

From:



Subject: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 4:04:00 PM

Dear Stakeholder,

The MOD is working with the US Air Force in Europe to Sponsor an Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) that will enable Remotely Piloted Aircraft to operate from RAF Fairford as they enter and leave UK airspace. This ACP recently passed its Stage 3A Gateway and is now in the consultation window.

During Stage 1, we engaged with potentially affected stakeholders to develop a list of design principles that were used to help shape our initial list of options. During Stage 2, we requested stakeholder feedback on whether the initial options align with the design principles. We also submitted an Initial Options Appraisal for your stakeholder feedback. Since Stage 2, the initial ACP was split into two ACPs. One is for Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE), and one is for High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) RPA operations from RAF Fairford. The MALE ACP is currently paused, and this ACP moves forward as a HALE-only ACP. Additionally, based on engagement with NATS on expected impacts to civil traffic and the Sponsor's internal analysis, it was determined that HALE Options 1 and 2 were no longer viable. Through extensive engagement with NATS, a new option was developed that is expected to better align with the design principles of this ACP.

We are now requesting your feedback through formal consultation that begins today, 11 October 2023 and ends 21 November 2023. As with previous stages, please pass on this email across your organisation or to any other airspace users you think may be affected. Due to data gathered and some of the planned mitigations, such as activation primarily between 20:00 and 05:30, 2-3 times per week and up to 3 hours per activation, along with a crossing service, we believe that there will

be no impacts below 7,000 feet.

The Sponsor would like to hear from you. The consultation materials can be found on Citizen Space at the link below. This is the primary method for providing feedback. There, you will also find details on planned virtual meetings that you can join. The consultation materials and information about previous stages can also be found at the ACP Portal link below. If you require the consultation materials or meetings to be presented in a different format, please respond to this email with that request.

Citizen Space Link: <https://consultations.airspacechange.co.uk/mod-daاتم/enabling-rpas-operations-from-raf-fairford>

ACP Portal Link: <https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/PublicProposalArea?PID=410>

Respectfully,

■

■

HQ USAFE-AFAFRICA A3/A3AA

From:

Subject:

Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Date:

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 4:10:00 PM

Dear Stakeholder,

The MOD is working with the US Air Force in Europe to Sponsor an Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) that will enable Remotely Piloted Aircraft to operate from RAF Fairford as they enter and leave UK airspace. This ACP recently passed its Stage 3A Gateway and is now in the consultation window.

During Stage 1, we engaged with potentially affected stakeholders to develop a list of design principles that were used to help shape our initial list of options. During Stage 2, we requested stakeholder feedback on whether the initial options align with the design principles. We also submitted an Initial Options Appraisal for your stakeholder feedback. Since Stage 2, the initial ACP was split into two ACPs. One is for Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE), and one is for High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) RPA operations from RAF Fairford. The MALE ACP is currently paused, and this ACP moves forward as a HALE-only ACP. Additionally, based on engagement with NATS on expected impacts to civil traffic and the Sponsor's internal analysis, it was determined that HALE Options 1 and 2 were no longer viable. Through extensive engagement with NATS, a new option was developed that is expected to better align with the design principles of this ACP.

We are now requesting your feedback through formal consultation that begins today, 11 October 2023 and ends 21 November 2023. As with previous stages, please pass on this email across your organisation or to any other airspace users you think may be affected. We are specifically interested to hear from individual airlines that we expect to be potentially impacted. Initial analysis has indicated more potential impacts to the following airlines:

Air Canada
Lufthansa
Ethiopian Airlines
West Atlantic Cargo Airlines
Ryanair
Jet2
United Airlines
Air France
European Air Transport
TUI Airlines

Due to data gathered and some of the planned mitigations, such as activation primarily between 20:00 and 05:30, 2-3 times per week and up to 3 hours per activation, along with a crossing service, we believe that there will be no impacts below 7,000 feet.

The Sponsor would like to hear from you. The consultation materials can be found on Citizen Space at the link below. This is the primary method for providing feedback. There, you will also find details

on planned virtual meetings that you can join. The consultation materials and information about previous stages can also be found at the ACP Portal link below. If you require the consultation materials or meetings to be presented in a different format, please respond to this email with that request.

Citizen Space Link: <https://consultations.airspacechange.co.uk/mod-daاتم/enabling-rpas-operations-from-raf-fairford>

ACP Portal Link: <https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/PublicProposalArea?PID=410>

Respectfully,

■

■

■

From:



Subject:

Consultation Feedback Response

Date:

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 11:08:00 AM

Good Morning ,

Thank you for your consultation feedback. We have taken excerpts where NATS has asked for further clarification from the Sponsor and have addressed them below. Please feel free to reach out with any additional questions or concerns. We can also discuss these items during our planned engagement VTC later today.

Question 5

NATS input: The proposed times of activation are stated as an 'intent' with an option to 'rarely' activate the airspace outside of the proposed times. These terms will need to be better defined in an LoA to establish an ASM protocol to enable the AMC to take account of these limitations. The cumulative effect of multiple SUA activations also needs to be considered when defining these protocols and LoA.

USAFE response: USAFE understands that while operating 1 hour after sunset and 1 hour prior to sunrise may minimize the impacts to GA traffic, the impacts to IFR traffic will still exist and have the potential to affect more aircraft during the longer nights of fall and winter. Because of this, USAFE's intent is to only activate the Danger Areas between the stated times of 20:00 and 05:30 UTC. The purpose for the general statement is to allow for activations outside of this window (but still between 1 hour after sunset and 1 hour before sunrise) in the event of an operational requirement. While this isn't currently anticipated, it must be accounted for to provide the flexibility to meet Department of Defense needs. USAFE is happy to work with NATS and MOD to further refine how often this may occur, what would drive such an activation, and how this would be coordinated.

Question 7

NATS input: The key component is around use of a DACS during periods when the airspace is active along with ensuring that it is only active when necessary for the operation of the RPAS.

USAFE response: USAFE will ensure airspace not required for HALE RPA operations are made available for a DACS as soon as possible. Also, when the airspace is no longer required for arrival, departure, or for an unplanned early return, the airspace will be deactivated, and the NOTAM will be cancelled.

NATS input: Whilst it's acknowledged that the sponsor has provided some mitigation, clarity and definition of "coordinated in advance" is requested. ASM protocols and LoA definition will be required to allow collaborative decision making and impact assessments to be undertaken by MOD and NATS airspace and capacity managers. Regarding the activity windows, particularly during autumn and winter (darker, longer nights) NATS continues to seek agreement on robust ASM protocols and options that allow further flexibility on the activation times through

negotiation and notification of planned activity for those times where increased civil demand is known on the shoulders of the proposed time frame. This is particularly important for planning of first rotation traffic and flows across the North Atlantic Track system.

USAFE response: USAFE will endeavor to provide a 14 calendar day notice for airspace activations. The exception would be for short-notice operational requirements. USAFE is happy to work with NATS and MOD to further refine how often this may occur and how this would be coordinated.

