

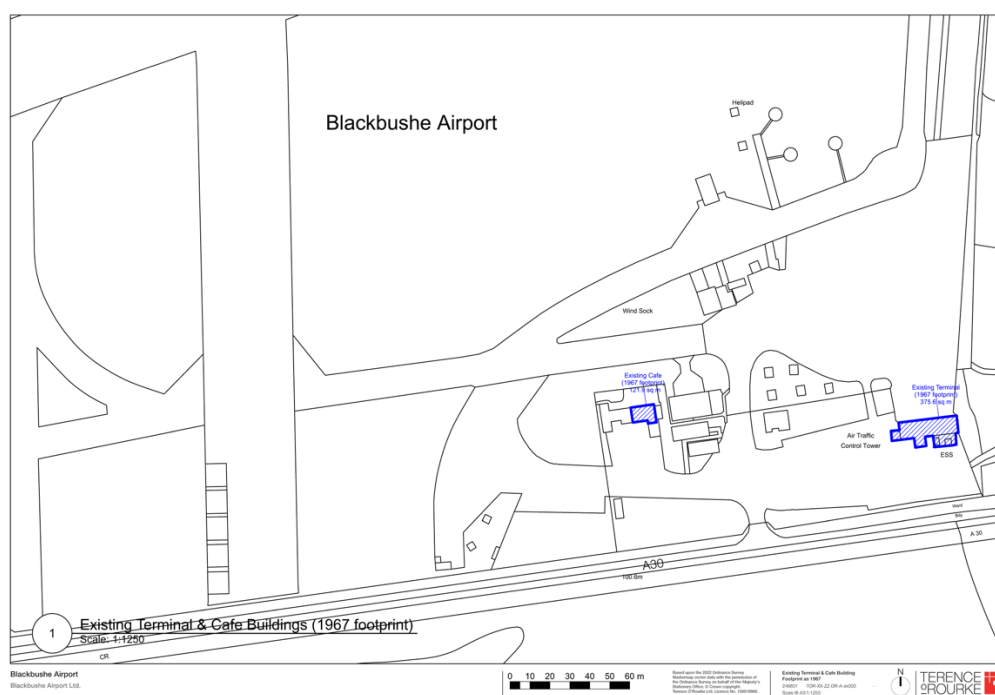
Yateley Common Management Committee Update – March 2023

Chris Gazzard, Managing Director. Report compiled Tuesday 20th February 2024

1. ORIGINAL SCHEDULE 2 APPLICATION TO DEREGISTER LICENSED AERODROME AREA

This was the application from 2016 which sought to deregister the entire licensed aerodrome area as falling within the curtilage of the Terminal Building. The Inspector's decision had been overturned by the courts, and the application sent back to PINS for redetermination.

On 10th November a decision was finally issued by the Planning Inspectorate. The inspector has determined that neither the Terminal Building nor the Cafe has a curtilage which has remained consistent between 1967 and the present day and so neither building has a curtilage that meets the legislative criteria. He therefore determined that the building footprints should therefore be deregistered and no additional land.



You can read the inspector's full decision here:

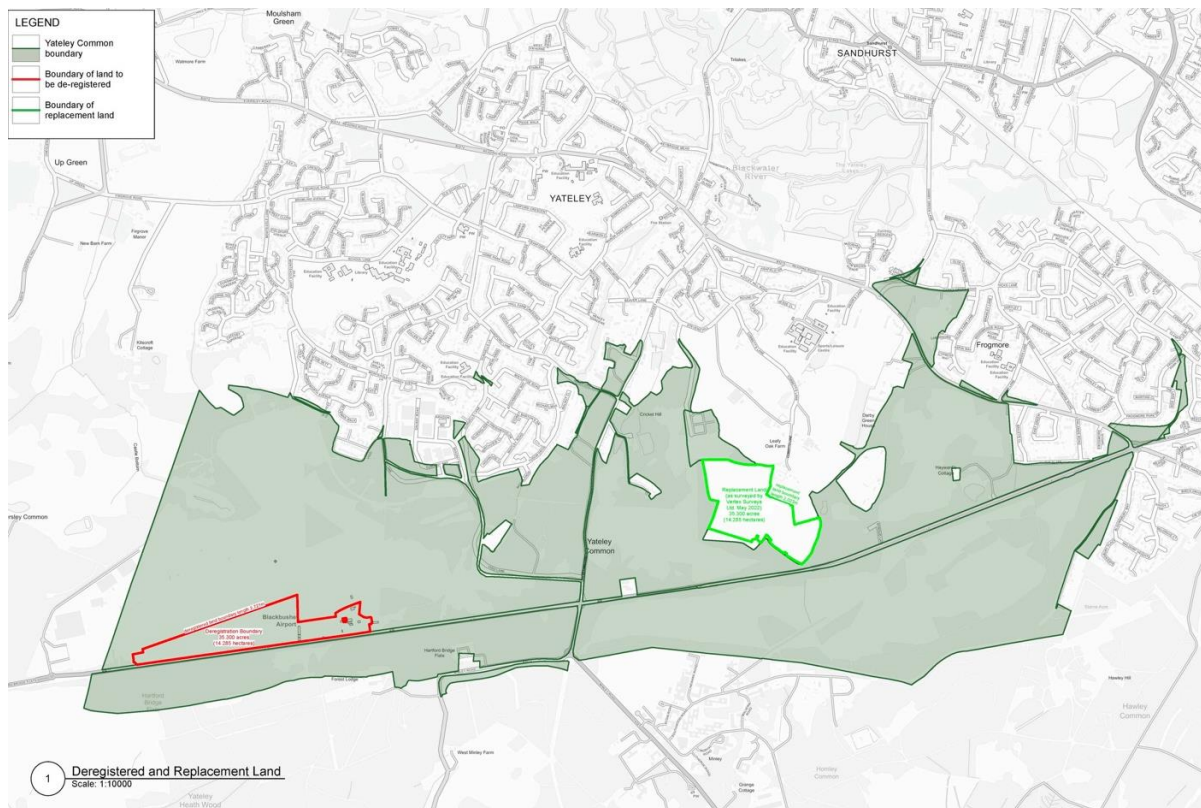
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/654e421f6a650f000dbf47fc/COM_3206697R_decision_10-11-23.docx

