

AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR Y 005/2017

UNITED KINGDOM



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Subject

Operational



GLIDING ABOVE FL100 – TRIAL OF NOTAM NOTIFICATION FOR FLIGHT PLANNING PURPOSES

1 Introduction

- 1.1 General gliding activities in the UK are described in AIC (Yellow) 083/2011. Gliding above FL 100 normally occurs using atmospheric wave in the lee of hills and mountains.
- 1.2 The CAA has mandated Mode S carriage for aircraft operating above FL100 but provides an exception to gliders, including self-sustaining gliders and self-propelled hang gliders, and self-launching motor gliders. This permits flights in designated areas for non-Secondary Surveillance Radar (SSR) transponder equipped glider operations at and above FL 100 up to FL 195. These are detailed as Non-SSR Gliding Areas (NSGA) in the UK AIP ENR 5.2 and ENR 6-3-0-1.
- 1.3 In 2015 a joint CAA, NATS, BGA, BHPA and MoD review of the NSGA areas resulted in a decision to run a trial from April 2016 where BGA would attempt to notify intended flights above FL 100 in NSGA Area 1 (contained within the Scottish FIR) via NOTAM for information purposes only.
- 1.4 These notifications are intended as an aid to situational awareness as to when and where activity can be expected, and not as airspace reservations or avoidances; there has been no material change to gliding activities undertaken that are now subject to NOTAM action.
- 1.5 This Circular is to raise awareness of the trial and provide a route for feedback for learning from experiences from the trial.

2 The Trial

- 2.1 Soaring flight above FL100 requires the presence of atmospheric waves. MET Models for the prediction of suitable atmospheric waves exist, but are imperfect. The use of an area (and in some cases specific regions within an area) can therefore be predicted with reasonable probability, but definitive requirements can only be confirmed by actual conditions prevailing on the day.
- 2.2 Based on previous experience, suitable conditions occur fairly randomly on around 50 days spread throughout each year, with peaks in the autumn and spring.
- 2.3 To assist with other operators' flight planning requirements, requests for NOTAM are requested to be submitted by 1500 UTC the day before the planned flight(s). Therefore the NOTAM may include a larger area than may be actually used, to take account of uncertainty in the MET forecasts. In addition, unexpected weather conditions may result in gliders operating outside the notified areas in exceptional circumstances.
- 2.4 NOTAM messages for this purpose are not necessarily straightforward to formulate without detailed knowledge of the NOTAM format. To assist the glider operators, some draft NOTAM templates for various wind directions etc. have been developed. Details of the pre-defined areas are in Annex A. Glider operators are encouraged to use these NOTAM to ensure that the message content accurately reflects the areas in which flights are planned and which will also assist with the correct graphical display of the intended areas to be used by automated flight planning systems etc.
- 2.5 Gliding operations take place from sites where there are no controller activities or permanent staff, therefore the provision of additional information on the flights from the departure aerodrome may not be possible.

