

**MINUTES OF ACP-2026-001 ASSESSMENT MEETING
HELD ONLINE, ON 3 MARCH 2026**

3 March 2026

CAA Account Manager
Change Sponsor
DAATM

Present	Appointment	Representing
	Account Manager	CAA
	Technical Airspace Regulator	CAA
	Engagement Regulator	CAA
	Environmental Regulator	CAA
	SO2 Airspace Plans, DAATM	MOD
	Airspace Change Manager 1	QinetiQ
	Airspace Change Manager 2	QinetiQ

Temporary Airspace Change Assessment Meeting Opening Statement

CAA noted that the presentation slide pack was received in advance of the Assessment Meeting and confirmed that the documents must be published by the Change Sponsor, together with the minutes of the meeting, on the airspace change portal.

CAA explained that the purpose of the Assessment Meeting, as set out in CAP 1616, was for the Change Sponsor to present and discuss their Statement of Need, provide information on how it intended to fulfil the requirements of the airspace change process and present its provisional timescales. Lastly, the Change Sponsor was required to provide information on how it intended to meet the engagement requirements of the process.

	ACTION
<p>Item 1 – Introduction</p> <p>Airspace Change Manager 1 highlighted the succinct title of the ACP as follows: <i>‘Enabling Protector Access to/from RNAS Yeovilton’</i></p> <p>The change manager queried if this was appropriate, or if a more explanatory title was necessary. The account manager explained no comments were received regarding the title; therefore, it was agreed the title is appropriate in its current form.</p>	
<p>Item 2 – Statement of Need (discussion and review)</p> <p>Airspace Change Manager 1 introduced the SON as follows: <i>‘Facilitate access to RNAS Yeovilton for the MALE RPAS, Protector’</i></p> <p>Airspace Change Manager 1 highlighted the succinct nature of the SON and queried if this was appropriate, or if a more detailed SON was necessary. No comments were received from the CAA regarding the SON; therefore, it was agreed the SON is appropriate in its current form.</p>	
<p>Item 3 – Issues or opportunities arising from proposed change</p> <p>The following points were presented by Airspace Change Manager 1:</p> <p>i. Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protector is currently limited to accessing only two military airfields in the UK due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance of on-board systems - Air system flight profiles (Automatic Take-off and Landing Capability (ATLC)) 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Surrounding airspace of requisite military airfields inaccessible to Protector (class G) • Proximity and impact to adjacent airfields and local airspace users <p>ii Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploit experience of similar, previously approved ACPs for Protector • To inform ACP-2026-002 (pursuit of a permanent solution) 	
<p>Item 4 – Process requirements</p> <p>i. TDA Policy Statement</p> <p>The Technical Airspace Regulator signposted the Change Sponsor to the temporary ACP process as described in CAP1616g. An indication of the shape, size and connectivity of the anticipated TDA was requested. The Airspace Change Manager explained the airspace would likely mirror the DAs established to enable access to RAF Waddington and RAF Marham (the only other airfields currently accessible to Protector). This consists of a cylinder, 5NM radius from the airfield RP to accommodate the Automatic Take-off and Landing Capability (ATLC). Vertical limits are expected to be from SFC up to controlled airspace above.</p> <p>An indication of the frequency of use was also requested. The Airspace Change Manager explained it was not possible to confirm utilisation until further information was provided by the operator.</p> <p>ii. Stakeholder engagement</p> <p>The Engagement Regulator reaffirmed their ability to provide feedback on the engagement strategy prior to distribution at the start of engagement. Chapter 5 of CAP1616g was signposted to outline the basic stakeholders, although justification must be provided for omissions of NATMAC members, or additions to the list of stakeholders. Chapter 5 also states a 6-week engagement period is a reasonable starting point and what's recommended, but rationale may be provided if a different period is considered appropriate by the change sponsor. Change sponsor must produce engagement materials that provide respondents with enough information to ensure they understand the issues and impacts of the ACP on them and can give informed responses The Airspace Change Manager was reminded that raw evidence of all engagement and how the feedback received has been taken into account must be included as part of the final submission at stage 4.</p> <p>iii. Safety Assessment</p> <p>The Environmental Regulator reminded the Airspace Change Manager of the requirement to assess the consequential impact to other airspace users. Any mitigations such as a Special Use Airspace Crossing Service (SUACS) should be identified.</p>	
<p>Item 5 – Provisional timescales</p> <p>Airspace Change Manager 1 explained that a start date for the ACP was yet to be confirmed; therefore, several options were presented as provisional timescales. It is hoped that implementation of the airspace could be achieved by Q4, 2026. The Account Manager advised Aug and Sep gateways are already very busy. A proposed timeline will be submitted by the Airspace Change Manager for CAA consideration at a later date.</p> <p>Action: Provide a proposed timeline to the CAA as soon as it is clarified</p>	<p>QQ</p>
<p>Item 6 – Next steps</p> <p>The Account Manager advised a draft copy of the minutes of this meeting should be sent to the CAA by 10 March 2026 for return of comment. A complete version will be agreed</p>	

<p>and presented by the CAA, with a redacted version to be published on the portal by 17 March 2026.</p> <p>Action: Provide draft minutes to CAA for internal review by 10 Mar 26</p> <p>Action: Publish the minutes and presentation on the CAA Portal by 17 Mar 26 Airspace Change Manager confirmed that they were in receipt of the most up to date NATMAC contact list.</p>	<p>QQ</p> <p>QQ</p>
<p>Item 7 – Any Other Business</p> <p>The Change Sponsor expressed appreciation to the CAA for their time and guidance. It was highlighted that the continuing number of ACPs to accommodate Protector ops often involved duplication, excessive cost and demand on resources. It was suggested the CAA may consider if there might be a better approach to changes where multiple military changes may be linked, specifically for Protector.</p> <p>The Account Manager suggested it may be more efficient to combine the assessment meetings for temporary and permanent airspace changes of the same location/purpose into a single meeting.</p>	

ACTIONS ARISING FROM [INSERT NAME OF CHANGE PROPOSAL] ASSESSMENT MEETING

Subject	Name	Action	Deadline
Provisional Timescales	Airspace Change Manager 1	Provide a proposed timeline to the CAA as soon as it is clarified	ASAP
Next Steps	Airspace Change Manager 1	Provide draft minutes to CAA for internal review by 10 Mar 26	10 Mar 26
Next Steps	Airspace Change Manager 1	Publish the minutes and presentation on the CAA Portal by 17 Mar 26	17 Mar 26

Tracey Bradley
Airspace Change Manager