

Objection from Launton Parish Council to the London Oxford Airport Consultation

It is impossible to view the London Oxford Airport controlled airspace proposals in isolation without taking into account the RAF Brize Norton proposals. Between them, they would cause enormous disruption to General Aviation traffic throughout Oxfordshire and surrounding areas, with significant implications for the safety of GA traffic and increased aircraft noise for some unfortunate residents.

It is accepted that much GA traffic would not wish to obtain the necessary permissions to enter the vastly enlarged proposed areas of Class D controlled airspace, which in the case of the proposed OX CTR1 come extremely close to Bicester and Launton (in which parish the former RAF Bicester, now Bicester Heritage, airfield is situated); and it is far from clear how readily available such permissions would be, with increasing controller workload from apparently ever-increasing levels of operations. This means that a lot of GA traffic would inevitably be concentrated in the few remaining areas of uncontrolled airspace, with obvious safety implications; this would also lead to increased aircraft noise, causing loss of amenity for the people unfortunate enough to live in the affected areas, with consequent political pressure inevitably being applied to reduce (or even eliminate) GA activity across the board.

The proposals for vast expanses of controlled airspace appear to have little current operational justification; and there appears to be considerable scaremongering with little evidence to support the levels of concern being raised -- it is noted that, although a number of incidents are shown in Appendix A3, they took place over extended periods of time and the frequency is actually very low.

The proposals focus primarily on the benefits of extending class D controlled airspace to London Oxford Airport's commercial operations, while paying only lip service to the wide-ranging negative effects that this massive increase in controlled airspace would have for both general aviation and the residents of the areas concerned.

5 April 2018