

Responding to the consultation

What we are consulting on

At this stage we are only consulting on the scope of the SEA and HRA assessments and the way we will approach carrying them out, including methodology.

What we are not consulting on

We are not consulting on the masterplan itself. The masterplan is produced by ACOG. ACOG will carry out its own public engagement exercise about the masterplan, as explained above.

Nor are we consulting on the individual airspace change proposals that make up the masterplan. These will be consulted on by the relevant airport or air traffic control provider at the appropriate point in the airspace change process, and will include their own assessments of their environmental impact.

Who is this consultation for?

When deciding on the scope and level of detail of information that must be included in these assessments, the law requires that certain organisations must be consulted. We are not obliged to consult a wider range of stakeholders at this scoping/screening report stage. However, we have decided to do so, in order to get early feedback about the scope of these assessments from a wide range of stakeholders with an interest in the environmental impacts of airspace change. Once the assessments themselves are completed, we will consult publicly on these too.

Consultation period

We have extended the consultation by a few days. The consultation will now close at 23.59 on 17 May 2023 (a consultation period of seven weeks). We cannot commit to taking into account comments received after this date.

How to respond

You can submit your comments by following the link below and answering the questions, which require a mix of multiple-choice and free-text answers. For convenience you can download the questions as a pdf from the link under 'Related' below, but all responses should be submitted through this online survey.

If there are good reasons why you cannot respond using the online survey, please contact us first at airspace.modernisation@caa.co.uk so that we can explain how you must do this.

We will assume that all responses can be published on our consultation website. When you complete the information at the beginning of the survey there is an option for you to request that your identity is withheld when your submission is published, or to refuse publication. (In any event, your email address will never be published.) In the interests of transparency, we hope that you will not refuse publication.

Supporting information

If you wish to supplement your on-line survey response with supporting evidence in the form of a file, please indicate this in question 19 of the online survey and then email the file(s) to us at airspace.modernisation@caa.co.uk, making a clear reference to the consultation and ideally quoting the response ID of your online response.

If you send us additional material but do not want us to publish some of it, please also send us a redacted version that we can publish. You should be aware that information sent to and therefore held by the CAA is subject to legislation that may require us to disclose it, even if you have asked us not to (such as the Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations). Therefore, if you do decide to send information to the CAA but ask that this be withheld from publication via redacted material, please explain why, as this will help us to consider our obligations to disclose or withhold this information should the need arise.

What happens next?

We will analyse responses and, in the SEA and HRA assessments that will be produced later on, we will explain how we have taken feedback received as part of this consultation into account.

About you

A Are you responding in an official capacity on behalf of an organisation?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Yes
 No

If yes, please tell us the name of the organisation.

B What is your name?

(Required)

C What is your email address?**D** Are you answering as:*(Required)**Please select only one item*

- Resident affected by aviation
- Commercial aviation/aerospace industry including trade associations
- Consultancy
- Central or local government body including military
- Elected political representative e.g. councillor or MP
- General Aviation (GA), including representative organisations
- Local organisation e.g. community action group, airport consultative committee or forum
- National (or international) organisation (excluding GA organisations and industry trade associations), e.g. NGO
- Other (please specify)

If you fall in more than one category, please choose the one that is most relevant to you answering about airspace issues.

E Where do you live or where is your organisation based?*(Required)**Please select only one item*

- East of England
- East Midlands
- West Midlands
- North East
- North West
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- South East
- South West
- Wales
- Yorkshire and the Humber
- Outside the UK

F Is there anything else that you would like us to know about you in connection with your response?

G Do you consent to us contacting you by email about the outcome of this consultation?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Yes
 No

H Do you consent to your response being published?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- yes, with personal identifying information (we will publish your organisation, name, respondent category, location, and any additional information – please note your email address will NOT be published if you choose this option)
 yes, anonymised (no information in questions A to G will be published)
 no

What this consultation is about

What are we consulting on?

The Airspace Change Organising Group (ACOG) is developing an airspace change masterplan, which you can read about on our [Overview](#) </policy-development/airspace-change-masterplan-scoping-the-environment> page. We expect ACOG to carry out its own, separate public engagement exercise about the masterplan later this year.

At this stage we are only consulting on three things:

- (1) the Strategic Environmental Assessment [Scoping Report](#) <http://www.caa.co.uk/cap2526>
- (2) the Habitats Regulations [Screening Report](#) <http://www.caa.co.uk/cap2527>
- (3) our proposed approach to carrying out the actual assessments, later on, as set out in [Approach to SEA and HRA](#) <http://www.caa.co.uk/cap2528>

What are we not consulting on?

We are not consulting on the content of the masterplan itself. The masterplan is produced by ACOG. ACOG will be carrying out its own, separate public engagement exercise about the masterplan.

We are not consulting on the individual airspace change proposals that make up the masterplan. These will be consulted on by the relevant airport or air traffic control provider at the relevant point in the airspace change process. Each will include its own assessment of environmental impacts.

