

AIRSPACE CO-ORDINATION NOTICE

Safety and Airspace Regulation Group



ACN Reference:	Version:	Date:	Date of Original
AR-2026-263	1.0	18/03/2026	18/03/2026

RADAR CALIBRATION BENBECULA ADR (THALES)

NDS

Subject to NOTAM: No	
Date(s) of activity/Validity:	Times - ALL TIMES UTC¹
01 Apr 26 – 30 Dec 27	2100 - 0400
Vertical Limits:	Allocated Mode 3A (SSR):
FL330 RVN	0024
Aircraft Details:	NDS Approved:
Type: B200 Callsign: CLBxxx	Yes – Subject to the conditions in Section 2
Event Sponsor(s):	Aircraft Operator(s):
Thales (<i>Attn: The Operations Officer</i>) Flight Inspection Service Main Terminal Building Durham Tees Valley Airport Darlington DL2 1LU 01325 335346	Thales (<i>Attn: The Operations Officer</i>) Flight Inspection Service Main Terminal Building Durham Tees Valley Airport Darlington DL2 1LU 01325 335346
ATS Units/ Controlling Agencies:	Geographical Limits:
CRC Boulmer (19 Sqn) – FA 01665 572313 Prestwick ACC 01294 655300 Swanwick Mil (78 Sqn) – North 01489 612943 Swanwick Mil (78 Sqn) – West 01489 612417	
Airspace Reservations:	
EG D403B Luce Bay 01776 888930 EG D405 Kirkcudbright 01412 248500 EG D406 (All) Eskmeals 01229 712245	
Departure/Destination Aerodrome(s)	ACN Issued by:
EGNV	AU7

¹ [AIS Temporal Reference System](#): Daylight saving time is UTC plus 1 hour. The expression "summer period" indicates that part of the year in which "daylight saving time" is in force. The other part of the year is named the "winter period". Times applicable during the "summer period" are given in brackets.

SECTION 1: CO-ORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS (GENERAL)

1. The pilot/operator is requested to telephone the ATC authorities on the cover prior to departure in order to notify or update the sortie details including area(s) of operation and planned levels (quoting the ACN Reference). A minimum of 24 hours' notice should be given unless specified in Section 2.
2. There may be other aircraft and/or activities outside Controlled/Regulated Airspace unknown to ATC.
3. The carriage and operation of a serviceable transponder (including Mode 'C') has been specified.
4. The pilot will be responsible for obtaining all necessary ATC clearances and for maintaining R/T contact with appropriate ATC authorities.
5. The pilot/operator will be responsible for obtaining prior clearances to enter any UK Danger Areas affected by the flight profile from the appropriate Range Control Authority unless this is specifically detailed in Section 2.
6. Other Unusual Aerial Activities (UAAs) may be notified to the CAA Safety and Airspace Regulation Group (SARG) and may take place within the airspace encompassed by this flight. The pilot/operator is to ensure that UK Daily NOTAM Nav Warnings are consulted prior to each flight.
7. All flights within Controlled Airspace are subject to the requirements of a Flight Plan in accordance with UK AIP ENR1.10. The ACN Reference should be entered into Field 18 of the Flight Plan together with any relevant 'special handling' codes.
8. Flight prioritisation and Non-Deviating Status is in accordance with the information specified on the ACN Cover. Such status may be afforded to part or all of the flight – see Section 2.
9. Availability of an ATS from Plymouth Military, Swanwick Military (78 Sqn) or Western Radar is subject to unit capacity, priorities and limitations of radar and radio coverage. Minimum pre-flight notification as per UK AIP ENR 1.6 unless otherwise specified in Section 2 of this ACN.
10. The CAA actively encourages the use of Moving map technology in the planning and flying phases of flights to reduce the risk of airspace infringements.

PUBLICATIONS AND CHANGES

11. The activity area may lie within Controlled and Uncontrolled Airspace as well as airspace reserved for military use. Aircrew are to thoroughly familiarise themselves with UK airspace structures and procedures, in particular those laid down within the UK Aeronautical Information Publication (UK AIP), ENR 1.1 and be fully conversant with UK Flight Information Services in accordance with UK CAP 493 (MATS Pt 1).
12. The CAA VFR 1:500,000 and 1:250,000 charts and the UK AIP ENR 5 depict some, but not all aviation activity sites and amendments should also be checked. Please refer to <http://www.nats-uk.ead-it.com>
13. This ACN details specific coordination essential to the activity taking place and does not remove the need for aircraft operators to comply with national flight planning and notification procedures. Pilots and ANSPs are required to ensure that all related aviation sites are aware of this planned activity and of subsequent changes not captured within this document.
14. The Sponsor or Event Organiser should co-ordinate any changes to this ACN with SARG quoting the ACN Reference at the top of the page.

Airspace Regulation (Utilisation)
Email: AROps@caa.co.uk

SECTION 2: CO-ORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS (SPECIFIC)

15. This ACN details the flight profiles required to calibrate the Benbecula Air Defence Radar (ADR). The radar is located at [573705N 0072647W](#), at the RAF Remote Radar Head (RRH) Benbecula, on North Uist.

16. **This ACN replaces ACN 2025-2780.**

17. **Notification.** Notwithstanding the OOH requirements listed in below, the sponsor is to notify the agencies listed on page one of this ACN at least five working days prior to the planned calibration taking place. In addition, the pilot is to contact the appropriate agencies at least 4 hours prior to departure to confirm final details and availability of an ATS.

18. For flights between the hours of 18:00 to 08:00 (local time) on a weekday, at any time on a weekend or during a UK public holiday, Swanwick Mil (78 Sqn) require at least two weeks prior notice in order to obtain an ATS in support of this task.

