

UPDATED 15 Jan 2026
PRESS RELEASE London Gatwick
Immediate release: 20 January 2026

Communities and stakeholders invited to have their say on London Gatwick's Route 4 Airspace Change Proposal

- 14-week public consultation on proposals for reintroducing satellite-based navigational procedures to Route 4 – one of nine departure routes from London Gatwick
- Proposal forms part of a UK government programme to modernise the UK's airspace

London Gatwick is inviting communities and stakeholders to have their say on options for the future operation of Route 4 – one of the departure routes for aircraft flying out of the Airport – as part of an Airspace Change Proposal (ACP).

The 14-week public consultation seeks to gather feedback from communities and stakeholders on proposals for reintroducing satellite-based navigational procedures to Route 4.

Route 4 is one of nine departure routes from London Gatwick. Planes flying Route 4 take-off in a westerly direction from the main runway, before turning 180 degrees northwards and heading east to their final destination.

As part of a UK government programme to modernise the UK's airspace, airports are required to adopt new navigational procedures which use modern, satellite-based technology.

The original Route 4 airspace change was initiated in 2012 and satellite-based navigational procedures were first introduced on all nine departure routes from the Main Runway at London Gatwick, including Route 4, in 2013. However, due to regulatory and legal challenges, this technology was subsequently withdrawn on Route 4 in 2019.

Since then, London Gatwick has undertaken extensive work to progress an ACP to reintroduce the new navigational procedures on Route 4 and overcome issues identified in the legal challenge.

The reintroduction of satellite-based navigational procedures on Route 4 is essential because the ground-based infrastructure which supports conventional navigation is gradually being phased out as part of a national modernisation programme. All of London Gatwick's other arrival and Main Runway departure routes have already successfully adopted the new navigation procedures.

In addition to being a regulatory requirement, the proposals could also help to deliver benefits for some communities including reduced noise and environmental impacts.

A public consultation on the four shortlisted options for the future operation of Route 4 will run from Tuesday 20 January 2026 to 23:59 on Tuesday 28 April 2026. There are a range of ways to take part in the consultation, learn more about the shortlisted options for Route 4, and comment on the proposals (see notes to editor).

Ends

For further information, please contact pressoffice@gatwickairport.com

Notes to editors:

How can communities and stakeholders take part in the consultation?

Communities and stakeholders can participate in the consultation in various ways, including:

- Attending one of the drop-in consultation events
- Attending one of the online webinars
- Viewing printed copies of the consultation materials at one of the deposit locations
- Visiting the website www.route4acp.co.uk

Residents and stakeholders should provide feedback via the Citizen Space website: route4acp.co.uk

London Gatwick will also accept postal responses to its Freepost address: 'Freepost ROUTE 4 CONSULTATION'. The deadline for providing feedback is 23:59 on Tuesday 28 April 2026.

All comments submitted during the consultation will be recorded, carefully considered and will be taken into account when further developing the proposals. A Consultation Report will be submitted alongside the final proposal to demonstrate how London Gatwick has taken account of the feedback received.

Residents and stakeholders can contact London Gatwick with questions about this ACP, or request assistance in responding to the consultation, via the following channels:

- Website: route4acp.co.uk
- Email: LGWairspace.Rte4@gatwickairport.com
- Freephone: 0808 303 4560
- Freepost: Freepost ROUTE 4 CONSULTATION

Consultation events:

Date	Time	Venue and Address
Thursday 12 February 2026	2pm to 8pm	Reigate Manor Reigate Hill, RH2 9PF
Saturday 7 March 2026	10am to 4pm	Sandman Signature Hotel 18-23 Tinsley Ln S, Three Bridges, Crawley RH10 8XH
Monday 16 March 2026	2pm to 8pm	Donnington Manor Hotel London Rd, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks TN13 2TD
Tuesday 24 March 2026	2pm to 8pm	Denbies Vineyard Bradley Ln, Dorking RH5 6AA

Webinars:

