consultation and answer any questions as and when they occur.

In support of these comments, the **TDA Lead** explained that the views of the local community would always be taken very seriously and at any time that a threshold in public response or complaints was exceeded, a decision could be made on whether RAFAT activity at RAF Syerston should continue or be limited.

The **TDA Lead** asked the **RAF Waddington MCO** to provide contact details to RBC to which any communication and complaints could be forwarded.

██████████ explained that in the meantime her team would engage with RBC media and communications representatives so that they are aware of what to come in the near future and identify methods to get the message out such as local newsletters. It was also emphasised that it would be important to ensure that there was consistent messaging across local council boundaries and so would engage with her equivalent at Newark and Sherwood Borough Council (██████████) on similar messaging strategy.

MOD

<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>The <b>TDA Lead</b> thanked everybody for attending and confirmed that everything had been covered. Minutes covering the detail of the meeting would be written and uploaded onto the CAA ACP-2022-002 portal.</p>	<p><b>MOD</b></p>
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**ACTIONS ARISING FROM ACP-2022-002: RAFAT (RAF SYERSTON) TEMPORARY DANGER AREA (TDA) RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL (RBC) MEETING VIA MS TEAMS ON 26 AUGUST 2022**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
RAF Waddington MCO Contact Details	RAF Waddington MCO	Distribute central contact details for all RAF Waddington MCO matters	9 Sep 2022
Meeting Minutes	TDA Lead/Support	Write draft minutes within two weeks of meeting.	9 Sep 2022

MOD  
ACP Sponsor