

MINUTES OF ACP-2025-025 ASSESSMENT MEETING

HELD ONLINE ON 2 September 2025

Chair: Daniel Graaskov, Airspace Change Account Manager, CAA

Distribution: All attendees

Present

Name	Appointment	Representing
[REDACTED]	Accountable Manager	StirlingX
[REDACTED]	Chief Regulatory Officer	StirlingX
[REDACTED]	Support Consultant	StirlingX
[REDACTED]ey	Air Traffic Services Manager	Norwich Airport
[REDACTED]	Airspace Change Account Manager	CAA
[REDACTED]	Airspace Regulator (Technical)	CAA
[REDACTED]	Airspace Regulator (Engagement and Consultation)	CAA
[REDACTED]	Airspace Regulator (Environmental) – observing	CAA
[REDACTED]	Airspace and ATM Policy Specialist	CAA
[REDACTED]	Airspace Regulator (Environmental)	CAA
[REDACTED]	Innovation Services Specialist	CAA
[REDACTED]	Airspace Change Account Specialist – observing	CAA

CAA Assessment Meeting (Airspace Trial) Opening Statement

The CAA has received the Agenda and Presentation slide documents in advance of this Assessment Meeting and can confirm that the documents are required to be published together with the minutes of this meeting on the Airspace Change Portal.

It must be noted that this is an Assessment Meeting.

The Change Sponsor is required to provide a broad description of their proposed approach to meeting the CAA's CAP 1616 Airspace Trial requirements, however the

CAA will not at this stage decide whether it meets the detailed requirements of the CAA's process.

The purpose of the Assessment Meeting as set out in CAP 1616 is for the Sponsor to present and discuss their Statement of Need, to enable the CAA to consider whether the proposal concerned falls within the scope of the formal airspace change process.

Additionally, the sponsor is required to provide information on how it intends to fulfil the requirements of the airspace change process and to provide its provisional timescales.

Lastly, the sponsor is required to provide information on how it intends to meet the engagement requirements of the airspace change process.

Item 1 – Introduction

CAA outlined the above Opening Statement.

The attendees introduced themselves and outlined their respective roles.

StirlingX, introduced their proposal for BVLOS drone operations in Norfolk.

The company has over 14 years of experience in aerial survey and inspection, with more than 10,000 flights logged.

The proposed operations aim to support infrastructure monitoring along the Norfolk Offshore Wind Zone (NOWZ) cable corridor using fixed-wing VTOL drones.

Item 2 – Statement of Need (discussion and review)

StirlingX seeks to establish a Temporary Reserved Area (TRA) with a Transponder Mandatory Zone (TMZ) overlay for a six-month trial.

The trial will demonstrate safe BVLOS operations using a combination of ground-based sensors, onboard transponders, and detect-and-avoid (DAA) technologies.

Three cascading objectives were outlined:

1. **Objective 1:** Operate within TRA+TMZ using SSR-visible aircraft only.
2. **Objective 2:** Expand access to EC-equipped aircraft and validate DAA systems.
3. **Objective 3 (Future):** Enable BVLOS operations in unsegregated Class G airspace.

Item 3 – Issues or Opportunities Arising from Proposed Change

Environmental

- Operations align with sustainability goals, producing zero emissions.
- Corridor avoids sensitive areas (AONBs, SACs) and uses HDD to protect coastal habitats.
- Noise impact deemed minimal due to rural routing and low flight frequency.

Integration & Access

- Engagement with local airspace users (Felthorpe Airfield, Norwich Airport) is ongoing.
- Letters of Agreement and mutual notification protocols are being developed.
- Flights are limited to twice per month to reduce airspace disruption.

Policy & Technology

- Trial supports CAP2533 and CAP1711 integration strategies.
 - Data will inform future ACPs and regulatory frameworks.
 - Use of ATOM ground stations and ADS-B enhances situational awareness.
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Item 4 – Process Requirements

Engagement

- A formal six-week stakeholder engagement period is planned.
- Informal engagement has been ongoing for 18 months.
- Sponsor must submit a detailed engagement strategy before starting formal engagement.
- Strategy should include rationale, methods, stakeholder identification, and materials.

TRA + TMZ

- TRA will be managed by Norwich Airport and activated via NOTAM.
 - TMZ compliance requires transponder-equipped aircraft.
 - Flight volume: surface to 400 ft AGL; TRA height: >540 ft AGL.
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Item 5 – Provisional Timescales

Activity		Estimated Date
Version 1.0 August 2025 ACP-2025-025	Assessment Meeting Minutes	CAP1616 Airspace Design

CAA Review of Engagement Strategy	September 2025
Stakeholder Engagement (min. 6 weeks)	Mid-September – End October
Submission of ACP (Trial)	November 2025
Decision	December 2025
Submission of AIC	January 2026
AIC Publication	January 2026
Implementation / Start of Ops	<21 days after publication

Note: Sponsor agreed to revise the timeline to ensure engagement precedes submission.

Item 6 – Next Steps

- Distribute meeting minutes to Daniel Graaskov.
- Submit stakeholder engagement strategy for CAA review.
- Revise presentation to reflect updated timeline.
- Continue development of TRA+TMZ design.
- Conduct stakeholder engagement and noise impact assessment.
- Finalize design and impact assessments based on feedback.
- Submit ACP documentation in line with CAP1616G.

Item 7 – Any Other Business

- Environmental regulators requested:
 - Refer to CAP1616g where there is requirement for a noise assessment.
 - Noise Assessment to include information such as duration of the flight, hours of operation, take-off/landing points.
 - Noise data and tonal correction for quadcopters (as detailed in CAP1616i).
 - Habitat Regulation Screening Form (CAP1616l).
 - Description of current airspace usage and impact on other users.
- Sponsor confirmed data collection is underway and committed to providing all required documentation.

Actions Arising from ACP-2025-025 Assessment Meeting

Subject	Responsible Party	Action	Deadline
Stakeholder Engagement Strategy	StirlingX	Submit detailed strategy including rationale,	Before formal engagement begins

Version 1.0 August 2025
ACP-2025-025

Assessment Meeting
Minutes

CAP1616 Airspace Design

		methods, and stakeholder identification	
Meeting Minutes	StirlingX	Distribute draft minutes to Daniel Graaskov	Within one week
Timeline Revision	StirlingX	Update presentation with revised timeline reflecting engagement before submission	ASAP
Noise Assessment	StirlingX	Provide noise data and apply tonal correction for quadcopters	Before submission
Habitat Screening	StirlingX	Complete habitat regulation screening form	Before submission