Directorate of Airspace Policy

All NATMAC Representatives

1 September 2011

CAA DECISION LETTER

Dear Colleagues,

RELEASE OF CONTROLLED AND SEGREGATED AIRSPACE (RCSA): DISESTABLISHMENT OF A 1000FT VERTICAL PORTION OF THE SOUTHERN LTMA

NATS and the British Gliding Association jointly submitted an RCSA proposal to disestablish a 1000ft vertical segment of the southern LTMA Class A airspace. Detailed analysis of the proposal has been undertaken by DAP staff. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an overview of the proposal and my subsequent decision on it.

The base level of a portion of the southern LTMA south of Gatwick labeled as LTMA 20 on the map overleaf will be raised from 3,500ft to 4,500ft as this airspace is no longer required to support Gatwick airport operations. Therefore the Airspace Classification beneath this raised base will change from Class A to Class G. The change is scheduled for 17 November 2011.

In line with RCSA the Sponsor has provided full details of the release of the airspace. NATS used their safety management processes to assess the safety impact of the revised airspace and to assist in determining the operational impact of the release of controlled airspace. I am equally content that there is not a noticeable operational impact on aircraft operations in the area and that the requirements of airspace users will not be adversely effected.

As the airspace will revert to uncontrolled Class G airspace, it is not possible to predict the number of pilots who will choose to fly in the released airspace or to wholly determine what activity there may be, but it is assessed that an overall increase in traffic levels. The sponsor has also outlined, as far as practicable, the impact of the revised arrangements with adjacent aerodromes affected as a consequence of the new airspace.

I am content that the proposed release of airspace to Class G has been undertaken in line with the principles of RCSA Policy and that appropriate actions are in place to ensure a safe transition for airspace users and adjacent aerodromes. Promulgation of the change will be

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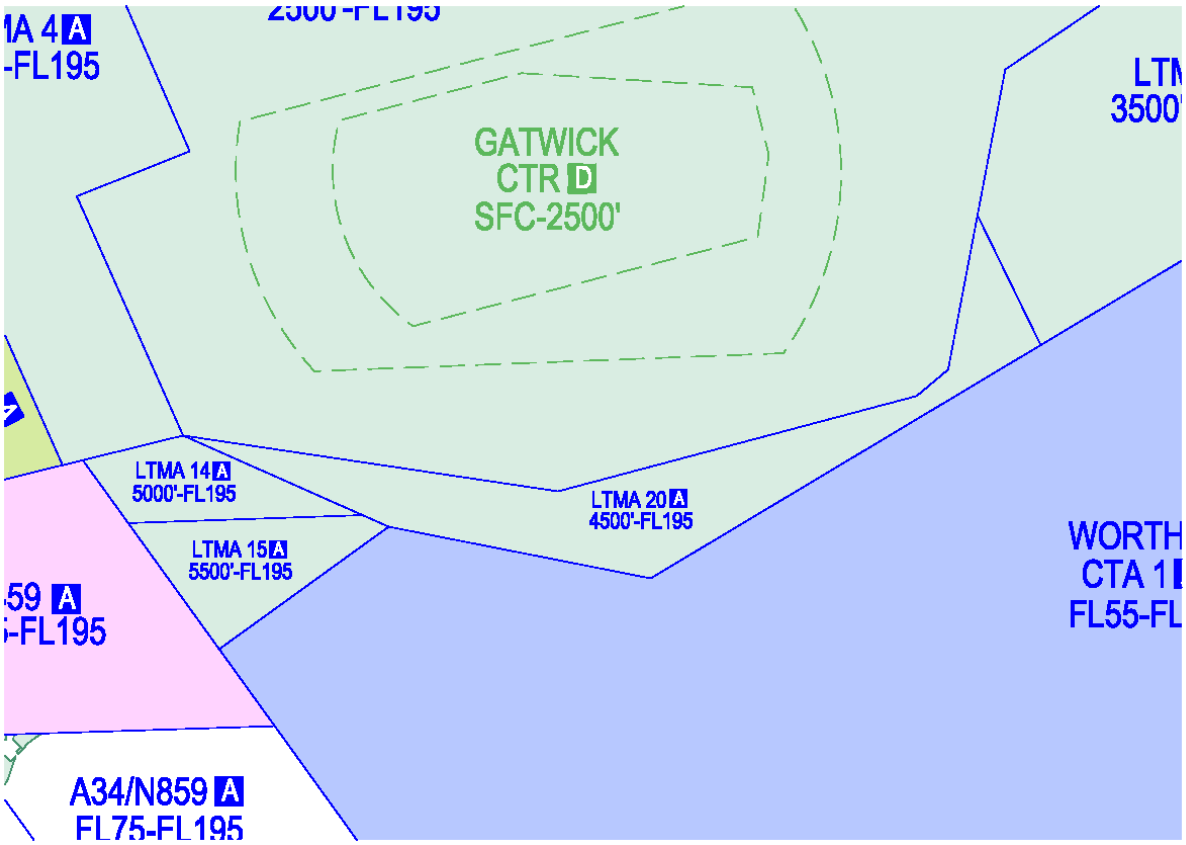
through the AIRAC publishing schedule. Given the nature of this new airspace arrangements and consistent with RCSA Policy, it is highly unlikely that a review of the effectiveness of the airspace release will be undertaken. If you have any queries, the DAP Project Leader, Mr Colin Cordery, may be contacted on 0207 453 6551, or via e mail to colin.cordery@caa.co.uk

Yours sincerely,

Mark Swan

Mark Swan
Director

Attachment:

1. RCSA South of Gatwick (Area LTMA20) – proposed airspace structure (LTMA 20) (Map).

RCSA South of Gatwick (Area LTMA20) – proposed airspace structure (LTMA 20)