Future Airspace Strategy Implementation (FASI)

London Terminal Manoeuvring Area (LTMA)

Airspace Change Proposal (ACP)
ACP-2020-043
ACP-2020-044
ACP-2020-045

Stage 2 Develop and Assess
Stansted Airport Arrivals Connectivity Module

To be read in conjunction with Master Document

NATS

1. Introduction

1.1 About this document

1.1.1 This document describes the arrival connectivity options for Stansted Airport, which have been developed using the methodology described in Section 2 of the Master document.

1.1.2 Stansted is a busy single-runway international airport located 42 miles northeast of central London. It is a base for a number of low-cost carriers, and the largest base for Ryanair.

2. Baseline

2.1.1 This description of the current airspace around Stansted should be considered the 'Do Nothing' option if no airspace change was to take place.

2.1.2 Table 1 shows actual[1] airport traffic counts from the 2019 baseline traffic year to 2022. The NERL forecast for network traffic levels is shown in the Master document Section 3.9. Airport forecasts are independent of the network and will be included within airport ACPs.

Year	Arrivals	Departures	Total Movements
2019	99,223	99,294	**198,517**
2020	42,610	42,708	**85,318**
2021	46,109	46,301	**92,410**
2022	87,831	87,961	**175,792**

Table 1 Actual air traffic movements: Stansted Airport 2019-2022

2.1.3 Stansted arrival and departure procedures (STARs & SIDs) are shown in Figure 1 and described in Table 2 & Table 3. Previously, Stansted and Luton shared holding facilities. A new hold was implemented for Luton in 2021, which separated Luton arrival traffic from Stansted arrival traffic. Stansted continues to use the LOREL and ABBOT holds for delay absorption.

Airport	Hold	STARs	Associated ATS Routes
Stansted[2]	ABBOT	RINIS 1A, TOSVA 1A, XAMAN 1A, BARMI 2A, DET 2A, LOGAN 2A	M733, Y8, L612, P18, Q4, (U)Y124, Z197, P2, M605, L89, L980
	LOREL	TELTU 1L, BANVA 1L, LISTO 1L, SIRIC 1L, SILVA 1L, FINMA 1L, AVANT 1L	P7, N57, L608, L980

Table 2 Current arrival connectivity for Stansted

2.1.4 Stansted has several SIDs which join with the ATS route network at designated waypoints[3] (Table 3).

Airport	SIDs	Associated ATS Routes
Stansted	DET (2R/2S/2D)	L6, Q70, M604
	CLN (9R/5S/2E)	M84, L620, L608
	NUGBO (1R/1S)	M183
	UTAVA (1R/1S)	Q75

Table 3 Current departure connectivity for Stansted

[1] This is based on CFMU actual data for 2019; this may vary from airport data.

[2] The routes shown also apply to Cambridge.

[3] SIDs are all below 7,000ft and will be subject to Airport ACP. NERL will ensure network connectivity.

© 2023 NERL

Figure 1 Current arrival and departure procedures for Stansted

2.1.5 Figure 2 shows a radar density plot of Stansted arrival traffic for a typical busy summer week and indicates traffic distribution. About half of Stansted traffic arrives from the east.

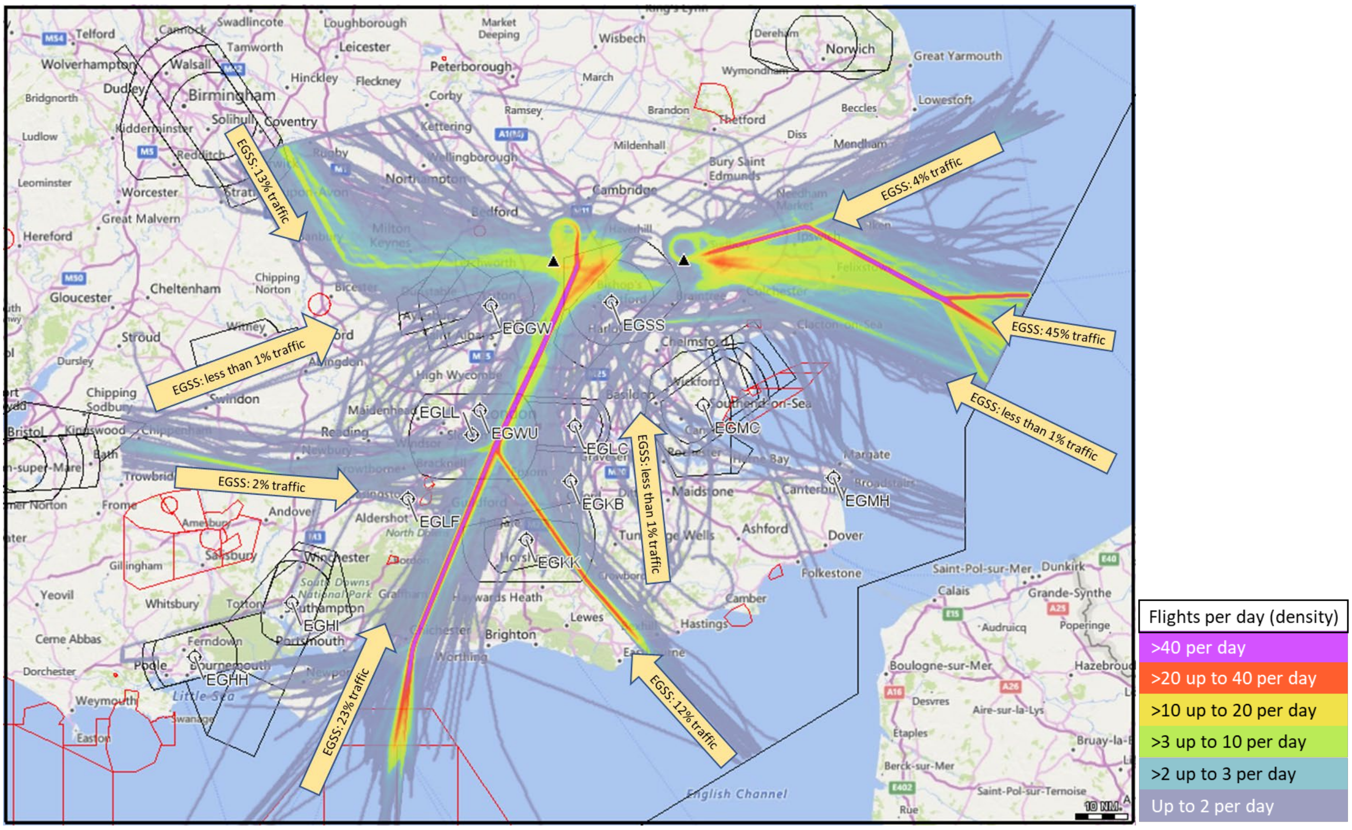


Figure 2 Stansted traffic density arrivals FL245-FL70 5-11 August 2019

2.1.6 Medium jets are the most prevalent aircraft type at Stansted, as shown in Table 4. Ryanair was the most prevalent operator in 2019, with approximately 63% of the traffic.

Stansted – Aircraft Type			Stansted – Top 4 Aircraft Operator Usage		
Aircraft Group	Movements	% traffic	Operator	Movements	% traffic
Small Jet	6,612	3%	Ryanair	124,821	63%
Medium Jet	177,313	89%	easyJet	19,891	10%
Heavy Jet	10,372	5%	Jet2	12,196	6%
Turboprop/Piston/Prop	4,193	2%	Pegasus	3,261	2%

Table 4 Aircraft type and top carriers - Stansted

3. Design Development

3.1.1 Working with the airport, NERL developed 17 high-level concept options for Stansted[4]. Initial viability assessments were produced for location and structure type (Figure 3) and presented to stakeholders in formal engagement (Ref 7). Feedback was requested through the engagement response questionnaire.

Arrival Structure Viability Assessment									
Arrival Structure Type	Location								
	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	OH
Do nothing	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Optimised (inner) hold(s)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Hold(s) further out	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Point merge	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Switch merge	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Trombone	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

✓ Viable Option: taken forward to DPE

✗ Not considered a viable option: eliminated at this point

Figure 3 Engagement Initial Viability Matrix

3.2 Stakeholder engagement

3.2.1 We received 5 responses from 5 different stakeholders related to the Stansted design concepts. Table 5 presents a summary of the feedback and how this has influenced the design.

3.2.2 Feedback was generally in support of the design options.

3.2.3 Two new options were developed as a result of the stakeholder engagement, but engaged-upon options were removed due to SME development (see paragraphs 3.3.3 and 3.3.4)

[4] See Master document Section 2.2 for a detailed description of this work.

