

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

**London Area Control Centre  
(LACC),  
Manchester Area Control  
Centre (MACC)**

and

**British Gliding Association  
(BGA)  
and  
Swanwick (Military)  
(Swanwick (Mil))**

Effective: 16 March 2006

## CONCERNING PROCEDURES TO ACTIVATE WELSH GLIDING AREAS ABOVE FL245

### 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to define the co-ordination procedures to be applied between member clubs of the British Gliding Association (BGA), Swanwick (Mil), London Area Control Centre (LACC) and Manchester Area Control Centre (MACC), to permit gliding to take place in Welsh Gliding Areas above FL245.

These procedures are supplementary to those specified in ICAO, Eurocontrol and/or National documents.

### 2 DEFINITIONS FOR GENERAL AIR TRAFFIC AND OPERATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC

#### 2.1 General Air Traffic (GAT):

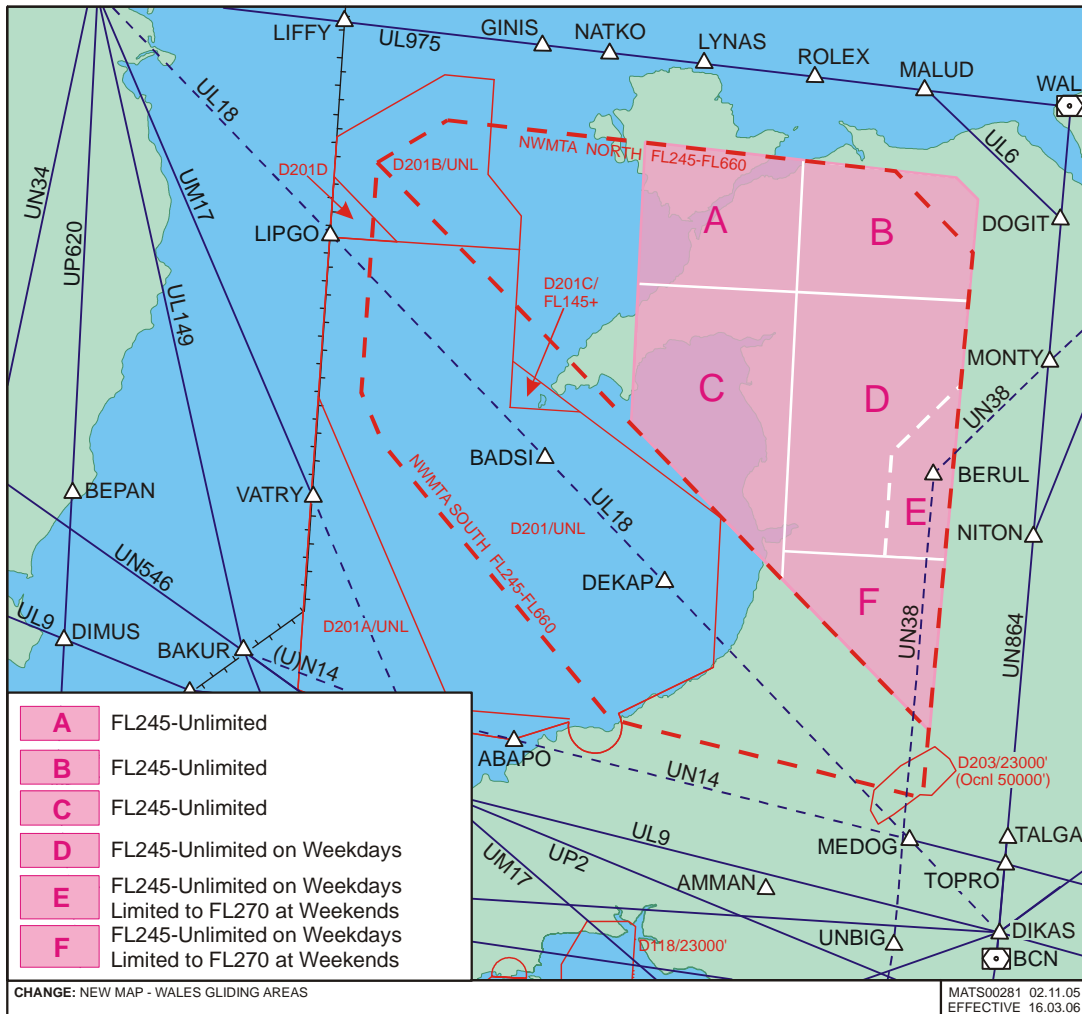
“Flights conducted in accordance with the rules and provisions of ICAO.”