NATS input: The ACP documentation states, 'The proposed airspace is expected be activated 2-3 times per week for up to 3 hours per activation'. As part of the CAA approval process, NATS would like the CAA to specify 'no more than 3 activations per week' as the statement in the ACP documentation is too general. Any change to the activation periods required must require a formal change to the approved airspace.

USAFE response: USAFE's intention remains to activate 2-3 times per week. We would like to discuss this further with NATS to determine if weekly volume is more important to NATS or if total annual activations are of greater concern. Our impact analysis was conducted assuming 3 activations per week and 156 activations per year. If USAFE's operational requirements necessitated an occasional additional activation but annual activations remained below 156 for the year, would NATS consider the impact unchanged? Would a 14-day notification mitigate these concerns? Please understand that this is only a hypothetical question posed to better understand NATS's concerns while providing as much operational flexibility as possible for future military requirements.

Question 8

NATS input: It is stated that a 2nm internal buffer is planned. NATS seeks confirmation that this internal buffer will be applied as it supports the safety assurance arguments expected in respect to proximity of GAT aircraft operating within CAS and aircraft operating within the proposed SUA. This includes areas where B abuts the FUA COTSWOLDS CTAs 15/16/17/18. NATS would seek clarity as to whether this will need amending under the proposed changes to CAA SUA Policy and associated buffer policy.

USAFE response: USAFE's intention is to request dispensation to the current buffer policy to allow for a 3 NM buffer from CTAs, etc. and ATS routes. Should the CAA's buffer policy be changed, USAFE would engage with NATS to determine if additional safety assurance work would be required before implementation of a reduced buffer.

NATS input: NATS is aware of the precedence set by CAA conditions to a separate MOD ACP supporting BVLOS RPAS operations stating that DACS cannot be provided when the RPAS is operating in the airspace - particularly applicable to civil aircraft. The assumption therefore is that no coordinated transit or DACS can be provided to civil aircraft. To develop our plans and assurance arguments, NATS would seek clarity on this assumption.

USAFE response: USAFE's understanding is that the segmented design on the Danger Area

complex would permit DACS transits in any segment that the BVLOS RPAS has vacated. In practice, USAFE's intention is to proactively return segments to Brize Radar and Swanwick Military for a DCAS when the HALE RPA has vacated the segment and is at an altitude or position to ensure that the segment will not be required for an emergency or contingency situation. Further clarification from the CAA will be sought on this topic.

NATS input: The sponsor mentions that the need for segregated airspace will be reviewed every two years. NATS would suggest and encourage this be reviewed sooner where opportunity arises, should CAA Policy be updated for example, particularly where the proposed SUA has a detrimental impact to operations, capacity and flight efficiency/environment in the CTAs and upper air.

USAFE response: USAFE will commit to a review every two years or sooner should CAA policy be updated to allow for reduced impacts to operations, capacity and flight efficiency/environment in the CTAs and upper air while maintaining USAFE's operational requirements.

NATS input: The sponsor mentions the onwards transit of the RPA and a supporting Operational Agreement, NATS would like to understand this further and the associated assurance arguments for this agreement so that impact assessments can be undertaken to develop appropriate procedures where required. CAA Policy states that 'The primary means of achieving BVLOS operations without using a technical DAA capability, is using airspace segregation. It is not current CAA policy to accept a probabilistic safety argument based on historic traffic data as the sole component of a safety argument'. NATS would like to understand how the onward transit of the RPA will be carried out in non-segregated Airspace.

USAFE response: In recent discussions with the CAA, USAFE expects the HALE RPA Operational Arrangement to require segregated airspace during onward transit in the form of an airspace reservation. The language is currently being drafted by the CAA and a draft will be shared when completed.

NATS input: For HALE Option 3 the sponsor describes the recovery process for the platform. Clarity is required regarding this. It is stated that descent will begin in Area C and B. Does this imply that area D is not required for the recovery and potentially lessen the impact to the network and airline operators - particularly in the vicinity of ATS route P17.

USAFE response: Descent will begin in Areas D and C and those areas will be required for the majority of the descent profile. This will be corrected in the final submission.

NATS input: The ACP time does not align with previous engagement discussions or the required timelines for critical ATM system updates required to safely deliver this airspace change. NATS would like to discuss further the implementation dates should this proposal be approved by the CAA.

USAFE response: Can you please elaborate on what timeline does not align? USAFE is happy

to discuss this further to ensure that the required ATC system updates can be accomplished.

[REDACTED]

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Redacted]
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] ACP HALE operations RAF Fairford
Date: Friday, November 24, 2023 2:14:24 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Apologies for the late input to your ACP.

The British Gliding Association notes that that the consultation document refers to operations being limited to after sunset and before sunrise. On that basis, the BGA does not object to the proposal. We note that no alternate landing airfield has been identified in the ACP. Our experience with UK MoD is that an ACP was proposed for a DA for RPAS operations (Waddington), and following approval, MoD has subsequently submitted an ACP for a contingency DA of the same dimension to be available for concurrent activation (at Marham). We would be grateful for your comments on that point in respect of your ACP.

Kind regards

Pete

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

British Gliding Association
8 Merus Court
Meridian Business Park
Leicester LE19 1RJ

T 0044 (0)116 2892956 M 07749 908444
www.gliding.co.uk



Registered in England 422605



From: [REDACTED]
To: [USAFE AIRSPACE](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 11:51:22 AM

Dear Sir

Thank you for consulting Gloucestershire County Council on the above matter. I can confirm that we have no officer comments to make.

Cheers

[REDACTED]
Senior Planning Officer
01452 425695

From: USAFE_AIRSPACE <USAFE3.A3AA.USAFE_AIRSPACE@us.af.mil>
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 10:42 AM
Subject: RE: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Dear Stakeholder,

We would like to remind you that the consultation window for this ACP is due to close in approximately 2 weeks on 21 November. If you haven't already, please provide your feedback via Citizen Space or via this email address.

Citizen Space Link: <https://consultations.airspacechange.co.uk/mod-daاتم/enabling-rpas-operations-from-raf-fairford>

ACP Portal Link: <https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/PublicProposalArea?PID=410>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 4:06 PM
Subject: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Dear Stakeholder,

The MOD is working with the US Air Force in Europe to Sponsor an Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) that will enable Remotely Piloted Aircraft to operate from RAF Fairford as they enter and leave UK airspace. This ACP recently passed its Stage 3A Gateway and is now in the consultation window.

During Stage 1, we engaged with potentially affected stakeholders to develop a list of design principles that were used to help shape our initial list of options. During Stage 2, we requested stakeholder feedback on whether the initial options align with the design principles. We also submitted an Initial Options Appraisal for your stakeholder feedback. Since Stage 2, the initial ACP was split into two ACPs. One is for Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE), and one is for High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) RPA operations from RAF Fairford. The MALE ACP is currently paused, and this ACP moves forward as a HALE-only ACP. Additionally, based on engagement with NATS on expected impacts to civil traffic and the Sponsor's internal analysis, it was determined that HALE Options 1 and 2 were no longer viable. Through extensive engagement with NATS, a new option was developed that is expected to better align with the design principles of this ACP.

