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From: CAA Press Office

Sent: 27 November 2008 14:16

Subject: Airspace change press release

CAA APPROVES AIRWAY NOVEMBER 601 (N601) EXTENSION AIRSPACE CHANGE PROPOSAL

An extension to Airway N601, from northeast Bedfordshire to South Yorkshire, has been approved by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and will come into effect on 12 March 2009. The change follows an application for an airspace adjustment from UK air traffic service provider, NATS.

In April 2008 NATS consulted with the aviation community, local government and environmental groups on its proposal to extend existing airspace; this is in accordance with the CAA's Airspace Change Process.

The proposal was designed to enhance safety, reduce delays and improve environmental performance of aircraft by providing additional tactical vectoring airspace that will enable controllers to provide more efficient routing and thereby reducing fuel burn/CO₂ emissions. It also proposes the provision of a flight planned route, U/Y 250, primarily for traffic inbound to Newcastle, Durham Tees Valley and Aberdeen airports from Solent, Farnborough or London Terminal Manoeuvring Area departure airfields. The lowest altitude of any new controlled airspace will be 11,500 feet and the lowest an aircraft could be in the airspace is 12,000 feet.

This proposal also includes flexible use of airspace (FUA) arrangements with the MOD in order to accommodate military training requirements in the vicinity of RAF Cottesmore and RAF Wittering.

Peter Marks, Head of the Controlled Airspace Section at the CAA, said: "Approval of the change followed rigorous CAA scrutiny. This included an environmental analysis, which assessed that the predicted noise impact, visual intrusion, and impact upon tranquillity and local air quality will not be significant. In addition, it concluded that the airspace change is likely to result in a reduction in both fuel and CO₂ emissions for each aircraft that is able to fly an improved profile."

Aeronautical Charts

Pilots should note that the 1:500,000 Aeronautical Chart 'Southern England' will be updated on 12 March 2009 to coincide with these changes; the 1:500,000 Aeronautical Chart 'Northern England' will be updated at on 4 June 2009. For further chart information visit:

www.caa.co.uk/charts

The CAA's official decision letter covering the change available at:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/airspaceregulatorydecisions>

A copy of the map showing the proposed airspace is attached.

For further media information contact the CAA Press Office on: 0207 453 6026.

Notes to Editors

The CAA is the UK's specialist aviation regulator. Its regulatory activities range from making sure that the aviation industry meets the highest technical and operational safety standards to preventing holidaymakers from being stranded abroad or losing money because of tour operator insolvency.