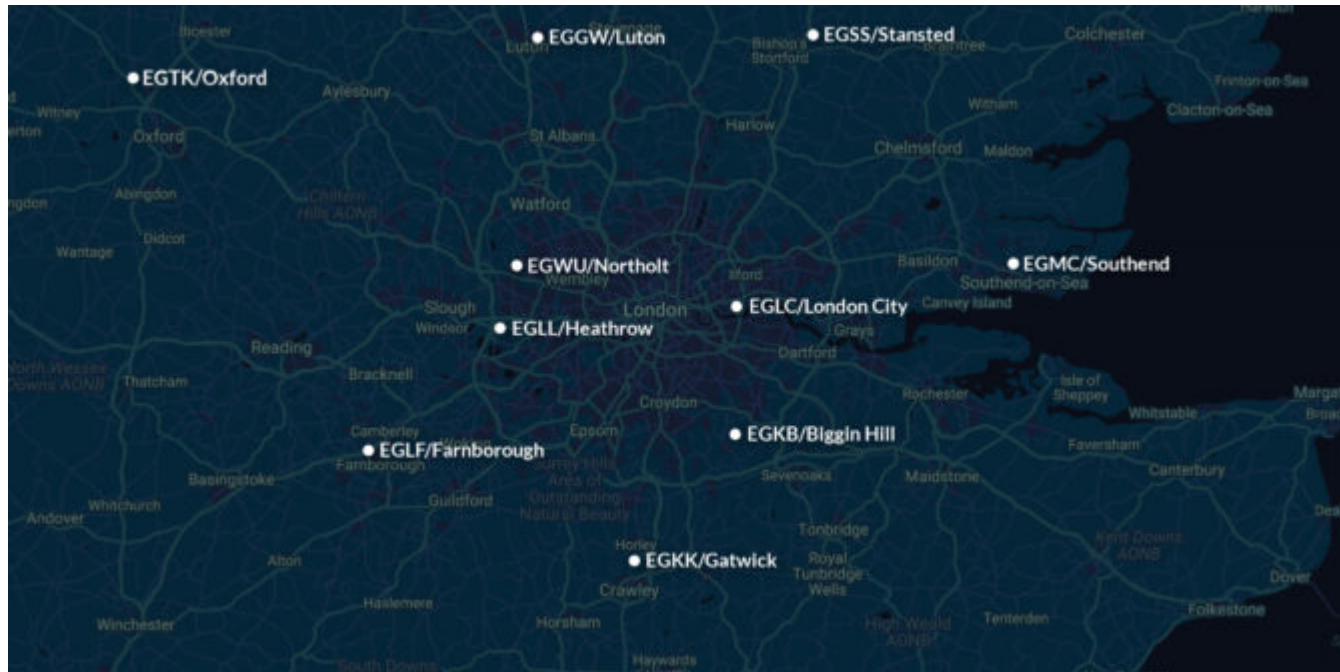
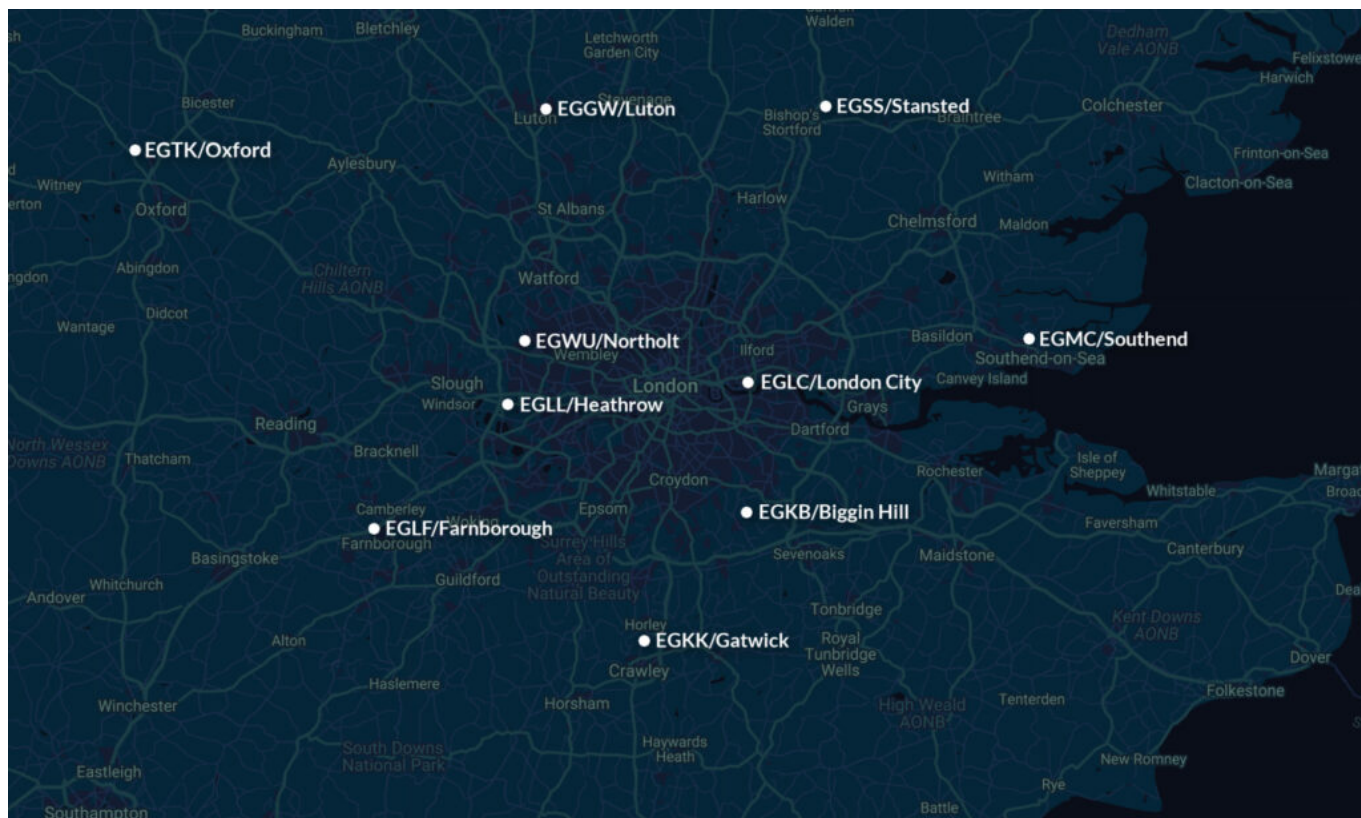