© 2023 NERL

Stakeholder	Feedback ('You said')	Response ('We did')
Airspace4All Services Ltd	Major airports requiring flow management would benefit from PBN approaches and systemised approach structures.	Feedback was used to inform the evaluation of DP1, DP2, DP3 & DP8. The traffic demand is considered when making these assessments so the impact on individual airports is considered.
British Airways	Considering the number of movements at Stansted, this must be deprioritized to facilitate Heathrow and Gatwick efficiencies.	At this stage, no airport will be prioritised over another, as we strive for a balanced network-wide design. Stage 3 development work will identify prioritisation needs.
BGA	Solutions suggest airspace solutions above 7,000ft to the north. This airspace is rarely used for glider operations.	We used this feedback to inform our evaluation of DP5 and DP6.
Luton Airport	Support widening the Stansted arrival Design Envelope to the east. Concern that the arrival envelope is close to Luton TMA and therefore could restrict climb from our departures or descent from our arrivals. Important to LLA that any Stansted holds are outside of the main LTMA to ensure greater flexibility for routes below 7,000ft. Support a change in Stansted's hold to the east, which would mean LLA could have a hold closer to the airfield to the north (potentially in LOREL area).	SME development work revised design envelope to the east to accommodate network traffic flows retaining flexibility for both Stansted and Luton, however it was not widened. Holds higher up and further out were included in the long list of options, however this concept has now been assessed by SMEs as unviable across all LTMA airports (see paragraph 3.3.4). NERL recognises that the approach structure will need to be cognisant of the Luton departure track, the aspiration being to improve on the Luton departure profile. It is reasonable in Stage 2 to continue development where design envelopes overlap (see Master document, paragraph 2.2.11). The appropriate deconfliction or colocation of specific routes will be considered at Stage 3.
Ryanair	Capacity is most important, so whatever drives max capacity.	Design envelope refined but remains appropriate while retaining flexibility for both Stansted and Luton.
Stansted Airport	Location and type of hold is key for noise respite. North arrival structures are acceptable but holds further out may increase track miles. Need to be aware of departures. The overhead arrival structures seem to have been discounted. Optimised Inner Holds offers most promise but holds further out may increase track miles. PM appears less flexible and the entry position to the merge seems critical. Merge to the northeast, flights will benefit traffic from the east, but south and southwest will have additional track miles to reach the entry to the merge structure. If on 04 (runway) this would create a fuel and CO_2 disbenefit. Remain sceptical that a PM can deliver the required fuel burn and noise respite benefits because of the single merge point. The size of the PM may also create interaction issues. A Switch Merge in the overhead may be able to alleviate some of these issues, as may a Trombone but we are unclear on how either concept would work to satisfy our DPs.	Design work has continued since the collaborative workshops. NERL will be working collaboratively with all FASI sponsors to ensure designs are compatible and aligned to respective DPs with any required trade-offs being tracked by ACOG in The Masterplan. We used this feedback to inform our evaluation of DP2, DP3, DP4, DP6 and DP8. A hold and Point Merge in the overhead have each been added to our comprehensive list of options. The viability matrix was updated; the overhead options require no additional revision to the design envelope. The Switch Merge and Trombone concepts were subsequently not considered suitable for Stansted by SMEs.

Table 5 Engagement feedback and NERL response

3.3 Stansted Design Concepts

3.3.1 Table 6 summarises the high-level qualitative considerations for potential locations for Stansted arrival structures, and Table 7 summarises the viability assessment for the arrival structures suitable for Stansted. These have been developed from SME input and stakeholder engagement.

3.3.2 Not every arrival structure concept may be viable in every location; the Viability Matrix (Figure 5) illustrates the possible combinations.

3.3.3 SME design development determined that the areas to the east and west of the airfield were not viable due to confliction with other LTMA traffic. The location viability matrix and design envelope were revised to reflect this.

3.3.4 As described in the Master document paras 2.4.2 & 2.4.3, the concepts Holds Further Out and Trombones were removed as viable concepts at this stage. A detailed description of each structure can be found in Section 5 Appendix 1.

Location		Viability Considerations
North	✓	There is sufficient airspace to enable an arrival structure, and associated connectivity, to the north of the airfield, subject to deconfliction with Luton traffic and the USAFE Lakenheath & Mildenhall DA Complex.
Northeast	✓	An arrival structure to the northeast of the airfield is already in place within the current design. A structure in this area remains possible, subject to deconfliction with Biggin Hill, London City, Luton, and Southend traffic and the USAFE Lakenheath & Mildenhall DA Complex.
East	✗	An arrival structure, and associated connectivity, to the east of the airfield would likely conflict with Luton traffic.
Southeast	✗	An arrival structure, and associated connectivity, to the southeast of the airfield would likely conflict with Biggin Hill, Heathrow, London City, Northolt, and Southend traffic.
South	✗	An arrival structure, and associated connectivity, to the south of the airfield would likely conflict with Biggin Hill, Heathrow, London City, Luton, Northolt, and Southend traffic.
Southwest	✗	An arrival structure, and associated connectivity, to the southwest of the airfield would likely conflict with Heathrow, London City, Luton, and Northolt traffic.
West	✗	An arrival structure, and associated connectivity, to the west of the airfield would likely conflict with Heathrow, Luton and Northolt traffic.
Northwest	✓	An arrival structure to the northwest of the airfield is already in place within the current design. A structure in this area remains possible, subject to deconfliction with Luton traffic and the USAFE Lakenheath & Mildenhall DA Complex.
Overhead	✓	There is sufficient airspace to enable an arrival structure, and associated connectivity, overhead the airfield, subject to deconfliction with Luton traffic.

Table 6 Stansted Arrivals: Location viability considerations – post engagement

Structure		Viability Considerations
Optimised (inner) holds	✓	Optimisation of current day structures. There is sufficient airspace for optimised hold(s), and this would likely meet the runway throughput demands.
Point Merge	✓	There is sufficient airspace for a Point Merge, to the north / northeast / overhead, and this would likely meet the runway throughput demands.
Switch Merge	✗	There is insufficient airspace to suitably place a Switch Merge.

Table 7 Stansted Arrival structures: Viability considerations – post engagement

3.3.5 Figure 4 shows the Stansted design envelope, developed by SMEs through collaborative workshops and formal engagement with Stansted and other stakeholders. This design envelope is based on the viability considerations presented above in paragraph 3.3.4, Table 6 & Table 7, developed through two-way engagement as shown in Table 5.

3.3.6 Airspace design constraints, as described in the Master document Section 3.5, are highlighted in orange. A consideration for Stansted is the vicinity of the USAFE Lakenheath & Mildenhall Combined Military Aerodrome Traffic Zone (CMATZ) as shown.

