

Downham Flights



You've probably already seen this map. It shows the flight pattern at Heathrow when a west wind is blowing (around 70% of the time in a typical year). The red lines are landings; the green ones take-offs. Downham gets landings during a west wind and may from time to time get take-offs when an east wind is blowing but the planes will be higher.

As you can see, you are impacted by flights which come from the Epsom stack in the south west and the Biggin Hill stack in the south east. Although there are no set routes, the planes typically turn over Croydon and then head north. They then turn over the Downham area or do a tighter turn over the Norwood Junction area.

They are making for their final approach path to Heathrow. Those making the tighter turn tend to join it around the Dulwich area. Those making the wider turn join it further out in Brockley or Greenwich. We published a report recently which showed a large increase in the number of flights over Brockley and Greenwich:

<http://hacan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Corridors-of-Concentration-Report.pdf> . This would suggest that there have been more planes over Downham than there were in the past. I went on to xplane, set up by Heathrow, which shows aircraft over a particular area over the past 6 year. You'll find it on

<http://xplane.bksv.com/> . You can enter your postcode to see what has been happening over you.

But, of course, as you will see from the map, Brockley and Greenwich also get a lot of planes coming off the NW and NE stacks. In fact, the NE stack over Epping is by some distance the busiest of the four. Although the number of planes turning over Brockley and Greenwich to join their final approach path has increased in recent years, there are still a lot of planes turning further in.

I can't find evidence that Downham is getting more of the larger planes than other areas. Having said that, the evidence is hard to come by one way or another. But I did look carefully at Heathrow's Webtrak - <https://webtrak.emsbk.com> (which shows the type of plane flying over an area) - and it doesn't seem to show that Downham is getting more of the larger planes than other areas.

I hope all this helps.

John Stewart