#### 2.2 Operational Air Traffic (OAT):

“Flights which do not comply with the provisions stated for GAT and for which rules and procedures have been specified by appropriate authorities.”

### 3 GENERAL

3.1 Welsh Gliding Areas are defined by the co-ordinates as shown on the map below:



3.2 The bases of the Gliding Areas are FL245.

3.3 The following member clubs of the BGA are permitted to operate in Welsh Gliding Areas:

- Denbigh Gliding Club
- North Wales Gliding Club
- Shropshire Soaring Group
- Midland Gliding Club
- Herefordshire Gliding Club
- Black Mountains Gliding Club

3.4 In order to permit the simultaneous operation of gliders above FL245 and GAT, the activation and use of the Welsh Gliding Areas including Gliding Area B which is not separated from upper air route UL6, and Gliding Area D which is not separated from upper air route UN38 the following procedures are established.

3.5 These procedures are also agreed between Swanwick (Mil) and the BGA for the activation of the Welsh Gliding Areas above FL 245. However, gliding above FL 245 will not be permitted when NW MTA North is active.

## 4 PROCEDURES

4.1 The Duty Pilot at the club from where the gliders will take off will initiate a request to the Swanwick Military Supervisor 2 hours in advance of the intended flight, advising of their intention to use the Welsh Gliding Areas above FL245. They will advise of;

- the area(s) they would like to activate
- the upper limit, if known
- expected launch time, time of entry into and duration in Class C airspace
- the number of gliders and associated callsigns
- name and telephone contact number

4.2 If the NW MTA North is active, the Swanwick (Mil) supervisor is to refuse the request. Should the Swanwick (Mil) Sup refuse the request, he will inform the LACC LAS West, who will inform the MACC Watch Manager and LAS North.

4.3 If the Swanick (Mil) Supervisor approves the requested activation the Duty Pilot will then telephone LAS W.

The Duty Pilot will advise the LAS W of;

- the area(s) they would like to activate
- the approval granted by Swanwick Mil Supervisor
- the upper limit, if known
- expected launch time, time of entry into and duration in Class C airspace
- the number of gliders and associated callsigns
- name and telephone contact number

4.4 The LAS W is to consider the request, but should the traffic situation preclude the activation they may offer activation of alternative gliding areas. In this instance the Duty Pilot must re-request approval from the Swanwick (Mil) Supervisor before accepting the offer from LAS W. If the Swanwick (Mil) Supervisor grants approval to the amended request the Duty Pilot will then call the LAS W to advise.

4.5 Before advising the Duty Pilot of the LACC approval the LAS W is to telephone the LAS N and the MACC Watch Manager, to seek their separate response to the request. If either LAS N or the MACC Watch Manager are unable to grant approval then the request is to be declined. The Duty Pilot is to be advised of the reason for the refusal and the LAS W is to record this on the Electronic Log.

4.6 If the request is refused by LAS North, LAS West or the MACC Watch Manager, LAS West will inform the Swanwick (Mil) Sup.

4.7 Gliders must be equipped with GPS to assist navigation.

4.8 The glider pilot will

- establish 2-way RTF contact with Swanwick (Mil) West when passing FL200 in the climb and will remain in RTF contact with Swanwick (Mil) and will report passing FL245.
- remain in RTF contact with the Swanwick (Mil) controller who will initiate a radio check call with the pilot on the hour and half hour whilst operating above FL245.