We are now requesting your feedback through formal consultation that begins today, 11 October 2023 and ends 21 November 2023. As with previous stages, please pass on this email across your organisation or to any other airspace users you think may be affected. Due to data gathered and some of the planned mitigations, such as activation primarily between 20:00 and 05:30, 2-3 times per week and up to 3 hours per activation, along with a crossing service, we believe that there will be no impacts below 7,000 feet.

The Sponsor would like to hear from you. The consultation materials can be found on Citizen Space at the link below. This is the primary method for providing feedback. There, you will also find details on planned virtual meetings that you can join. The consultation materials and information about previous stages can also be found at the ACP Portal link below. If you require the consultation materials or meetings to be presented in a different format, please respond to this email with that request.

Citizen Space Link: <https://consultations.airspacechange.co.uk/mod-daatm/enabling-rpas-operations-from-raf-fairford>

ACP Portal Link: <https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/PublicProposalArea?pID=410>

Respectfully,

█

████████████████████
████████████████████

Think before you print - only print this email if absolutely necessary.
This email and any attachments are strictly confidential and intended for the

addressee only.

If you are not the named addressee you must not disclose, copy or take any action in reliance of this transmission and you should notify us as soon as possible.

This email and any attachments are believed to be free from viruses but it is your responsibility to carry out all necessary virus checks and Gloucestershire County Council accepts no liability in connection therewith.

From: [USAFE AIRSPACE](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE
Date: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:39:25 AM
Attachments: [EGDXXXA FAIRFORD.kmz](#)
[image001.png](#)

[REDACTED]

Please see the attached .kmz of Segment A. Please let us know if you have any further comments.

[REDACTED]

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

HQ USAFE-AFAFRICA A3/A3AA

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 8:51 PM
To: USAFE_AIRSPACE <USAFEA3.A3AA.USAFE_AIRSPACE@us.af.mil>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Good afternoon [REDACTED],

Sub 25kg RPAS are mainly used for data capture purposes. This includes data that is in both the visible part of the light spectrum such as photography and the invisible part of the light spectrum, such as infrared. The latter produces thermal imagery that is sometimes used for detecting heat loss from housing. A good time to undertake thermal surveys is at night when there is less atmospheric distortion from the sun.

Whilst I have no concrete proof that there will be Operators undertaking this activity within the area defined by Segment A, it is difficult to determine the exact area that is represented in the maps you have produced, because you appear to use the same size area to mark Segment A on maps that are at different scales. Therefore it would be useful to receive a .kmz so I can check how many towns and cities are included and inform our membership in advance.

Whilst we do not at this stage see any reason to object to your application, you will I am sure understand that communicating with our membership is important.

I look forward to receiving a .kmz.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Regulation

ARPAS-UK
+44(0)7989 300918
www.arpas.uk
Twitter: @ARPASUK
LinkedIn: ARPAS-UK

[REDACTED]



On 16 Nov 2023, at 15:16, USAFE_AIRSPACE
<USAFE3.A3AA.USAFE_AIRSPACE@us.af.mil> wrote:

Hello [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email. Activation will only be at night, no earlier than 1 hour after sunset and no later than 1 hour prior to sunrise but normally not earlier than 20:00 – or after 0530 UTC.

Will this still have a potential impact to sub 25kg RPAS? If so, I will provide a .kmz of Segment A.

[REDACTED]

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

HQ USAFE-AFAFRICA A3/A3AA

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 6:18 PM
To: USAFE_AIRSPACE <USAFEA3.A3AA.USAFE_AIRSPACE@us.af.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Good afternoon,

Thank you for sending us the details of your ACP. In order to better understand the exact location of the A Sector's location in Option 3, could I ask you to send me a .kmz file, with the proposed area marked out to a resolution of a few meters. Although we understand that the TDA will be activated largely at night, it covers a sizeable area that will require separate approvals to be sought, should any of our members be operating when it is active. However, with the current map it is extremely difficult to see the exact area covered in the detail that Operators of sub 25kg RPAS require.

Many thanks

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Regulation

ARPAS-UK
+44(0)7989 300918
www.arpas.uk
Twitter: @ARPASUK
LinkedIn: ARPAS-UK

[REDACTED]

<image001.png>

On 6 Nov 2023, at 10:42, USAFE_AIRSPACE

<USAFEA3.A3AA.USAFE_AIRSPACE@us.af.mil> wrote:

Dear Stakeholder,

We would like to remind you that the consultation window for this ACP is due to close in approximately 2 weeks on 21 November. If you haven't already, please provide your feedback via Citizen Space or via this email address.

Citizen Space Link: <https://consultations.airspacechange.co.uk/mod-daatm/enabling-rpas-operations-from-raf-fairford>

ACP Portal Link: <https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/PublicProposalArea?pid=410>

█

Respectfully,

█

HQ USAFE-AFAFRICA A3/A3AA

From: █

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 4:06 PM

Subject: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Dear Stakeholder,

The MOD is working with the US Air Force in Europe to Sponsor an Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) that will enable Remotely Piloted Aircraft to operate from RAF Fairford as they enter and leave UK airspace. This ACP recently passed its Stage 3A Gateway and is now in the consultation window.

During Stage 1, we engaged with potentially affected stakeholders to develop a list of design principles that were used to help shape our initial list of options. During Stage 2, we requested stakeholder feedback on whether the initial options align with the design principles. We also submitted an Initial Options Appraisal for your stakeholder feedback. Since Stage 2, the initial ACP was split into two ACPs. One is for Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE), and one is for High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) RPA operations from RAF Fairford. The MALE ACP is currently paused, and this ACP moves forward as a HALE-only ACP. Additionally, based on engagement with NATS on expected impacts to

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Fairford - Remotely Piloted Operations Airspace Consultation
Date: Monday, October 16, 2023 3:10:46 PM

Good afternoon [REDACTED],

Thank you for your question. In accordance with CAP 1616, "the Ministry of Defence need only ever assess the anticipated environmental impacts of the consequential changes on civil aviation patterns". No impacts to civil traffic patterns are expected below 7,000 feet for this proposal. As such, no noise impacts related to civil traffic patterns are expected, and no noise study was required or conducted.

Please let us know if you have any other feedback on this proposal.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
USAFE-AFAFRICA A3/A3AA (Airspace Access)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2023 11:13 AM
To: USAFE_AIRSPACE <USAFE.A3.A3AA.USAFE_AIRSPACE@us.af.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fairford - Remotely Piloted Operations Airspace Consultation

Please can you reassure me on the noise levels to be experienced on the ground associated with this proposal ?

LA max readings at heights up to 7000 feet at 1000 foot intervals ?

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [USAFE AIRSPACE](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE
Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 10:19:00 AM

Good Morning,

We appreciate the support for our ACP but would like to provide additional clarification to why Option 1 and 2 were discounted. USAFE discounted Options 1 and 2 in lieu of a safer and more efficient design option that has fewer impacts to other users of the airspace. This was informed by stakeholder feedback as well as USAF analysis.

