

From: Airspace User Response <Airspace.UserResponse@caa.co.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 11:32:03 AM
To: paradise.4@outlook.com <paradise.4@outlook.com>
Subject: FCS 1521 form submission - Submission id: 800352 (Avebury - L Paradise)

Dear Ms Paradise

Thank you for your on-line submission to the CAA (your/our Ref **800352 dated 06/10/2020** refers) on behalf of Avebury Parish Council concerning aircraft/drone activity over Avebury Henge. We note your request for us to “...put [you] *in touch with someone to talk to about this...*” However to ensure traceability and good governance it is our policy to respond to all complaints/queries in writing.

If we might first explain. The CAA is the **UK independent Aviation Regulator**, it is not directly involved in the provision of Air Traffic Control Services nor is it responsible for monitoring the individual day-to-day movements of aircraft/helicopters their frequency nor their flight paths that is the responsibility of the local licenced ATC service providers (ATSUs) particularly if the pilot is under a requested service or is in an area where ATC is mandatory. However pilots can (depending on weather conditions, airspace and height) and often do operate autonomously outside Controlled Airspace as they fly locally for business, pleasure or transit en-route. Consequently, the CAA would not normally be able to confirm the identity of the aircraft nor investigate without being in receipt of the aircrafts' registration letters and a full description of the aircraft concerned.

On the general subject of noise caused by aircraft/helicopter activity. Whilst we completely appreciate the disturbance caused by aircraft we regret to inform you that aircraft noise is not actually classed as a statutory nuisance; it is not covered by the Environmental Protection Act nor the Noise Act, therefore preventing any local authority from being able to act on aircraft noise issues. The CAA, as the UK's independent aviation regulator, does not have the legal power to prevent aircraft flying over a particular location or at a particular time for environmental reasons (except when considering proposals to establish new, or amend existing Controlled Airspace). Responsibility for aviation policy and aircraft noise matters lies with the Department for Transport (DfT) and the CAA works closely with this governmental department in the development of aviation regulation and policy to limit the environmental effects of aircraft operations where possible. Further, DfT is directly involved in measures to ameliorate noise at the main airports (Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted); **all other civil aerodrome and aircraft operators are expected to achieve a reasonable balance between their legitimate needs and the impact their operations may have upon the local environment.** Complaints to the DfT should be submitted via their website: <https://forms.dft.gov.uk/contact-dft-and-agencies/> .

Turning now to the comments in your submission. Notwithstanding the foregoing I have plotted your location on our aviation charts and note you are in an area where the base of controlled airspace is Flight level 105 (approximately 10,500 feet dependent upon atmospheric pressure). You will have seen above that pilots can and often do operate autonomously outside Controlled Airspace as they fly locally for business, pleasure or transit en-route. I also note that the Stone Circle is shown on our charts as a 'Landmark' (as are adjacent 'Hill Figures' you will be familiar with. However, please note that these are depicted to aid navigation by visual reference to the ground and do not afford any degree of overflight protection (i.e. they are not "no fly zones").

We note that you mention "...drones..." and "...lack of privacy...". Concerning drones, you might find information on our website: <https://www.caa.co.uk/Commercial-industry/Aircraft/Unmanned-aircraft/Small-drones/Regulations-relating-to-the-commercial-use-of-small-drones/> to be of interest. Matters concerning privacy are not covered by aviation regulations, they are a police or civil matter.

Whilst we do appreciate your concerns, we hope that you will understand that the aircraft noise is the result of legitimate aviation activity and without clear evidence that aviation rules and regulations have been breached, we cannot progress the matter further.

Finally, as the CAA is tasked by the Government to provide a focal point for Aviation Related Environmental Enquiries and Complaints, the details of your submission has been logged onto our complaints and enquiries database for future reference as may be required.

Thank you again for contacting the CAA.

Yours sincerely,

Aviation Related Environmental Enquiry (AREE)

Airspace Regulator (Co-ordination)

Airspace, ATM and Aerodromes

Safety and Airspace Regulation Group

Civil Aviation Authority