

Noisy changes are in the air for tranquil Dedham

168 extra flights a week forecast under flight paths revision

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AN area of outstanding natural beauty could see an increase in flights across its path under proposed airspace changes.

A consultation has been launched to assess the impact changes to London City and London Biggin Hill arrivals will have on north Essex.

The proposed flight path changes would see traffic for the airports cross the Dedham Vale area of outstanding natural beauty.

There would be an extra two flights per hour in the daytime – the equivalent to 168 extra flights a week.

The Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley project will



Flight path: The River Stour, in Dedham.

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raise its concerns during the consultation.

Nigel Chapman, chairman of the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

joint advisory committee, said: "We have just received the London Airspace Consultation and we will be responding to it.

"Our main concern will be to ensure the tranquillity of Dedham Vale and Stour Valley is not compromised by the proposals.

"We will be looking closely at any changes to the local noise and visual impact of the proposed flight paths."

The National Air Traffic Service wants to change how the hundreds of thousands of planes are managed in the skies above the South East.

It says the new system would be more efficient and environmentally friendly, but some people living under new flight paths would hear and see more aircraft overhead.

A spokesman said: "This system means a flight path somewhere in the vicinity of

Dedham Vale, but at high level, typically above 12,000ft and involving, on average, two aircraft per hour.

"These aircraft would be generally smaller and quieter than aircraft on other routes in this area; for example, the most common type arriving at London City Airport are Embraer 170/190.

"We have not yet finalised the position of the route."

The consultation, which ends on January 21, will look at areas of airspace, rather than individual routes, with final positions determined by feedback given during the consultation.

For more information and to have your say, visit londonairspaceconsultation.co.uk.

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