



***Protecting the past, shaping the future***

Press release from  
Suffolk Preservation Society  
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## **Plans for second runway should be shelved, campaigners urge**

Plans for a second runway at Stansted Airport would destroy the tranquility of Suffolk's countryside while adding significantly to the growing problem of climate concerns, campaigners have warned.

Suffolk Preservation Society (SPS) has written to planners at Uttlesford District Council to urge them to reject a proposal for a second runway at the Essex airport, recommending instead that existing capacity should be fully utilised before expansion is even considered.

The Society says people from across the region are already suffering as a result of considerable noise disturbance – something which will only get worse if the second runway is approved. In addition, the amount of carbon emissions produced by the airport would make a hugely damaging contribution to climate change concerns, SPS warns.

“The expansion of Stansted Airport is not just a local Essex issue but one which has ramifications across the whole of the East of England,” said Richard Ward, Society Director.

“We support the efficient utilisation of the existing capacity at Stansted Airport rather than taking more land, or demolishing listed homes and hamlets to expand what is currently an under-utilised airport. Efficient use of the site would be a sustainable way forward and would help prevent even more aircraft noise from further eroding Suffolk's quiet open spaces.

“Air noise, not only in the vicinity of the airport, but across the region, is already giving discomfort and disturbance to many people, destroying their opportunity for peace and adversely affecting their quality of life.

“We, as a Society, are also concerned that environmental issues such as climate change have seemingly been ignored in this application. A second runway is predicted to increase Stansted's emissions by the equivalent of 11 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year. How exactly does this fit with the Government's stated intentions of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions?”

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The Society has already written to National Air Traffic Services (NATS) to ask if 'stacking' could be avoided by keeping aircraft on the runway for longer at the start of their journeys to eliminate the need to "hold" aircraft in the sky.

If this is not possible, the Society would like to see aircraft stacked over the sea prior to landing, rather than over land.

"Holding aircraft at the end of their journey is both disruptive, wasteful on fuel and adds to climate change problems, and is the worst possible way of dealing with the phasing of the landing of aircraft," added Mr Ward.

"We would support a different approach where stacking effectively takes place at the commencement of the journey, on the runway before departure, rather than at the end.

"But if stacking at the end of flights is to continue, we would hope every effort is made to see if this could be achieved away from populated areas, and preferably over the sea. We can see no rationale or justification why stacking needs to take place over any part of the Suffolk countryside, or any inland area altogether."

### **Ends**

**Note to editors:** SPS, founded in 1929, originally worked to protect the county's buildings and landscape. Today, the society has broadened its focus to help shape Suffolk's future, largely campaigning for sensitive and appropriate development, more and better quality affordable homes and to ensure sustainable infrastructures are in place to support the county's communities.

### **For more information contact:**

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