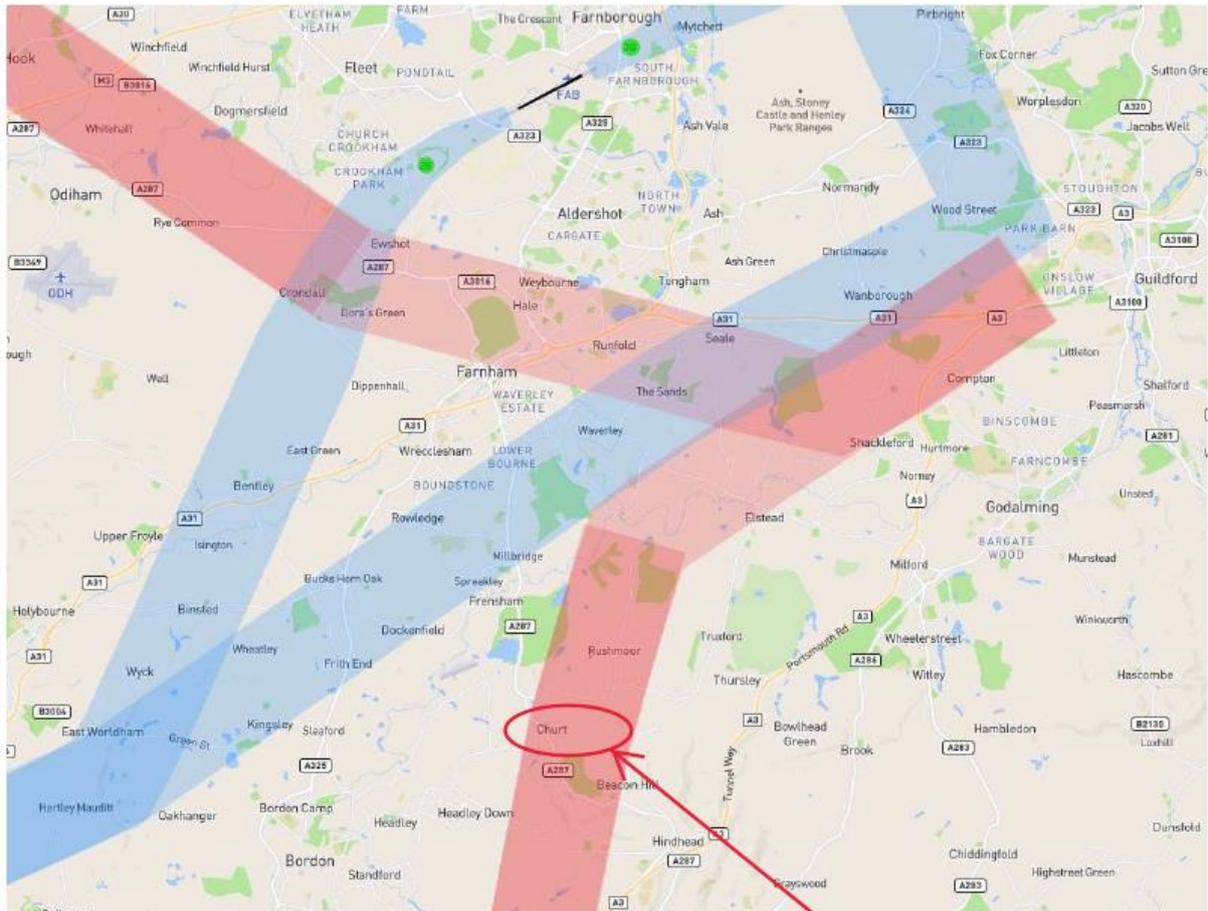


Aircraft Noise and Pollution Over Churt Farnborough Airport Airspace Changes



Update – January 2023



Red area is approach flightpath
 Blue area is departure flightpath

Churt

Farnborough Airport Flights

As many of us have noticed, the plan for a massive increase in low-flying private jet aircraft flights over Churt is becoming **reality**.

Thank you to everyone who has written to raise objections to the associated increase in noise and pollution over our village. We have played our part in securing a meeting on 17th March 2023 to be attended by Jeremy Hunt MP; Damian Hinds MP; the Civil Aviation Authority; and Farnborough Airport Limited. There is a chance that our voices can be heard and acted upon. **We ask that you write to Jeremy or Damian now so that they are fully aware of our views.**

As reminders, Farnborough Airport have permission to operate 50,000 flights per year. This equates to 137 flights per day, on average. Experience shows these are concentrated over the summer months when we are outside and the noise even more intrusive. They intend to increase to 70,000 flights and have

capacity at the airport for 100,000 per year. The growth of private jet traffic results in a significant increase in noise, emissions and pollution for those people living near the flightpaths. Our neighbours in Hindhead, Grayshott, Rushmoor and Tilford are similarly affected.

The owner of Farnborough Airport is an investment bank called Macquarie Group based in the tax haven of Luxembourg. The more flights, the more Macquarie profits. Web-site advertisements use the term "London Farnborough Airport".

In February 2020 just before the Covid-19 lockdown, the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), at the request of Farnborough Airport, made changes to controlled airspace which put Churt directly under a flight path. As the final stage of approving this change, the CAA is required to carry out a year-long Post Implementation Review (PIR), due to end on 31 March 2023.

We were not properly consulted on this change. Four critical issues that were not considered are:

1. We live in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and as a tranquil village the impact of low flying aircraft is greater. Air Navigation Guidance 2017 issued by the Department of Transport says that aircraft should aim to stay above 7,000 ft where possible, although this recommendation is for an altitude as measured above sea level. Churt, and other nearby villages, stand on higher ground and in practice, aircraft landing at Farnborough are flying at 3,000 to 4,000 ft over Churt and sometimes lower, exacerbating the problem.
2. The World Health Organisation recently reduced the safe limit of pollution. Atmospheric pollution around the airport has been measured at double and, on occasion, even four times the safe level.
3. Private jets are estimated to be 20-40 times more polluting than commercial jets (per passenger mile).
4. Aircraft going to and from Heathrow and Gatwick are using this new airspace above us and are flying lower.

We are relying on our local politicians to hold the private jet flyers, the CAA and Macquarie Group to account.

Churt Parish Council has previously written to both Jeremy Hunt MP and Damian Hinds MP requesting their support to ensure that the Post Implementation Review is transparent, fair, inclusive and encompasses all relevant issues. One solution would be for the aircraft to fly higher and track the A3 straight to Guildford (currently on the flightpath) – reducing perceived noise for everyone and shortening the journey and so reducing pollution.

What can you do **now** to ensure your voice is heard?

1. Write to your local MP requesting his wholehearted support for reducing Farnborough Aircraft noise at Churt and nearby villages at huntj@parliament.uk or damian.hinds.mp@parliament.uk
2. Complain to Farnborough Airport at complaints@farnboroughairport.com so that they are taken into account in the PIR. Recently, there have been over 200 separate complaints a month. Thank you to all of you who have been contributing.

Please copy in farnboroughnoise@gmail.com so we can keep a record of complaints.

Further information is available at www.churtzero.org/farnborough-airport

This could be our last chance to influence this unwanted intrusion. We need all of the practical help that we can get. If you are concerned about the noise and other environmental impact of private jets flying low over Churt, please contact the local Churt action group via farnboroughairportnoise@gmail.com

It is especially important that we continue to complain about as many Farnborough Airport related flights as possible until at least April 2023. Without a regular stream of complaints from a wide variety of people, Farnborough Airport will claim that the public are content with the changes. The flightpaths will become set in stone which will be disastrous for the area as the airport ramps up its activities.