

Community Noise Report

Breachwood Green
January – March 2025



London Luton Airport

Introduction

As part of the ongoing noise monitoring programme, London Luton Airport deployed a portable noise monitoring terminal in Breachwood Green.

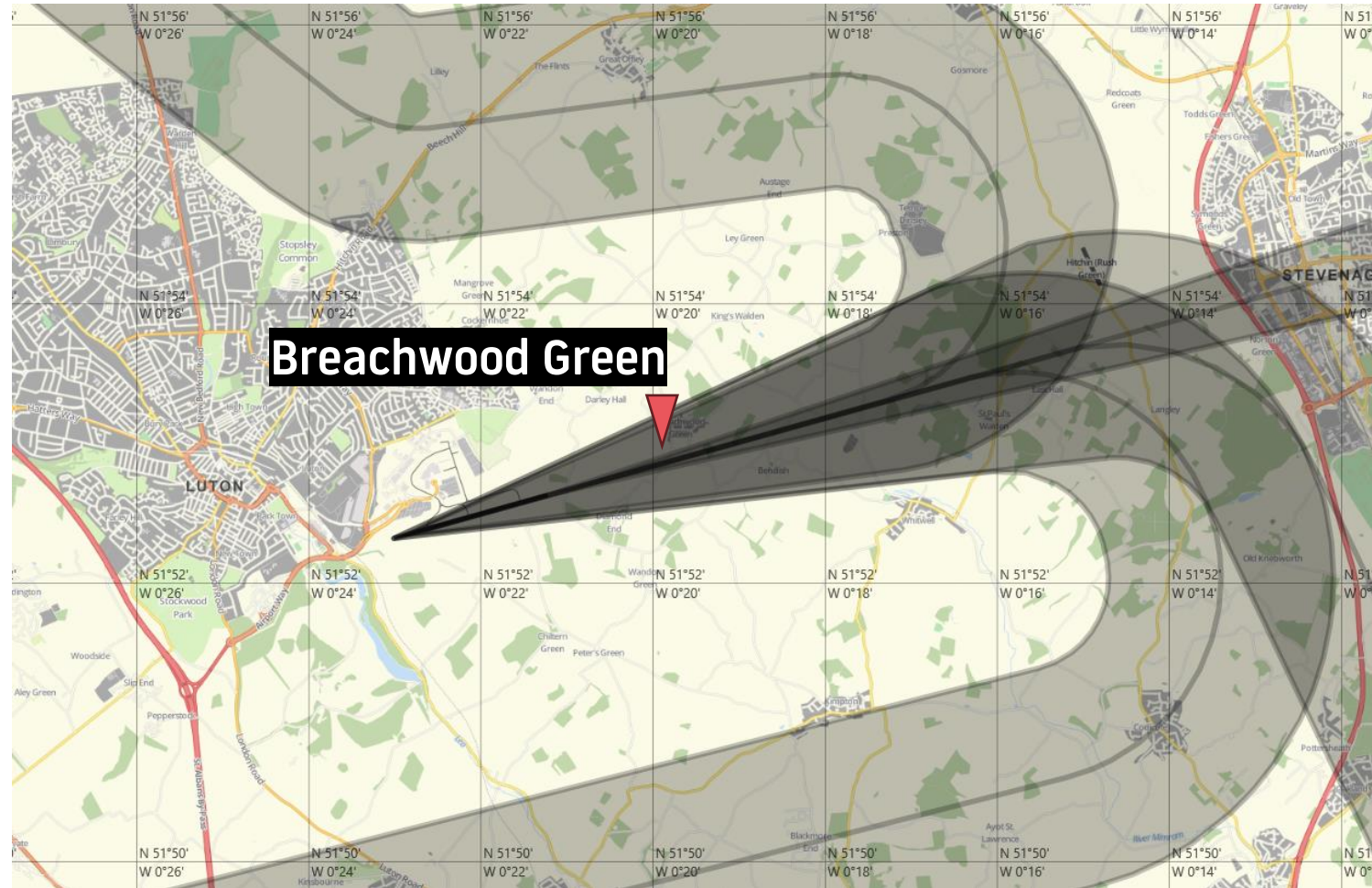
The purpose of the monitoring programme is to understand the typical noise levels created in the local community. **For Breachwood Green it specifically related to Easterly departures and Westerly arrivals. The flightpaths are shown on the map.**

The noise monitor was located at a residential property on Lye Hill, in the middle of the easterly departure and westerly arrival routes, at an altitude of 430 feet above sea level. The red pinpoint on the map shows the noise monitor location.

The noise monitor in Breachwood Green was in place between the 8th January and 31st March 2025.

Aircraft noise and tracks recorded were extracted from LLA's noise and track-keeping system.

This document evaluates the lateral and vertical positioning of aircraft near the monitor as well as the noise recorded at ground level.

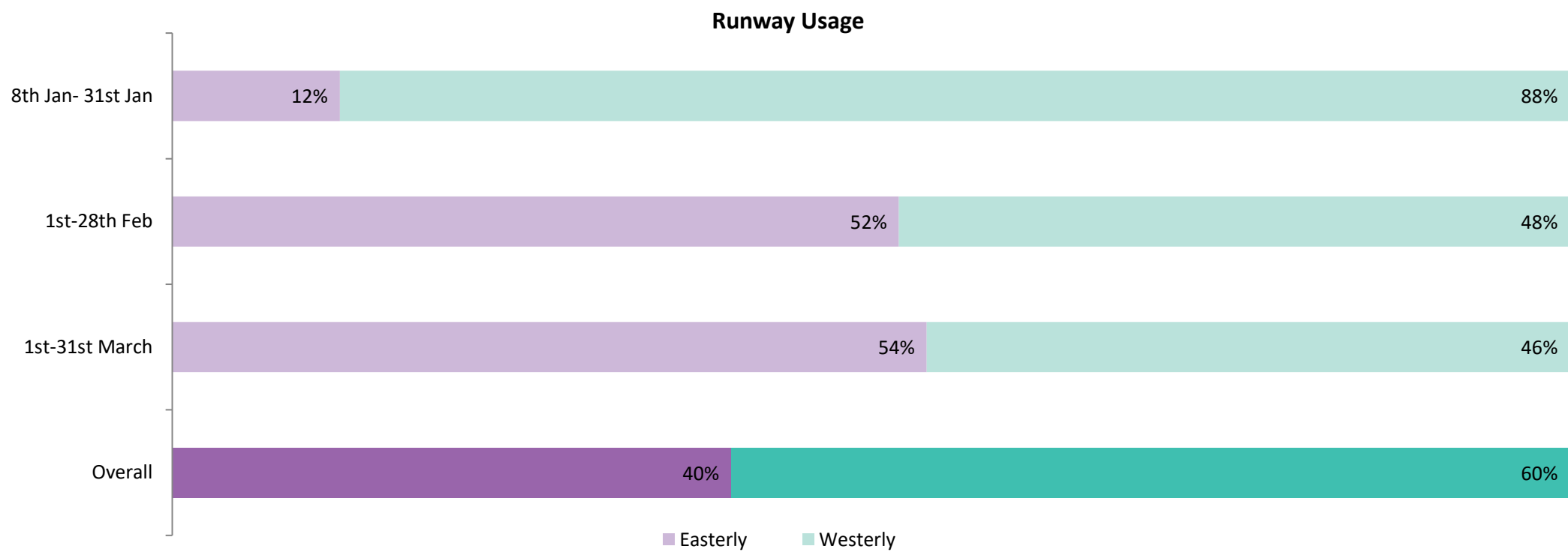


LLA operations during the monitoring period

There are two operating directions at LLA. The operating direction depends on the wind direction as aircraft are required to take off and land into the wind for aircraft performance and safety reasons. These are known as easterly operations and westerly operations and can change the aircraft tracks nearby specific areas. The split in operating direction varies from year to year and month to month. The amount of time that the runway operates in one direction depends on the wind direction.

