

Summary of Brockenhurst Parish Council's comments on Hurn Airport ATC proposals.

The proposal seeks agreement to install satellite-based aircraft approach equipment to the two runways 08 and 26 (from the Lyndhurst direction and Brockenhurst direction respectively). In itself this will not change the path of approaching aircraft and there should be no change in the disturbance to forest animals or residents.

However whilst the proposed new satellite based runway approach system can operate landings just like the present ILS system, the satellite based system can be used to provide approaches which give less disturbance to the tranquillity of the New Forest. This would be beneficial to residents, ponies and wildlife. It can also give a fuel saving for approaching aircraft which as well as giving some cost saving to the operating company, is a positive advantage in support of the national objective of minimising climate damage, and reducing pollution.

The most straightforward change which Hurn airport could carry out is to increase the angle of approach from 3 degrees to something like 3.2 or 3.3 degrees. This increases the height over the ground for approaching aircraft and reduces engine thrust needed on the approach. As well as reducing the noise footprint of approaching aircraft over areas of the New Forest, it also allows some fuel saving. It could be even more beneficial for the Forest if combined with a higher minimum intercept altitude to pick up the descent path of the approach. Such changes have been proven and are now used in a number of UK airports.

We therefore support the proposal but would urge the CAA to press Hurn airport to implement approach procedures which provide worthwhile improvements in tranquillity over the New Forest, provide fuel savings and reduce pollution and carbon emissions. We believe the improvement on noise impact for the Forest and the village could be significant, and while fuel and climate impact improvement may not be large in percentage terms, nonetheless offer a worthwhile improvement in combination with measures elsewhere.

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