

Heights of Aircraft Arriving at Heathrow since 2010

A short investigation by HACAN

We looked at three places:

Leytonstone, in North East London, 20 miles* from Heathrow

Stockwell, in South London, 15 miles from Heathrow

Kew Green, in West London, 7 miles from Heathrow

*but about 25 miles in reality as the aircraft don't take the most direct route

What we looked at:

We took an address in each area and looked at the aircraft coming within a radius of 0.5 miles of it on the same three days in 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2019.

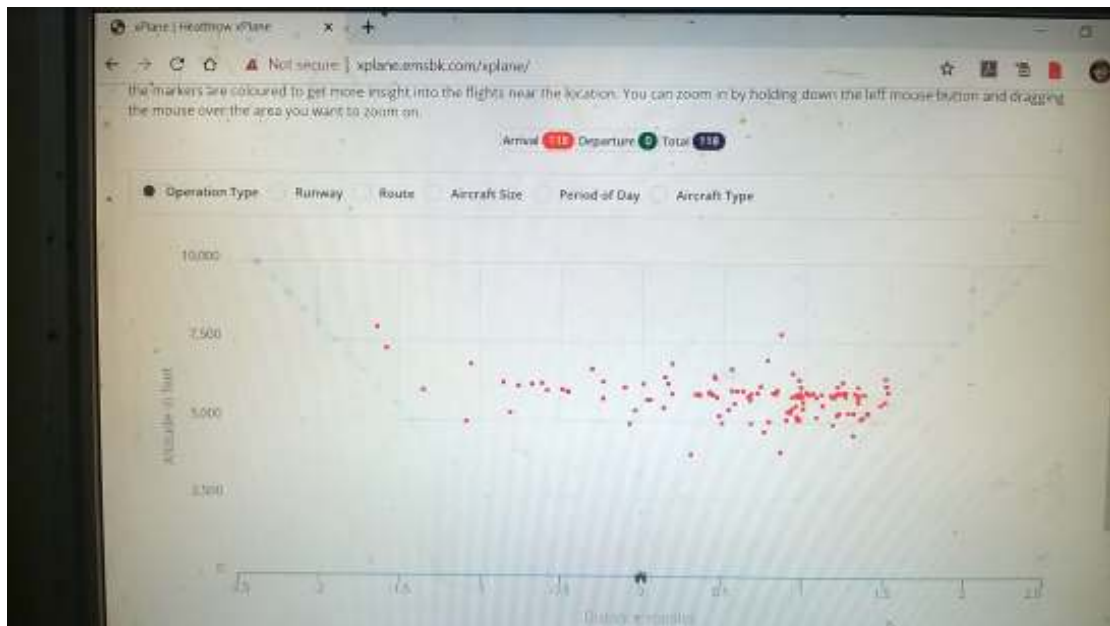
We also looked at the size of the planes landing at Heathrow.

All the data is from Heathrow's xplane: <http://xplane.emsbk.com/xplane/>

In summary we found:

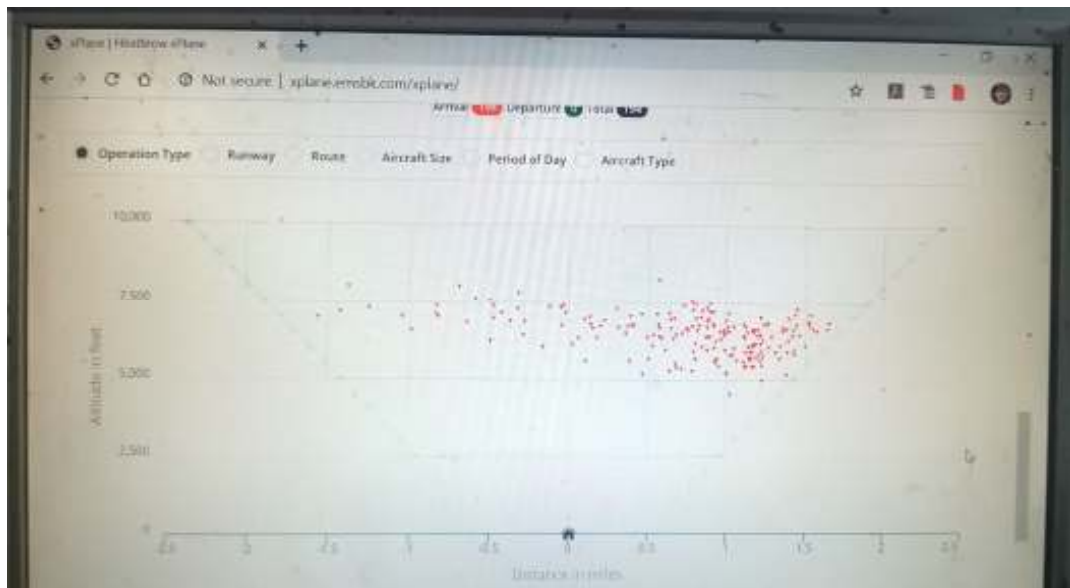
- The heights of the planes have not changed significantly over the last decade
- There has been an increase in the number of 'super heavy' aircraft landing at the airport
- The increase in larger, heavy aircraft could explain the persistent comments we get from residents that planes are lower.