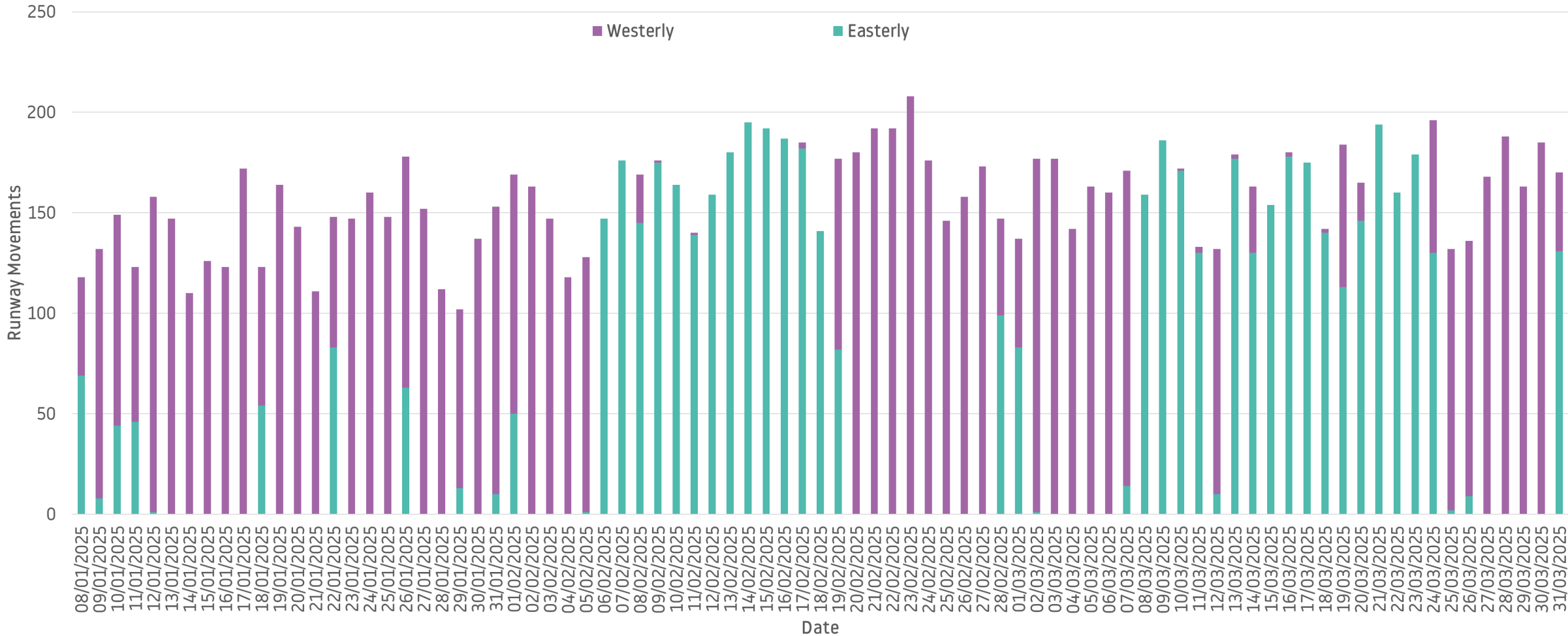
During the period of monitoring, the direction of operation was 40% Easterly and 60% Westerly. The 5-year average for this time of year is 25% easterly vs 75% westerly.

There were 5,577 aircraft departing easterly and 7,566 aircraft arriving on the westerly route in Q1 2024.



Daily Movements during monitoring period

The chart below shows the number of daily easterly and westerly operations. Due to the location, all flights that departed from our westerly runway would have flown above the noise monitor terminal. The graph shows the westerly operations (purple) as well as easterly operations (green) on the other side.

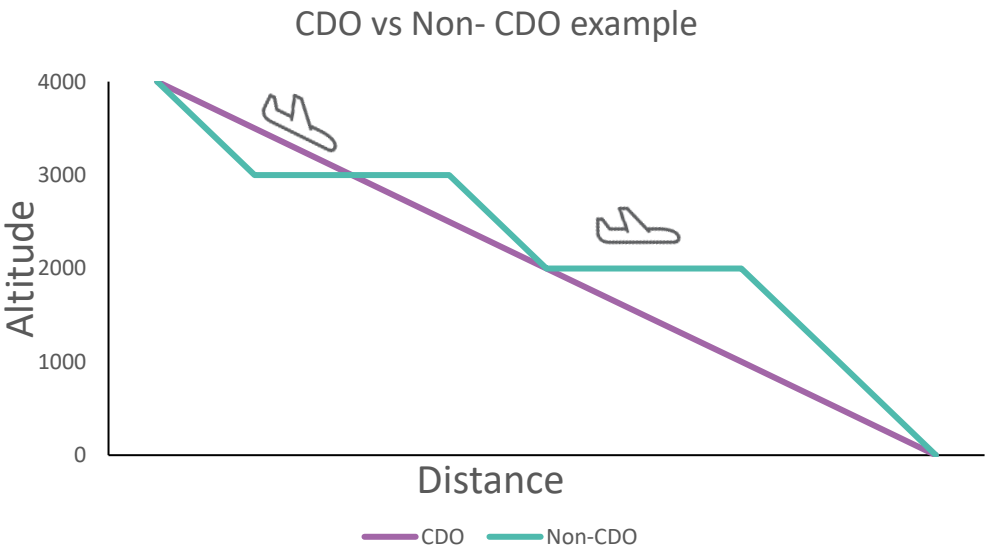
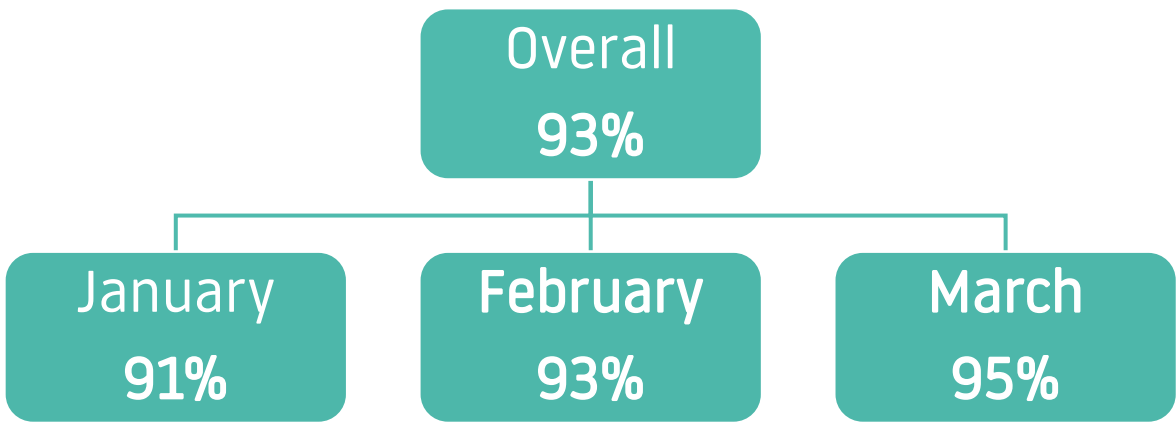


Continuous Descent Operations (CDO)

Continuous Descent Operations (CDO) is an operational technique for arriving aircraft. This form of operation targets noise, fuel and emission reduction. Each time a plane performs level flight it involves increased thrust therefore an increase in fuel consumption and higher noise. A CDA approach is measured from 5,000ft and has no level flight of more than 2.5nm (nautical miles) using minimal thrust.

We continuously monitor this and aim to increase these operations for benefit to all, our target for CDO is 95%. CDO is not always possible for every flight as there are factors that would affect this such as- safe operations of the aircraft, ATC instruction, weather, compliance with procedures etc.

The percentages below detail the CDO achieved during the monitoring period.