3 Information on Current Activity

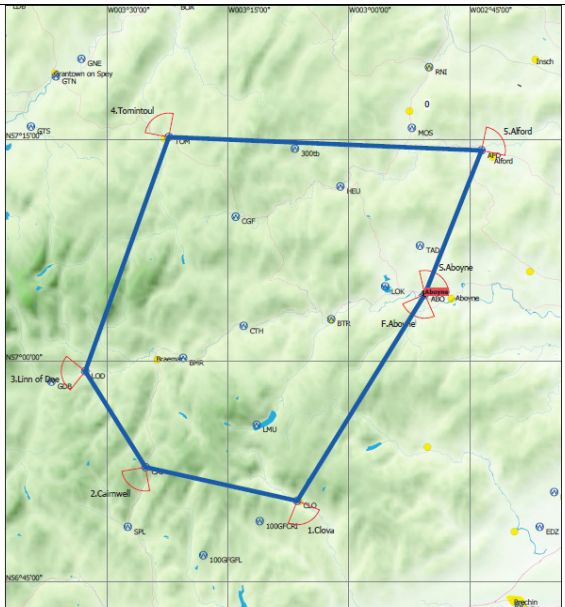
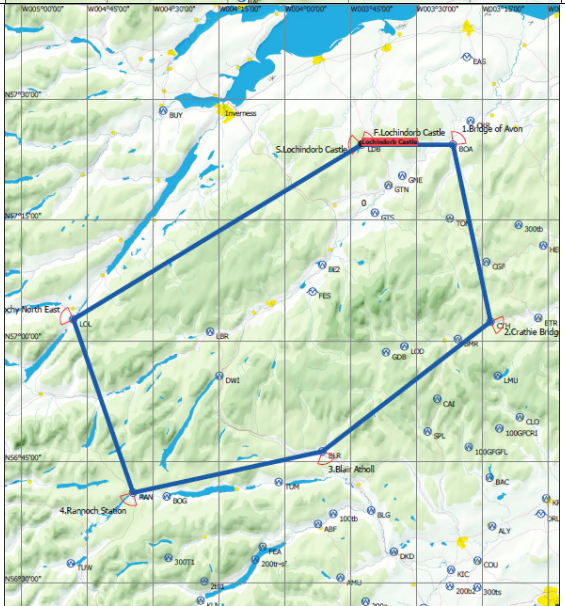
- 3.1 A small proportion of gliders may carry transponders but due to the need to conserve battery power, these may be switched off for periods of the flight. Almost all gliders flying above FL100 carry FLARM, a form of low power electronic conspicuity but it should be noted that this is not interoperable with Aircraft Collision Avoidance Systems such as TCAS. However, information on actual activity may be available on flight tracking web sites.

4 Next Steps and Further Information

- 4.1 As the trial continues modifications to the notification processes are likely to occur.
- 4.2 For further information or to provide feedback on the ongoing trial, please contact:
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ANNEX A

NOTAM TEMPLATE AREAS

1. Aboyne local				
Reference	Name	Latitude	Longitude	
ABO	Aboyne	570431N	0025034W	
CLO	Clova	565030N	0030625W	
CAI	Cairnwell	565247N	0032516W	
LOD	Linn of Dee	565918N	0033244W	
TOM	Tomintoul	571511N	0032222W	
AFD	Alford	571416N	0024332W	
ABO	Aboyne	570431N	0025034W	
2. Feshie local				
Reference	Name	Latitude	Longitude	
LDB	Lochindorb Castle	572421N	0034230W	
BOA	Bridge of Avon	572420N	0032140W	
CTH	Crathie Bridge	570222N	0031304W	
BLR	Blair Atholl	564617N	0035126W	
RAN	Rannoch Station	564109N	0043436W	
LOL	Loch Lochy North East	570240N	0044814W	
LDB	Lochindorb Castle	572421N	0034230W	

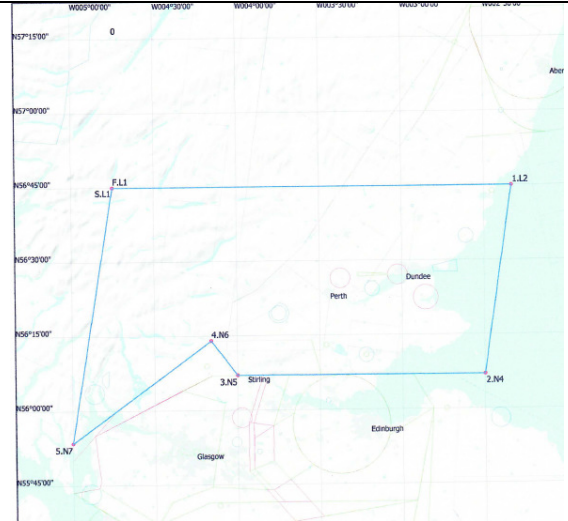
3. Milfield Local

Reference	Latitude	Longitude
MF1	561200N	0030000W
MF2	561200N	0023500W
MF3	560000N	0020000W
MF4	553800N	0013700W
MF5	551200N	0013000W
MF6	550000N	0021200W
MF7	550000N	0022700W
MF8	551200N	0023000W
MF9	552200N	0022200W
MF10	552700N	0023500W
MF11	553800N	0024800W
MF12	560000N	0024800W
MF1	561200N	0030000W