Leytonstone



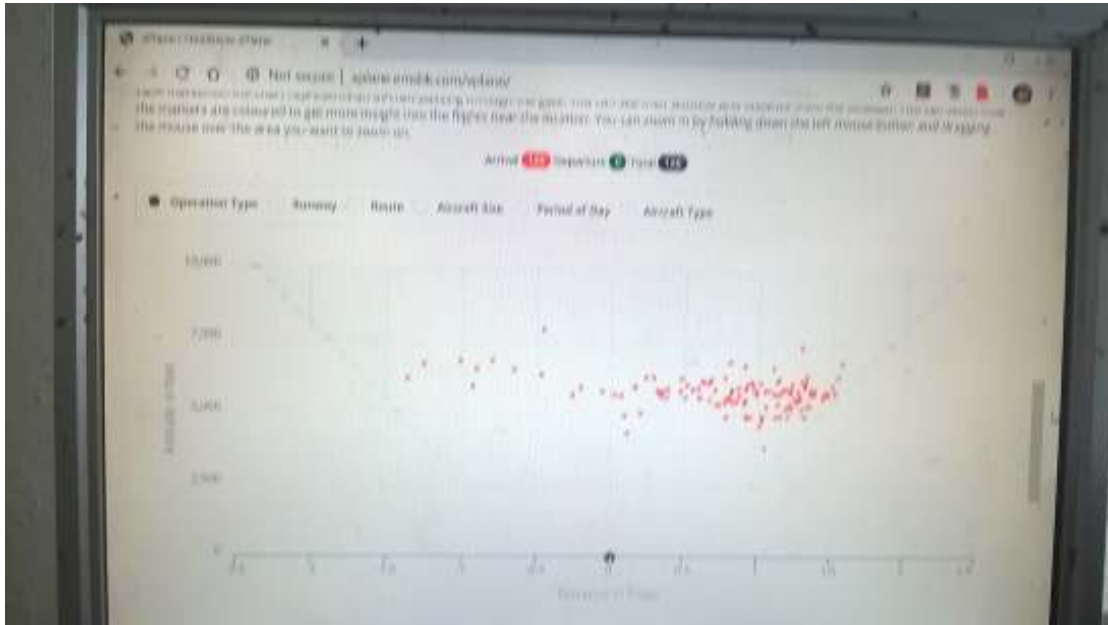
October 24/25/26 2010: 118 planes in total

