Communities and stakeholders invited to have their say on London Gatwick's

Route 4 Airspace Change Proposal

LONDON GATWICK
-
LONDON, UK, 20 JANUARY 2026

LONDON GATWICK

POWERED BY VINCI AIRPORTS | Global Infrastructure Partners a part of BlackRock

- 14-week public consultation on proposals for reintroducing satellite-based navigational procedures to Route 4 - one of nine departure routes from London Gatwick
- Proposal forms part of a UK government programme to modernise the UK's airspace

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London Gatwick is inviting communities and stakeholders to have their say on options for the future operation of Route 4 – one of the departure routes for aircraft flying out of the Airport – as part of an Airspace Change Proposal (ACP).

The 14-week public consultation seeks to gather feedback from communities and stakeholders on proposals for reintroducing satellite-based navigational procedures to Route 4.

Route 4 is one of nine departure routes from London Gatwick. Planes flying Route 4 take-off in a westerly direction from the main runway, before turning 180 degrees northwards and heading east to their final destination.

As part of a UK government programme to modernise the UK's airspace, airports are required to adopt new navigational procedures which use modern, satellite-based technology.

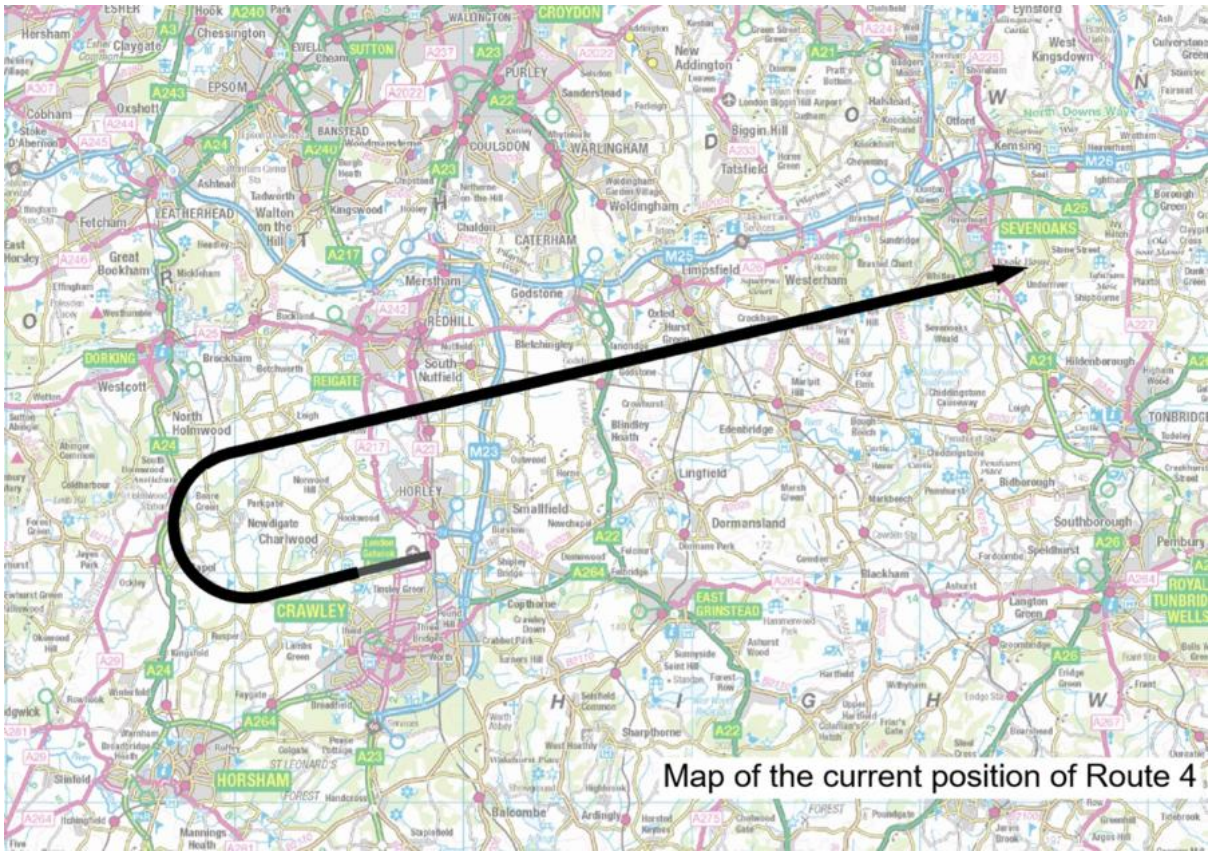
The original Route 4 airspace change was initiated in 2012 and satellite-based navigational procedures were first introduced on all nine departure routes from the Main Runway at London Gatwick, including Route 4, in 2013. However, due to regulatory and legal challenges, this technology was subsequently withdrawn on Route 4 in 2019.