- In the event of not receiving a radio check call, will immediately attempt to re-establish 2-way R/T contact. If unsuccessful, will descend below FL245 within 15 minutes. Therefore, 15 minutes after the last unsuccessful 'operations normal' radio check by the controller, the airspace above FL245 will be deemed clear of gliders and other aircraft will be allowed access.
  - report passing FL245.
- 4.9 Swanwick (Mil) shall inform the MACC Watch Manager, LACC LAS North and LAS West when the gliders first establish RTF communications.
- 4.10 During the period of gliding activity above FL245 in Welsh Gliding Areas **B** and **D**, LACC & MACC controllers shall ensure that aircraft on UL6 and UN38, at or below the maximum level notified remain on or north of the UL6 centreline, on or east of the UN38 centreline. S5/S35 Tacticals are to ensure that aircraft making the turn at BERUL on UN38 do not go within 5nm of Gliding Area **D**. All other airways and upper air routes are 5nm clear or 1000ft above the maximum notifiable level of the other Welsh Gliding Areas.
- 4.11 Swanwick (Mil) shall inform the LACC LAS North, LAS West and MACC Watch Manager on completion of all gliding activity above FL245.

## **5 FACILITIES**

All units shall keep each other advised of any changes in the operational status of their facilities, which may affect the procedures specified in this Memorandum of Understanding.

## **6 PARTIES OF THE AGREEMENT**

For the avoidance of doubt it is hereby declared that the parties to the said agreement are London Area Control Centre, MOD Aberporth, Swanwick (Mil) and the British Gliding Association.

## **7 CANCELLATION**

Cancellation of this Memorandum of Understanding by one of the Approving Authorities is possible at any time, provided that the cancelling party declares its intention to cancel the Memorandum of Understanding with a minimum pre-notification time of 1 month.

## **8 INTERPRETATION AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES**

- 8.1 Should any doubt or diverging views arise regarding the interpretation of any provision of the present Memorandum of Understanding, or in case of dispute regarding its application, the parties shall endeavour to reach a solution acceptable to them all.
- 8.2 Should no agreement be reached, each of the parties shall refer to a higher level of its national aviation administration, to which the dispute shall be submitted for settlement.

## **9 AMENDMENT TO PROCEDURES**

These procedures have been agreed by the undersigned. They are not to be amended without the written agreement of the signatories, their authorised representatives or successors.

**10 VALIDITY**

This Memorandum of Understanding becomes effective 16 March 2006 and supersedes the Memorandum of Understanding dated 7 July 2005.

**SIGNED**

**SIGNED**

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Paul. LOUDEN  
General Manager  
London Area Control Centre  
National Air Traffic Services En Route Ltd.

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C. WITHALL  
For and on behalf of the British Gliding  
Association

**DATE**

**DATE**

**SIGNED**

**SIGNED**

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A. BRISTOL  
General Manager  
Manchester Area Control centre  
National Air Traffic Services En Route Ltd.

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D. BARBER  
Wing Commander  
Officer Commanding  
Swanwick (Military)

**DATE**

**DATE**

## APPENDIX A

### TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS

LACC Watch Supervisor	Telephone :- 01489 - 612420 Fax :- 01489 - 612421
MACC Watch Manager	Telephone :- 0161 499 5320/5321 Fax :- 0161 499 5501/5504
Swanwick (Mil) Sup/ATCO IC	Telephone :- 01489-612417
LACC LAS North	Telephone :- 01489 - 612414
LACC LAS West	Telephone :- 01489 - 612413

Denbigh Gliding Club	Telephone :- 01745 813774
North Wales Gliding Club	Telephone :- 07956 498078
Shropshire Soaring Group	Telephone :- 01939 232045
Midland Gliding Club	Telephone :- 01588 650206
Herefordshire Gliding Club	Telephone :- 01568 708908
Black Mountains Gliding Club	Telephone :- 01874 711463