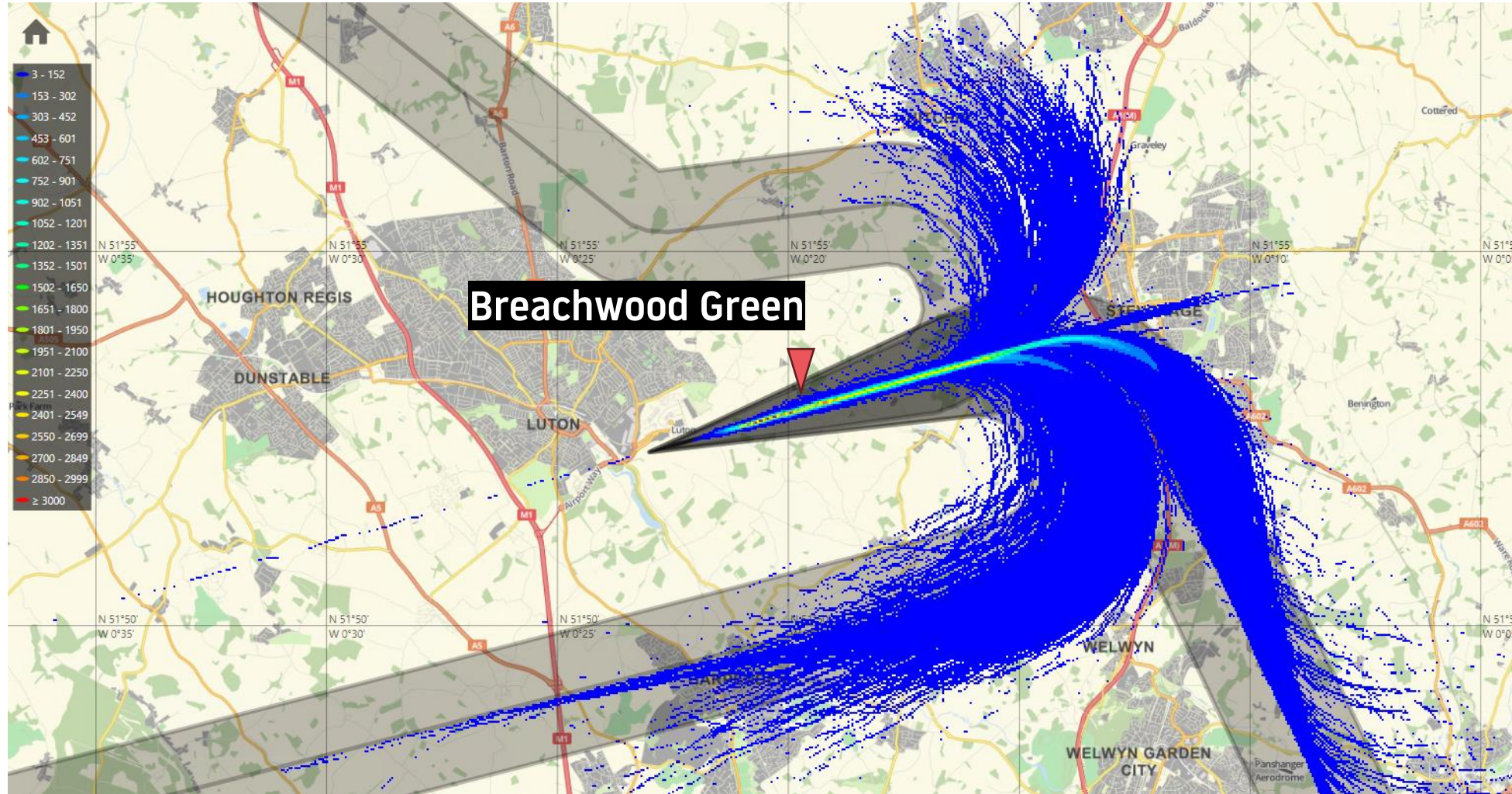
Operations during monitoring period

The graph below represents the average aircraft movement by hours during the monitoring period. Depending on the operating direction on the day, residents in Breachwood Green may experience different flight patterns. During the peak periods, residents of Breachwood Green may notice more frequent aircraft movements. In general, the morning peak starts at 6am on the days of departure operations and these aircraft would be lower at altitude and more noticeable as the dwellings at this location are just next to the westerly departure flightpath. During the night period of 23:00 – 06:00 in the monitoring period, there were average of 6 departures and 15 arrivals.



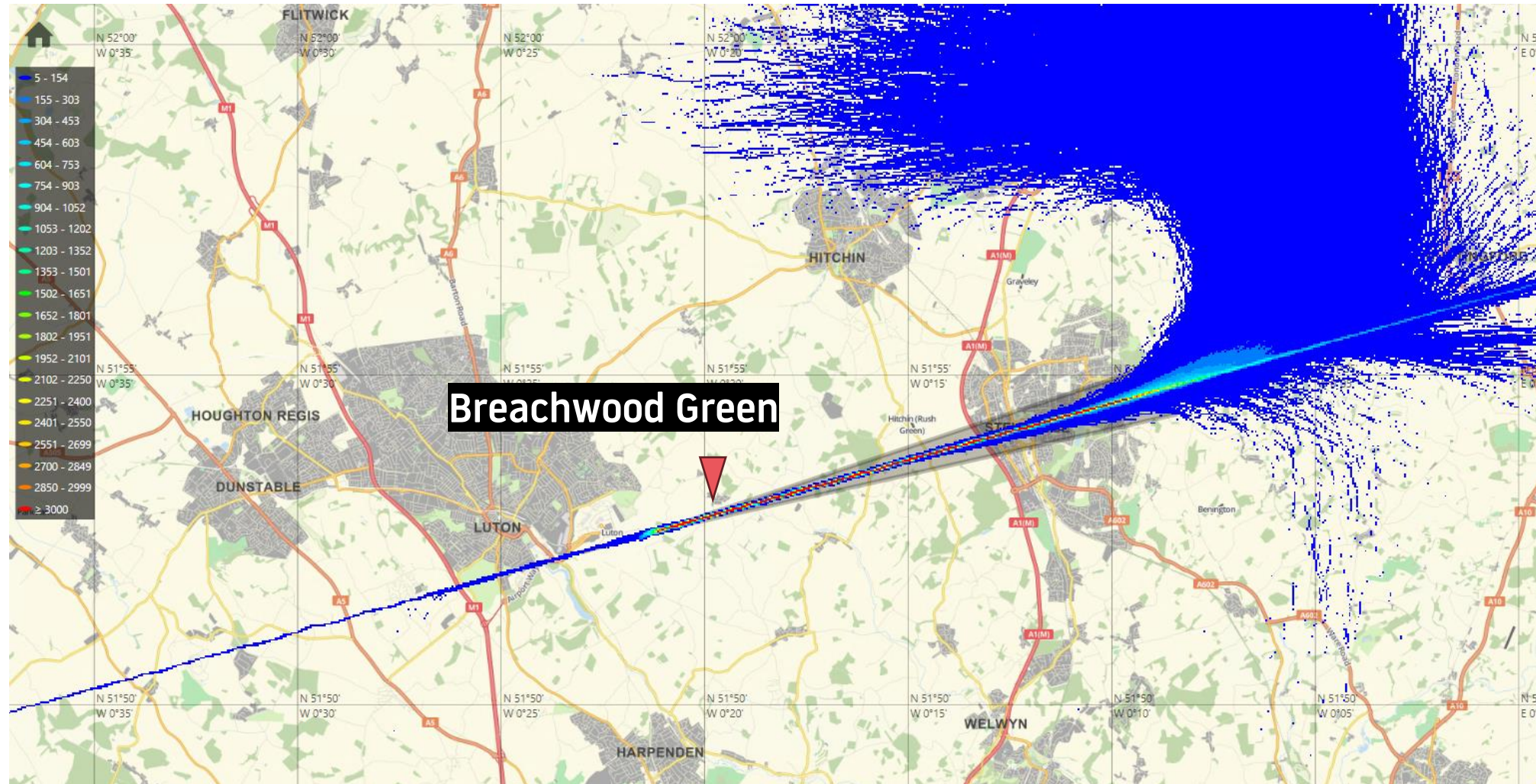
Aircraft Tracks- Easterly departures

The heat map below shows the representative flight tracks that passed near the noise monitor terminals during the monitoring period. The red pinpoint indicates the location of the noise monitor in Breachwood Green. This map shows the path of easterly departures.