We are not consulting on the airspace change process.

We are not consulting on Government policy, including the Air Navigation Guidance (the statutory guidance which the Secretary of State gives the CAA on how it should take environmental impacts into account when carrying out its air navigation functions).

Elements of responses to this consultation that focus on any of these areas will be considered out of scope.

SEA Scoping Report

Questions 1 to 6 are about the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) [Scoping Report](#) <http://www.caa.co.uk/cap2526> .

The Scoping Report sets the context and objectives for the SEA, including the baseline. It has been prepared in the context of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The SEA Scoping Report sets out the rationale for the preparation of the SEA Environmental Report.

1 Are you satisfied with the environmental aspects we have scoped out and in of the SEA, and the objectives, targets and indicators?

Please select only one item

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

If no, please give reasons for your answer.

2 Are you satisfied with how any significant effects will be identified?

Please select only one item

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

If no, please give reasons for your answer.

3 Are you satisfied with the definition of the future baseline, assessment case and alternatives?

Please select only one item

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

If no, please give reasons for your answer.

4 Are you satisfied with the proposed Zones of Influence for each environmental aspect?

Please select only one item

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

if no, please give reasons for your answer.

5 Do you have any comments about the type and use of available regional data for each geographical 'cluster'?

6 Do you have any other points you would like to raise in relation to the SEA Scoping Report?

HRA Screening Report

Questions 7 to 12 are about the Habitats Regulations (HRA) [Screening Report](http://www.caa.co.uk/cap2527) <<http://www.caa.co.uk/cap2527>> .

The Habitats Regulations screening stage is an initial assessment to check whether a proposal:

- is directly connected with or necessary for the conservation management of a European site
- risks having a significant effect on a European site on its own or in combination with other proposals.

7 Are you satisfied that the HRA Screening Report correctly identifies all potential significant effects on European Sites?

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

If no, what other environmental effects do you think could result from implementation of the masterplan?

8 Are the precautionary Zones of Influence applied to each potential effect to determine which European sites may be affected by the implementation of the masterplan appropriate for the purposes of screening?

Please select only one item

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

If no, please give reasons for your answer.

9 Do you consider that the CAA's proposed approach to applying the scientific evidence referenced in appendices B, C and D of the HRA Screening Report to stage 2 of the assessment is appropriate?

Please select only one item

- Yes
 Requires minor modification
 Requires major modification
 Don't know

If modifications are required, please give us more information.

10 Do you consider that the CAA's proposed approach to subsequent stages (2, 3 and 4) of the Habitats Regulations assessment:

Please select only one item

- Is about right
 Requires minor modification
 Requires major modification
 Don't know

If modifications are required, please give us more information.

11 Which plans and projects do you think might act in combination with the masterplan?

'In combination' is a term used in the screening process. Please see the HRA Screening Report (in particular paragraphs 2.1, 2.2, 2.17).

12 Do you have any other points you would like to raise in relation to the HRA Scoping Report?

Approach to SEA and HRA

The above questions were about the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report and the Habitats Regulations (HRA) Screening Report.

Questions 13 to 15 (SEA) and questions 16 to 18 (HRA) below are about the approach we propose to take when producing the actual environmental assessments/reports themselves, later on. This proposed approach is set out in the [Approach to SEA and HRA](http://www.caa.co.uk/cap2528) <<http://www.caa.co.uk/cap2528>> document.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

13 Are you satisfied that the overall approach to SEA (set out in paragraph 1 of the 'Approach' document) will ensure that the environmental effects of the masterplan are fully assessed?

Please select only one item

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

If no, in what ways could the approach be improved?

- 14** Do you have any comments on the timing of the SEA (stages 1.B – 1.F and Figure 1 in the 'Approach' document) during the development of each masterplan iteration?

- 15** Do you have any other comments you would like to make on the approach to SEA of the masterplan (set out in paragraph 1 and Figure 1 of the 'Approach' document)?

-----o0o-----

Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 16** Do you agree that it is not possible to rule out significant effects on European sites (or offshore marine sites) as a result of the masterplan? (paragraph 2.A of the 'Approach' document)

Please select only one item

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

If no, in what ways could the approach be improved?

17 Do you have any comments on the intention to deliver any required mitigation for adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (or offshore marine sites) at the project level, through the approval process for individual airspace change proposals - rather than at the strategic level through the masterplan? (paragraph 2.C of the 'Approach' document)

18 Do you have any other comments you would like to make on the approach to HRA of the masterplan (set out in paragraph 2 and Figure 1 of the 'Approach' document)?

Submitting additional supporting material

19 Are you submitting additional material via email?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No
- To be advised

If yes, please see the instructions under 'How to respond' on the [Overview](#) </policy-development/airspace-change-masterplan-scoping-the-environment> page. You must submit the additional material by the consultation closing date (8 May 2023).