Landing Late In London: Which Airport Is Best?

David Mumford
27 March, 2023



There are a whole host of factors which can make flights to the London area a headache – particularly at night. The smaller airports close early in the evening, and few business jet want to go to the likes of EGLL/Heathrow or EGKK/Gatwick due to costs and slots.



Here is a quick rundown of availability (all times local!)

EGLL/London Heathrow

Open: H24

They have some slots available between 0700-2345. There's a night ban outside these hours for all aircraft except medical flights and emergency divers. For urgent slots you can try lonacxh@acl-uk.org. For General and Business Aviation, you can arrange slots through a local handler.

EGKK/London Gatwick

Open: H24

Similar to Heathrow, there is a noise quota system in place at night (between 2300-0700 here). The slot system shows a limited number available during daytime hours, so best bet is to contact a local handler and they will try to sort you out.

EGSS/London Stansted

Open: H24

However, during the summer period there are only a few night slots available between 2300-0620 – only 10 per week! Check this article for more info.

EGLC/London City

Open: 0630-2200 weekdays, 0630-1230 Sat and 1230-2230 Sun.

There are slots available between these times. jetcentre@londoncityairport.com are who you need to speak to for handling and slot assistance there.

EGTK/London Oxford

Open: 0600-2230 and up to 2359 on request, seven days a week, year-round.

The thing you probably want to know about Oxford is while it takes just over an hour to drive to London, making it the furthest away of all the “London” airports, it also charges much less in handling fees. You can contact the main FBO on info@londonoxfordairport.com

EGGW/London Luton

Open: H24

However, London Luton has some pretty strict night flight limits over the summer – ad hoc movements (i.e. BA/GA flights) are not allowed between 2300-0700, while no further night slots will be available to scheduled flights. Holders of existing day time slots will not be able to re-schedule them for the night period either. These rules will be in place from June 1 until Sep 30. Check here for more info.

EGLF/Farnborough

Open: Monday to Friday 0700-2200 and 0800-2000 local time over the weekend – no extensions possible. Same times apply year-round.

Farnborough is a dedicated business aviation airport and can be contacted at ops@farnboroughairport.com

EGKB/Biggin Hill

Open: Monday to Friday 0630-2300 and at the weekends 0800-2200 local time, year-round.

This is a great airport for smaller corporate and charter operations to consider. A dedicated business airport, only 12 miles outside of central London, and you do not require slot. More info

EGWU/Northolt

Open: Monday to Friday 0800-2000 local time, Sat 0800-1500, Sun 1200-1900.

So not great for night flights, but pretty handy otherwise as Northolt is one of the closest GA-accessible airports to central London, as well as the closest airport to EGLL/Heathrow (8 miles away). Check this article for more info.

EGMC/Southend

Open: H24

But during the night period, 2300-0630, only aircraft classified with a Quota Count of 1 (QC) or less are permitted to take-off or land. More info

Don't know what a "Quota Count" is? Neither did we. Read on...

Big, noisy planes are a no-no at night

AIP Supplement 7/2023 came into force March 26, 2023. This is the new Noise Restrictions Notice for the **EGLL/Heathrow**, **EGKK/Gatwick** and **EGSS/Stansted**, valid for the summer period.

The noise classifications to look out for are any aircraft rated Quota Count 4 or more. 4 is a noise rating 96 - 98.9EPNdB. So any aircraft noisier than 96EPNdB might find they are restricted into certain airports after certain times.



Sorry, almost finished now. This whole Quota Count thing is essentially just a number assigned to an aircraft based on how big and noisy it is. Here's a chart:

Noise Classification	Quota Count
Below 81 EPNdB	0
81 - 83.9 EPNdB	0.125
84 - 86.9 EPNdB	0.25
87 - 89.9 EPNdB	0.5
90 - 92.9 EPNdB	1
93 - 95.9 EPNdB	2
96 - 98.9 EPNdB	4
99 - 101.9 EPNdB	8
Greater than 101.9 EPNdB	16

This is worth looking at if you think your aircraft might be in one of the noisier categories. Here's the important bit:

1. Any aircraft which has a quota count of 4 may not be scheduled to take off or land during the *night quota period* (2230 to 0500);
2. Any aircraft which has a quota count of 8 or 16 may not take off or land during the *night period* (2200-0600).

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If you have any further knowledge or recent experience to share, please let us know!