



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
HAMPSHIRE

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TCSW Airspace Development Consultation Document

I am writing on behalf of CPRE Test Valley to express our serious concerns about the implications of this consultation document on the tranquillity of the western part of Test Valley. CPRE has long campaigned against the impact of intrusive noise on the countryside and this proposal is particularly serious as it would impact on both the New Forest National Park and the North Wessex AONB.

Our objections can be summarised as follows

- Damaging impact on the quality of life of residents in the western part of Test Valley Borough . This will be particularly noticeable in those areas with low background noise levels, including of course the National Park and the AONB
- Since the proposals relate to the hours between 17.30 and 09.30 daily the impact through the hours of darkness would be particularly damaging to local residents. The Government is committed to following the WHO “Guidelines for Community Noise”; yet your proposals exceed the limits they apply outside bedroom windows.
- The EU Directive on ambient noise (Directive 2002/49/EC) and the resulting UK draft Ambient Noise Strategy require that quiet areas are maintained. It would therefore contravene the Directive and the emerging UK Strategy
- The information you present on noise is exacerbated by your statement that “the information presented here relates to the situation immediately following the airspace changes(TCSW Appendix L p1). The projected increases in flights will mean that noise intrusion can only get worse
- TCSW page 31 describes tranquillity and draws at fig 11 on the latest CPRE tranquillity map arguing that the existing airspace to the East is routinely overflown but there are still areas beneath this airspace which remain tranquil. This is to misunderstand the methodology of these CPRE maps; aircraft noise is only 1 of 43 measures and indeed given a low weighting. What is needed is a map showing just the aircraft noise layer, where the impact will be particularly damaging in those areas with low background noise levels.
- Its adverse impact on tourism in the area which is a significant generator of jobs in the National Park and across Test Valley more generally. A high quality natural environment with tranquillity an important factor is a key element in attracting and retaining tourist activities
- Your claim that carbon dioxide emissions will be reduced by a figure of 1.109% per flight hardly stands up when set against the projected increase in flights. If they increase as you suggest by 3% pa then this saving is wiped out in 4 months.



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Yours sincerely

John Cooper