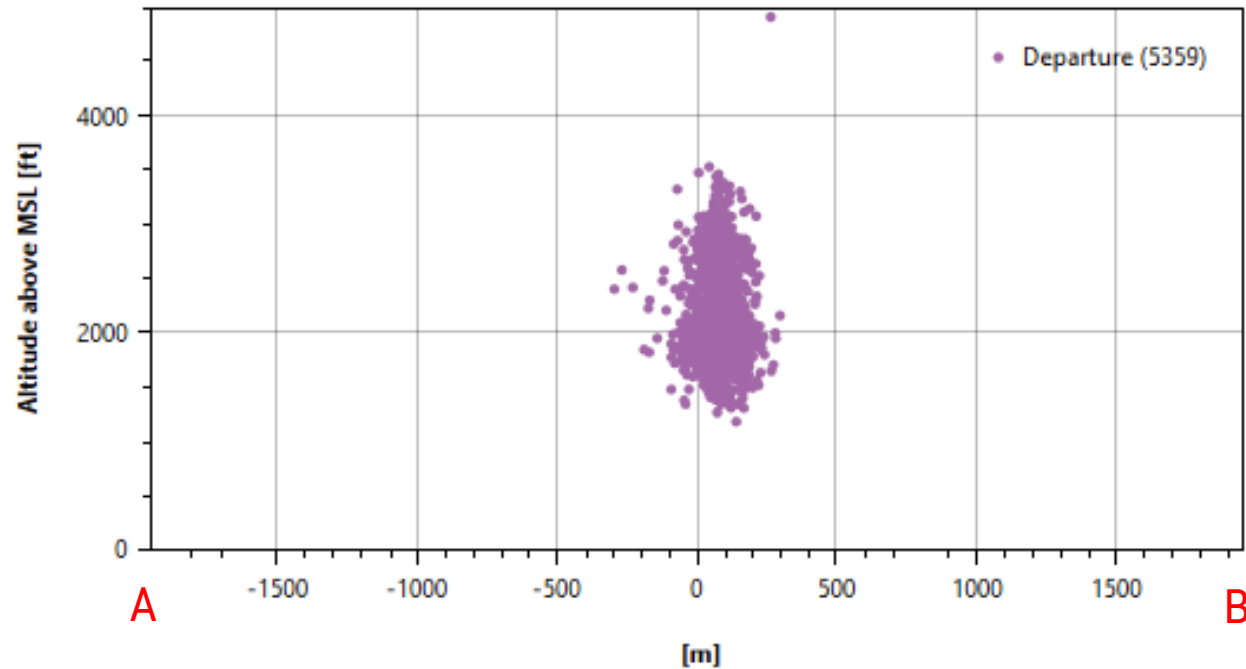
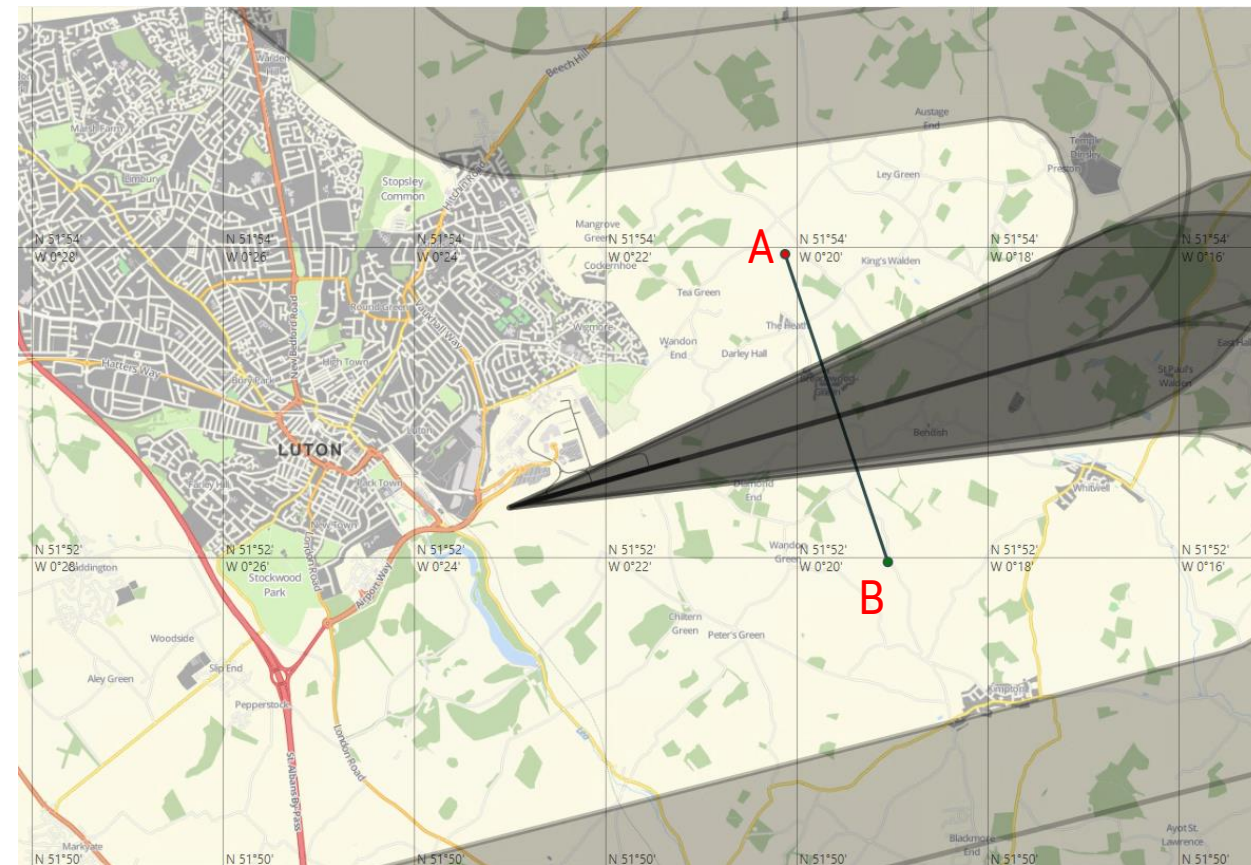
Aircraft Tracks- Westerly arrivals

The heat map below shows the representative flight tracks that passed near the noise monitor terminals during the monitoring period. The red pinpoint indicates the location of the noise monitor in Breachwood Green. This map shows the path of westerly arrivals.



