

ACP-2023-008

The proposed Clauchrie development was to be located in the buffer zone of the Galloway Dark Skies Park. As part of a Public Local Inquiry SPR stated in its submissions to the Department of Environmental Appeals (DPEA) that it would deploy an Aviation Detection Lighting System (ADLS) to mitigate the effects of aviation lighting.

ADLS has never been deployed in the UK and, at the time, there was no guidance from the CAA regarding what requirements an ADLS would have to meet. ADLS has been used extensively in Europe. The concept was to use the European criteria as a baseline and set up a trial to demonstrate the equipment could meet that in the UK environment.

The team worked closely with CAA who, at the time were developing guidance for ADLS, and agreed to share all data with the CAA to help validate the new guidance.

The existing windfarm at Mark Hill was selected as the trial site due to its proximity to Clauchrie.

In the UK there is currently no mandate for aircraft flying outside Controlled Airspace to carry such equipment. As part of the trial, and in order to demonstrate the full capability and functionality of the system, a temporary Transponder Mandatory Zone (TMZ) would be created. This involved applying to the CAA via their CAP1616 Airspace Change process. This process was started in February 2023.

Changes to CAA guidance

In April 2024, the CAA circulated a draft of the new issue of the CAP764, Policy and Guidance on Windfarms. In that document they included a section on ADLS which specified the technical requirements for such a system.

As a result of the revisions to CAP764 and the inclusion of the technical requirements an ADLS system should conform to, there is no longer a requirement for the sponsor to run the full trial as one of the trial aims was to define the ADLS technical requirements.

ACP-2023-008 is no longer required and will be withdrawn; ACP-2023-013 will be restarted, at a time to be agreed.