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RECOMMENDED VFR ROUTE BETWEEN THE SOLENT CTA AND THE CHERBOURG PENINSULA/CHANNEL ISLANDS

1 Introduction

1.1 A VFR Recommended Route was introduced on 22 July 1993 to provide an alternative shorter route for flights between the Solent CTA and the Channel Islands. The route, which is co-incident with the Southampton VOR radial to the MP NDB on the Cherbourg Peninsula, also enables pilots to use higher levels for sea crossings.

➔ 1.2 The VFR Recommended Route penetrates the Portsmouth Danger Area EG D036 (See Annexe to this Circular).

EG D036 is scheduled as active as follows:

Mondays to Thursdays	0800 - 1700 UTC (Winter) 0700 - 1600 UTC (Summer)
Fridays	0800 - 1400 UTC (Winter) 0700 - 1300 UTC (Summer)

EG D036 is also active at other times as notified but the MOD will endeavour to keep activation of EG D036 outside scheduled hours to the minimum conducive with operational requirements.

2 Arrangements for General Aviation (GA) Traffic

2.1 Flights wishing to use the route during EG D036 scheduled hours can request a Danger Area Crossing Service from Plymouth Military on VHF frequency 124.150 MHz. Pilots are advised to call Plymouth Military in transit, as early and as high as practicable (but south of 511000N), to establish satisfactory two-way communications and to facilitate availability of the route for their use. Subject to unit workload, a radar service may be offered to flights in the sea area west of EG D036 if Danger Area activities preclude flight along the VFR Recommended Route itself. Pilots wishing to obtain pre-flight information may also contact the Plymouth Military Air Operations, Tel: 01752-557751, during Plymouth's published operating hours. Nevertheless, pilots should consult NOTAM to check on any EG D036 notified activity outside scheduled hours.

2.2 The Recommended VFR Route is bi-directional and Channel Islands Control Zone traffic will access the route by means of the Visual Reference Points (VRP), promulgated in the UK AIP at AD 2-EGJJ-1-11, on the west side of the Cherbourg Peninsula.

2.3 Use of the Recommended VFR Route does not permit pilots to enter Controlled Airspace without a clearance from ATC.

2.4 Traffic following the Recommended VFR Route above 3000 ft amsl in UK Airspace is advised to observe the quadrantal rule (irrespective of the flight rules being observed) except when otherwise instructed by ATC. Pilots should be aware of the requirements for flight in French Airspace that include the semi-circular rule for VFR traffic and the passing of position reports on entering or leaving French Airspace.

This Circular is issued for information, guidance and necessary action.

RECOMMENDED VFR ROUTE SOLENT CTA - CHANNEL ISLANDS CONTROL ZONE

