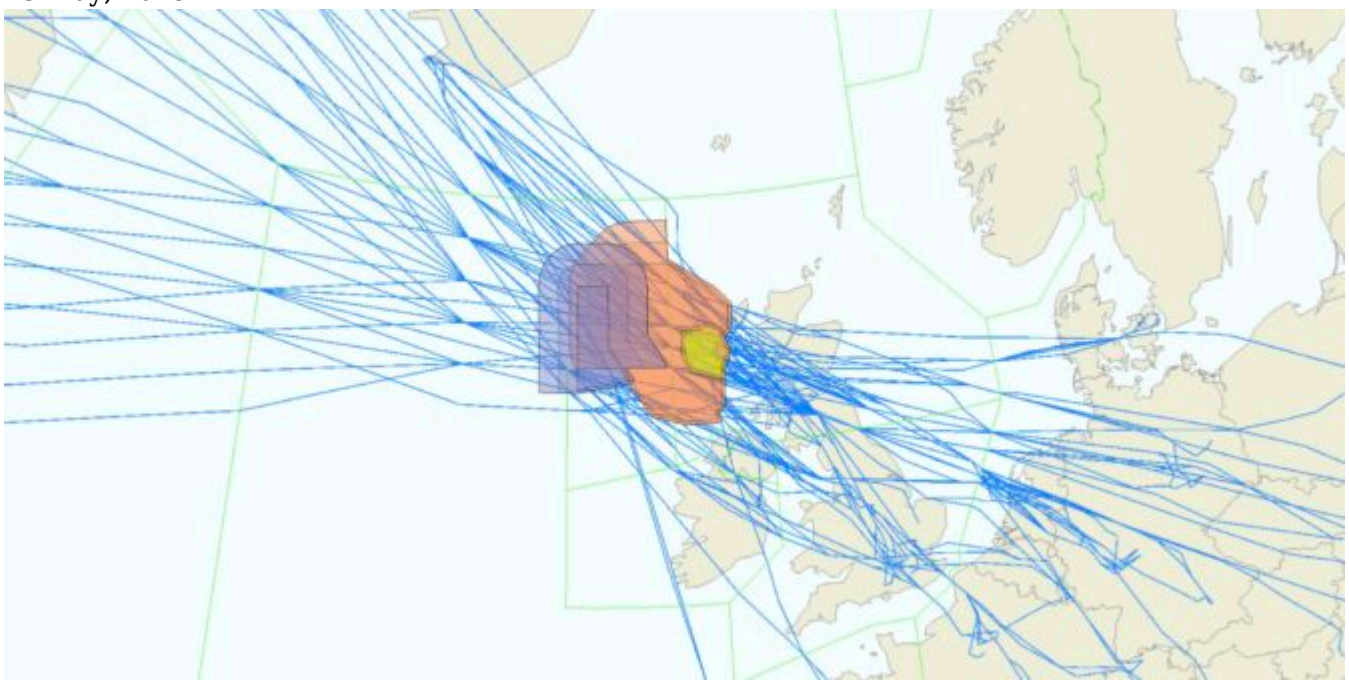
NAT Airspace Closures: Formidable Shield 2025