© 2023 NERL

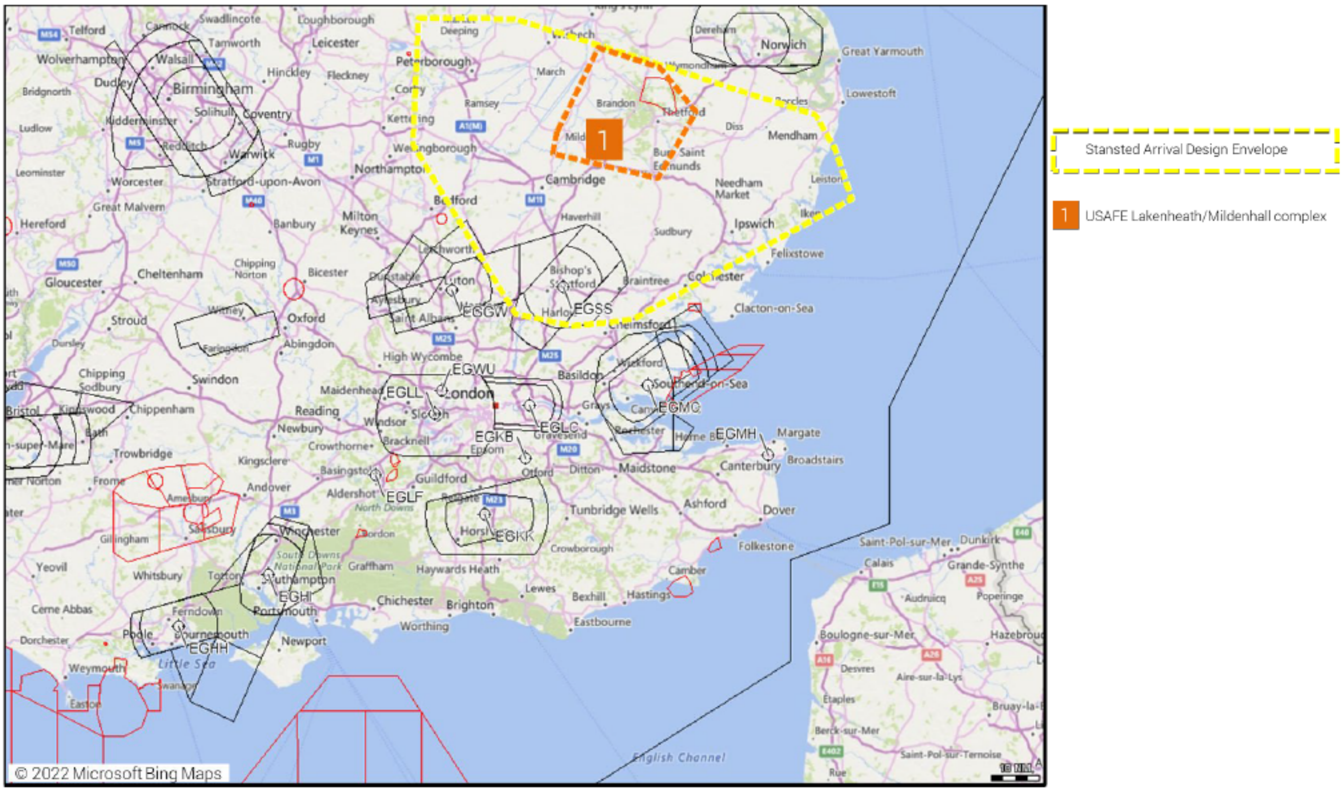


Figure 4 Stansted Design Envelope and design constraints – post engagement and SME development

3.3.7 The Stansted Design Concepts which were considered viable at this stage, within the Design Envelope presented, are shown in the Stansted Arrival Structure Viability Assessment below (Figure 5).

Arrival Structure Viability Assessment									
Arrival Structure Type	Location								
	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	OH
Do nothing	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Optimised (inner) hold(s)	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
Point merge	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Switch merge	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

✓ Viable Option: taken forward to DPE

✗ Not considered a viable option: eliminated at this point

Figure 5 Stansted Design Options Comprehensive Viability Matrix

3.3.8 These 7 viable options were taken forward as the comprehensive list to Design Principle Evaluation, along with 'Do Nothing'.

3.4 Design Principle Evaluation

3.4.1 Table 8 shows the DPE assessment criteria. SMEs, in this case air traffic control experts and airspace change experts, list topics associated with each DP and qualitatively test how each option would react to those topics, describing how a red/amber/green outcome is reached.

DP	Priority	Description	SME subjective assessment topics, include but not limited to	Red	Amber	Green
0	A AMS	**Safety** Safety is always the highest priority (Note: Red could not be solved by mitigation, amber may be able to be solved by mitigation).	Human performance (ATCO control-ability) Human performance (pilot fly-ability) IFP (fly-ability) Surrounding airspace users (inside/outside of CAS) Impact if ATM tools fail	Unacceptable level of safety risk	Diminished - Issue(s) identified could result in an elevated level of safety risk when compared to today's operation	Enhanced - improvement over today's level of safety. Maintained - safety risk could be maintained within acceptable levels of today's operation
1	B AMS	**Operational** The airspace will enable increased operational resilience	<u>Network</u> Weather avoidance Disruption in neighbouring ANSPs	Reduced resilience and capacity during disruption	Similar resilience and capacity during disruption	Increased resilience and capacity during disruption
			<u>Airport</u> Holding levels Delay absorption between hold and 7,000ft	Reduction in delay absorption	Delay absorption similar to today	Improve delay absorption
			<u>Airport</u> Time to restart after runway closure Number of aircraft off the hold	Reduction in disruption recovery	Disruption recovery similar to today	Improve disruption recovery
2	B	**Economic** Optimise network fuel performance	Track mileage Economic performance Aircraft height Method of delay absorption	Fuel performance worsened	Fuel performance similar to today	Fuel performance improved
3	B AMS	**Environmental** Optimise CO_2 emissions per flight	Track mileage GHG performance Aircraft height Method of delay absorption	CO_2 emissions worsened	CO_2 emissions similar to today	CO_2 emissions improved

© 2023 NERL

DP	Priority	Description	SME subjective assessment topics, include but not limited to	Red	Amber	Green
4	C	**Environmental** Minimising of noise impacts due to LAMP influence will take place in accordance with local needs	Overall environmental impact Environmental impact below 7,000ft Impact on tranquillity (or visual intrusion)	LAMP influence not aligned with local ACP sponsors' needs	Extent of alignment not yet known	LAMP influence fully aligned with local ACP sponsors' needs
5	C	**Technical** The volume of controlled airspace required for LAMP should be the minimum necessary to deliver an efficient airspace design, taking into account the needs of the UK airspace users	Lateral footprint of CAS Vertical footprint of CAS Proportional to airport traffic levels	Airspace required not the minimum necessary to deliver an efficient design	Extent of airspace required not yet known	Airspace required the minimum necessary to deliver an efficient design
6	C AMS	**Technical** The impacts on GA and other civilian airspace users due to LAMP will be minimised	Change to boundaries of CAS Changes to CAS classification Safety based impacts	Excessive negative impacts	Negative impacts minimised but requires changes to other airspace users' activities	Negative impacts minimised, no impact, or positive impacts to other airspace users' current activities
7	C AMS	**Technical** The impacts on MoD users due to LAMP will be minimised	Overall amount of danger area available Amount of time for danger area available Flexible use airspace provision Change to access between danger areas Safety based impacts Radar corridor access	Negative impacts not minimised or would require excessive changes to current MoD operations	Negative impacts minimised but requires changes to current MoD operations Or Extent of impact not yet known	Negative impacts minimised or no negative impact on current MoD operations
8	B AMS	**Operational** Systemisation will deliver the optimal capacity and efficiency benefits (Note: This is about airspace capacity, not ground infrastructure capacity which could be the limiting factor to overall airport capacity).	Traffic throughput Sectorisation Effect on overall network capacity Effect on airports' arrival flow	Design option unable to support the forecast traffic loading for the airport and the network	Design option supports the forecast traffic loading for the airport or the network	Design option supports the forecast traffic loading beyond the reference period for both the airport and the network
			Overall ATCO workload Levels of tactical intervention (radio transmissions per flight) No increase to operations requirements Balancing out of hot spots	Design option increases ATCO workload	ATCO workload similar to today	Design option decreases ATCO workload

DP	Priority	Description	SME subjective assessment topics, include but not limited to	Red	Amber	Green
9	B AMS	**Technical** The main route network linking airport procedures with the En Route phase of flight will be spaced to yield maximum safety and efficiency benefits by using an appropriate standard of PBN (Note: The main route network is considered as FL70 - FL245. Approach structures are not considered as 'the main route network').	Airspace requirement vs. RNAV rating Required aircraft equipage standards	PBN standard applied to route spacing would maintain or decrease efficiency and maintain safety	PBN standard applied to route spacing would limit efficiency and safety benefits	PBN standard applied to route spacing is likely to maximise efficiency and safety benefits
10	A	**Policy** Must accord with the CAA's published Airspace Modernisation Strategy (CAP1711) and any current or future plans associated with it.	AMS "Ends" Strategic Objectives Safety (DP0) Integration of diverse users (DP6 and DP7) Simplification (DP1, DP8 and DP9) Environmental sustainability (DP3)	No or limited alignment with the AMS	Partial alignment with the AMS	Aligned with the AMS

Table 8 Design Principle Evaluation Assessment Criteria

3.4.2 Table 9 shows the AMS assessment criteria which are used to determine the overall RAG status for DP10.

DP10 outcome	Criteria for DP0, DP1, DP3, DP6, DP7, DP8 and DP9
Red	DP0 (Safety) is red OR 2 other DPs are red
Amber	All other colour combinations not covered by Red or Green
Green	2 DPs are green and 0 are red OR 3 DPs are green and 1 is red

Table 9 - AMS Assessment Criteria

3.4.3 The criteria in Table 10 describe how each option's overall combination of reds/ambers/greens lead to the option progressing to the next step or to rejection and discounting from further development.

DP Priority	Criteria for Rejection Status
A	1 red OR 1 amber
B	2 reds
C	2 reds

Table 10 - Accept / Reject Criteria

3.4.4 Each design option has been assessed against the Design Principles. The following code is used for each design option. Airport (e.g. SS) - Structure Type (e.g. Inner Hold: IH/Point Merge: PM) - Location (e.g. Northeast: NE). DN = Do Nothing. DM = Do Minimum.