Altitude Gate Analysis- Easterly departures

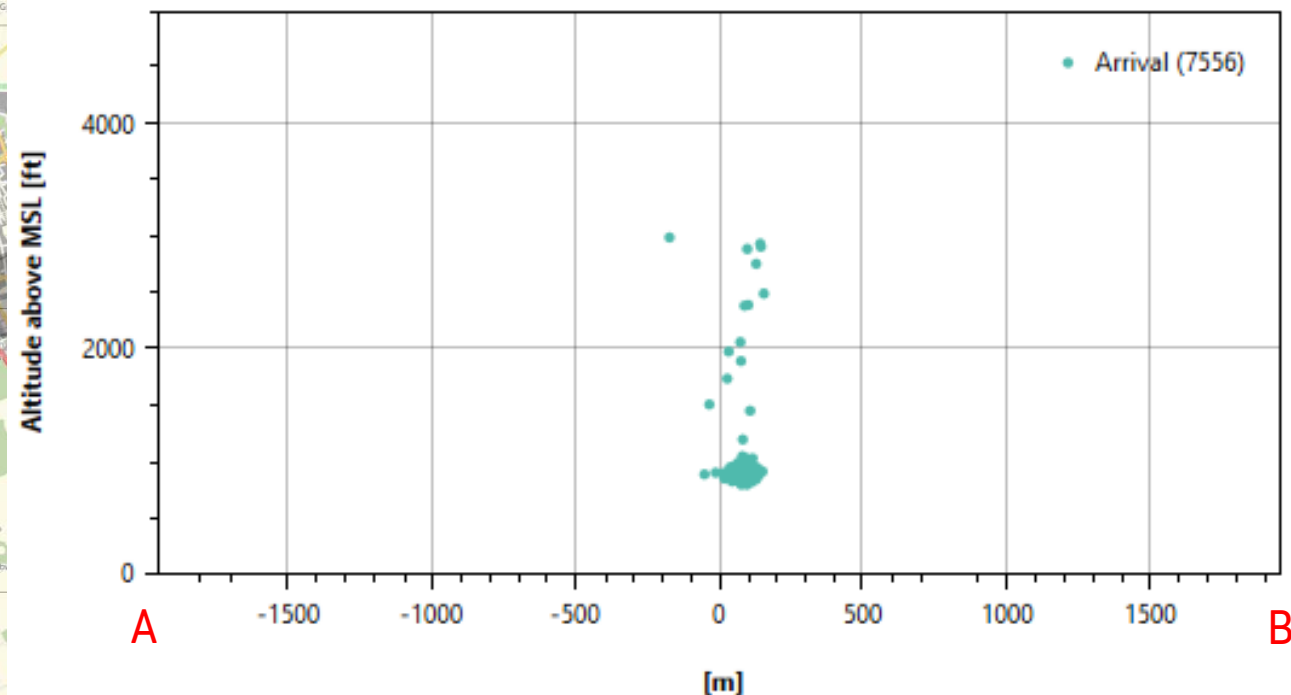
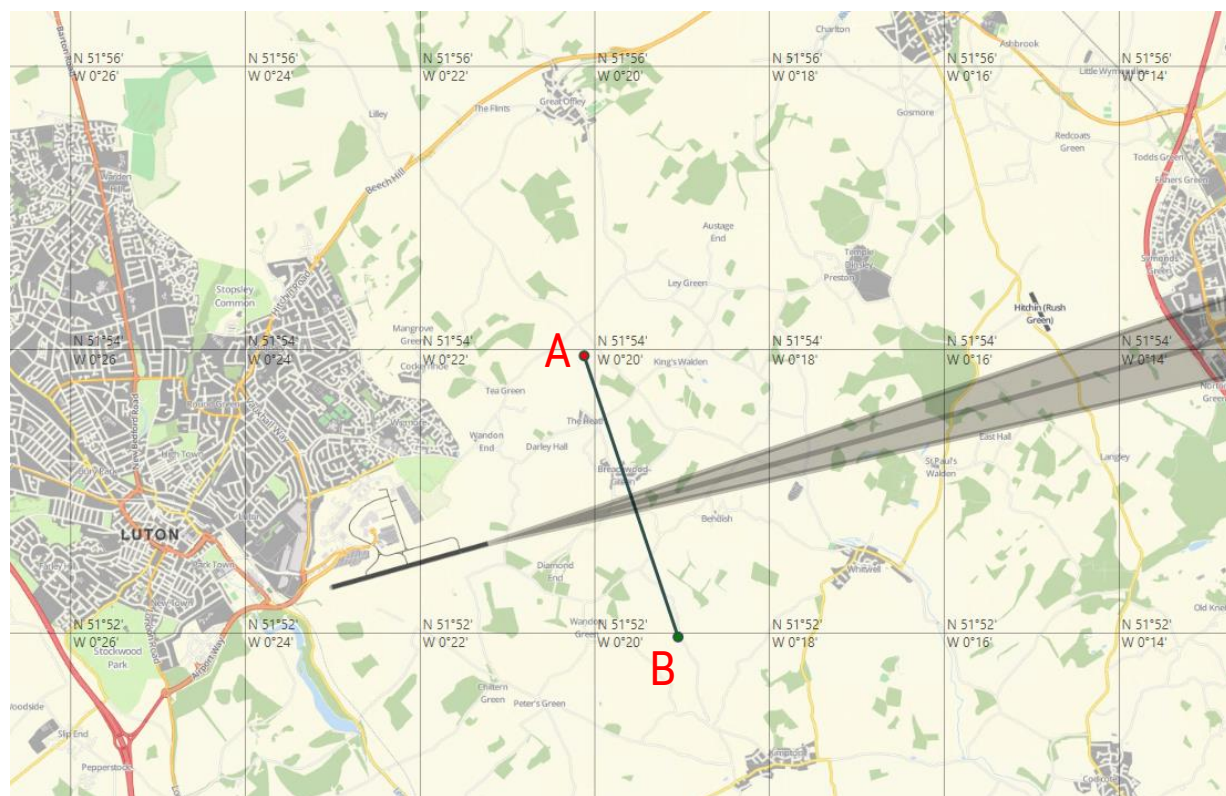
The altitude analysis for Breachwood Green, shows the vertical and lateral dispersion of aircraft 2km either side of the noise monitor. The map below shows the 4km gate (blue line) which is drawn perpendicular to the NPR from northwest to southeast and it gathered information of every aircraft passing through the gate area. The scatter graph below shows the distance and altitude of aircraft from the noise monitor during the monitoring period. Residents in Breachwood Green will see aircraft flying over them on the days of easterly operations for departing aircraft.



Altitude Gate Analysis- Westerly arrivals

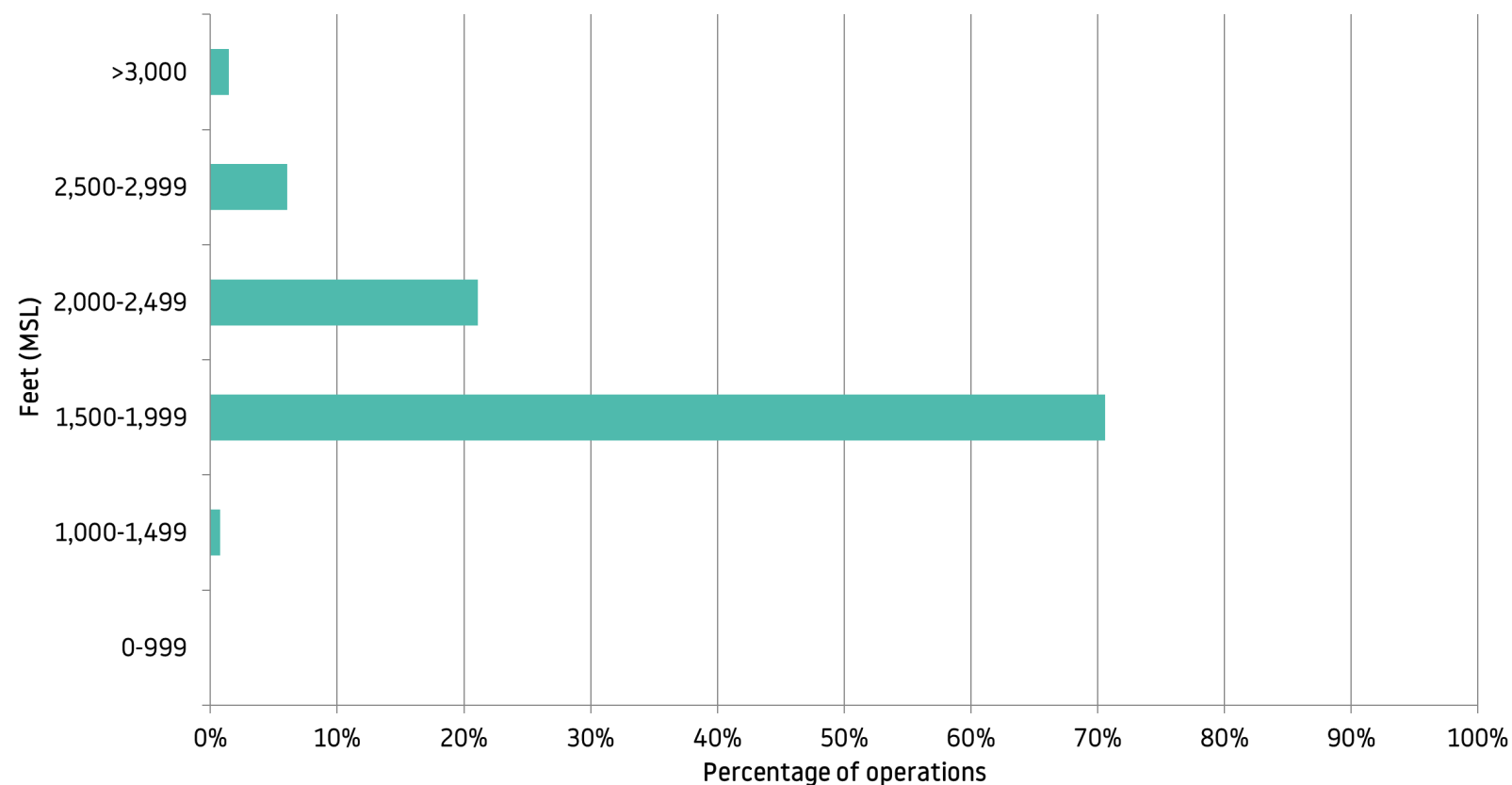
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Aircraft at higher altitude will be go-arounds and other traffic passing through the gate.