Heights: Majority of planes 5,000 – 6,000ft



October 14/15/16 2012: 194 planes in total

Heights: majority between 5,500 and 6,500



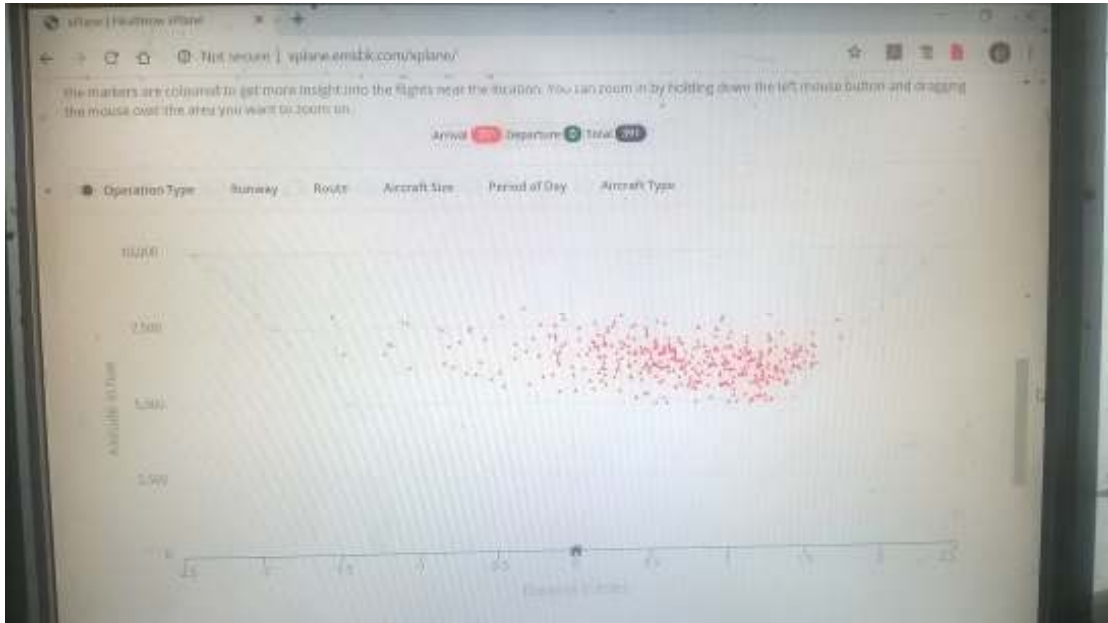
October 22/23/24 2014: 126 planes in total

Heights: majority between 5,000 and 6,000



October 18/19/20 2016: 165 planes in total

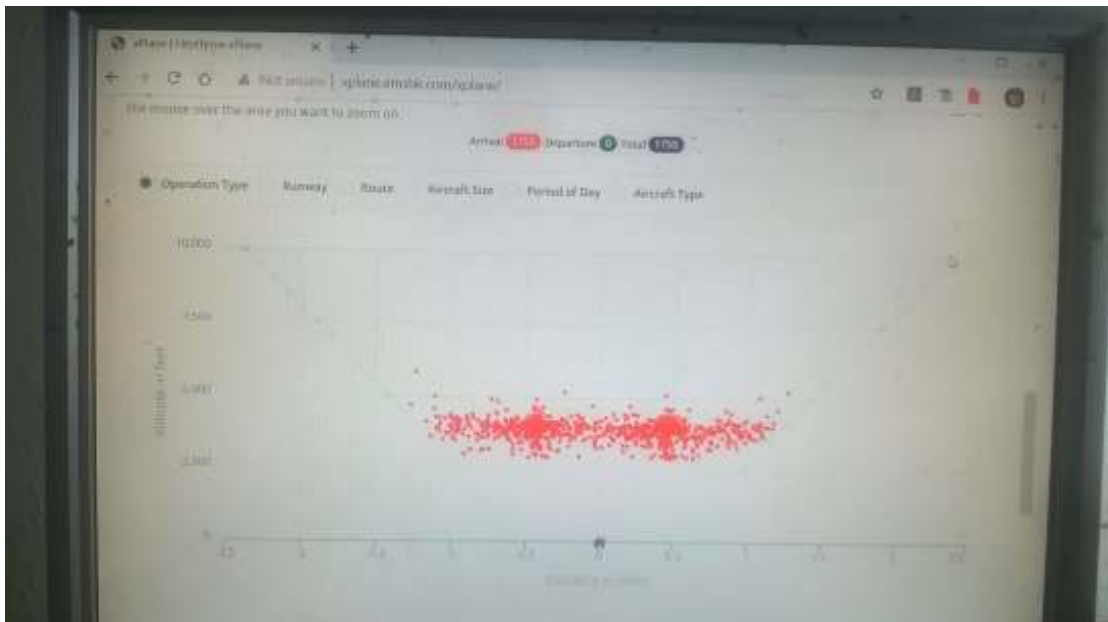
Heights: majority between 5,000 and 6,000



