



OPERATION STACK

Changes in vehicle holding arrangements for freight travelling to mainland Europe using Port of Dover

When Operation Stack is in place, freight traffic bound for the Port of Dover may be diverted from the M20 to Manston Airfield in East Kent where it will be held until it can be directed to the Port of Dover. If you:

- are travelling to the Port of Dover, and you ignore the diversion signs and join Operation Stack on the M20 you will be turned round and told to go to Manston Airfield. This will add at least 15 minutes to your journey
- arrive at the Port of Dover whilst Operation Stack is in place without being processed through Manston, you will be told to go to Manston Airfield. This will add over an hour to your journey and mean 75 unnecessary miles as you will not be permitted to use the A256 northbound
- are carrying live animals or other priority freight and intend to use Port of Dover, you should proceed to Manston Airfield and you will be fast-tracked so you can continue your journey.
- are using the Port of Dover, diverting to Manston using the signposted roads will ensure you board a ferry in the shortest possible time
- are using the Channel tunnel you should continue to use the M20 where you will be held in Operation Stack from junction 8, as and when necessary.

Designated routes to the Port of Dover via Manston

Follow the signed diversions at all times. A map of the designated route is shown on the reverse of this leaflet. Electronic messaging will appear on signs across the motorway network from the Midlands southwards. It will direct you to the appropriate routes if your destination is the Port of Dover.

- If you are travelling southbound from the Dartford Crossing, signs will divert freight onto the M2/A2.
- If you are travelling eastbound along the M20 from the M25, signs will divert freight to the M2/A2 using junction 7 of the M20 and A249.
- Once on the M2, you will be directed by signs along the A299 at all key junctions to Manston Airfield.
- On leaving Manston, you will be routed to Dover on the A256 using signs.

What will happen at Manston Airfield

Entry and exit to the Manston site will be through manned gates. Once you are on site you will be processed and held in designated parking areas. Facilities will be available for you to use.

Release from the Manston site will be strictly controlled. You will be issued with a pass enabling your vehicle to proceed to the port to the next available ferry. You will not be able to travel from Port of Dover without a valid pass – do not attempt to bypass the system.



OPERATION STACK

Guidance for lorry drivers

Thank you for your cooperation while Kent's road networks remain busy. Please remember:

- You will not be allowed to enter the Port of Dover without an Op Stack ticket.
- To get a ticket you must join the queue at M20 J8.

Know the law – or you could get fined:

- It is an offence to sound your horn between 11.30pm and 7am or if you are parked, unless there is a danger.
- It is an offence to light fires on or near the carriageway.
- It is an offence to drop litter. Please use the rubbish bins provided.
- Public toilets are available in most areas and should be used.
- Do not obstruct roundabouts or block roads. You will inconvenience local residents and put lives in danger if an emergency vehicles cannot pass you.

Sign up to [@kent_police](#) Twitter alerts for the latest Op Stack updates. If you need help, please talk to your nearest police officer.

In an emergency, if a crime is in progress or life is in danger, please call **999**. For non-urgent issues, please call the police on **101**.

As Operation Stack fills, freight traffic heading to the Port of Dover will be diverted to Manston Airfield, before being sent onto the port.

Routes for freight