Altitude Gate Analysis – Easterly Departures

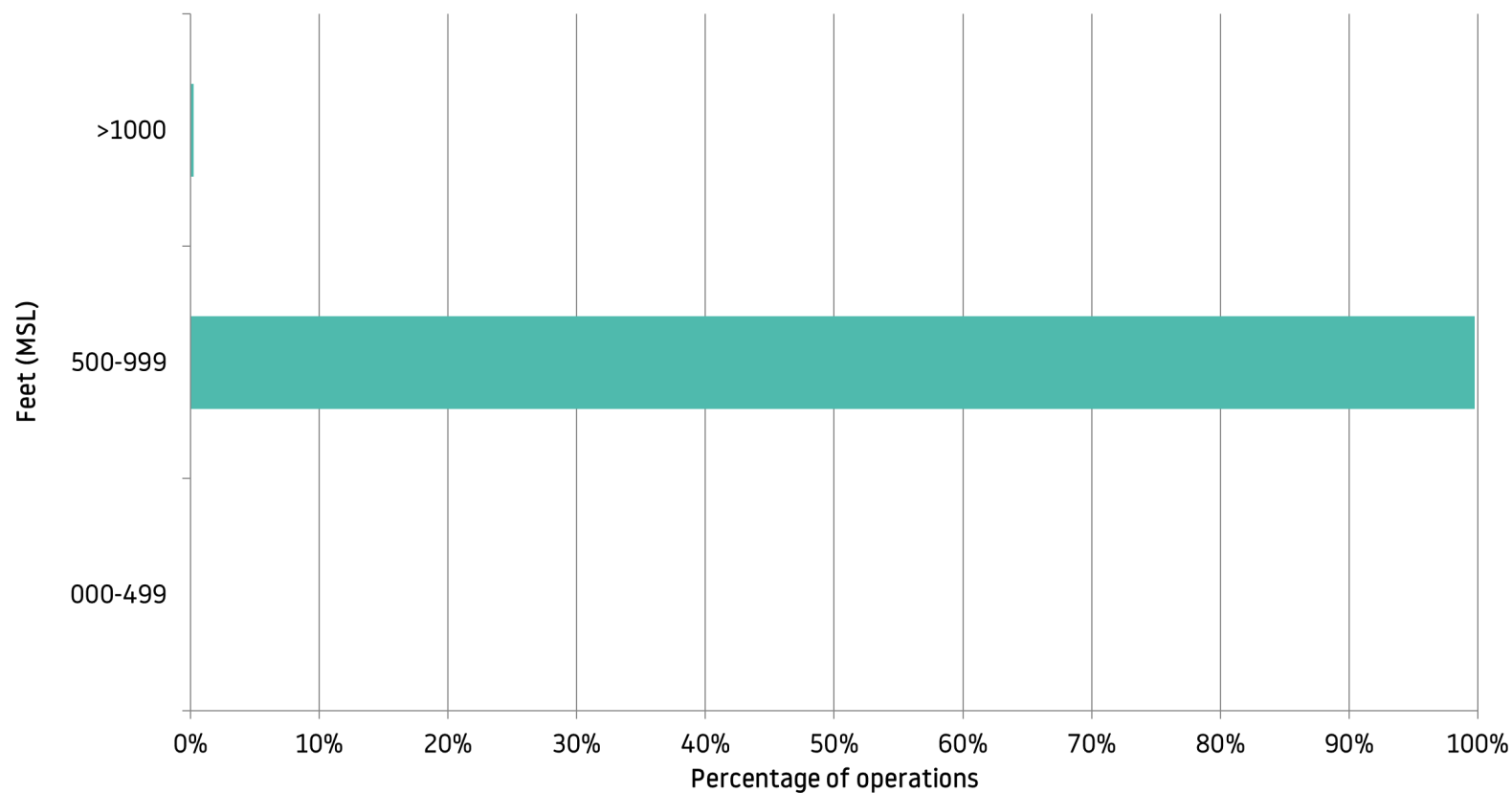
The average altitude of aircraft was 2,064 feet AMSL (1,634 feet AGL) when they reach above the noise monitor above Breachwood Green. The bar chart on the below shows the percentage rate and altitude of aircraft arriving.



Aircraft Type	Number of movements detected	Average Altitude (AMSL in ft)
A306	50	2,601
A319	631	1,841
A320 CEO	875	1,924
A320 NEO (A20N)	777	1,908
A321 CEO	222	1,968
A321 NEO (A21N)	1,151	1,853
B737-800 NG (B738)	342	1,937
B737 Max 8 (B38M)	304	1,901
Global Express (GLEX)	133	2,227
Cessna 560X (C56X)	122	2,478
All	4,607	2,064

Altitude Gate Analysis – Westerly Arrivals

The average altitude of aircraft was 886 feet AMSL (456 feet AGL) when they reach above the noise monitor above Breachwood Green. The bar chart on the below shows the percentage rate and altitude of aircraft arriving.



Aircraft Type	Number of movements detected	Average Altitude (AMSL in ft)
A306	83	889
A319	725	881
A320 CEO	1,152	881
A320 NEO (A20N)	1,056	891
A321 CEO	303	868
A321 NEO (A21N)	1,726	894
B737-800 NG (B738)	425	886
B737 Max 8 (B38M)	419	879
Global Express (GLEX)	210	884
Cessna 560X (C56X)	109	908
All	6,208	886

How we analyse the noise data

Following the noise monitoring period, we collate the data taken from our Noise and Track Keeping system and analyse the noise reading samples.

During the monitoring period in Breachwood Green, the noise monitoring terminal collected 12,871 readings. During the period, there were 5,577 easterly departures and 7,566 westerly arrivals.

