

Manston Quick Facts

- Manston has the tenth longest civilian runway in the United Kingdom, at 9,016ft (2,748m) in length
- There has been aviation activity at the Manston Airport site since 1916 – that’s over 100 years!
- Manston’s runway is among the widest in Europe – during WWII it had three “lanes” to handle emergencies, although only one central “lane” is now serviceable
- It is home to the RAF Manston Museum and the Spitfire & Hurricane Museum – both attractions are suffering financially since the closure of Manston Airport
- Manston, due to its location outside of London airspace, was often used for aircraft flight testing and crew training – most recently, it was used by British Airways for training on the Airbus A380 and Boeing 787 aircraft
- Manston Air Shows have attracted thousands of visitors, drawn by historic aircraft such as the Vulcan bomber and Concorde, as well as the world-renowned Red Arrows display team
- Manston was popular with cargo and freight carriers because of the quick turnaround by the excellent ground staff, for things as varied as horses, racing cars and band equipment. It was said that cargo could be handled off an aircraft and onto the road within 30 minutes.
- So-called “owners” Stone Hill Park have been paid £3.5m by the Department of Transport to keep the site on standby for use as a lorry park for Operation Stack – the “owners” used this money to strip the runway’s markings and paint parking spaces for lorries – all damage which will need to be repaired to put the runway back into use
- When Manston was closed on 15th May 2014, at least 144 jobs were lost at the site
- KLM Royal Dutch Airlines started operating from Manston in April 2013 – they reported growing passenger numbers until they were forced to stop operating in April 2014.