You can read more about the application history at: <https://www.blackbusheairport.co.uk/schedule2-application>

Blackbushe Airport welcomes the decision which finally brings to a close a legal process that has lasted for 7 years. This decision now offers clarity. It does however leave the odd situation where somebody sat in the Pathfinder Café enjoying a meal is not on common land, but someone else enjoying their meal on the patio is sat on common land!

2. SECTION 16 LAND EXCHANGE WITH COTTAGE FARM

On Tuesday 2nd January 2024, Blackbushe Airport submitted an application pursuant to Section 16 of the Commons Act 2006 to deregister approximately 35.3 acres of the active aerodrome from Yateley Common, and replace with 35.3 acres of land at Cottage Farm, Yateley.



Our Public Consultation ran to Friday 16th February 2024. To advertise the application, we:

- > Placed notices at the Release Land and Replacement Land
 - > Placed an advert in the Yateley New & Mail
 - > Posted Social Media Posts ourselves which were also shared locally by Yateley Society and Yateley Town Council
 - > We ran an advert on the screens in the Pathfinder Cafe
 - > We sent email messaging to over 4,000 addresses on our mailing list
 - > We sent direct emails / post to commoners, local councils, and individual councillors
 - > We held an Extraordinary Consultative Committee meeting on 23rd Jan, followed by a repeat session on 31st Jan. Attendance across these two sessions was approximately 85-90 people.
- Links: [Presentation Slides](#) [Meeting Minutes / Notes](#)
- > A presentation to the Yateley Society and 35 of their members on 1st Feb

The public could send a representation through our website, using a webform, and this was sent to PINS, and copied to us. They could email PINS directly, and we asked them to copy us. Or they could send a letter by post (of course we wouldn't be copied).

By our count, accounting for a few duplicate responses, we make the totals as follows:

FORMAT	SUPPORT	NEUTRAL	OBJECT	TOTAL
Webform	416	1	8	425
Email	33	4	13	50
Total	449	5	21	475

Three residents of properties which hold common rights responded, two objected, and one "nervously supported" the application.

Whilst we received a staggering amount of support for the proposals, the objections raised some issues, some of which can be addressed by alterations to some of the documents, such as the Section 106, or the Environmental Management Plan. We anticipate PINS will collate the responses along with any others they have received directly. Notably Natural England, Open Spaces Society, and Hampshire County Council have sent responses without copying us. We will get copies of all the responses we expect in the next few weeks.

We will then have an opportunity to respond to any of the comments, and it may be in some areas we can make accommodations, others we will provide explanations as to why we can't. In the objections we received, there was nothing that surprised us, but some parties offered constructive suggestions as to how we could improve the proposal, and we'll give them the right consideration.

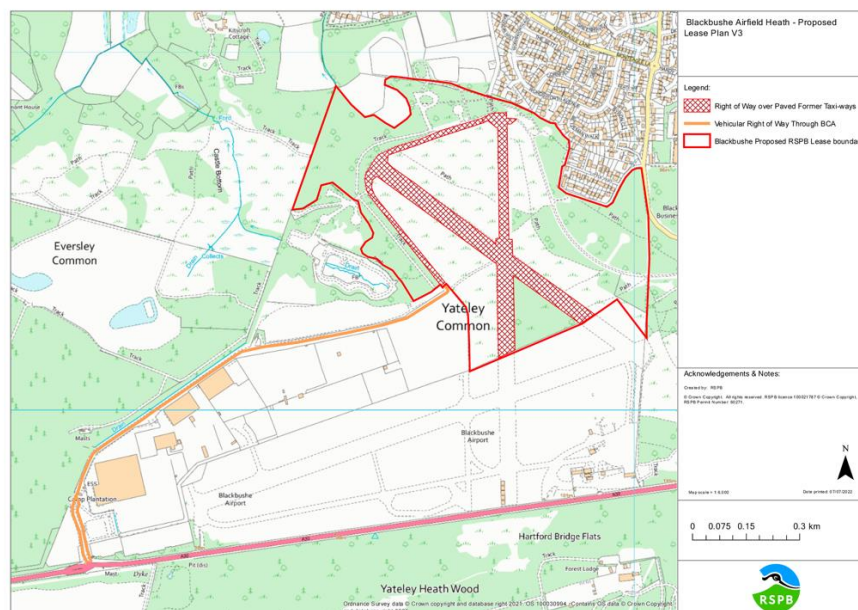
The timeline is now very much in PINS' hands. They will decide whether or not a Public Inquiry will be held. If one is held, we anticipate it may not be until winter this year / early next year. If an inquiry isn't called, then they'll make a decision on the papers, and this might be as soon as the summer.

You can keep updated on the application's progress and view the application materials here:

<https://www.blackbusheairport.co.uk/landexchange>

3. MANAGEMENT OF DISUSED RUNWAYS BY RSPB

The RSPB have now started their work on the disused runways area. I'm sure Matt will provide a detailed update on their work.



As always, if you see anything on the Blackbushe part of the common that needs attention, you can contact admin@blackbusheairport.co.uk. The area we own includes both the red and yellow areas:



**The next Blackbushe Airport Consultative Committee Meeting is:
Tuesday 12th March at 19:00.
Venue: Pathfinder Café, Blackbushe Airport.**