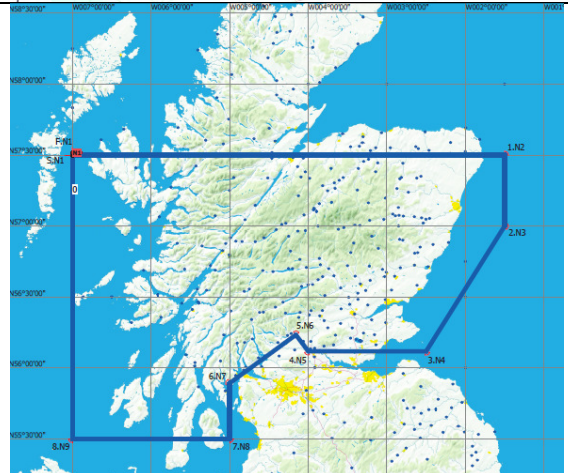
4. Portmoak TEZ

Reference	Latitude	Longitude
L1	564500N	0044500W
L2	564500N	0022000W
N4	560700N	0023000W
N5	560703N	0040000W
N6	561400N	0040926W
N7	555330N	0050000W
L1	564500N	0044500W



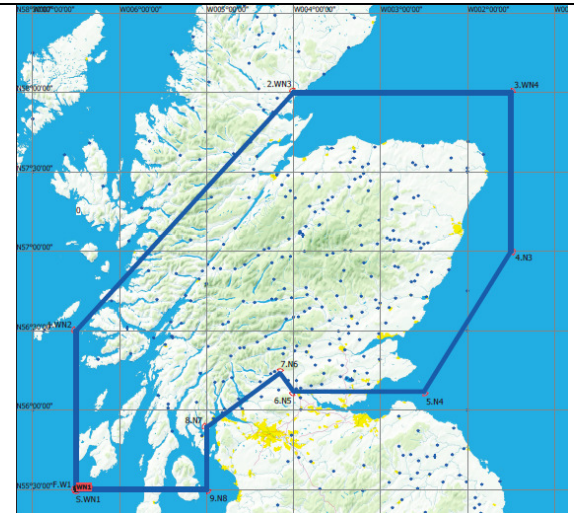
5. North Wind Wave

Reference	Latitude	Longitude
N1	573000N	0070000W
N2	573000N	0013000W
N3	570000N	0013000W
N4	560700N	0023000W
N5	560703N	0040000W
N6	561400N	0040926W
N7	555330N	0050000W
N8	553000N	0050000W
N9	553000N	0070000W
N1	573000N	0070000W



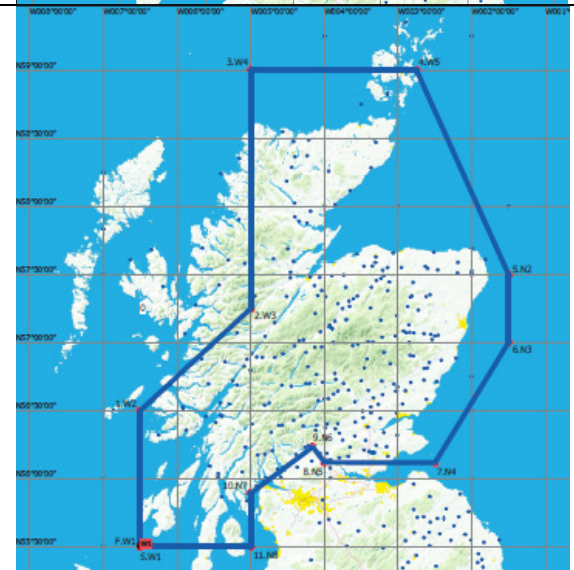
6. Northwest Wind Wave

Reference	Latitude	Longitude
WN1	553000N	0063000W
WN2	5630'00N	0063000W
WN3	580000N	0040000W
WN4	580000N	0013000W
N3	570000N	0013000W
N4	560700N	0023000W
N5	560703N	0040000W
N6	561400N	0040926W
N7	555330N	0050000W
N8	553000N	0050000W
WN1	553000N	0063000W



