



LONDON
GATWICK

Shaping the future: have your say on London Gatwick's Route 4 Airspace Change

London Gatwick is sharing proposals for reintroducing satellite-based navigational procedures to Route 4

London Gatwick is consulting on its Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) for the future operation of Route 4 - one of the departure routes for aircraft flying out of the Airport.

This newsletter introduces the Route 4 ACP and provides information on how to engage with the consultation, access the consultation materials and respond.

The consultation will run from Tuesday 20 January 2026 until 23:59 on Tuesday 28 April 2026.



Map data ©2025 Ordnance Survey

Map of the current position of Route 4

What is Route 4?

Route 4 is one of nine Standard Instrument Departure (SID) routes for aircraft taking off from the Main Runway at London Gatwick.

It applies to aircraft taking off to the west from the Main Runway but ultimately heading east on their journey. Soon after take-off, aircraft flying Route 4 turn 180 degrees northwards and head east, flying in the vicinity of South Holmwood, Leigh, Redhill and Reigate before flying on towards their final destination.

Why are we proposing changes to Route 4?

When the UK's airspace was designed in the 1950s, ground-based beacons acted as the main form of navigation technology. However, a government-led drive to modernise aircraft navigation and gradually phase out ground-based forms of navigation is currently underway.

For London Gatwick, this means introducing new satellite-based navigation procedures on all its arrival and departure routes so that aircraft can use new satellite-based technology to replicate the existing route positions.

London Gatwick introduced the new navigation procedures on all nine of its departure routes following an airspace change process that began in 2012. This process included engagement and consultation with communities and stakeholders.

However, due to regulatory and legal challenges, the new navigation procedures were withdrawn on Route 4 in 2019.

Since then, London Gatwick has undertaken extensive work to re-introduce satellite-based navigational procedures to Route 4.

The airspace change process and our work to date

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has responsibility for deciding whether to approve changes proposed to the design of airspace in the UK.

Proposals to change airspace design must follow a detailed process as set out in the CAA's CAP1616: Airspace Change Process.

The process requires the organisation proposing the change (in this case London Gatwick) to engage stakeholders and the wider public at key stages of the process to explain the proposed changes and gather feedback.

Four route options for the future operation of Route 4 have been shortlisted after earlier engagement with community representatives and industry stakeholders at Stages 1 and 2 of the process.

London Gatwick is now at Stage 3, where it has carried out a Full Options Appraisal (FOA) of the shortlisted route options and prepared for and launched a public consultation to gather feedback from communities and stakeholders on the route options presented.

This feedback will help London Gatwick make informed decisions about the proposals ahead of its submission at the end of Stage 4.

How can you take part in the consultation?

The consultation will run from Tuesday 20 January 2026 until 23:59 on Tuesday 28 April 2026. There are a range of ways to take part in the consultation and have your say.

How to respond to the consultation

You can provide feedback from Tuesday 20 January 2026 until 23:59 on Tuesday 28 April 2026 via Citizen Space: route4acp.co.uk

If you are unable to access Citizen Space, we will accept postal responses to our Freepost address: 'Freepost ROUTE 4 CONSULTATION'

All comments submitted during the consultation will be recorded, carefully considered and will be taken into account when further developing the proposals.

A Consultation Report will be submitted alongside the final proposal to demonstrate how London Gatwick has taken account of the feedback received.

Scan here for more information



Visit Citizen Space

All the information associated with this ACP is available on Citizen Space: route4acp.co.uk

Join us at one of our consultation events

We are hosting four drop-in consultation events during the consultation.

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday 12 February 2026	2pm-8pm	Reigate Manor, Reigate Hill, RH2 9PF
Saturday 7 March 2026	10am-4pm	Sandman Signature Hotel, 18-23 Tinsley Ln S, Three Bridges, Crawley RH10 8XH
Monday 16 March 2026	2pm-8pm	Donnington Manor Hotel, London Rd, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks TN13 2TD
Tuesday 24 March 2026	2pm-8pm	Denbies Vineyard, Bradley Ln, Dorking RH5 6AA

Sign up to one of our webinars

We are also hosting six webinars. You can sign up for a webinar via Citizen Space.

Date	Time
Tuesday 10 February 2026	6pm-7pm
Monday 23 February 2026	11am-12pm
Wednesday 4 March 2026	7pm-8pm
Thursday 12 March 2026	6pm-7pm
Wednesday 18 March 2026	2pm-3pm
Thursday 26 March 2026	5:30pm-6:30pm

Visit one of our deposit points

Printed copies of the consultation materials will be available to view at the following locations during the consultation period:

Venue	Address
Dorking Library	St Martin's Walk, Dorking RH4 1UT
Reigate Library	Bancroft House, Bancroft Road, Reigate RH2 7RP
Horley Library	55-57 Russell Square, Victoria Road, Horley RH6 7QH
Edenbridge Library	The Eden Centre, Four Elms Road, Edenbridge TN8 6BY

Please note that paper copy materials will only be available during venue opening hours.

You can contact us with questions about this airspace change proposal, or request assistance in responding to this consultation, via the contact details below.

Citizen Space site: route4acp.co.uk

Email: LGWairspace.Rte4@gatwickairport.com

Freephone: 0808 303 4560

Freepost: Freepost ROUTE 4 CONSULTATION

Translation Panel

Polish: Aby zamówić materiały w języku polskim, skontaktuj się z członkiem naszego zespołu, korzystając z danych kontaktowych podanych powyżej.

Portuguese: Para solicitar qualquer um dos nossos materiais em português, por favor contacte um membro da nossa equipa através dos dados de contacto acima indicados.

Romanian: Pentru a solicita oricare dintre materialele noastre în limba română, vă rugăm să contactați un membru al echipei noastre folosind datele de contact de mai sus.