

Bath Gap

The Bath Gap Letter of Agreement (LOA) was last signed by NATS Bristol and the British Gliding Association in January 2022. It expired in January 2024 and has not been renegotiated since.

Lyneham CTA/CTR airspace was removed in 2011. To the best of my knowledge, the club has not activated the Bath Gap procedure for a very long time. The Bath Gap Bravo procedure, which formed part of the LOA, was particularly beneficial as it raised the base of parts of the CTA. This arrangement also no longer exists.

As a result, when transiting near Bristol controlled airspace and wishing to fly within the CTA, pilots are required to contact Bristol Radar and obtain an appropriate service.

Re-establishing a Bath Gap LOA would now be very difficult. CAP 3096 states that LOAs within controlled airspace are not compliant with SERA (Standard European Rules of the Air). Although a potential process is being developed to allow LOAs through the creation of Special Use Airspace (SUA), this will require a full CAP 1616 airspace change process, which is beyond what the gliding movement could afford to sponsor.