

The Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Parish Council (Kent) have concerns regarding the suggested changes proposed in respect to PBN Southern approaches to Runway 05.

It is not clear in the document of the actual impact of the change and whether it would lead to an intensification of arrivals in a narrow area (and potentially over both villages in our parish), rather than the approaches being spread over a wider area between Cliffe and Cooling and the final arrival alignment corrections made over the Thames Estuary.

Even with the current arrival routes, there is considerable noise nuisance over Cliffe village (especially as the ambient background noise levels are low in relation to other urban areas) and the land around the village and between the village and the River Thames is internationally, European and nationally designated as RAMSAR, Special Protection Area and Site of Special Scientific Interest (3.1 mentions Kent Downs as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, but underestimates the importance of the North Kent Marshes and the SSSI between Cliffe Woods and Chattenden).

Relocation of routes seem to indicate that planes might be routed to align with the final approach from the south to Runway 5 as far out as Cliffe Woods (another village in our parish that has a predominance of flights to London City Airport already, although at a higher level), but has not had any significant impact from LSA traffic to date and Hoo St. Werburgh (over SSSI Great Chattenden Woods), as possible paths for the new approach (figure 20). Noise levels appear to be increased at these locations. The indication is that the arrival routes would move to the west of Cliffe Village (over Cliffe Pools- RAMSAR).

The alternative of final alignment over the Thames Estuary should be adopted instead of those proposed for Runway 5.

It is acknowledged that with respect to airspace change, government guidance only takes account of local air quality where changes are made to flight paths below 1,000ft AGL. None of the proposals include changes below 1,000ft.