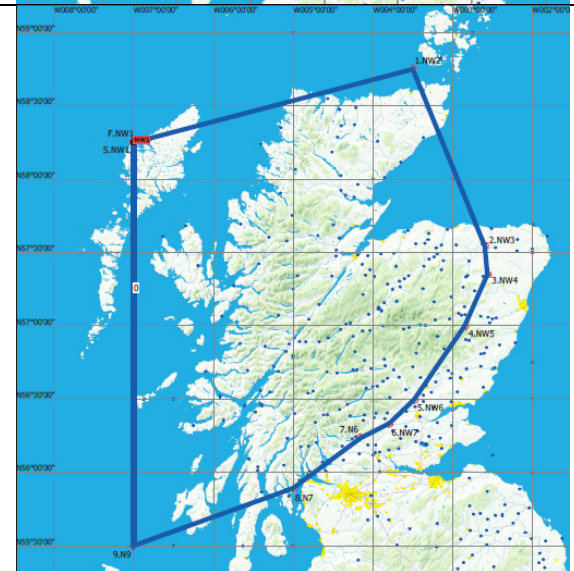
7. West Wind Wave

Reference	Latitude	Longitude
W1	553000N	0063000W
W2	563000N	0063000W
W3	571500N	0050000W
W4	590000N	0050000W
W5	590000N	0024500W
N2	573000N	0013000W
N3	570000N	0013000W
N4	560700N	0023000W
N5	560703N	0040000W
N6	561400N	0040926W
N7	555330N	0050000W
N8	553000N	0050000W
W1	553000N	0063000W



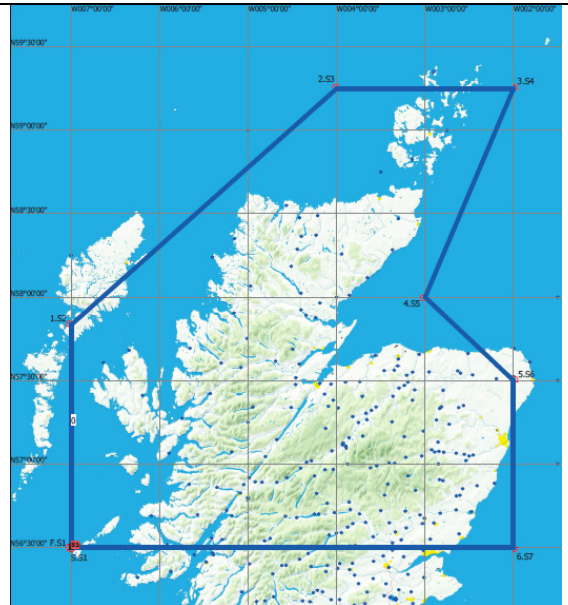
8. Southeast Wind Wave

Reference	Latitude	Longitude
NW1	581500N	0070000W
NW2	584500N	0033000W
NW3	573241N	0023556W
NW4	572100N	0023357W
NW5	570000N	0025056W
NW6	562948N	0032900W
NW7	562000N	0034745W
N6	561400N	0040926W
N7	555330N	0050000W
N8	553000N	0070000W
NW1	581500N	0070000W



9. South Wind Wave

Reference	Latitude	Longitude
S1	563000N	0070000W
S2	575000N	0070000W
S3	591500N	0040000W
S4	591500N	0020000W
S5	580000N	0030000W
S6	573000N	0020000W
S7	563000N	0020000W
S1	563000N	0070000W



10. Southwest Wind Wave

Reference	Latitude	Longitude
SW1	560000N	0070000W
SW2	575000N	0070000W
SW3	591500N	0040000W
S4	591500N	0020000W
SW5	573000N	0020000W
SW6	560000N	0020000W
SW1	560000N	0070000W

