

Simon Bowes Lyon IP Reference 20040313

I am Simon Bowes Lyon and I live with my family very close to what is now the flight path to the East of the Luton runway.

First I remind the Panel of the aesthetic factors and emphasise the intimate landscape quality which attracts many visitors, walkers, bicycles, all kinds of recreation from the surrounding towns, a lung for these communities. The area between Luton and Stevenage, at most five miles, is very carefully preserved following government policies with grants on woods, hedgerows and permissive paths. Our centre piece is the Grade 1 Listed early 18th century Landscape Gardens of St Paul's Walden Bury and adjacent Stagenhoe Park through which there are no less than five rights of way. The Stagenhoe Mansion, now a Neurological Care Centre, is directly below the flight path.

Airport expansion will not destroy this, it will just degrade it, removing the interest and motivation for its preservation and development. It will of course become a much less desirable area to visit or live in.

Overall a considerable loss of public amenity, damage to a cultural site, decline of property values and damage to local businesses near the flight path is to be set off against the speculative gain from a development to compete and take air travel from other airports.