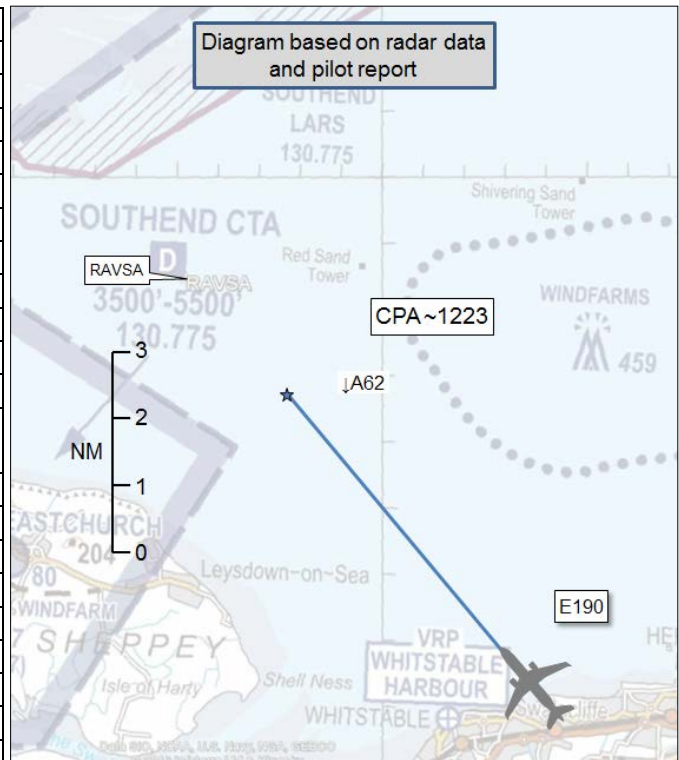


AIRPROX REPORT No 2016271

Date: 23 Dec 2016 Time: 1228Z Position: 5126N 00058E Location: 12.5nm SE Southend

PART A: SUMMARY OF INFORMATION REPORTED TO UKAB

Recorded	Aircraft 1	Aircraft 2
Aircraft	Embraer E190	Unknown Object
Operator	CAT	Unknown
Airspace	London TMA	London TMA
Class	A	A
Rules	IFR	
Service	Radar Control	
Provider	Thames Radar	
Altitude/FL	6100ft	
Transponder	A, C, S	
Reported		Not reported
Colours	Company	
Lighting	Strobes, beacon, nav, landing, taxi	
Conditions	VMC	
Visibility	10km	
Altitude/FL	6150ft	
Altimeter	QNH (1038hPa)	
Heading	310°	
Speed	250kt	
ACAS/TAS	TCAS II	
Alert	None	
	Separation	
Reported	200ft V/0m H	
Recorded	NK	



THE E190 PILOT reports 4 miles southeast of RAVSA when he saw a blue object pass straight under the aircraft. It was difficult to judge its size, but appeared to be like a very large football; roundish in shape from the angle he saw it and perhaps with a white stripe. He called out but the object had passed under the aircraft by time the other pilot looked up and he did not see it. The reporting pilot noted that the object did not look like an aircraft.

He assessed the risk of collision as 'Medium'.

Factual Background

The weather at Southend was recorded as follows:

METAR EGMC 231220Z 21018KT 9999 FEW020 SCT044 11/06 Q1025=

Analysis and Investigation

UKAB Secretariat

A CAA web site¹ provides information and guidance associated with the operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UASs) and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and CAP722 (UAS Operations in UK Airspace) provides comprehensive guidance.

¹ dronesafe.uk

Summary

An Airprox was reported when a E190 and an unknown object flew into proximity at 1228 on Friday 23rd December 2016. The E190 pilot was operating under IFR in VMC in receipt of a Radar Control Service from Thames radar.

PART B: SUMMARY OF THE BOARD'S DISCUSSIONS

Information available consisted of a report from the E190 pilot and radar photographs/video recordings (which did not show the object).

The Board was not able to determine the nature of the object but members felt it was unlikely to have been a drone, given the reported position. Notwithstanding there had clearly been a conflict between the object and the E190. Some members felt that the object was most likely a balloon but, in the absence of any corroborating data on the object's size or description, allied to the difficulties in judging separation visually without external references, meant that it was not possible to come to a robust conclusion as to the risk of collision.

PART C: ASSESSMENT OF CAUSE AND RISK

Cause: A conflict in Class A.

Degree of Risk: D.