

How to fly through the South Coast Danger Areas



You are planning a flight across the English Channel. On inspection of your chart you notice that there is a vast swathe of Danger Areas spanning your track. What are they there for? What goes on inside them? and most importantly, how do you get through them safely?

This document will explain and answer these questions for you and most of all, tell you what services are available to help you on your flight.

The Danger Areas on the South Coast of the UK, extend from Cornwall in the West, across to Selsey Bill in the East. They are run by the Royal Navy and in the case of EGD026 (Lulworth), the Army. The Areas are used for the operational training of Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen.

The Danger Areas are established to protect you from the activity that is occurring inside the Danger Area. This activity is often extremely hazardous to the safety of flight.

HAZARDOUS ACTIVITY

There is a wide spectrum of activities that occur within the South Coast Danger Areas. This activity includes helicopter flying from ships right through to the firing of large calibre guns, missiles and the towing of targets. In the case of target towing the target is 6 miles behind an aircraft on a steel-wire rope! The target is then engaged by a variety of weapons. It is obviously important to keep this sort of activity segregated from other airspace users and so this is why your transit through the South Coast Danger Areas is sometimes refused.



SO, HOW DO YOU GET ACROSS?

As part of your pre-flight planning you may wish to telephone the Duty Operations Officer at Devonport to establish whether or not your carefully planned route through the South Coast Danger Areas is likely to be achievable or whether you need to plan an alternative route. The Duty Operations Officer holds the current information on hazardous activity taking place within the South Coast Danger Areas. However, Duty Operations will not provide you with a clearance to cross the South Coast Danger Areas because the use of the Danger Areas is very dynamic and subject to frequent and sometimes short notice change. The only method of obtaining up to date information on hazardous activity taking place, and to obtain clearance to penetrate the South Coast Danger Areas is by RT whilst in the air through the following services:

A **Danger Area Crossing Service (DACS)** is available for the South Coast Danger Areas at all times. It is provided by Plymouth Military Radar from 0800-1700 Local Monday to Thursday and from 0800-1400 Local on Fridays. Outside of these times the DACS is only provided by Swanwick Military.

A **Danger Area Activity Information Service (DAAIS)** is provided by other Air Traffic Service Units, for example London Flight Information. These ATSU's can provide, on RT, up to date information on the hazardous activity taking place within the South Coast Danger Areas by referring to the DACS provider. They can also relay a crossing clearance granted by the current holder of the DACS.

Without speaking on RT to these agencies, it is not possible to be assured of having the latest information regarding hazardous activity within the Danger Areas.

Duty Operations Devonport	-01752 557550
Plymouth Military Radar	-West of Berry Head 121.250 MHz -East of Berry Head 124.150 MHz
Swanwick Military	-135.150 MHz
London Information	-124.750 Mhz

Additionally refer to UKAIP ENR 5.1 and AIC 14/2007 (Yellow 233)