19. **Priority.** This flight has been afforded Non-Deviating Status (NDS) whilst established on a measured run within controlled airspace (CAS), (*UK AIP ENR 1.1 (4.2) & CAP 493 – Section 1, Ch4, Para 17 refers*). In order to reduce the impact to other airspace users, the controlling authority may request that the pilot hold, or accept radar vectors in order to make best use of the airspace, or to reduce overall delays.

20. Should the radar certification period approach its expiration, defined as within 30 days before being declared as OOS, (including any extensions) and where the flight has not been possible due to airspace restrictions, the sponsor is to apply to the CAA for an increase in priority. Any such application should include evidence of to support the request.

21. **Operating Hours.** This calibration is planned to take place between the hours specified on page one of this ACN, however subject to airspace and controller availability, the sponsor may request that the check starts earlier in the evening.

22. **Air Traffic Service (ATS) Provision – Controlled Airspace (CAS).** Access to controlled airspace is subject to the prevailing traffic situation and controller workload. The pilot is responsible for obtaining a clearance to enter controlled airspace prior to penetration.

23. **Danger Areas (DAs).** The sponsor is responsible for contacting the appropriate range authority to arrange booking of the required DAs. The aircraft is able to operate non-segregated.

24. **Profiles.** The profiles listed below will be flown, however the exact number of runs required will depend on the results obtained:

- a. Radial chosen will depend on wind direction and speed on the day.
- b. Preferred radials: a single radial between 145°-160° (however; to maintain the aircraft Radar Cross Section a radial outside of this segment may be requested on the day).
- c. Maximum radial range is 270nm from Benbecula.
- d. Aircraft will remain in level flight for the duration of the task.
- e. The aircraft is **NOT RVSM** approved

SECTION 3

Area of Operation

25. Charts highlighting the area of operation are shown below. These are for illustrative purposes only and not for operational planning.

Chart 1 – Overview

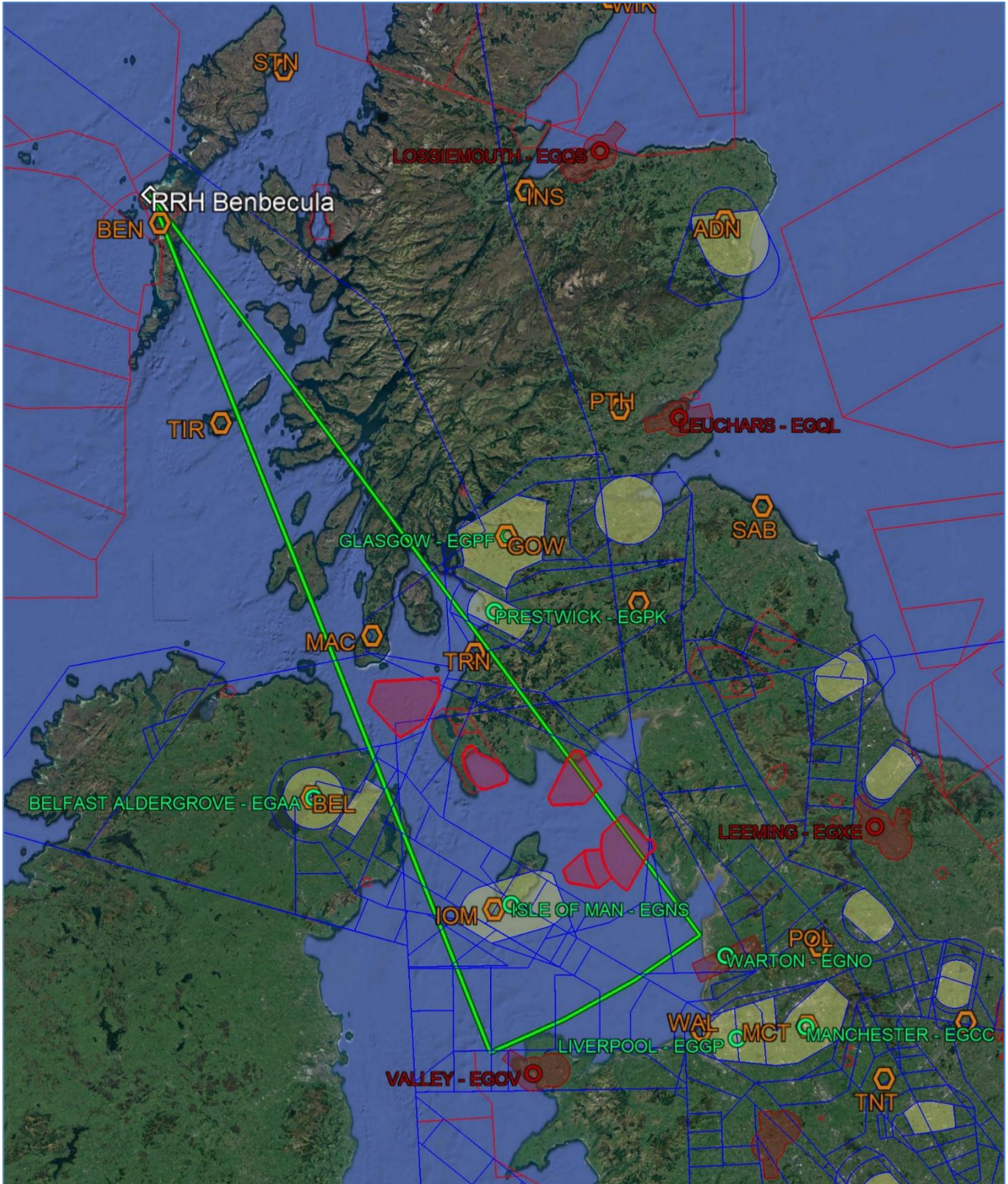


Chart 2 – Overview