DP	Priority	SS - DN	SS - IH - N	SS - IH - NE (DM)
RESULT		REJECT	ACCEPT	ACCEPT
DP0 Safety	A AMS	Maintained: Similar operation to today	Maintained: Holds are used in current day operations and are known to be safe	Maintained: Holds are used in current day operations and are known to be safe
DP1 Operational (Delay Absorption)	B AMS	Today's operation, no change from baseline	Optimised concept of current day operation, which provides similar delay absorption	Optimised concept of current day operation, which provides similar delay absorption
DP1 Operational (Disruption Recovery)	B AMS	Today's operation, no change from baseline	Optimised concept of current day operation, which provides similar disruption recovery	Optimised concept of current day operation, which provides similar disruption recovery
DP2 Economic (Fuel)	B	Today's operation, no change from baseline	Optimised concept partially aligned with airport traffic flows, therefore fuel performance neutral	Optimised concept partially aligned with airport traffic flows, therefore fuel performance neutral
DP3 Environmental (CO_2)	B AMS	Today's operation, no change from baseline	Optimised concept partially aligned with airport traffic flows, therefore CO_2 emissions per flight neutral	Optimised concept partially aligned with airport traffic flows, therefore CO_2 emissions per flight neutral
DP4 Environmental (Noise)	C	Today's operation, no change from baseline	Impact on routes (and noise distribution) below 7,000ft not known at this point	Impact on routes (and noise distribution) below 7,000ft not known at this point
DP5 Technical (CAS)	C	Today's operation, no change from baseline	A design to the north may require additional CAS, depending on location. Therefore, extent not yet known	A design to the northeast may require additional CAS, depending on location. Therefore, extent not yet known
DP6 Technical (Other Users)	C AMS	Today's operation, no change from baseline	Potential additional CAS may require changes to other airspace users' activities	Potential additional CAS may require changes to other airspace users' activities
DP7 Technical (MoD)	C AMS	Operation is known not to impact MoD currently, therefore no change in impact	If in current CAS, no negative impact on MoD operations. If in additional CAS, excessive changes to MoD operations in East Anglia. Therefore, extent not yet known	If in current CAS, no negative impact on MoD operations. If in additional CAS, excessive changes to changes to MoD operations in East Anglia. Therefore, extent not yet known
DP8 Operational (Capacity)	B AMS	Aligns with network traffic flows but does not support forecast network loading. Can support the airport required arrival loading	Supports the required airport arrival loading, however, negatively impacts capacity of multiple network traffic flows	Aligns with network traffic flows and concept can support the airport required arrival loading
DP8 Operational (Efficiency)	B AMS	Today's operation, no change in ATCO workload anticipated	Similar concept to today's operation, therefore no change in ATCO workload anticipated	Similar concept to today's operation, therefore no change in ATCO workload anticipated
DP9 Technical (Route Spacing)	B AMS	Does not fully utilise the performance capabilities of modern aircraft	Structure will be designed, in collaboration with the airport, to the highest appropriate PBN standard enabling efficient spacing between routes	Structure will be designed, in collaboration with the airport, to the highest appropriate PBN standard enabling efficient spacing between routes
DP10 Policy (AMS)	A	Green: DP0, DP7 Amber: DP1, DP1, DP3, DP6, DP8, DP8 Red: DP9	Green: DP0, DP3, DP9 Amber: DP1, DP1, DP6, DP7, DP8, DP8 Red: None	Green: DP0, DP3, DP8, DP9 Amber: DP1, DP1, DP6, DP7, DP8 Red: None

DP	Priority	SS - IH - NW (DM)	SS - IH - OH	SS - PM - N
RESULT		ACCEPT	REJECT	ACCEPT
DP0 Safety	A AMS	Maintained: Holds are used in current day operations and are known to be safe	Maintained: Holds are used in current day operations and are known to be safe	Enhanced: Reduced controller tactical intervention required, reducing potential for human error
DP1 Operational (Delay Absorption)	B AMS	Optimised concept of current day operation, which provides similar delay absorption	Optimised concept of current day operation, which provides similar delay absorption	Similar holding capacity as today, plus delay absorption by flying the PM. Overall delay absorption similar to today
DP1 Operational (Disruption Recovery)	B AMS	Optimised concept of current day operation, which provides similar disruption recovery	Optimised concept of current day operation, which provides similar disruption recovery	Assumed contingency hold within the transition, net disruption recovery similar to today
DP2 Economic (Fuel)	B	Optimised concept aligned with airport traffic flows, therefore improved fuel performance	Fuel performance worsened as aircraft route overhead then track away to lose height on descent, increasing track miles	Extended track miles to complete the PM structure. Aligns with airport traffic flows. Net neutral
DP3 Environmental (CO_2)	B AMS	Optimised concept of current day operation airport traffic flows, therefore CO_2 emissions per flight improved	CO_2 emissions worsened as aircraft route overhead then track away to lose height on descent, increasing track miles	Extended track miles to complete the PM structure. Aligns with airport traffic flows. Net neutral
DP4 Environmental (Noise)	C	Impact on routes (and noise distribution) below 7,000ft not known at this point	Impact on routes (and noise distribution) below 7,000ft not known at this point	Impact on routes (and noise distribution) below 7,000ft not known at this point
DP5 Technical (CAS)	C	Design likely to be within current day CAS; ability to return CAS will be assessed in Stage 3	Design likely to be within current day CAS; ability to return CAS will be assessed in Stage 3	A design to the north may require additional CAS, depending on location. Therefore, extent not yet known
DP6 Technical (Other Users)	C AMS	Likely to be in current day CAS, no anticipated change in impacts	Likely to be in current day CAS, no anticipated change in impacts	Potential additional CAS may require changes to other airspace users' activities
DP7 Technical (MoD)	C AMS	No military-use areas in the vicinity, therefore, would not require a change to MoD operations	No military-use areas in the vicinity, therefore, would not require a change to MoD operations	If in current CAS, no negative impact on MoD operations. If in additional CAS, excessive changes to changes to MoD operations in East Anglia. Therefore, extent not yet known
DP8 Operational (Capacity)	B AMS	Aligns with network traffic flows and concept can support the airport required arrival loading	Aligns with network traffic flows and concept can support the airport required arrival loading	Supports the required airport arrival loading, however, negatively impacts capacity of multiple network traffic flows
DP8 Operational (Efficiency)	B AMS	Similar concept to today's operation, therefore no change in ATCO workload anticipated	Similar concept to today's operation, therefore no change in ATCO workload anticipated	PM structure require less tactical intervention for landing aircraft
DP9 Technical (Route Spacing)	B AMS	Structure will be designed, in collaboration with the airport, to the highest appropriate PBN standard enabling efficient spacing between routes	Structure will be designed, in collaboration with the airport, to the highest appropriate PBN standard enabling efficient spacing between routes	Structure will be designed, in collaboration with the airport, to the highest appropriate PBN standard enabling efficient spacing between routes
DP10 Policy (AMS)	A	Green: DP0, DP3, DP7, DP8, DP9 Amber: DP1, DP1, DP6, DP8 Red: None	Green: DP0, DP7, DP8, DP9 Amber: DP1, DP1, DP6, DP8 Red: DP3	Green: DP0, DP8, DP9 Amber: DP1, DP1, DP3, DP6, DP7, DP8 Red: None