October 7/8/9 2019: 391 planes in total

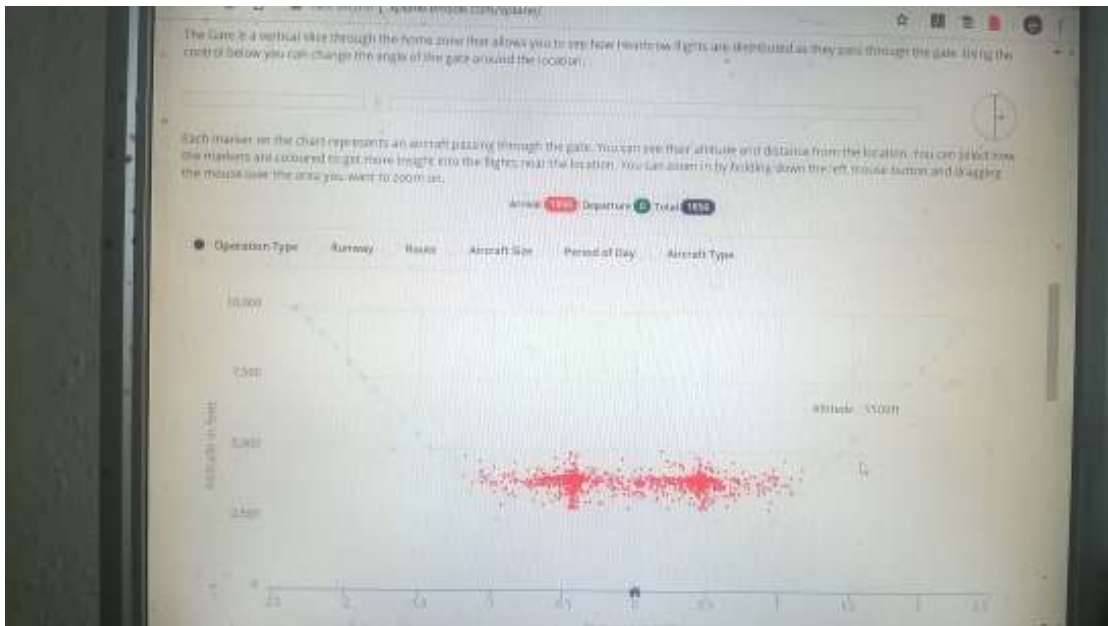
Heights: majority between 5,000 and 7,000

Stockwell



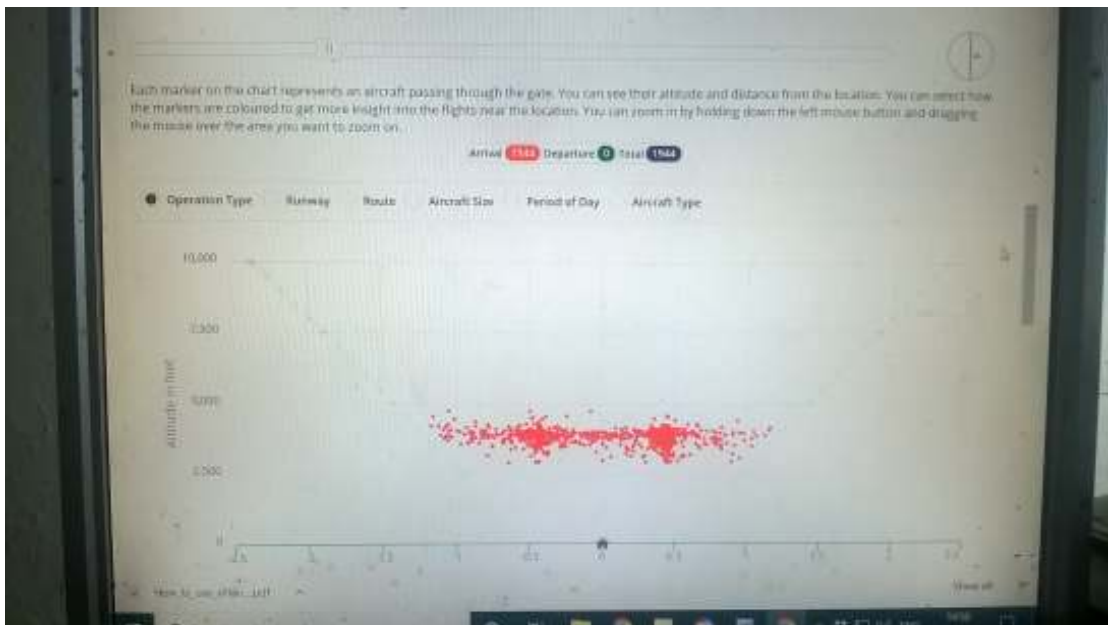
October 24/25/26 2010: 1755 planes in total

Heights: Majority of planes 3,000 – 4,000ft
(most just under 4,000ft)



