

**From:** Rex Cadman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 08 January 2019 11:22  
**To:** Manston Airport  
**Subject:** Manston Airport

Dear sirs

To use the site of Manston Airport as anything other than what it was designed for is nothing short of madness. When this country is desperate for jobs and this county has lost a large proportion of its unskilled work opportunities, we need this re-opened. With the ongoing contentious discussions about more runways needed to support the south-east, why can Manston not be used for freight for example? I know for a fact that a former employer used Manston to bring in enormous planes to fly satellites in build process to France. Manston is potentially an invaluable resource, laid to waste by corruption and negligence.

Improved transport links in the form of HS1, connecting to a train station less than a mile from the airport, would facilitate access to Manston with minimal disruption. Increasing traffic and congestion between the south-east and other airports results in doubled travel time; where once you could suggest an hour to Gatwick, even in the early hours of the morning this is now two. As very regular travellers to Bordeaux, for example, we would eagerly welcome passenger flights. The dual-carriageway, which runs all the way down from the M25, does directly to the end of the site. Site expansion would not be an issue - Manston is surrounded on three sides by land so extending the runway or building hangars would not be a problem. Then there's the ability for emergency landings, Air Ambulance, Search and Rescue and run-offs. The scope is endless, given the right strategic management.

It is naïve and slightly wistful to simply harp back to Manston's long history with flight as a reason to reinstate the airport. We all know how significant the airport was during the wars and all have a strong passion to see this history preserved. But that's simply not a sound financial reason to invest and reinstate. And those who shout loudly about "flight noise and disruption", only have justification if they moved to their homes before Manston became an airport. "Jobs" is one of the main reasons that Manston must be reconsidered. Any visitor to Thanet can see the housing being built, the investment in commercial and leisure facilities being made. But nobody is investing in anything that provides the unskilled work opportunities – other than in retail. And without these jobs, how can people afford to spend money in the leisure and retail facilities?

Georgina Martin and Rex Cadman

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