We understand that airspace is a finite resource. From the beginning of this ACP, one of our top priorities has been to minimize impacts to other users of the airspace. NATS did not insist on restrictions. Instead, engagement with NATS has helped us better understand the impacts of our design options where they interacted with controlled airspace and ATS routes. This engagement has resulted in a new option that we feel better aligns with our design principles.

Please let me know if you have any further questions. We look forward to receiving you feedback.

[REDACTED]

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 1:11 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: USAFE_AIRSPACE <USAFE3.A3AA.USAFE_AIRSPACE@us.af.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Hi [REDACTED]

What a disaster !

They've (USAF) abandoned Options 1 and 2 after consultation with NATS !!

What on earth are NATS doing insisting on restrictions??

It's open airspace and they should 'butt out'... they should stick to comments about controlled airspace....

Tragic that USAF are applying for a Danger Area to cover this minor activity.... We don't want more

Danger Areas ... but we definitely don't want to stop the USAF flying Unmanned aircraft...

I strongly believe that the USAF should be free to use our airspace as they see fit without any impediment.

The world is becoming a disaster...

... If we can embody these sentiments in our replies all the better.



On Mon, 6 Nov 2023, 11:06 info, <info@britishhelicopterassociation.org> wrote:

Members

Does anyone have an issue with this ACP that they would like the BHA to highlight.

Yours



British Helicopter Association
Unit C2
Fairoaks Airport
Chobham
Surrey. GU24 8HU

[Office:+44\(0\)1276 856100](tel:+44(0)1276856100)

[Mobile:+44\(0\)7941 384966](tel:+44(0)7941384966)

www.britishhelicopterassociation.org

From: USAFE_AIRSPACE <USAFFA3.A3AA.USAFE_AIRSPACE@us.af.mil>

Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 10:42 AM

Subject: RE: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Dear Stakeholder,

We would like to remind you that the consultation window for this ACP is due to close in approximately 2 weeks on 21 November. If you haven't already, please provide your feedback via Citizen Space or via this email address.

Citizen Space Link: <https://consultations.airspacechange.co.uk/mod-daاتم/enabling-rpas-operations-from-raf-fairford>

ACP Portal Link: <https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/PublicProposalArea?pID=410>

█
Respectfully,

█
HQ USAFE-AFAFRICA A3/A3AA

From: █

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 4:06 PM

Subject: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Dear Stakeholder,

The MOD is working with the US Air Force in Europe to Sponsor an Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) that will enable Remotely Piloted Aircraft to operate from RAF Fairford as they enter and leave UK airspace. This ACP recently passed its Stage 3A Gateway and is now in the consultation window.

During Stage 1, we engaged with potentially affected stakeholders to develop a list of design principles that were used to help shape our initial list of options. During Stage 2, we requested stakeholder feedback on whether the initial options align with the design principles. We also submitted an Initial Options Appraisal for your stakeholder feedback. Since Stage 2, the initial ACP was split into two ACPs. One is for Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE), and one is for High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) RPA operations from RAF Fairford. The MALE ACP is currently paused, and this ACP moves forward as a HALE-only ACP. Additionally, based on engagement with NATS on expected impacts to civil traffic and the Sponsor's internal analysis, it was determined that HALE Options 1 and 2 were no longer viable. Through extensive engagement with NATS, a new option was developed that is expected to better align with the design principles of this ACP.

We are now requesting your feedback through formal consultation that begins today, 11 October 2023 and ends 21 November 2023. As with previous stages, please pass on this email across your organisation or to any other airspace users you think may be affected. Due to data gathered and some of the planned mitigations, such as activation primarily between 20:00 and 05:30, 2-3 times per week and up to 3 hours per activation, along with a crossing service, we believe that there will be no impacts below 7,000 feet.

The Sponsor would like to hear from you. The consultation materials can be found on Citizen Space at the link below. This is the primary method for providing feedback. There, you will also find details on planned virtual meetings that you can join. The consultation materials and

information about previous stages can also be found at the ACP Portal link below. If you require the consultation materials or meetings to be presented in a different format, please respond to this email with that request.

Citizen Space Link: <https://consultations.airspacechange.co.uk/mod-daاتم/enabling-rpas-operations-from-raf-fairford>

ACP Portal Link: <https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/PublicProposalArea?pID=410>

Respectfully,

■

■

HQ USAFE-AFAFRICA A3/A3AA

From: [USAFE AIRSPACE](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE
Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:25:00 PM

Good Afternoon [REDACTED]

Thank you for joining our virtual consultation on 2 November. During this meeting, you asked how long we would expect to require Segment A to be sterilized and unavailable for a DACS. While we are unable to comment on situations that would limit ATC's availability to provide a DACS, our mission planners have indicated that Segment A would need to be sterilized for up to 30 minutes for both departures and arrivals (one time per activation). As soon as it is safe to do so, we would release each segment to ATC to allow for a DACS.

Thank you for your feedback and please let me know if you have any further questions or comments.

[REDACTED]
Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
HQ USAFE-AFAFRICA A3/A3AA

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 6:46 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Good Evening [REDACTED]

I'm sorry for the delay in responding to your email. I have been in meetings all day and am only now back at my computer.

I also apologize that the email below did not reach you until recently. It is absolutely our intent to receive feedback from the General Aviation Alliance and we have listed the GAA in our Consultation Strategy as a potentially interested stakeholder. The 11 October email below indicating the opening of the consultation window was sent to [REDACTED] as the GAA contact listed in the latest NATMAC list. We will be sure to use this email in future correspondence.

We have reached out to the CAA as to why the ACP portal lists consultation as not having begun yet and hope to resolve that issue as soon as possible. We hope to maintain the initial consultation window but are willing to discuss an extension if you deem it to be required.

Our intent it to minimize the impact to General Aviation to the maximum extent possible. I look forward to virtually meeting you tonight and hearing your feedback on the ACP.

█

Respectfully,

█

Airspace Access

█

█

█

█

From: █

Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 7:50 PM

To: █

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Hi █,

Due to the vagaries of e-mail, unless you are able to respond immediately to the points raised, please acknowledge receipt of this e-mail with an indication of when the full answer can be expected.

Your email below has just been forwarded on by a GAA member.

The CAA should provide this GAA email address to all ACP sponsors but it would appear that your email below did not reach us.

We regularly monitor the CAP1616 web portal so as to keep abreast of all ACP's statuses. Our last review a week or so ago would have revealed what the page for ACP-2021-078 still states, "Citizen Space Consultation The consultation has not yet started for this airspace change." See the attached screen shot.

From the email below this would appear to have been incorrect since 11Oct2023. We have therefore had the consultation window limited by nearly 3 weeks, some 50% of the allowed time.

We trust that the CAP1616 web portal will be updated a.s.a.p.

Should we not submit our response until 10Dec2023 we trust that it will be fully considered, please confirm this.

I intend to join tomorrow's Teams presentation.