© 2023 NERL

DP	Priority	SS - PM - NE	SS - PM - OH
RESULT		ACCEPT	REJECT
DP0 Safety	A AMS	Enhanced: Reduced controller tactical intervention required, reducing potential for human error	Maintains: PM are used in current day operations and are known to be safe In this location, increased ATCO workload
DP1 Operational (Delay Absorption)	B AMS	Similar holding capacity as today, plus delay absorption by flying the PM. Overall delay absorption similar to today	Similar holding capacity as today, plus delay absorption by flying the PM. Overall delay absorption similar to today
DP1 Operational (Disruption Recovery)	B AMS	Assumed contingency hold within the transition, net disruption recovery like today	Assumed contingency hold within the transition, net disruption recovery like today
DP2 Economic (Fuel)	B	Extended track miles to complete the PM structure. Aligns with airport traffic flows. Net neutral	Worsened due to track miles to complete the PM and route to OH then away. Net worsened
DP3 Environmental (CO_2)	B AMS	Extended track miles to complete the PM structure. Aligns with airport traffic flows. Net neutral	Worsened due to track miles to complete the PM and route to OH then away. Net worsened
DP4 Environmental (Noise)	C	Impact on routes (and noise distribution) below 7,000ft not known at this point	Impact on routes (and noise distribution) below 7,000ft not known at this point
DP5 Technical (CAS)	C	A design to the northeast may require additional CAS, depending on location. Therefore, extent not yet known	Design likely to be within current day CAS; ability to return CAS will be assessed in Stage 3
DP6 Technical (Other Users)	C AMS	Potential additional CAS may require changes to other airspace users' activities	Likely to be in current day CAS, no anticipated change in impacts
DP7 Technical (MoD)	C AMS	If in current CAS, no negative impact on MoD operations. If in additional CAS, excessive changes to MoD operations in East Anglia. Therefore, extent not yet know	No military-use areas in the vicinity, therefore, would not require a change to MoD operations
DP8 Operational (Capacity)	B AMS	Aligns with network traffic flows and concept can support the airport required arrival loading	Aligns with network traffic flows and concept can support the airport required arrival loading
DP8 Operational (Efficiency)	B AMS	PM structure require less tactical intervention for landing aircraft	PM structure require less tactical intervention for landing aircraft. Potential to negatively impacts on network traffic flows which increases ATCO workload due to complexity. Net change is neutral
DP9 Technical (Route Spacing)	B AMS	Structure will be designed, in collaboration with the airport, to the highest appropriate PBN standard enabling efficient spacing between routes	Structure will be designed, in collaboration with the airport, to the highest appropriate PBN standard enabling efficient spacing between routes
DP10 Policy (AMS)	A	Green: DP0, DP8, DP8, DP9 Amber: DP1, DP1, DP3, DP6, DP7 Red: None	Green: DP0, DP7, DP8, DP9 Amber: DP1, DP1, DP6, DP8 Red: DP3

Table 11 Design Principle Evaluation

3.4.5 'Do Nothing' and 2 design options were assessed as not meeting the DPs and were rejected at this stage. The remaining 5 viable design options progress to Step 2B Options Appraisal.

3.5 Initial Options Appraisal

3.5.1 The following viable options have been progressed to IOA:

Stansted Option Concepts progressed to IOA
Inner Holds – North
Inner Holds – Northeast (DM)
Inner Holds – Northwest (DM)
Point Merge – North
Point Merge – Northeast

Table 12 Summary of design options progressed from DPE to IOA

Table 13 shows the assessment criteria used to complete the initial appraisal of each shortlisted option.

Group	Impact
Communities	Noise impact on health and quality of life
A qualitative assessment of changes to noise impacts compared with the 'Do Nothing' baseline. A qualitative assessment of changes to tranquillity impacts compared with the 'Do Nothing' baseline.	
Communities	Air Quality
A qualitative assessment of changes to local air quality compared with the 'Do Nothing' baseline.	
Wider Society	Greenhouse Gas Impacts
A qualitative assessment of changes to greenhouse gas impacts compared with the 'Do Nothing' baseline.	
Wider Society	Capacity / Resilience
A qualitative assessment of changes to airspace capacity and resilience compared with the 'Do Nothing' baseline.	
General Aviation (GA)	Access
A qualitative assessment of changes to GA access compared with the 'Do Nothing' baseline.	
GA/Commercial Airlines	Economic Impact from Increased Effective Capacity
A qualitative assessment of changes to GA and commercial operator economic impacts from increased effective capacity compared with the 'Do Nothing' baseline.	
GA/Commercial Airlines	Fuel Burn
A qualitative assessment of changes to GA and commercial operator fuel burn impacts compared with the 'Do Nothing' baseline.	
Commercial Airlines	Training Costs
A qualitative assessment of changes to commercial operator training costs compared with the 'Do Nothing' baseline.	
Commercial Airlines	Other Costs
A qualitative assessment of changes to other relevant commercial operator costs compared with the 'Do Nothing' baseline.	
Airport / ANSP	Infrastructure Costs
A qualitative assessment of changes to airport and ANSP infrastructure costs compared with the 'Do Nothing' baseline.	
Airport / ANSP	Operational Costs
A qualitative assessment of changes to airport and ANSP operational costs compared with the 'Do Nothing' baseline.	
Airport / ANSP	Deployment Costs
A qualitative assessment of changes to airport and ANSP deployment costs compared with the 'Do Nothing' baseline.	
All	Performance against the vision and parameters/strategic objectives of the AMS
A qualitative assessment of how the design option performs, considering the AMS objectives of improved capacity, reduced CO_2, minimal impact on other users, maintaining or enhancing safety, and facilitation of defence and security objectives, compared with the 'Do Nothing' baseline.	

Table 13 Initial Options Appraisal Assessment Criteria

3.5.2 The baseline 'Do Nothing' is described in Section 2. It did not progress through the DPE however, in line with CAP1616, it must be included in the IOA for comparison purposes. Each option is described in Section 3.3 and Section 5 Appendix 1.

SS– DN Qualitative Initial Impacts Assessment	REJECTED
Group	**Impact**
Communities	Noise impact on health and quality of life
ANG (2017) states "at or above 7,000ft…minimising of noise is no longer a priority". CAP1616 instructs sponsors to consider noise and tranquillity impacts where the proposal has the potential to change overflight of inhabited areas, AONBs and NPs below 7,000ft.. No change in airspace design – no changes to impacts.	
Communities	Air Quality
ANG (2017) states "emissions from aircraft above 1,000ft are unlikely to have a significant impact on local air quality". No change in airspace design – no changes to impacts.	
Wider Society	Greenhouse Gas Impacts
In the short term, there would be no change. In the long term, failure to modernise the airspace would have a negative impact on GHG emissions due to increased likelihood of delays/holding in an unchanged design as traffic is forecast to increase.	
Wider Society	Capacity / Resilience
In the short term, there would be no change. In the long term, failure to modernise the airspace would have a negative impact on capacity and resilience due to increased likelihood of delays/holding in an unchanged design as traffic is forecast to increase.	
General Aviation (GA)	Access
In the short term, there would be no change in impact. In the long term, failure to modernise the airspace would lead to increased likelihood of commercial aircraft delays and holding in an unchanged design as traffic is forecast to increase. This may lead to negative impacts on GA access due to the busier airspace, however as GA access is currently relatively infrequent at network levels, this may not be a major impact.	
GA/Commercial Airlines	Economic Impact from Increased Effective Capacity
In the short term, there would be no change in impact. In the long term, failure to modernise the airspace would have a negative impact on capacity due to increased likelihood of delays/holding in an unchanged design as traffic is forecast to increase. This would lead to a negative economic impact.	
GA/Commercial Airlines	Fuel Burn
In the short term, there would be no change in impact. In the long term, failure to modernise the airspace would have a negative impact on fuel burn due to increased likelihood of delays/holding in an unchanged design as traffic is forecast to increase.	
Commercial Airlines	Training Costs
Flight procedures change worldwide with each AIRAC cycle and operators would update their procedures accordingly, training if required. If this baseline system was retained, the same flight procedures would be used, and training cost impacts would not change.	
Commercial Airlines	Other Costs
No change in airspace design – no changes to other commercial operator costs.	
Airport / ANSP	Infrastructure Costs
No change in airspace design – no changes to infrastructure costs. If this baseline system was retained, the same infrastructure would continue to be used in the same way, with no additional costs.	
Airport / ANSP	Operational Costs
No change in airspace design – no changes to infrastructure costs. If this baseline system was retained, the same infrastructure would continue to be used in the same way, with no additional operational costs.	
Airport / ANSP	Deployment Costs
If this baseline system was retained, there would be no deployment, hence no associated costs.	
AMS	Performance against the vision and parameters/strategic objectives of the AMS
• Safety: maintained • Simplification: worsens delay absorption, disruption recovery, airport capacity, network capacity, and ATCO workload. Does not utilise aircraft performance capabilities • Integration of diverse users: continues to integrate defence and security and GA • Environmental sustainability: worsens CO_2 emissions	
Qualitative Safety Assessment	
A high-level safety appraisal for this proposed option indicates that if the baseline system was retained, the existing level of safety performance undertaken within the current operation would be at least maintained. However, if there was no change to the current operation the potential increase in traffic as forecast would increase controller workload and traffic complexity within the LTMA leading to potential safety issues in the future. In order to mitigate any reduction in safety margins it is likely that increased flow management measures would be required, resulting in additional delay.	
Conclusion from IOA	
This option was rejected during the DPE stage. It has been included for comparison purposes only.	