Since then, London Gatwick has undertaken extensive work to progress an ACP to reintroduce the new navigational procedures on Route 4 and overcome issues identified in the legal challenge.

The reintroduction of satellite-based navigational procedures on Route 4 is essential because the ground-based infrastructure which supports conventional navigation is gradually being phased out as part of a national modernisation programme. All of London Gatwick's other arrival and Main Runway departure routes have already successfully adopted the new navigation procedures.

In addition to being a regulatory requirement, the proposals could also help to deliver benefits for some communities including reduced noise and environmental impacts.

A public consultation on the four shortlisted options for the future operation of Route 4 will run from Tuesday 20 January 2026 to 23:59 on Tuesday 28 April 2026. There are a range of ways to take part in the consultation, learn more about the shortlisted options for Route 4, and comment on the proposals.



How can communities and stakeholders take part in the consultation?

Communities and stakeholders can participate in the consultation in various ways, including:

- Attending one of the drop-in consultation events
- Attending one of the online webinars
- Viewing printed copies of the consultation materials at one of the deposit locations

- Visiting the website www.route4acp.co.uk

Residents and stakeholders should provide feedback via the Citizen Space website: route4acp.co.uk

London Gatwick will also accept postal responses to its Freepost address: 'Freepost ROUTE 4 CONSULTATION'. The deadline for providing feedback is 23:59 on Tuesday 28 April 2026.

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.

Residents and stakeholders can contact London Gatwick with questions about this ACP, or request assistance in responding to the consultation, via the following channels:

- Website: route4acp.co.uk
- Email: LGWairspace.Rte4@gatwickairport.com
- Freephone: 0808 303 4560
- Freepost: Freepost ROUTE 4 CONSULTATION

Consultation events:

Date	Time
Thursday 12 February 2026	2pm to 8pm
Saturday 7 March 2026	10am to 4pm
Monday 16 March 2026	2pm to 8pm
Tuesday 24 March 2026	2pm to 8pm

Webinars:

Date	Time	Re
Tuesday 10 February	6pm-7pm	https://events.teams.microsof 493f83cd9c84@873b729
Monday 23 February	11am -12pm	https://events.teams.microsof 6ad8dcfd8aa3@873b729
Wednesday 4 March	7pm-8pm	https://events.teams.microsc ebf5f380630f@873b729
Thursday 12 March	6pm-7pm	https://events.teams.microsof 811d3e22a2b9@873b729
Wednesday 18 March	2pm – 3pm	https://events.teams.microsof a6a6f75678c4@873b729
Thursday 26 March	5:30pm-6:30pm	https://events.teams.microsof 30e67729967f@873b729

Deposit points:

Venue	Address	Openi			
		MON	TUE	WED	T
Dorking Library	St Martin's Walk, Dorking RH4 1UT	09:30-17:30	09:30-19:00	09:30-17:30	09:3
Reigate Library	Bancroft House, Bancroft Road, Reigate RH2 7RP	Closed	09:30-17:00	09:30-17:00	09:3
Horley Library	55-57 Russell Square, Victoria Road, Horley RH6 7QH	Closed	09:30-17:00	09:30-17:00	09:3
Edenbridge Library	The Eden Centre, Four Elms Road, Edenbridge TN8 6BY	09:00-13:00	09:00-17:00	09:00-17:00	09:0

What is Route 4?

Route 4 is one of nine departure routes from London Gatwick. Planes flying Route 4 take-off in a westerly direction from the main runway, before turning 180 degrees northwards and heading east to their final destination.

Further information can be found in our Main Consultation Document on:

- What is airspace?
- Why are changes to Route 4 needed?
- What has happened on Route 4 in the past?
- How does the airspace change process work?
- How long is the public consultation, and what activities are taking place in the public consultation?

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