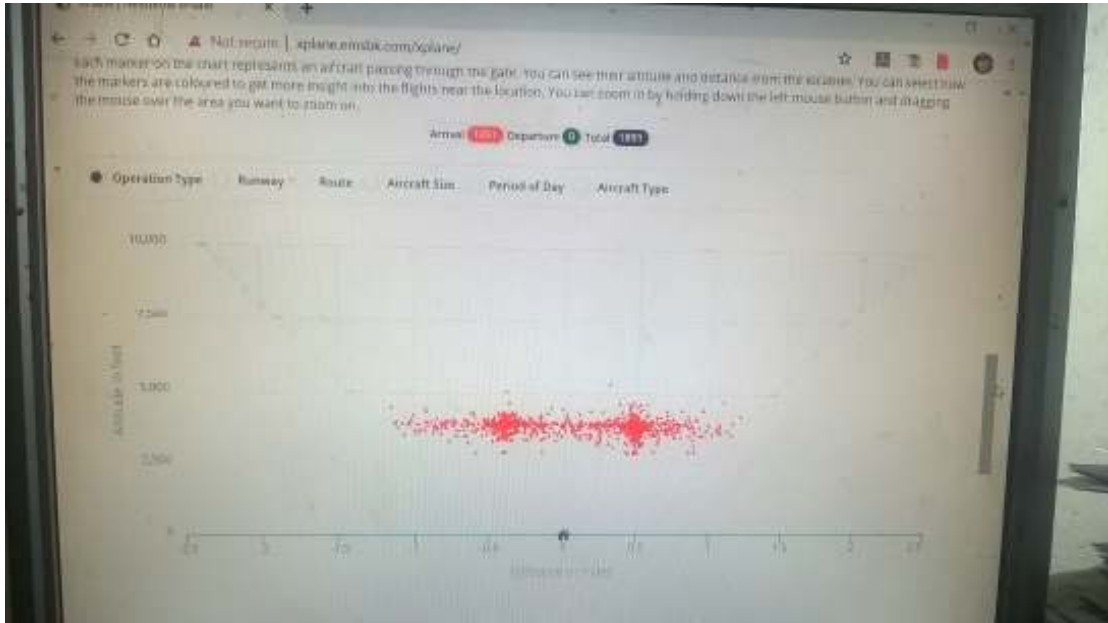
October 14/15/16 2012: 1856 planes in total

Heights: majority between 3,000 and 4,000
(most just under 4,000ft)



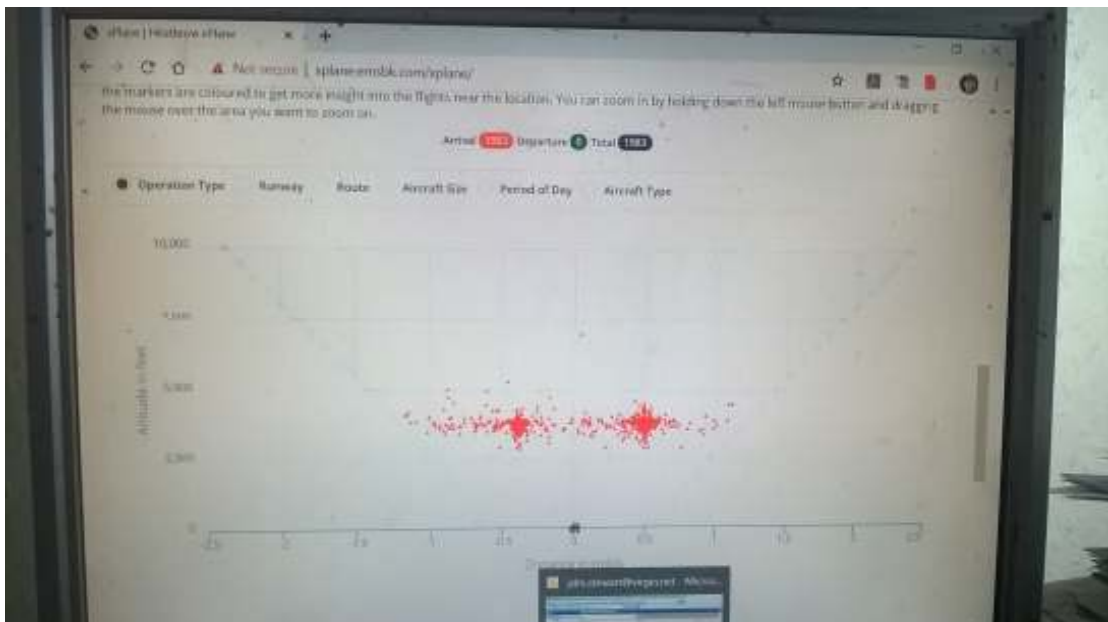
October 22/23/24 2014: 1944 planes in total