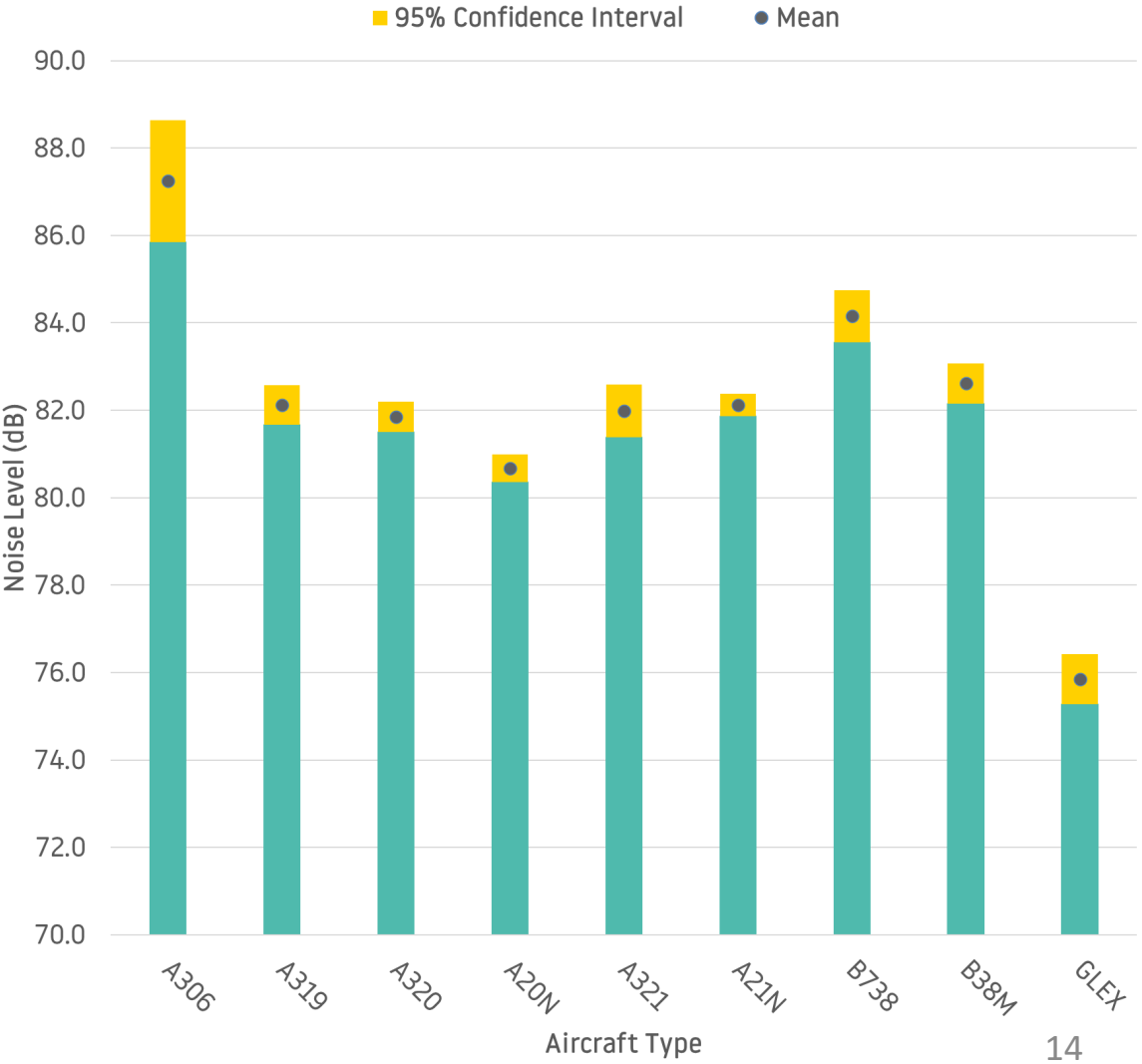
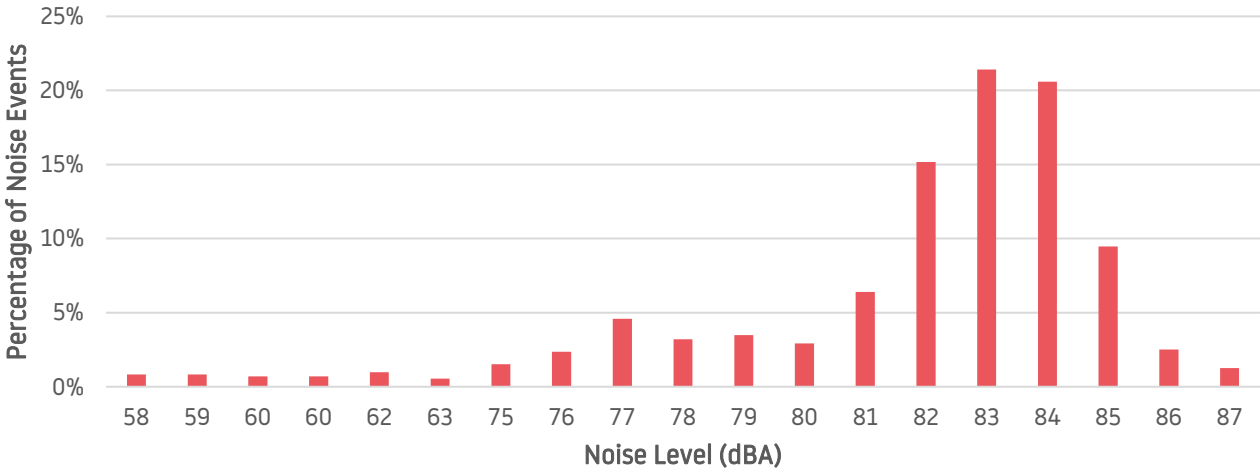
It is noteworthy that the noise monitor may not be able to record every aircraft noise event if the aircraft noise level is below ambient background noise or aircraft following a different route and not through the gate selected. Therefore, there may be a difference between the number of actual air transport movements and number of aircraft noise events collected during the monitoring period.

The weather also plays a big part in the data recorded and in periods of extreme weather i.e (very strong winds) the equipment can record noise incorrectly, so we exclude samples from the analysis during these weather conditions. When analysing the samples, the first thing we do is to ensure that there is no unusual noise event present which might not be caused by aircraft (i.e. vehicles or wildlife). A total of 601 recordings were excluded from the analysis for the above reasons.

Noise Results – Westerly Arrivals

During the monitoring period, the noise recording samples were gathered from the most popular aircraft types at London Luton Airport*. The summary of the noise results is shown in this section. The tables show the average noise by aircraft type and the bar chart shows the uncertainty caused by the spread in readings and the sample size (95% confidence interval).

Aircraft Type	Number of movements	Average Noise (dB)
A306	54	87.2
A319	711	82.1
A320 CEO	1,071	81.9
A320 NEO (A20N)	1,033	80.7
A321 CEO	294	82.0
A321 NEO (A21N)	1,578	82.1
B737-800 NG (B738)	372	84.2
B737 Max 8 (B38M)	374	82.6
GLEX	208	75.8
All	5,695	82.1

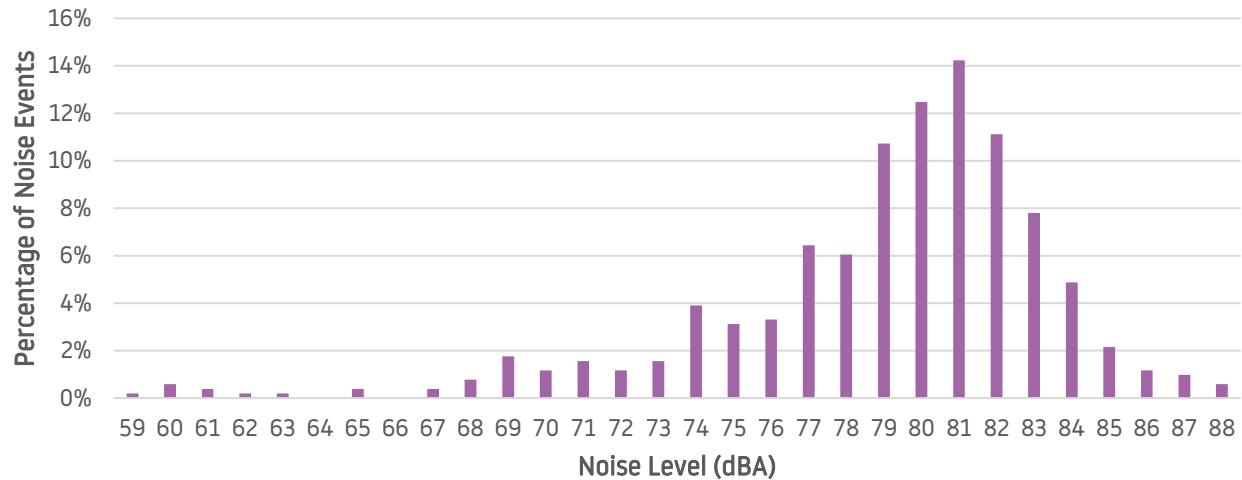


*The noise results shown in the analysis are only for those aircraft types that recorded more than 200 events per aircraft. A306 included for comparison.