Regards

█

█

General Aviation Alliance

www.gaalliance.org.uk

Email: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 3:06 PM

Subject: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Dear Stakeholder,

The MOD is working with the US Air Force in Europe to Sponsor an Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) that will enable Remotely Piloted Aircraft to operate from RAF Fairford as they enter and leave UK airspace. This ACP recently passed its Stage 3A Gateway and is now in the consultation window.

During Stage 1, we engaged with potentially affected stakeholders to develop a list of design principles that were used to help shape our initial list of options. During Stage 2, we requested stakeholder feedback on whether the initial options align with the design principles. We also submitted an Initial Options Appraisal for your stakeholder feedback. Since Stage 2, the initial ACP was split into two ACPs. One is for Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE), and one is for High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) RPA operations from RAF Fairford. The MALE ACP is currently paused, and this ACP moves forward as a HALE-only ACP. Additionally, based on engagement with NATS on expected impacts to civil traffic and the Sponsor's internal analysis, it was determined that HALE Options 1 and 2 were no longer viable. Through extensive engagement with NATS, a new option was developed that is expected to better align with the design principles of this ACP.

We are now requesting your feedback through formal consultation that begins today, 11 October 2023 and ends 21 November 2023. As with previous stages, please pass on this email across your organisation or to any other airspace users you think may be affected. Due to data gathered and some of the planned mitigations, such as activation primarily between 20:00 and 05:30, 2-3 times per week and up to 3 hours per activation, along with a crossing service, we believe that there will be no impacts below 7,000 feet.

The Sponsor would like to hear from you. The consultation materials can be found on Citizen Space at the link below. This is the primary method for providing feedback. There, you will also find details on planned virtual meetings that you can join. The consultation materials and information about previous stages can also be found at the ACP Portal link below. If you require the consultation materials or meetings to be presented in a different format, please respond to this email with that request.

Citizen Space Link: <https://consultations.airspacechange.co.uk/mod-daاتم/enabling-rpas-operations-from-raf-fairford>

ACP Portal Link: <https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/PublicProposalArea?pID=410>

Respectfully,



HQ USAFE-AFAFRICA A3/A3AA

From: [USAFE AIRSPACE](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 1:40:00 PM

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your feedback.

[REDACTED]
Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
HQ USAFE-AFAFRICA A3/A3AA

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 11:38 AM
To: USAFE_AIRSPACE <USAFE3.A3AA.USAFE_AIRSPACE@us.af.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Hi,
Having consulted our CFI and CP they agree this has little affect to our operation.

Rgds

[REDACTED]
On Mon, 6 Nov 2023, at 10:42 AM, USAFE_AIRSPACE wrote:

Dear Stakeholder,

We would like to remind you that the consultation window for this ACP is due to close in approximately 2 weeks on 21 November. If you haven't already, please provide your feedback via Citizen Space or via this email address.

Citizen Space Link: <https://consultations.airspacechange.co.uk/mod-daاتم/enabling-rpas-operations-from-raf-fairford>

ACP Portal Link: <https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/PublicProposalArea?pID=410>

[REDACTED]
Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
HQ USAFE-AFAFRICA A3/A3AA

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 4:06 PM

Subject: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Dear Stakeholder,

The MOD is working with the US Air Force in Europe to Sponsor an Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) that will enable Remotely Piloted Aircraft to operate from RAF Fairford as they enter and leave UK airspace. This ACP recently passed its Stage 3A Gateway and is now in the consultation window.

During Stage 1, we engaged with potentially affected stakeholders to develop a list of design principles that were used to help shape our initial list of options. During Stage 2, we requested stakeholder feedback on whether the initial options align with the design principles. We also submitted an Initial Options Appraisal for your stakeholder feedback. Since Stage 2, the initial ACP was split into two ACPs. One is for Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE), and one is for High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) RPA operations from RAF Fairford. The MALE ACP is currently paused, and this ACP moves forward as a HALE-only ACP. Additionally, based on engagement with NATS on expected impacts to civil traffic and the Sponsor's internal analysis, it was determined that HALE Options 1 and 2 were no longer viable. Through extensive engagement with NATS, a new option was developed that is expected to better align with the design principles of this ACP.

We are now requesting your feedback through formal consultation that begins today, 11 October 2023 and ends 21 November 2023. As with previous stages, please pass on this email across your organisation or to any other airspace users you think may be affected. Due to data gathered and some of the planned mitigations, such as activation primarily between 20:00 and 05:30, 2-3 times per week and up to 3 hours per activation, along with a crossing service, we believe that there will be no impacts below 7,000 feet.

The Sponsor would like to hear from you. The consultation materials can be found on Citizen Space at the link below. This is the primary method for providing feedback. There, you will also find details on planned virtual meetings that you can join. The consultation materials and information about previous stages can also be found at the ACP Portal link below. If you require the consultation materials or meetings to be presented in a different format, please respond to this email with that request.

Citizen Space Link: <https://consultations.airspacechange.co.uk/mod-daاتم/enabling->

[rpa-operations-from-raf-fairford](#)

ACP Portal Link: <https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/PublicProposalArea?PID=410>

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

HQ USAFE-AFAFRICA A3/A3AA

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Bidford Gliding & Flying Club - A Community Amateur Sports Club-

Tel-01789778807

M-07359166722

e-mail office@bgfc.uk

From: [USAFE AIRSPACE](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 1:41:00 PM

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your feedback.

[REDACTED]
Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
HQ USAFE-AFAFRICA A3/A3AA

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 11:51 AM
To: USAFE_AIRSPACE <USAFE.A3.A3AA.USAFE_AIRSPACE@us.af.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Dear Sir

Thank you for consulting Gloucestershire County Council on the above matter. I can confirm that we have no officer comments to make.

Cheers

[REDACTED]
Senior Planning Officer
01452 425695

From: USAFE_AIRSPACE <USAFE.A3.A3AA.USAFE_AIRSPACE@us.af.mil>
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 10:42 AM
Subject: RE: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Dear Stakeholder,

We would like to remind you that the consultation window for this ACP is due to close in approximately 2 weeks on 21 November. If you haven't already, please provide your feedback via Citizen Space or via this email address.

Citizen Space Link: <https://consultations.airspacechange.co.uk/mod-daاتم/enabling-rpas->

[operations-from-raf-fairford](#)

ACP Portal Link: <https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/PublicProposalArea?pID=410>

█
Respectfully,

█
HQ USAFE-AFAFRICA A3/A3AA

From: █

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 4:06 PM

Subject: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Dear Stakeholder,

The MOD is working with the US Air Force in Europe to Sponsor an Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) that will enable Remotely Piloted Aircraft to operate from RAF Fairford as they enter and leave UK airspace. This ACP recently passed its Stage 3A Gateway and is now in the consultation window.

During Stage 1, we engaged with potentially affected stakeholders to develop a list of design principles that were used to help shape our initial list of options. During Stage 2, we requested stakeholder feedback on whether the initial options align with the design principles. We also submitted an Initial Options Appraisal for your stakeholder feedback. Since Stage 2, the initial ACP was split into two ACPs. One is for Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE), and one is for High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) RPA operations from RAF Fairford. The MALE ACP is currently paused, and this ACP moves forward as a HALE-only ACP. Additionally, based on engagement with NATS on expected impacts to civil traffic and the Sponsor's internal analysis, it was determined that HALE Options 1 and 2 were no longer viable. Through extensive engagement with NATS, a new option was developed that is expected to better align with the design principles of this ACP.

