

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Gatwick Airport](#)  
**Subject:** Gatwick expansion - second runway  
**Date:** 14 May 2025 17:59:21

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Dear Sirs,

I am very concerned at the chance that Gatwick might be allowed to operate a second runway. I understand that you wanted changes made with regard to noise alleviation, but this is just for people living very close to the airport.

Hever Castle is a Grade 1 listed building within a Grade 1 listed Park and Garden sitting within the High Weald National landscape/AONB that is also within the Greenbelt. Aside from that, the castle attracts 400,000 visitors a year who principally come for its important history – this is where Anne Boleyn grew up and later exchanged love letters with Henry VIII that not only discussed their love for one another but also what a new religion – the Church of England, might look like – this of course led to England’s break from Rome setting the country on a new path not controlled by Rome, a hugely successful move for the people of this Island. Hever was also the home of Henry VIII’s 4<sup>th</sup> wife Anne of Cleves and then became a possession of King Philip of Spain and Queen Mary of England. In 1903 it was bought by William Waldorf Astor one of the richest men of his time who allegedly spent £10-13 million on doing it up! This included 800 men spending 2.5 years digging the 38 acre lake, moving the river and the public road with bridge, and then another 600 men spent 5 years renovating the castle including adding 100 rooms(The Tudor Village) and extensive landscaping including elaborate gardens. These included a large Italian Garden to show off his extensive classical sculpture collection – a large proportion of which are 2000 years old and still here today.

Hever currently gets a great deal of overflight as most planes fly over the castle with the prevailing west winds – many of them turning, to join the ILS, albeit the runway is 12.38 miles away. At the worst times we get one plane a minute which makes having a conversation outside rather difficult. Particularly annoying if you want to hear the Nightingale sing its wonderful song. Without the planes Hever Castle is a remarkable place not just for the above reasons but also because it is so tranquil without the planes. We have no A or even B roads close by and yet Buckingham Palace in our nation’s capital is just 24 miles away – we are in properly bucolic rural England yet so close to so many people. Surely such a gem is worth protecting – it is protected from just about all development and noise intrusion – apart from planes!!

The second runway is not planned to be used for landings so clearly Hever Castle one of the nation’s most important heritage sites will get even more noise intrusion. People living close to the airport can have sound insulation but visitors to our gardens cannot! Overnight guests to the castle’s 32 bedrooms cannot – we have Grade 1 listed leaded light windows. Even if we could do double glazing visitors to a “protected” rural heritage sight have an expectation to hear bird song and tranquillity.

Please oppose this second runway unless Gatwick changes the approach to the airport to

properly avoid our nation's best valued heritage. This is entirely possible and indeed a route could be utilised that not only avoided Hever Castle and Penshurst Place (another very fine Tudor building) but would affect a great deal less residents too. Commonsense should make this new route and then compensate those living under it with the loss in value of their property and no stamp duty on buying a new home nearby. This would also free up lots of intelligent people spending so much time complaining about aircraft noise. Currently a great deal of our most protected landscape is blighted by plane noise – a narrow route would change that.

Very happy to take any questions and equally show you round.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Chief Executive

HEVER CASTLE

[REDACTED]

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