Heights: majority between 3,200 and 4,200



October 18/19/20 2016: 1891 planes in total

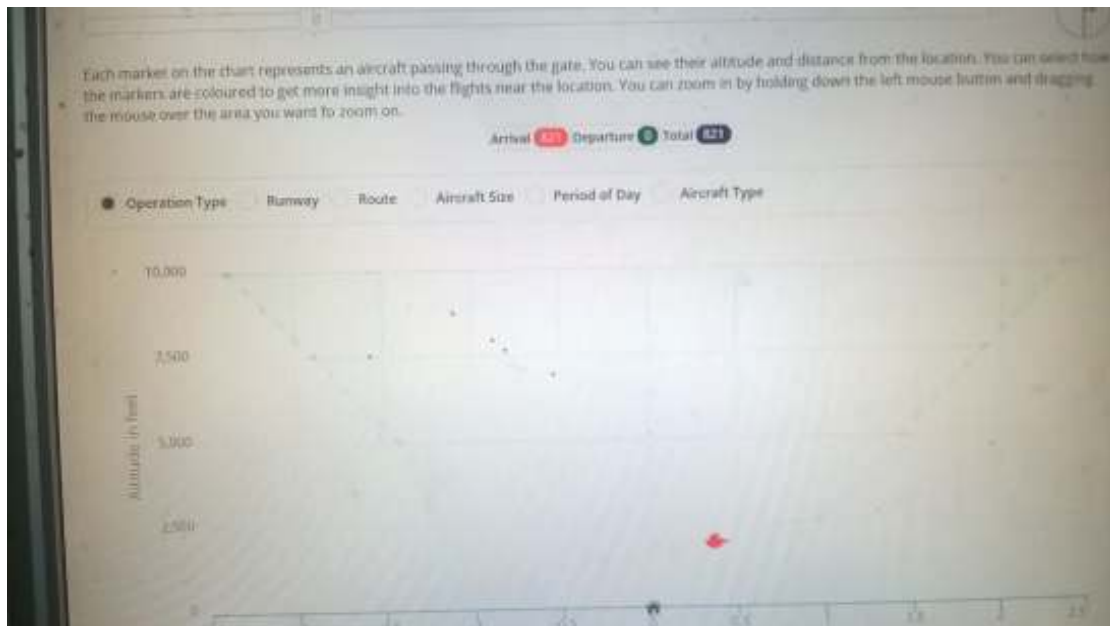
Heights: majority between 3,300 and 4,200
(most just under 4,000ft)



October 7/8/9 2019: 1983 planes in total

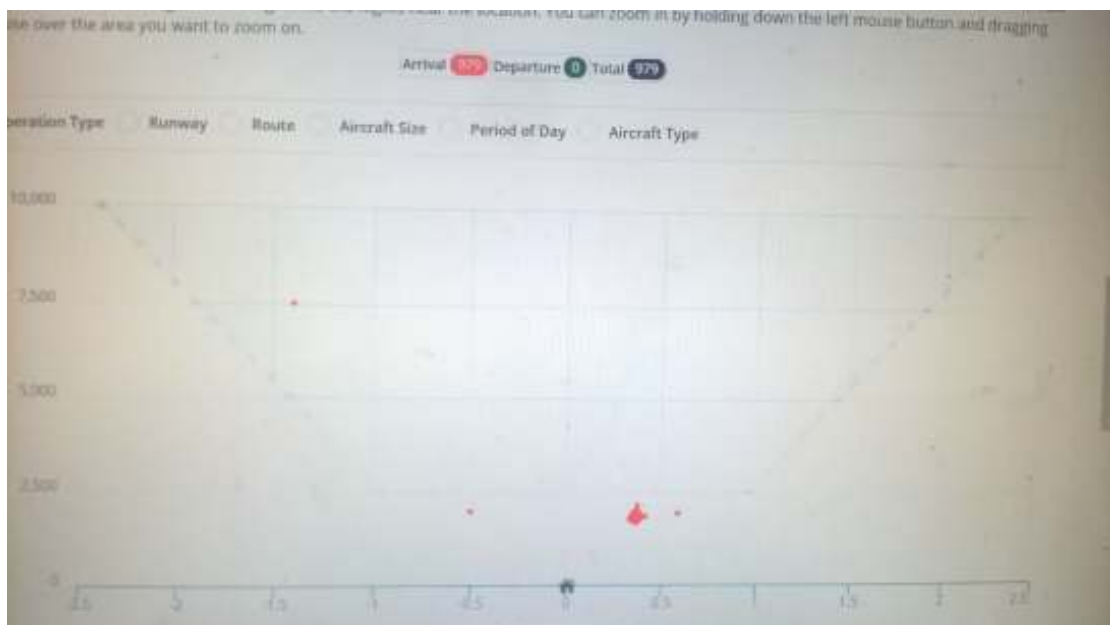
Heights: majority between 2,900 and 4,200