We are now requesting your feedback through formal consultation that begins today, 11 October 2023 and ends 21 November 2023. As with previous stages, please pass on this email across your organisation or to any other airspace users you think may be affected. Due to data gathered and some of the planned mitigations, such as activation primarily between 20:00 and 05:30, 2-3 times per week and up to 3 hours per activation, along with a crossing service, we believe that there will be no impacts below 7,000 feet.

The Sponsor would like to hear from you. The consultation materials can be found on Citizen Space at the link below. This is the primary method for providing feedback. There, you will also find details on planned virtual meetings that you can join. The consultation materials and information about previous stages can also be found at the ACP Portal link below. If you require the consultation materials or meetings to be presented in a different format, please respond to this email with that

From: USAFE_AIRSPACE
To: [Kemble Ops](#)
Subject: RE: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 5:02:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi [REDACTED],

I completely understand the concern given your volume of traffic. I would like to add some reassurance that there are no plans to expand beyond the hours stated below.

Thank you for your feedback.

[REDACTED]

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
HQ USAFE-AFACRICA A3/A3AA

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 4:24 PM
To: USAFE_AIRSPACE <USAFE3 A3AA USAFE_AIRSPACE@us.af.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Hi [REDACTED],

That's understood and you're right those hours will not affect us too much at all but we will need to look at our letter of agreement with Brize Norton with them and make reference to this airspace. Our concern is more around the future impact of this and if the mission requirement grows to extend into our normal operational hours. We currently record between 28,000 and 32,000 movements per year and with the advent of the RNP approach our commercial operations have grown markedly since its inception 2 years ago.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Cotswold Airport Operations Team

KEMBLE AIR SERVICES LTD
The Control Tower
Cotswold Airport
Cirencester
Glos
GL7 6BA
Tel: 01285 771177
ATOTN: 515 2515

www.cotswoldairport.com

Please note that emails to this address are only monitored during the published hours of the aerodrome.

From: USAFE_AIRSPACE <USAFE3 A3AA USAFE_AIRSPACE@us.af.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 2:56 PM
To: Kemble Ops <ops@cotswoldairport.com>
Subject: RE: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

[REDACTED],

Without looking at the authoritative instrument approach chart I can't be sure but due to the proximity, I suspect that it would affect both RNP approaches when active.

I would like to point out that the proposed airspace will only normally be activated between 20:00 – 05:30 UTC (no earlier than 1 hour after sunset – 1 hour prior to sunrise). These hours were chosen to have as little impact as possible to other users of the airspace. Do you expect to be impacted by activations within that time window?

[REDACTED]

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
HQ USAFE-AFACRICA A3/A3AA

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 1:06 PM
To: USAFE_AIRSPACE <USAFE3 A3AA USAFE_AIRSPACE@us.af.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Hi [REDACTED],

That's great, thanks for the reply. Is that drawing available as an aviation chart which will show the airspace in a bit more detail???

How does it affect our RNP approach for RWY 26???

Regards

[REDACTED]

Cotswold Airport Operations Team

KEMBLE AIR SERVICES LTD

The Control Tower
Cotswold Airport
Cirencester
Glos
GL7 6BA
Tel: 01285 771177
ATOTN: 515 2515

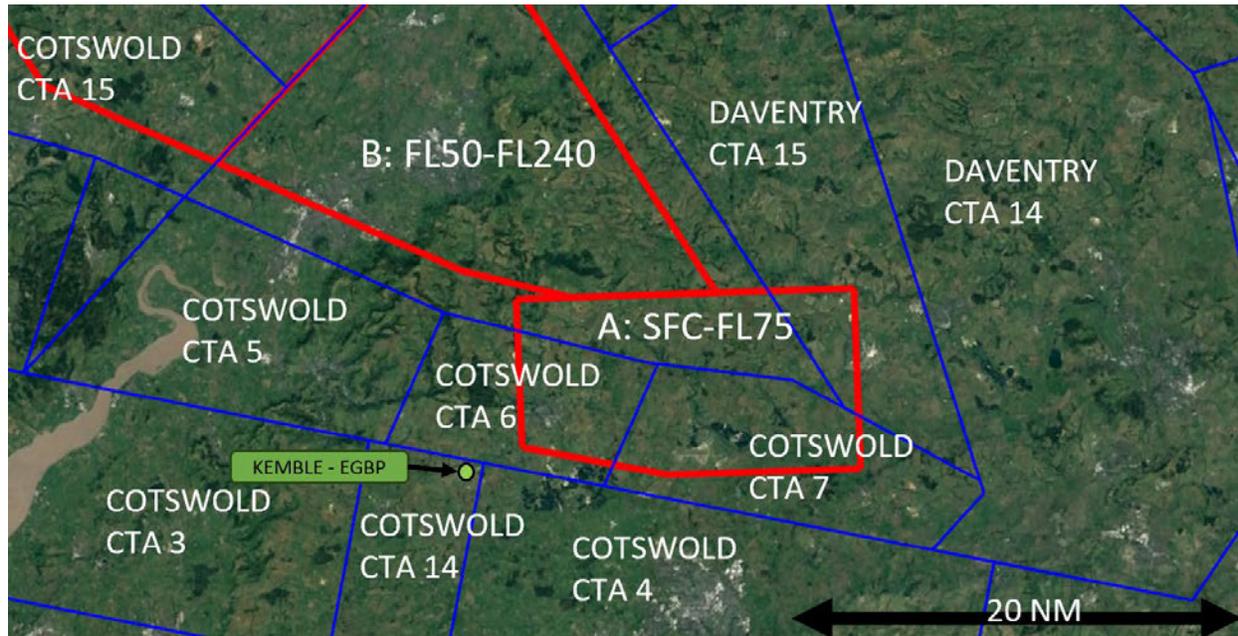
www.cotswoldairport.com

Please note that emails to this address are only monitored during the published hours of the aerodrome

From: USAFE_AIRSPACE <USAFEA3_A3AA_USAFE_AIRSPACE@us.af.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Kemble Ops <ops@cotswoldairport.com>
Subject: RE: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Hello [REDACTED],

Thank you for your question. Please see the included image of the proposed Danger Area (Option 3) in relation to Kemble. The approximate location of Kemble was added to the map on page 14 of the Consultation Document. It appears as if the closest portion of the proposed airspace is ~2.69 NM from the airport and ~2.27 NM from the threshold of RWY 26.