Table 14 SS-DN Initial Options Appraisal

SS - IH – N Qualitative Initial Impacts Assessment	PROGRESSED
Group	**Impact**
Communities	Noise impact on health and quality of life
ANG (2017) states "at or above 7,000ft…minimising of noise is no longer a priority". CAP1616 instructs sponsors to consider noise and tranquillity impacts where the proposal has the potential to change overflight of inhabited areas, AONBs and NPs below 7,000ft. In this network-level proposal, changes would not occur below 7,000ft therefore these impacts are not considered.	
Communities	Air Quality
ANG (2017) states "emissions from aircraft above 1,000ft are unlikely to have a significant impact on local air quality". Changes would occur at or above 7,000ft, thus in accordance with ANG (2017) there would be no change in local air quality impacts.	
Wider Society	Greenhouse Gas Impacts
This design option is an optimised version of today which may improve the approach phase from the hold to 7,000ft. However, this location only partially aligns with airport traffic flows and does not align with network traffic flows causing additional track miles for LTMA aircraft. Overall, it could maintain GHG emissions compared with the baseline.	
Wider Society	Capacity / Resilience
Capacity: This option could maintain airport capacity, providing the same number of holds as the baseline. However, this location does not align with network traffic flows so could worsen network capacity compared with the baseline. Other non-airspace constraints may hinder overall capacity and economic gains at Stansted. Resilience: Optimised holds could maintain disruption recovery resulting from unplanned runway closure. This option could maintain a similar number of holding levels, therefore it could maintain delay absorption compared with the baseline.	
General Aviation (GA)	Access
A holding facility to the north may require additional CAS, the extent is not yet known. As a result, the access impact on GA traffic may be worse compared with the baseline.	
GA/Commercial Airlines	Economic Impact from Increased Effective Capacity
This location does not align with network traffic flows, which hinders potential capacity gains across the LTMA from an improved network design. It could enable positive economic impacts through airport capacity gains; however, other non-airspace constraints may hinder overall capacity and economic gains at Stansted. This could positively impact all LTMA traffic – commercial and GA.	
GA/Commercial Airlines	Fuel Burn
This design option is an optimised version of today which could improve the approach phase from the hold to 7,000ft. However, this location only partially aligns with airport traffic flows and does not align with network traffic flows causing additional track miles for LTMA aircraft. Overall, it could maintain fuel burn for commercial operators. There are not currently any structures in this location and additional CAS maybe required, both of which may negatively impact transiting GA traffic and their fuel burn.	
Commercial Airlines	Training Costs
Flight procedures change worldwide with each AIRAC cycle and operators would update their procedures accordingly, training if required. This option is not anticipated to impose additional training cost impacts for operators.	
Commercial Airlines	Other Costs
No other operator costs are foreseen.	
Airport / ANSP	Infrastructure Costs
This design option is not expected to change airport or ANSP infrastructure impacts, beyond the initial deployment phase which will require some systems engineering amendments.	
Airport / ANSP	Operational Costs
This design option is not expected to change airport or ANSP operational cost impacts.	
Airport / ANSP	Deployment Costs
At this stage it is disproportionate to attempt to quantify deployment costs per design option. However, a large LTMA system change would involve training a large number of controllers and assistants via the use of various air traffic simulators (including sim prep, management, and staffing), with additional system engineering costs.	
AMS	Performance against the vision and parameters/strategic objectives of the AMS
• Safety: maintained • Simplification: could maintain delay absorption, disruption recovery, airport capacity, and ATCO workload. Could worsen network capacity. Will utilise aircraft performance capabilities • Integration of diverse users: continues to integrate defence and security and GA, subject to constraints of the design • Environmental sustainability: could maintain CO_2 emissions	
Qualitative Safety Assessment	
A high-level safety appraisal for this proposed option indicates that an Inner Hold to the north would at least maintain current safety performance. There are multiple holds within current UK airspace which have a proven safety performance. An arrival structure in this location would need to deconflict with Luton arrivals and MoD traffic.	

Conclusion from IOA
Compared to the baseline, this option would maintain safety. It could maintain delay absorption, disruption recovery, fuel burn, CO_2 emissions, airport capacity and ATCO workload. This location could worsen network capacity. Depending on the location, there may be a requirement for additional CAS, which could negatively impact other users and military operations. **Therefore, SS – IH – N is progressed to Stage 3 for further development.**

Table 15 SS-IH-N Initial Options Appraisal

SS - IH – NE (DM) Qualitative Initial Impacts Assessment	PROGRESSED
Group	**Impact**
Communities	Noise impact on health and quality of life
ANG (2017) states "at or above 7,000ft…minimising of noise is no longer a priority". CAP1616 instructs sponsors to consider noise and tranquillity impacts where the proposal has the potential to change overflight of inhabited areas, AONBs and NPs below 7,000ft. In this network-level proposal, changes would not occur below 7,000ft therefore these impacts are not considered..	
Communities	Air Quality
ANG (2017) states "emissions from aircraft above 1,000ft are unlikely to have a significant impact on local air quality". Changes would occur at or above 7,000ft, thus in accordance with ANG (2017) there would be no change in local air quality impacts.	
Wider Society	Greenhouse Gas Impacts
This design option is an optimised version of today which may improve the approach phase from the hold to 7,000ft. This location partially aligns with airport network traffic flows and aligns with network traffic flows. Overall, it could maintain GHG emissions compared with the baseline.	
Wider Society	Capacity / Resilience
Capacity: This option could maintain airport capacity, providing the same number of holds as the baseline. This location aligns with network traffic flows so could maintain network capacity compared with the baseline. Other non-airspace constraints may hinder overall capacity and economic gains at Stansted. Resilience: Optimised holds could maintain disruption recovery resulting from unplanned runway closure. This option could maintain a similar number of holding levels, therefore it could maintain delay absorption compared with the baseline.	
General Aviation (GA)	Access
A holding facility to the northeast may require additional CAS, the extent is not yet known. As a result, the access impact on GA traffic is unlikely to change compared with the baseline.	
GA/Commercial Airlines	Economic Impact from Increased Effective Capacity
This location aligns with network traffic flows, which could enable capacity gains across the LTMA from an improved network design. It could enable positive economic impacts through capacity gains; however, other non-airspace constraints may hinder overall capacity and economic gains at Stansted. This could positively impact all LTMA traffic – commercial and GA.	
GA/Commercial Airlines	Fuel Burn
This design option is an optimised version of today which may improve the approach phase from the hold to 7,000ft. This location partially aligns with airport traffic flows and aligns with network traffic flows. Overall, it could maintain fuel burn for commercial operators. The structure may require additional CAS, which may negatively impact transiting GA traffic and potentially increase their fuel burn.	
Commercial Airlines	Training Costs
Flight procedures change worldwide with each AIRAC cycle and operators would update their procedures accordingly, training if required. This option is not anticipated to impose additional training cost impacts for operators.	
Commercial Airlines	Other Costs
No other operator costs are foreseen.	
Airport / ANSP	Infrastructure Costs
This design option is not expected to change airport or ANSP infrastructure impacts, beyond the initial deployment phase which will require some systems engineering amendments.	
Airport / ANSP	Operational Costs
This design option is not expected to change airport or ANSP operational cost impacts.	
Airport / ANSP	Deployment Costs
At this stage it is disproportionate to attempt to quantify deployment costs per design option. However, a large LTMA system change would involve training a large number of controllers and assistants via the use of various air traffic simulators (including sim prep, management, and staffing), with additional system engineering costs.	
AMS	Performance against the vision and parameters/strategic objectives of the AMS
• Safety: maintained • Simplification: could maintain delay absorption, disruption recovery, airport capacity, network capacity, and maintain ATCO workload. Will utilise aircraft performance capabilities • Integration of diverse users: continues to integrate defence and security and GA, subject to constraints of the design • Environmental sustainability: could maintain CO_2 emissions	

© 2023 NERL

Qualitative Safety Assessment
A high-level safety appraisal for this proposed option indicates that an Inner Hold to the northeast would at least maintain current safety performance. There are multiple holds within current UK airspace which have a proven safety performance. An arrival structure in this location would need to deconflict with Biggin Hill and Luton arrivals, Southend departures and all London City traffic.
Conclusion from IOA
Compared to the baseline, this option would maintain safety and could maintain delay absorption, disruption recovery, fuel burn, CO_2 emissions, airport capacity, network capacity and ATCO workload. There could be negative impacts on other users and military operations. **Therefore, SS – IH – NE (DM) is progressed to Stage 3 for further development.**