Kew



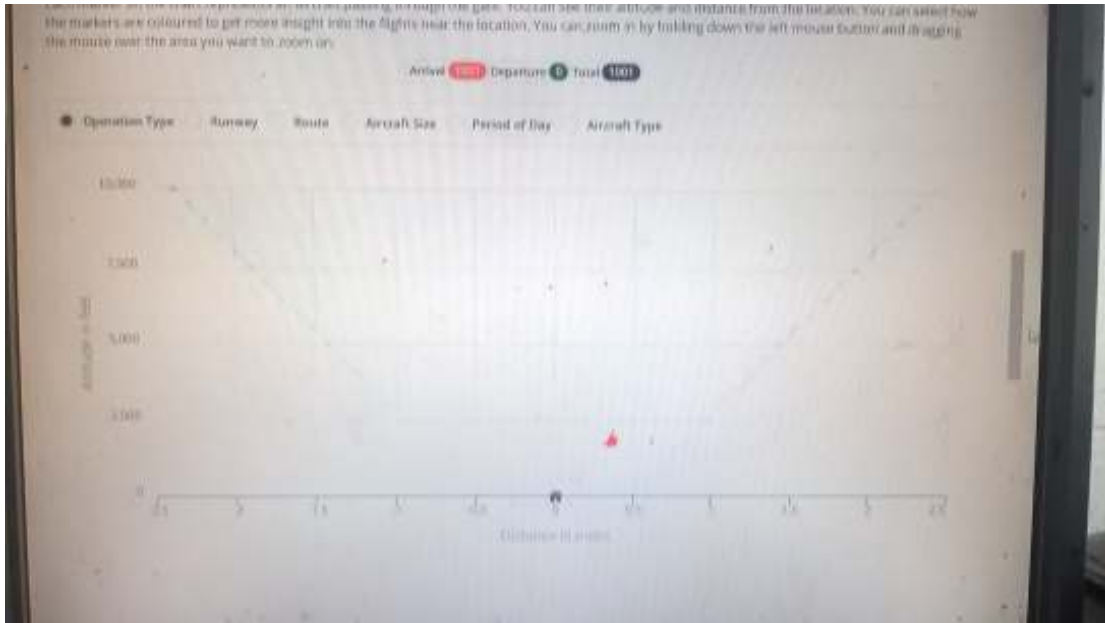
October 24/25/26 2010: 821 planes in total