Please let us know if you have any further questions

[REDACTED]

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
HQ USAFE-AFRICA A3/A3AA

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 11:28 AM
To: USAFE_AIRSPACE <USAFEA3_A3AA_USAFE_AIRSPACE@us.af.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Dear [REDACTED],

Please can you expand on the area that involves Kemble (EGBP)? The drawing on the proposal isn't very clear and a little more detail in a higher resolution picture of the map would be useful.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Cotswold Airport Operations Team

KEMBLE AIR SERVICES LTD

The Control Tower
Cotswold Airport
Cirencester
Glos
GL7 6BA

Tel: 01285 771177
ATOTN: 515 2515

www.cotswoldairport.com

Please note that emails to this address are only monitored during the published hours of the aerodrome

From: USAFE_AIRSPACE <USAFEA3_A3AA_USAFE_AIRSPACE@us.af.mil>
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 10:42 AM
Subject: RE: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Dear Stakeholder,

We would like to remind you that the consultation window for this ACP is due to close in approximately 2 weeks on 21 November. If you haven't already, please provide your feedback via Citizen Space or via this email address.

Citizen Space Link: <https://consultations.airspacechange.co.uk/mod-daاتم/enabling-rpas-operations-from-raf-fairford>
ACP Portal Link: <https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/PublicProposalArea?pid=410>

█

Respectfully,

█

HQ USAFE-AFRICA A3/A3AA

From: █
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 4:06 PM
Subject: Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Dear Stakeholder,

The MOD is working with the US Air Force in Europe to Sponsor an Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) that will enable Remotely Piloted Aircraft to operate from RAF Fairford as they enter and leave UK airspace. This ACP recently passed its Stage 3A Gateway and is now in the consultation window.

During Stage 1, we engaged with potentially affected stakeholders to develop a list of design principles that were used to help shape our initial list of options. During Stage 2, we requested stakeholder feedback on whether the initial options align with the design principles. We also submitted an Initial Options Appraisal for your stakeholder feedback. Since Stage 2, the initial ACP was split into two ACPs: one is for Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE), and one is for High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) RPA operations from RAF Fairford. The MALE ACP is currently paused, and this ACP moves forward as a HALE-only ACP. Additionally, based on engagement with NATS on expected impacts to civil traffic and the Sponsor's internal analysis, it was determined that HALE Options 1 and 2 were no longer viable. Through extensive engagement with NATS, a new option was developed that is expected to better align with the design principles of this ACP.

We are now requesting your feedback through formal consultation that begins today, 11 October 2023 and ends 21 November 2023. As with previous stages, please pass on this email across your organisation or to any other airspace users you think may be affected. Due to data gathered and some of the planned mitigations, such as activation primarily between 20:00 and 05:30, 2-3 times per week and up to 3 hours per activation, along with a crossing service, we believe that there will be no impacts below 7,000 feet.

The Sponsor would like to hear from you. The consultation materials can be found on Citizen Space at the link below. This is the primary method for providing feedback. There, you will also find details on planned virtual meetings that you can join. The consultation materials and information about previous stages can also be found at the ACP Portal link below. If you require the consultation materials or meetings to be presented in a different format, please respond to this email with that request.

Citizen Space Link: <https://consultations.airspacechange.co.uk/mod-daاتم/enabling-rpas-operations-from-raf-fairford>
ACP Portal Link: <https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/PublicProposalArea?pid=410>

Respectfully,

█

█

HQ USAFE-AFRICA A3/A3AA

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Enquiries_THM](#)
Subject: RE: GE26729_DC Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 10:01:00 PM

Hello [REDACTED],

We expect no impact to groundwater. For a Level M2 ACP, CAP 1616 does not required the Sponsor to analyze the impacts to groundwater or the environmental impacts derived from activities of military aircraft, HALE RPA in this case.

Can you clarify how you expect groundwater to be impacted? If the concern is for contamination via an emergency landing, we feel that this is outside the scope of this ACP and would be covered under RAF Fairford's existing emergency response plans.

[REDACTED]

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
HQ USAFE-AFAFRICA A3/A3AA

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 2:08 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] GE26729_DC Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Dear [REDACTED],

Reference: GE26729

Thank you for your enquiry.

We have received the following response from our Environment Management Waste Team

In respect of the environmental setting and risk to groundwater, I have consulted with our Groundwater Quality and Contaminated Land Team. Your site is located within a Source Protection Zone 1, 2 and 3. Cotswolds Water Park SSSI sites are also located nearby.

The proposals should include specific appropriate incident plans based on the environmental setting including groundwater. From the groundwater protection point of view, incident plans should be no less stringent than those for manned aircraft.

Please see below for comments from our groundwater team:

We note that in the document:

ACP-2021-078 , Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from , RAF Fairford - HALE , Stage 3 – CONSULT OPTIONS APPRAISAL (PHASE II – Full) Version 2

- On page 6 Design Principle g is *Minimise the environmental impact of non-participating aircraft* but there is no principle with respect to the impact of the “participating” aircraft.
- On page 15, 7. states: *7. Specific emergency procedures are currently being developed.*

This needs to include environmental factors including the assessment of risk to groundwater and mitigation measures. I note the current Annex A – Environmental Impact Assessment does not appear to consider the water environment at all.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to get in touch with by email at

[REDACTED]

We do not have any additional comments.

I hope that we have correctly interpreted your request.

Please be aware that many of our datasets are now available online. Simply visit environment.data.gov.uk

We respond to requests for recorded information that we hold under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the associated Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

Please get in touch if you have any further queries or contact us within two months if you'd like us to review the information we have sent.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Customers & Engagement Officer

Tel: 020 302 59804

Environment Planning & Engagement Team

Environment Agency

Thames Area

Did you know that the Environment Agency publishes most of its data via www.data.gov.uk? Using this site you can search for our data alongside other environmental data providers from the Defra Network and local authorities.

Follow us on:-



From: Enquiries, Unit [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2023 1:49 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: GE26729_DC RE: 20231013/EO12. Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

Good afternoon [REDACTED],

I have passed your e-mail to the local customer team who will deal with your request.

The Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations state that a public authority must respond to requests for information within 20 working days.

You can find more information about our service commitment by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-agency-customer-service-commitment>

You can contact our customer team directly on the contact details below, or call the National Customer Contact Centre on 03708 506506 who will transfer you to the area team.

Please quote your enquiry reference 20231013/EO12 in any correspondence with us regarding this matter.

[REDACTED]

Customers and Engagement
Environment Agency
Thames Area
Redkite House
Howbery Park
WALLINGFORD
OX10 8BD

Kind regards,

Name: [REDACTED]
Job Title: Customer Advisor
Environment Agency: Contact Centre Services - Part of Operations, Regulation, Monitoring & Customer
Phone: 03708506506
Working hours: 09:00 – 17:00

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

Please accept my thanks for your email in advance – it is estimated that each UK adult sending one less ‘thank you’ email a day would save more than 16,400 tonnes of carbon a year. Equivalent to over 81,152 flights to Madrid or taking 3,334 diesel cars off the road.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 October 2023 15:06

Subject: 20231013/EO12. Consultation Window Open for ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operations from RAF Fairford - HALE

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Stakeholder,

The MOD is working with the US Air Force in Europe to Sponsor an Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) that will enable Remotely Piloted Aircraft to operate from RAF Fairford as they enter and leave UK airspace. This ACP recently passed its Stage 3A Gateway and is now in the consultation window.

