

Kent and Medway Resilience Forum



18th May 2026

Dear resident,

I am contacting you to let you know the Port of Dover and Eurotunnel are forecasting a busy crossing period for tourist traffic, as people prepare to go away over the late May bank holiday and half term.

To help keep traffic flowing through Dover, and reduce congestion on local roads, the Kent and Medway Resilience Forum (KMRF) has agreed to deploy Operation Brock on the M20 for a limited period as a precaution.

Although I understand the decision to use Brock at busy times is not always popular, the contraflow system reduces the chance of needing to close the Roundhill Tunnel due to queuing lorries, and this helps to minimise disruption Folkestone and Dover during the busiest travel days. The contraflow will be deployed on the M20 London-bound carriageway between Junctions 8 and 9 overnight on Tuesday 19th May, meaning the contraflow will be in place from Wednesday 20th May.

It will be removed on the evening of Tuesday 26th May, with the motorway reopening as normal on Wednesday 27th May. This will allow lorries to be held on the coastbound carriageway should the Dover TAP queuing system on the A20 fill up.

In 2025, the KMRF secured an off-road site at Lydden Hill Race Circuit as a last resort contingency for passenger traffic that could be used during a major disruptive event. This site builds on existing contingency plans that are designed to keep Kent's roads moving.

The KMRF has taken the decision to activate this site ahead of the May half term getaway. The site provides authorities with a safe offroad area that passenger traffic could temporarily use on route to Dover. The site's actual use is reserved for an extreme scenario when it would be used help to maintain fluidity in Kent.

As the strategic lead for border disruption for the KMRF, I want to reassure you the focus of everyone involved in managing traffic at this busy time continues to be keeping traffic moving and keeping communities in and around Dover and Folkestone safe.

However, should any disruption occur due to delays at the Port of Dover or Eurotunnel, we want to do all we can to support you through this by offering as much help and advice as possible.

For the latest updates on any service changes and useful contacts in your community, please check the following websites:

- If you are a resident or business in the [Dover District: Cross-channel traffic disruption](#)
- If you are a resident or business in the [Folkestone & Hythe District: Roads and travel | Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#)
- For more information, or to check what is happening on the roads before you go out and about, you can visit [Check before you travel - Kent County Council](#) or **@KentHighways** or **@HighwaysSEAST** on X. While there may be some local traffic restrictions, we will continue to explore and test new ways to assist residents.

Our priority, as always, is to ensure everyone is able to get to where they want to go safely and as quickly as possible and to enjoy whatever you are planning in Kent.

Simon Jones

Strategic Lead for Border Disruption

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