

## A20 restriction lift lasted just a few days



Speed restrictions have returned to the A20 into Dover

# 40 limit back in place on controversial port approach

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DRIVERS who were delighted at the 40mph speed limit being lifted from the A20 towards Dover will find their joy has been short lived.

Last Wednesday, Highways England brought in the TAP (traffic assessment project), which includes a 40mph speed limit, in a bid to deal with congestion heading to the port.

TAP also requires all lorry drivers heading to the port to stay in the left lane of the A20 from the Roundhill Tunnel.

At peak times, lorries held in the left lane will be stopped by traffic lights until a space in the port becomes available.

Highways England said drivers risk prosecution if they are caught breaking the 40mph speed limit, using their horn while stationary, exit their cabs or throw rubbish onto the carriageway.

Motorists were overjoyed when the hated 40mph limit, which was introduced more than two years ago as a variable limit but stayed permanently, was finally axed from the busy A-road on July 18.

Highways England regional director Simon Jones said at the time he was "delighted" the speed restriction was lifted in time for the bus holiday season.

But just eight days later, the limit was back in the form of TAP.

## Dover in 60 minutes demand

HIGH speed rail services should travel from Dover to London in 60 minutes, Kent MPs have demanded.

The "essential requirements" are included in a letter from Dover and Deal MP Charlie Elphicke to Transport Minister Paul Maynard.

The letter, co-signed by ten other Kent MPs as well as Bromley and Chislehurst MP Bob Neill, was sent in response to the Department for Transport's consultation on the South Eastern franchise.

Operators are bidding to run the train franchise from 2018 to 2027.

The MPs list several essential requirements that the new operator must put in place. They include faster services to East Kent - in particular to Dover in an hour - two trains to Deal and Sandwich every hour and a one-hour service from London to Thanet; the modernisation of the points and signalling on the Kent Fast line to facilitate overtaking and faster services; and better connections with Gatwick Airport, in particular the restoration of direct services from Tunbridge



Mr Elphicke has called for faster trains to Dover

Wells and Tonbridge.

Mr Elphicke said: "We need to see the fast train get to Dover in 60 minutes or less."

"Faster services will attract even more people to visit our stunning corner of Kent."



## Closures

Saturday 26 August - Saturday 2 September

No Southeastern trains to or from Charing Cross, Waterloo East and London Bridge. Other London stations will be extremely busy.

Travel advice available now. Work out your plan B at [ThameslinkProgramme.co.uk/2017](http://ThameslinkProgramme.co.uk/2017)

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