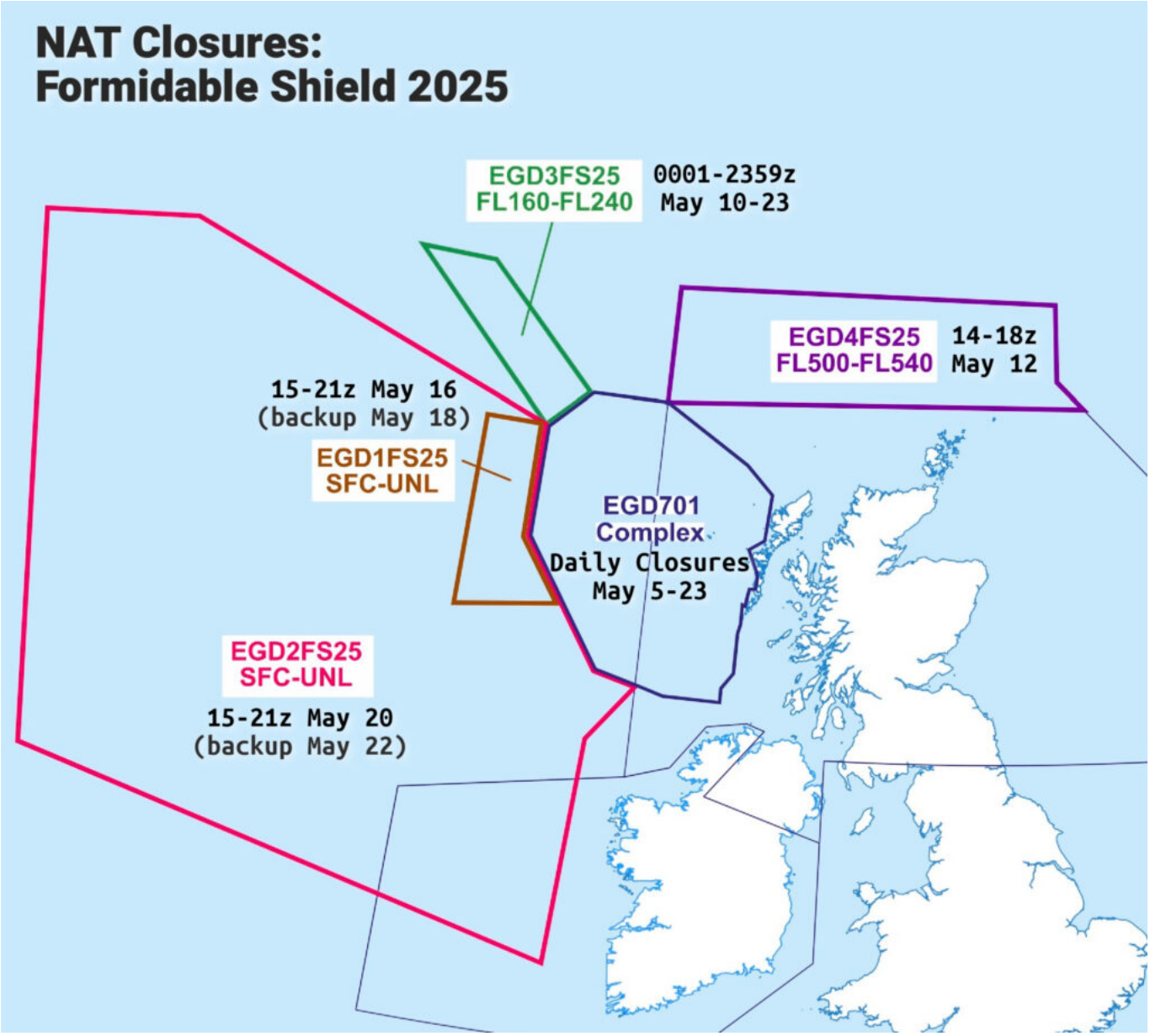
David Mumford
13 May, 2025



Remember that big NAT military exercise a couple of years ago? Formidable Shield is happening again now, which will mean **parts of North Atlantic airspace will be closed to flights** for several hours at a time.

There are daily closures in the EGD701 area off the coast of Scotland until May 23, but the big one to watch out for is a **large closure of airspace across the northern half of the EGGX/Shanwick FIR on May 20 between 15-21z** (with May 22 as the backup day).

The map below shows everything we know about this so far, taken from this UK SUP.



For the big closure on May 20, **ATC might start rerouting flights before the airspace closure starts (15z)** with the use of Flight Plan Buffer Zones extending 30 NM or 60 NM beyond the closed airspace.

There's no timings yet for when these might be activated, and ATC have said they won't make any decision on this until nearer the time when they know where the jet stream is going to be and what the tracks might look like, but best advice would be **plan a flight that clears the area at least 1 hour before the airspace closure (so 14z).**

Keep an eye on the **EGGX/Shanwick Notams** – they will publish one for the big closure at least 24 hours prior, which will look a bit like this (except it will say **EGD2FS25** instead of EGD1FS25).

G0069/25 – AIRSPACE RESERVATION:
AREA: 590000N 0143000W – 590000N 0130000W – 573126N 0130000W –
564357N 0120000W – 563000N 0143000W – 590000N 0143000W
FLW SEPARATIONS WILL BE PROVIDED WITHIN OCEANIC AIRSPACE: MNPS/NAT
HIGH LEVEL AIRSPACE(HLA) 30NM, NON-MNPS/NAT HLA 60NM.EGD1FS25. SFC – UNL, 18
MAY 15:00 2025 UNTIL 18 MAY 21:00 2025. CREATED: 08 MAY 09:16 2025

And for any questions on Formidable Shield, you can contact the UK Airspace Management Cell at SWK-MAMC-ManagedAirspace@mod.gov.uk.