During Stage 1, we engaged with potentially affected stakeholders to develop a list of design principles that were used to help shape our initial list of options. During Stage 2, we requested stakeholder feedback on whether the initial options align with the design principles. We also submitted an Initial Options Appraisal for your stakeholder feedback. Since Stage 2, the initial ACP was split into two ACPs. One is for Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE), and one is for High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) RPA operations from RAF Fairford. The MALE ACP is currently paused, and this ACP moves forward as a HALE-only ACP. Additionally, based on engagement with NATS on expected impacts to civil traffic and the Sponsor's internal analysis, it was determined that HALE Options 1 and 2 were no longer viable. Through extensive engagement with NATS, a new option was developed that is expected to better align with the design principles of this ACP.

We are now requesting your feedback through formal consultation that begins today, 11 October 2023 and ends 21 November 2023. As with previous stages, please pass on this email across your organisation or to any other airspace users you think may be affected. Due to data gathered and some of the planned mitigations, such as activation primarily between 20:00 and 05:30, 2-3 times per week and up to 3 hours per activation, along with a crossing service, we believe that there will be no impacts below 7,000 feet.

The Sponsor would like to hear from you. The consultation materials can be found on Citizen Space at the link below. This is the primary method for providing feedback. There, you will also find details on planned virtual meetings that you can join. The consultation materials and information about previous stages can also be found at the ACP Portal link below. If you require the consultation materials or meetings to be presented in a different format, please respond to this email with that request.

Citizen Space Link: <https://consultations.airspacechange.co.uk/mod-daاتم/enabling-rpas-operations-from-raf-fairford>

ACP Portal Link: <https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/PublicProposalArea?pID=410>

Respectfully,

■
■
HQ USAFE-AFAFRICA A3/A3AA

Information in this message may be confidential and may be legally privileged. If you have received this message by mistake, please notify the sender immediately, delete it and do not copy it to anyone else. We have checked this email and its attachments for viruses. But you should still check any attachment before opening it. We may have to make this message and any reply to it public if asked to under the Freedom of Information Act, Data Protection Act or for litigation. Email messages and attachments sent to or from any Environment Agency address may also be accessed by someone other than the sender or recipient, for business purposes.

Minutes of a consultation meeting between the Fairford RPAS ACP Team, NATS, MoD and USAFE-UK on 2 Nov 23, held at NATS Swanwick and via Teams

Present

NATS	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED] Via Teams
Fairford RPAS ACP team	[REDACTED] - USAFE
	[REDACTED] - USAFE
MoD	[REDACTED] – 78 Sqn
	[REDACTED] – DAATM
	[REDACTED] – 2 Gp BM
USAFE – UK Reps	[REDACTED] – OUSCR
	[REDACTED] – 420 ABS

Minutes
<p>Item 1 – Introduction</p> <p>[REDACTED] opened the meeting at 0945 and all attendees to introduce themselves, giving details of their role. [REDACTED] then proceeded to deliver the consultation presentation.</p>
<p>Item 2 – RAF Fairford ACP 2021-078 Consultation Presentation</p> <p>[REDACTED] briefing covered the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RAF Fairford RPA ACP – Statement of Need - HALE RPA Description & Operational Information - Concept of Operations - ACP Design Principles - Discounted HALE Options 1 & 2 and reason for discounting - Development of HALE Option 3 - Impacts of Option 3 (on Aviation Stakeholders, Environmental, Communities, Airports/ANSPs)

Item 3 – Feedback

NATS and MoD stakeholders declined to provide feedback at this time and advised that consultation responses will be provided via Citizen Space at a later date prior to the end of the consultation window on 21 Nov 23.

The consultation meeting ended at approximately 1030.


USAFE-A3AA

Date issued: 5 Dec 23

Minutes of Virtual Consultation meeting between the Fairford RPAS ACP team and Stakeholders, 24 Oct 23, held via Teams

Present

Fairford RPAS ACP team	[REDACTED]	USAFE
		USAFE
Stakeholders	N/A	

Minutes
[REDACTED] opened the meeting at 1300 and remained in the virtual lobby until 1400. No stakeholders joined.

[REDACTED]
USAFE-A3AA

Date issued: 5 Dec 23

Minutes of Virtual Consultation meeting between the Fairford RPAS ACP team and Stakeholders, 2 Nov 23, held via Teams

Present

Fairford RPAS ACP team	[REDACTED]	USAFE
		USAFE
Stakeholders		General Aviation Alliance (GAA)

Minutes
<p>Item 1 – Introduction</p> <p>[REDACTED] opened the meeting at 1800, introducing himself as well as [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] thanked [REDACTED] for joining.</p>
<p>Item 2 – Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) 2021-078 Briefing/Presentation</p> <p>USAFE’s briefing covered the following topics: RPA Operations at RAF Fairford and the statement of need, description and operational information regarding HALE RPA operations and the RQ-4 Global Hawk, Concept of Operations (altitude of operations, frequency of airspace activations, duration and times), ACP-2021-078 Design Principles, Actions since Stage 2 (to include discounted options and justification for decision to discount), Development of HALE Option, multiple graphics of HALE Option 3, Impacts of HALE Option 3 to Aviation Stakeholders, as well as Environmental impacts, Community impacts and impacts to Airports/ANSPs . The briefing concluded with [REDACTED] encouraging feedback and listing multiple methods for providing this feedback to include Citizen Space.</p>
<p>Item 3 – Stakeholder questions/feedback and USAFE responses/answers.</p> <p>[REDACTED] asked for clarification on the proposed activation window. [REDACTED] reiterated that activations are planned 2-3 times per week up to 3 hours per activation. [REDACTED] further explained that the 3-hour duration ensures airspace is available in the event of weather, maintenance delays, or if emergency requires early return to RAF Fairford while it is still in the local area. Activation times will normally be from 20:00-05:30 UTC but no earlier than 1 hour after sunset to 1 hour prior to sunrise. [REDACTED] explained that this window was to minimise impacts on other airspace users and that there will be no activations during the day to minimise impacts as much as possible and still maintain operational capabilities.</p> <p>[REDACTED] also asked if airspaces A-D would be activated at the same time and approximately how long aircraft would be in the DA. [REDACTED] responded that average time in A would be very minimal, and total time in the airspace was approximately 60 minutes.</p> <p>[REDACTED] asked if the sortie profile changed and there was no longer a chance of an early return to RAF Fairford could the NOTAM be cancelled earlier? [REDACTED] advised that the NOTAM would be cancelled as soon as possible in this case sharing that the principle tenant of ACP 2021-078 is good stewardship of the airspace and minimal impact to other stakeholders. If a sortie is cancelled, the NOTAM will be cancelled.</p> <p>[REDACTED] asked if NOTAM would be for only one flight. [REDACTED] explained that each activation will be for one flight.</p>

█'s commented that a DACS availability could greatly mitigate potential impacts to night time VFR aircraft.

The meeting ended at approximately 1700 with █ thanking █ for joining the meeting and providing feedback on the ACP.



USAFE-A3AA