



# Sandyhurst Lane Residents Association



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Dear Paul

## **Re: Operation Stack**

Sandyhurst Lane Residents' Association represents the interests of the 340 houses and upwards of an 800 population living along Sandhurst Lane and its adjoining roads in Ashford. The area is semi-rural in nature, though bisected by both the M20 and a railway line.

We have only two routes to access the rest of the Kent road network. One is via the A20 Maidstone Road, the other via the A251 Faversham Road.

As usual, during Operation Stack, both these roads become diversion routes for non-cross channel commercial and private vehicles. With the severity of the last two periods of Stack's implementation and particularly the use of the A20 as a diversion route, not only for eastbound traffic but also all London-bound M20 traffic, the situation became intolerable. Normal ten minute journeys in any direction were taking up to five times as long.

Our second access route, Faversham Road, as well as being the only remaining access route to and from Sandyhurst Lane and its environs, was also being used by local and through traffic trying to find other routes out of Ashford and by HGVs to and from the M2 attempting to avoid Operation Stack.

Sandyhurst Lane itself, though only 5m wide in places, and with very little pedestrian footpath, became a "rat-run" for local and through traffic, including HGVs seeking alternative routes in and out of Ashford or to avoid the consequences of Operation Stack by using the M2.