Table 16 SS-IH-NE (DM) Initial Options Appraisal

SS - IH – NW (DM) Qualitative Initial Impacts Assessment	PROGRESSED
Group	**Impact**
Communities	Noise impact on health and quality of life
ANG (2017) states "at or above 7,000ft…minimising of noise is no longer a priority". CAP1616 instructs sponsors to consider noise and tranquillity impacts where the proposal has the potential to change overflight of inhabited areas, AONBs and NPs below 7,000ft. In this network-level proposal, changes would not occur below 7,000ft therefore these impacts are not considered.	
Communities	Air Quality
ANG (2017) states "emissions from aircraft above 1,000ft are unlikely to have a significant impact on local air quality". Changes would occur at or above 7,000ft, thus in accordance with ANG (2017) there would be no change in local air quality impacts.	
Wider Society	Greenhouse Gas Impacts
This design option is an optimised version of today which may improve the approach phase from the hold to 7,000ft. This location aligns with airport and network traffic flows. Overall, it could reduce GHG emissions through improved aircraft trajectories.	
Wider Society	Capacity / Resilience
Capacity: This option could maintain airport capacity, providing the same number of holds as the baseline. This location aligns with network traffic flows so could maintain network capacity compared with the baseline. Other non-airspace constraints may hinder overall capacity and economic gains at Stansted. Resilience: Optimised holds could maintain disruption recovery resulting from unplanned runway closure. This option could maintain a similar number of holding levels, therefore it could maintain delay absorption compared with the baseline.	
General Aviation (GA)	Access
A holding facility to the northwest would likely be within current day CAS. As a result, the access impact on GA traffic is unlikely to change compared with the baseline.	
GA/Commercial Airlines	Economic Impact from Increased Effective Capacity
This location aligns with network traffic flows, which could enable capacity gains across the LTMA from an improved network design. It could enable positive economic impacts through capacity gains; however, other non-airspace constraints may hinder overall capacity and economic gains at Stansted. This could positively impact all LTMA traffic – commercial and GA.	
GA/Commercial Airlines	Fuel Burn
This design option is an optimised version of today which may improve transitions from the hold to 7,000ft. This location aligns with airport and network traffic flows. Overall, it could reduce fuel burn through improved aircraft trajectories for commercial operators. There are currently structures in this location so no change in impact is expected for GA traffic.	
Commercial Airlines	Training Costs
Flight procedures change worldwide with each AIRAC cycle and operators would update their procedures accordingly, training if required. This option is not anticipated to impose additional training cost impacts for operators.	
Commercial Airlines	Other Costs
No other operator costs are foreseen.	
Airport / ANSP	Infrastructure Costs
This design option is not expected to change airport or ANSP infrastructure impacts, beyond the initial deployment phase which will require some systems engineering amendments.	
Airport / ANSP	Operational Costs
This design option is not expected to change airport or ANSP operational cost impacts.	
Airport / ANSP	Deployment Costs
At this stage it is disproportionate to attempt to quantify deployment costs per design option. However, a large LTMA system change would involve training a large number of controllers and assistants via the use of various air traffic simulators (including sim prep, management, and staffing), with additional system engineering costs.	
AMS	Performance against the vision and parameters/strategic objectives of the AMS
• Safety: maintained • Simplification: could maintain delay absorption, disruption recovery, airport capacity, network capacity, and ATCO workload. Will utilise aircraft performance capabilities • Integration of diverse users: continues to integrate defence and security and GA, subject to constraints of the design • Environmental sustainability: could reduce CO_2 emissions	
Qualitative Safety Assessment	
A high-level safety appraisal for this proposed option indicates that an Inner Hold to the northwest would at least maintain current safety performance. There are multiple holds within current UK airspace which have a proven safety performance. An arrival structure in this location would need to deconflict with Luton traffic.	

Conclusion from IOA
Compared to the baseline, this option could improve fuel burn and CO_2 emissions. It would maintain safety and any current MoD access. It could maintain delay absorption, disruption recovery, access to other users, airport capacity, network capacity, and ATCO workload. **Therefore, SS – IH – NW (DM) is progressed to Stage 3 for further development.**

Table 17 SS-IH-NW Initial Options Appraisal

SS – PM - N Qualitative Initial Impacts Assessment	PROGRESSED
Group	**Impact**
Communities	Noise impact on health and quality of life
ANG (2017) states "at or above 7,000ft…minimising of noise is no longer a priority". CAP1616 instructs sponsors to consider noise and tranquillity impacts where the proposal has the potential to change overflight of inhabited areas, AONBs and NPs below 7,000ft. In this network-level proposal, changes would not occur below 7,000ft therefore these impacts are not considered.	
Communities	Air Quality
ANG (2017) states "emissions from aircraft above 1,000ft are unlikely to have a significant impact on local air quality". Changes would occur at or above 7,000ft, thus in accordance with ANG (2017) there would be no change in local air quality impacts.	
Wider Society	Greenhouse Gas Impacts
This design option could result in extended track miles to complete the Point Merge structure, compared with baseline. However, this location aligns with airport traffic flows. It does not align with network traffic flows causing additional track miles for LTMA aircraft. Overall, it could maintain GHG emissions compared with the baseline.	
Wider Society	Capacity / Resilience
Capacity: This option could maintain airport capacity, providing the same number of holds as the baseline. However, this location does not align with network traffic flows so could worsen network capacity compared with the baseline. Other non-airspace constraints may hinder overall capacity and economic gains at Stansted. Resilience: Disruption recovery could be maintained compared with the baseline, with a contingency hold* utilised in the event of unplanned runway closure. This option could provide similar holding capacity as today plus additional delay absorption by flying the Point Merge structure. Therefore, it could maintain delay absorption compared with the baseline. *The positioning and altitude of this contingency hold would be the subject of collaborative work with the airport in Stage 3.	
General Aviation (GA)	Access
A Point Merge facility to the north may require additional CAS, the extent is not yet known. As a result, the access impact on GA traffic may be worse compared with the baseline.	
GA/Commercial Airlines	Economic Impact from Increased Effective Capacity
This option does not align with network traffic flows, which could hinder potential capacity gains across the LTMA from an improved network design. A Point Merge could enable positive economic impacts through capacity gains; however, other non-airspace constraints may hinder overall capacity and economic gains at Stansted. Overall, minimal benefit compared with the baseline. No impact on GA is expected.	
GA/Commercial Airlines	Fuel Burn
This design option could result in extended track miles to complete the Point Merge structure, compared with baseline. However, this location aligns with airport traffic flows. Overall, it could maintain fuel burn compared with the baseline for commercial operators. There are not currently any structures in this location and additional CAS maybe required both of which may impact transiting GA traffic, potentially increasing their fuel burn.	
Commercial Airlines	Training Costs
Flight procedures change worldwide with each AIRAC cycle and operators would update their procedures accordingly, training if required. This option is not anticipated to impose additional training cost impacts for operators.	
Commercial Airlines	Other Costs
No other operator costs are foreseen.	
Airport / ANSP	Infrastructure Costs
This design option is not expected to change airport or ANSP infrastructure impacts, beyond the initial deployment phase which will require some systems engineering amendments.	
Airport / ANSP	Operational Costs
This design option is not expected to change airport or ANSP operational cost impacts.	
Airport / ANSP	Deployment Costs
At this stage it is disproportionate to attempt to quantify deployment costs per design option. However, a large LTMA system change would involve training a large number of controllers and assistants via the use of various air traffic simulators (including sim prep, management, and staffing), with additional system engineering costs.	
AMS	Performance against the vision and parameters/strategic objectives of the AMS
• Safety: could enhance • Simplification: could reduce ATCO workload, maintain delay absorption, maintain disruption recovery and maintain airport capacity. Could worsen network capacity. Will utilise aircraft performance capabilities • Integration of diverse users: continues to integrate defence and security and GA, subject to considerations of the design • Environmental sustainability: could maintain CO_2 emissions	

© 2023 NERL

Qualitative Safety Assessment
A high-level safety appraisal for this proposed option indicates that a Point Merge to the north could enhance current safety performance. There is already a Point Merge within current UK airspace which has a proven safety performance. A Point Merge may decrease controller workload by reducing the requirement for tactical intervention due to aircraft following a systemised structure. An arrival structure in this location would need to deconflict with Luton arrivals and MoD traffic in East Anglia.
Conclusion from IOA
Compared to the baseline, this option could improve safety and ATCO workload. It could maintain delay absorption, disruption recovery, fuel burn, CO_2 emissions, and airport capacity. It could worsen network capacity. Depending on the location, there may be a requirement for additional CAS, which could negatively impact other users and military operations. **Therefore, SS – PM – N is progressed to Stage 3 for further development.**