Date	Time	Registration Link
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Tuesday 10 February	6pm-7pm	https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/b21641ea-e5b9-4ad5-9992-493f83cd9c84@873b7292-5469-4a05-9740-0332e6cbc72d
Monday 23 February	11am -12pm	https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/bd4d9bc4-b055-4d25-91d4-6ad8dcfd8aa3@873b7292-5469-4a05-9740-0332e6cbc72d
Wednesday 4 March	7pm-8pm	https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/739df7fe-4d6f-435f-97af-ebf5f380630f@873b7292-5469-4a05-9740-0332e6cbc72d
Thursday 12 March	6pm-7pm	https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/bd4526a3-4277-4b4d-8e59-811d3e22a2b9@873b7292-5469-4a05-9740-0332e6cbc72d
Wednesday 18 March	2pm - 3pm	https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/cdc41415-a4ab-4a07-b8ed-a6a6f75678c4@873b7292-5469-4a05-9740-0332e6cbc72d
Thursday 26 March	5:30pm-6:30pm	https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/a97ba7ea-f3cb-4dd5-8490-30e67729967f@873b7292-5469-4a05-9740-0332e6cbc72d

Deposit points:

Venue	Address	Opening Hours						
		MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
Dorking Library	St Martin's Walk, Dorking RH4 1UT	09:30-17:30	09:30-19:00	09:30-17:30	09:30-19:00	09:30-17:30	09:30-17:00	Closed
Reigate Library	Bancroft House, Bancroft Road, Reigate RH2 7RP	Closed	09:30-17:00	09:30-17:00	09:30-17:00	09:30-17:00	09:30-17:00	Closed
Horley Library	55-57 Russell Square, Victoria Road, Horley RH6 7QH	Closed	09:30-17:00	09:30-17:00	09:30-17:00	09:30-17:00	09:30-17:00	Closed
Edenbridge Library	The Eden Centre, Four Elms Road,	09:00-13:00	09:00-17:00	09:00-17:00	09:00-17:00	13:00-17:00	10:00-15:00	Closed

	Edenbridge TN8 6BY							
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What is Route 4?

Route 4 is one of nine departure routes from London Gatwick. Planes flying Route 4 take-off in a westerly direction from the main runway, before turning 180 degrees northwards and heading east to their final destination.

Further information can be found in our [Main Consultation Document](#) on:

- What is airspace?
- Why are changes to Route 4 needed?
- What has happened on Route 4 in the past?
- How does the airspace change process work?
- How long is the public consultation, and what activities are taking place in the public consultation?

NOTES

About London Gatwick

With 43m annual passengers, London Gatwick is the UK’s second largest and one of Europe’s top 10 airports. It is a vital piece of national infrastructure that drives both the national and regional economies by generating £5.5bn GVA and supporting over 76,000 jobs (2023). Almost 60 airlines fly from the airport to over 150 short-haul and more than 50 long-haul destinations. With a declared capacity of 55 movements an hour, London Gatwick is the most efficient single runway airport in the world.

The airport is located 28 miles south of the UK capital and is extremely well-connected, with more than a quarter of England’s population (15m people) – including all of London – less than one hour away by road or rail. A six-year, £2bn sustainable growth programme includes an ambitious plan to be a net zero airport by 2030 and to increase capacity by bringing the airport’s existing Northern Runway into routine use, alongside its Main Runway. VINCI Airports owns a 50.01% stake in the airport, with Global Infrastructure Partners managing the remaining 49.99%.

About VINCI Airports

VINCI Airports, as the leading private airport operator in the world, manages the development and operation of more than 70 airports located in 14 countries. VINCI Airports draws on its expertise as a comprehensive integrator to develop, finance, build and operate airports, leveraging its investment capability and know-how to optimise operational performance and modernise infrastructure while bringing about their environmental transition. In 2016, VINCI Airports became the first airport operator to commit to an international environmental strategy, setting itself the aim of reaching zero net emissions (scope 1 and 2) across the network by 2050 while supporting the territories’ local climate transition.

For more information:

www.vinci-airports.com

[@VINCIAirports](https://www.linkedin.com/company/vinci-airports/)

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About Global Infrastructure Partners

Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP), a part of BlackRock, is a leading infrastructure investor that specialises in investing in, owning and operating some of the largest and most complex assets across the energy, transport, digital infrastructure and water and waste management sectors. With energy pragmatism central to our investment thesis, we are well positioned to support the global energy transition.



GIP's scaled platform has over \$170bn in assets under management. We believe that our focus on real infrastructure assets, combined with our deep proprietary origination network and comprehensive operational expertise, enables us to be responsible stewards of our clients' capital and to create positive economic impact for communities. For more information, visit www.global-infra.com.