Heights: Majority of planes 1,800ft



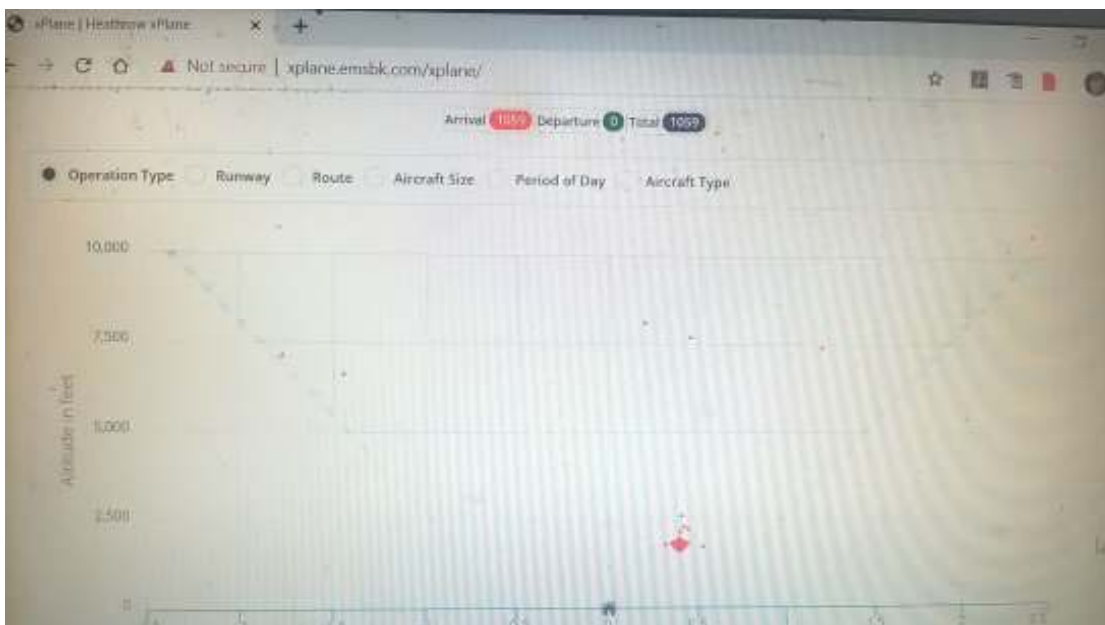
October 14/15/16 2012: 979 planes in total

Heights: majority of planes 1,800



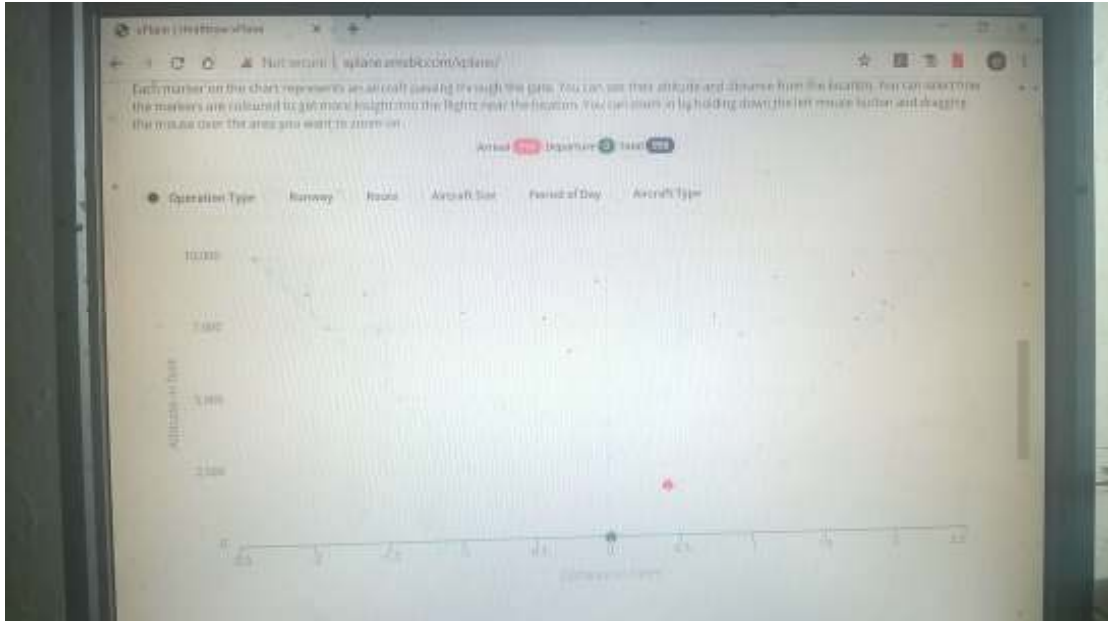
October 22/23/24 2014: 1001 planes in total

Heights: majority of planes 1800



October 18/19/20 2016: 1059 planes in total

Heights: majority of planes 1800ft



October 7/8/9 2019: 998 planes in total

Heights: majority of planes 1800ft

Comments

1. The heights of the planes have not changed significantly over the last decade
2. The number of 'super heavy' aircraft has increased.

2010

Medium 496
Heavy 321
Super Heavy 3
Light 1

2012

Medium 688
Heavy 286
Super Heavy 5

2014

Medium 574
Heavy 399
Super Heavy 28

2016

Medium 583
Heavy 429
Super Heavy 47

2019

Medium 660
Heavy 258
Unknown 40
Super Heavy 28
Light 12

3. The increase in larger, heavy aircraft could explain the persistent comments we get from residents that planes are lower.

March 2020