Table 18 SS-PM-N Initial Options Appraisal

SS – PM - NE Qualitative Initial Impacts Assessment	PROGRESSED
Group	**Impact**
Communities	Noise impact on health and quality of life
ANG (2017) states "at or above 7,000ft…minimising of noise is no longer a priority". CAP1616 instructs sponsors to consider noise and tranquillity impacts where the proposal has the potential to change overflight of inhabited areas, AONBs and NPs below 7,000ft. In this network-level proposal, changes would not occur below 7,000ft therefore these impacts are not considered.	
Communities	Air Quality
ANG (2017) states "emissions from aircraft above 1,000ft are unlikely to have a significant impact on local air quality". Changes would occur at or above 7,000ft, thus in accordance with ANG (2017) there would be no change in local air quality impacts.	
Wider Society	Greenhouse Gas Impacts
This design option could result in extended track miles to complete the Point Merge structure, compared with baseline. However, this location aligns with airport traffic flows. Overall, it could maintain GHG emissions compared with the baseline.	
Wider Society	Capacity / Resilience
Capacity: This option could maintain airport capacity, providing the same number of holds as the baseline. This location aligns with network traffic flows so could maintain network capacity compared with the baseline. Other non-airspace constraints may hinder overall capacity and economic gains at Stansted. Resilience: Disruption recovery could be similar to the baseline, with a contingency hold* utilised in the event of unplanned runway closure. This option could provide similar holding capacity as today plus additional delay absorption by flying the Point Merge structure. Therefore, it could maintain delay absorption compared with the baseline. *The positioning and altitude of this contingency hold would be the subject of collaborative work with the airport in Stage 3.	
General Aviation (GA)	Access
A Point Merge facility to the northeast may require additional CAS, the extent is not yet known. As a result, the access impact on GA traffic may be worse compared with the baseline.	
GA/Commercial Airlines	Economic Impact from Increased Effective Capacity
This option aligns with network traffic flows, which could enable capacity gains across the LTMA from an improved network design. A Point Merge could enable positive economic impacts through capacity gains; however, other non-airspace constraints may hinder overall capacity and economic gains at Stansted. Overall, there could be economic improvement compared with the baseline. No impact on GA is expected.	
GA/Commercial Airlines	Fuel Burn
This design option could result in extended track miles to complete the Point Merge structure, compared with baseline. However, this location aligns with airport traffic flows. Overall, it could maintain fuel burn compared with the baseline for commercial operators. There are not currently any structures in this location and additional CAS maybe required, both of which may impact transiting GA traffic, and potentially increase their fuel burn.	
Commercial Airlines	Training Costs
Flight procedures change worldwide with each AIRAC cycle and operators would update their procedures accordingly, training if required. This option is not anticipated to impose additional training cost impacts for operators.	
Commercial Airlines	Other Costs
No other operator costs are foreseen.	
Airport / ANSP	Infrastructure Costs
This design option is not expected to change airport or ANSP infrastructure impacts, beyond the initial deployment phase which will require some systems engineering amendments.	
Airport / ANSP	Operational Costs
This design option is not expected to change airport or ANSP operational cost impacts.	
Airport / ANSP	Deployment Costs
At this stage it is disproportionate to attempt to quantify deployment costs per design option. However, a large LTMA system change would involve training a large number of controllers and assistants via the use of various air traffic simulators (including sim prep, management, and staffing), with additional system engineering costs.	
AMS	Performance against the vision and parameters/strategic objectives of the AMS
• Safety: could enhance • Simplification: could reduce ATCO workload. Could maintain delay absorption, disruption recovery, airport capacity, and network capacity. Will utilise aircraft performance capabilities • Integration of diverse users: continues to integrate defence and security and GA, subject to constraints of the design • Environmental sustainability: could maintain CO_2 emissions	

© 2023 NERL

Qualitative Safety Assessment
A high-level safety appraisal for this proposed option indicates that a Point Merge to the northeast could enhance current safety performance. There is already a Point Merge within current UK airspace which has a proven safety performance. A Point Merge may decrease controller workload by reducing the requirement for tactical intervention due to aircraft following a systemised structure. An arrival structure in this location would need to deconflict with other Luton arrivals, London City and Southend departures and all LTMA traffic via Clacton.
Conclusion from IOA
Compared to the baseline, this option could improve safety and ATCO workload. It could maintain delay absorption, disruption recovery, fuel burn, CO_2 emissions, airport capacity, and network capacity. Depending on the location, there may be a requirement for additional CAS, which could negatively impact other users and military operations. **Therefore, SS – PM – NE is progressed to Stage 3 for further development.**

Table 19 SS-PM-NE Initial Options Appraisal

4. Step 2B Conclusion and Next Steps

4.1.1 There is not yet enough detailed quantified data to make a statement on preferred option(s). Compromises and trade-offs may be necessary between airports taking part in the FASI regional airspace change. Appropriate quantitative assessments and trade-offs will be carried out as part of Stage 3 to allow a preferred option to be selected prior to consultation.

4.1.2 This table provides a summary of design option concepts for Stansted, showing how the number of design options has changed through the design development stages as described above.

Module	Initial Long List	Comprehensive List	Progress to IOA	Progress to Stage 3
Stansted	17	7	5	5

Table 20 Count of Design Option Concepts for each module through option development stages

4.1.3 These shortlisted viable options have been carried forward to Stage 3:

Stansted Option Concepts progressed to Stage 3
Inner Holds – North
Inner Holds – Northeast (DM)
Inner Holds – Northwest (DM)
Point Merge – North
Point Merge – Northeast

Table 21 Summary of design options progressed to Stage 3

5. APPENDIX 1: Arrival Structure Concepts

5.1.1 Arrival structure types identified as being viable options for potential airspace designs across the LTMA airports:

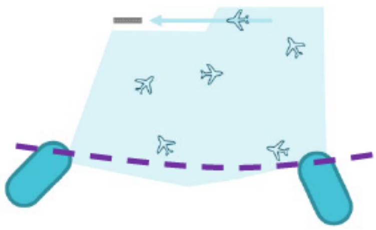
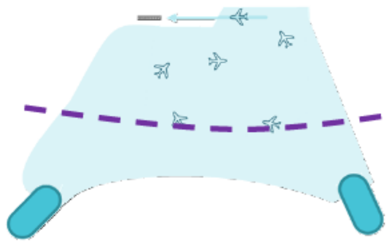
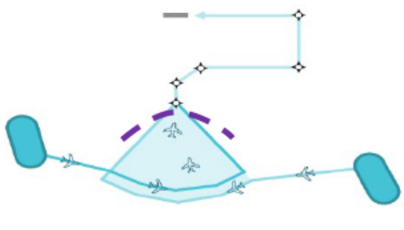
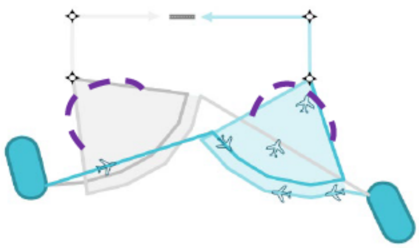
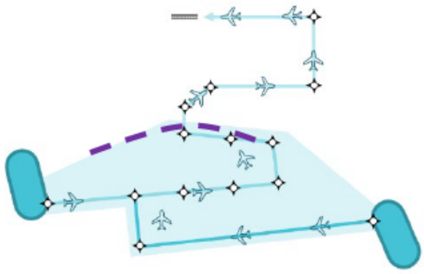
Structure	Diagram	Description
Optimised[5] Holds llustration of network/airport boundary (indicative c.7,000ft)		A holding pattern is used to delay aircraft from landing, in a vertically separated stack. ATC control entry to, and exit from, the stack; and aircraft are vectored to the runway or may use a transition. Linked with either a traditional Radar Manoeuvring Area (RMA) or Transitions. This design is for holds within c.30nm of the airport.
Holds Further Out llustration of network/airport boundary (indicative c.7,000ft)		As above but would typically be higher. This design is for holds c.30nm-60nm from the airport.
Point Merge llustration of network/airport boundary (indicative c.7,000ft)		Point Merge (PM) is a systemised method for sequencing arrival flows, allowing controllers to sequence and merge arrivals without vectoring, whilst enabling continuous descent operations and maintaining runway throughput. This design has a fixed location regarding the merge legs and merge point.
Switch Merge llustration of network/airport boundary (indicative c.7,000ft)		SM is a concept not currently in UK operation, whereby two separate PM structures exist within a given airspace volume to serve different runway directions for the same airport. The merge legs and merge point (the tip of each triangle) is angled to favour the runway in use, but only one of the merge structures is in operation at any time; they are 'switched' when the runway direction changes. The holds do not change.
Trombone llustration of network/airport boundary (indicative c.7,000ft)		A 'snake-like' PBN transition which can be closed (fixed) which aircraft must fly; or open, whereby tactical flexibility is retained with defined short cuts.

Figure 6 Arrival structure concepts (at and above 7,000ft)

End of document

[5] See paragraph 2.2.10 of Master document for explanation of 'Optimised'

© 2023 NERL