

AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR Y 107/2022

UNITED KINGDOM



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(Content - CAA - Airspace Regulation)

Date Of Publication

17 Nov 2022

Subject

Operational



VISUAL REFERENCE POINT REVIEW

1 Introduction

To ensure compliance with the extant UK CAA VRP policy (website link below), the UK CAA have requested that UK licenced aerodromes review all their currently published Visual Reference Points (VRPs) published in the UK AIP.

<http://publicapps.caa.co.uk/modalapplication.aspx?catid=1&pagetype=65&appid=11&mode=detail&id=9159>

We have also contacted those aerodromes without currently published VRPs in the UK AIP, should they consider that any 'discrete' or 'locally used' VRPs would now benefit from publication.

VRPs have historically been listed in sub section AD 2.22 of the respective aerodrome entry, but it should be noted that by 1/12/22 all VRPs will be listed in the consolidated 'Visual Reference Points List' published on the 'Digital Datasets' page of the NATS AIS website.

The update of VRPs is a task that should be undertaken on an ongoing basis, with the minimum requirement to review all published VRPs every 5 years. It is apparent that many published VRPs are outdated, whilst many do not meet the requirements of the UK CAA VRP Policy, so this review aims to update the current list of VRPs throughout the UK and reset the 5 year requirement for all UK licenced aerodromes.

During this review the CAA will also seek to apply some consistent naming/charting principals across all VRPs.

2 General

The UK CAA are sponsoring x2 Airspace Change Proposals (ACPs) to cover all VRP updates from aerodromes within this review process, with amendments to be published in alignment with the current 1:500,000 VFR chart schedule.

The UK CAA have made 'observations' against published VRPs which we have asked the aerodrome representatives to consider during the review process, but ultimately the VRPs to be published are the responsibility of the aerodrome. If there is a solid operational reason why the VRP does not adhere exactly to the recommendations within the UK CAA VRP Policy, it may still be published 'as is' subject to receipt of a sufficient safety case.

3 Promulgation

The first ACP covering the aerodromes appearing on the 1:500,000 VFR Southern Chart is to be effective on 23/3/2023 (AIRAC 3/23), whilst the second ACP covering aerodromes appearing on the 1:500,000 VFR Northern or Scottish Charts is to be effective on 20/4/2023 (AIRAC 4/23).

The effective dates of the VRP changes are deliberately timed to coincide with new editions of the 1:500,000 VFR charts, to make the change process as clean as possible.

Progress of each of the ACPs can be tracked within the CAA Airspace Change Portal (website link below), under Refs ACP-2022-035 (south) and ACP-2022-036 (north).

<https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/>

4 Impact on GA

Those using VRPs as a means of navigation should be aware that VRPs listed in the consolidated 'Visual Reference Points List' and published on VFR charts are highly subject to change at AIRAC 3/2023 and AIRAC 4/2023.

Whilst the majority of VRPs will remain unchanged, there will be some additional and withdrawn VRPs, lateral adjustment of VRPs as well as numerous name changes to further meet the UK CAA VRP Policy.

5 Additional Feedback on VRP Abbreviations

At this time, we have invited comments from the UK licenced aerodromes regarding the inclusion of abbreviated VRP names. To clarify, there is no ICAO requirement for such abbreviations to be defined, but we acknowledge that many GA stakeholders would consider such an abbreviated name useful within their onboard navigation systems.

Should any member of the GA community wish to add their thoughts on this subject, we would welcome this. Please consider:

- a) Whether you would find such an abbreviation useful?
- b) What format it could take?
- c) Where would it be promulgated?
- d) How would name clashes with VRPs at other aerodromes be avoided?
- e) Would VRPs used at multiple aerodromes require the same name?

Along with any other thoughts on the subject.

6 Contact

Any comments or questions on the VRP review or feedback on VRP abbreviations should be addressed to airspace.policy@caa.co.uk.

Any specific feedback on VRPs in your local area should be directed to the aerodrome.