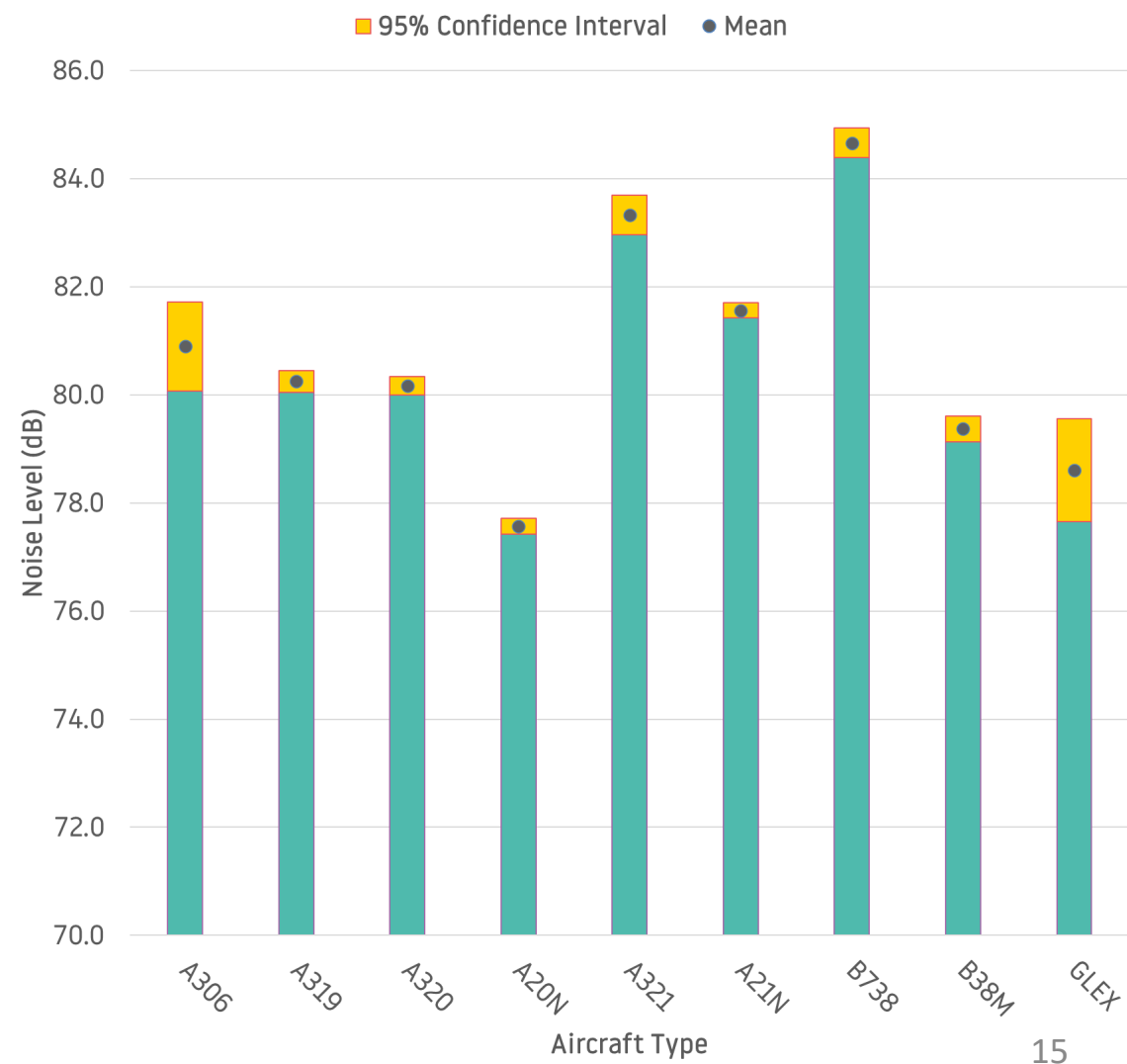
Noise Results – Easterly Departures

During the monitoring period, the noise recording samples were gathered from the most popular aircraft types at London Luton Airport*. The summary of the noise results is shown in this section. The tables show the average noise by aircraft type and the bar chart shows the uncertainty caused by the spread in readings and the sample size (95% confidence interval).

Aircraft Type	Number of movements	Average Noise (dB)
A306	44	80.9
A319	588	80.2
A320 CEO	814	80.2
A320 NEO (A20N)	727	77.6
A321 CEO	203	83.3
A321 NEO (A21N)	1,071	81.6
B737-800 NG (B738)	301	84.7
B737 Max 8 (B38M)	278	79.4
GLEX	133	78.6
All	4,159	80.7



*The noise results shown in the analysis are only for those aircraft types that recorded more than 100 events per aircraft. A306 included for comparison.



Noise Results - Summary

- The average arrival noise in Breachwood Green was 82.1dB, based on a sample size of 5,695.
- The average departure noise in Breachwood Green was 80.7dB based on a sample size of 4,159.
- From the results, Breachwood Green’s most popular aircraft type by operators include Airbus and Boeing.
 - Airbus operate the A320 CEO, A321 CEO and Boeing the B738-800NG.
 - Both Airbus and Boeing also operate the newer generation aircraft. Airbus- A320 NEO (A20N) and A321 NEO (A21N). Boeing- operate the new B737 Max 8.
 - These newer generation aircraft are quieter and more fuel efficient which also impacts the reduction in emissions.
- The table below shows the 6 types of aircraft operated by Airbus and Boeing, with three of the aircraft A20N, A21N and B38M being the newer and more efficient aircraft. It breaks down these results by showing both their arrival and departure decibel (dB) levels. In red/ green it shows the difference between the older and newer generation aircraft in their arrivals and departures.
- Around 50% of all noise results movements were newer generation aircraft which are more fuel efficient and quieter.

Aircraft type	Arrival dB	Departure dB	New aircraft type	Arrival dB	Departure dB
A320	81.9dB	80.2dB	A320N (A20N)	80.7dB (-1.2dB)	77.6dB (-2.6dB)
A321	82.0dB	83.3dB	A321N (A21N)	82.1dB (+0.1dB)	81.6dB (-1.7dB)
B738	84.2dB	84.7dB	B737 MAX8 (B38M)	82.6B (-1.6dB)	79.4dB (-5.3dB)

Conclusion

- A mobile noise monitor was installed at a residential property on Lye Hill from the 8th January to 31st March 2025.
- For Breachwood Green, it specifically related to easterly departures and westerly arrivals. During the monitoring period, the airport operated in the direction of easterly and westerly for 40% and 60% of the time, respectively. Generally, over the year, LLA operate in the westerly direction for 70% of the time due to the prevailing wind.
- The main aircraft type operating at London Luton Airport is the Airbus A320 CEO which produced an average noise of 80.2dB for departures and 81.9dB for arrivals.
- 51% of the noise events recorded in Breachwood Green were created by the newer generation aircraft, A320 NEO, A321 NEO and B737 Max 8. The A320 NEO registered average departing noise of 77.6dB, 2.6dB lower than A320 CEOs.
- During the monitoring period, 20 aircraft were investigated as part of the Noise and Track violation scheme. Of these, 12 aircraft were fined. All fines generated by this scheme go directly into the community trust fund, more information on the community trust fund can be found on <https://www.london-luton.co.uk/corporate/community/community-trust-fund>.
- LLA publish other monitoring reports on a regular basis. These reports can be viewed and downloaded from the Noise webpage on the LLA website - <https://www.london-luton.co.uk/corporate/community/noise>.

Glossary of Terms

Westerly Operations: As aircraft take off and land into the wind, westerly operations refers to the time when the wind is blowing from the west and aircraft follow the departure route in the direction of South Luton.

Easterly Operations: Easterly operations refers to the time when the wind is blowing from the east and aircraft land on the easterly runway and would fly above South Luton.

Standard Instrument Departure (SID): Published route that an aircraft must follow on departure.

Noise Preferential Route (NPR): All aircraft except propeller aircraft leaving London Luton Airport should follow flight paths known as Noise Preferential Routes (NPRs) up to an altitude of 3,000 feet or 4,000 feet depending on the route. They lead from the runway to the main UK air traffic routes and form the first part of the Standard Instrument Departure routes (SIDs).

Aircraft Movement: A single aircraft departing or arriving at the airport.

Altitude Gate Analysis: A gate which is drawn across an area and will gather flight data about every aircraft passing through the gate area.

Noise Event: A single event is the period from when an aircraft approaches the monitor until when the aircraft is leaving the area.

Decibel (dB): The unit used to measure noise (typically 50-60dB is equivalent to a normal conversation level).

LasMax: A unit of measure and is the maximum noise level from a single aircraft passing over the noise monitor.

95% Confidence Interval: A range of values that you can be 95% certain contains the population mean.

