



THURNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

*Parish Clerk: Mrs Sherrie Babington
4 Birkhall Close, Walderslade, Chatham,
Kent, ME5 7QD*

*Telephone and Fax: 01634 867173
Email: thurnhamparishcouncil@sherriebabington.co.uk*

Mr Goulette
Maidstone Borough Council
Directorate of Planning and Development
13 Tonbridge Road
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 8HG

12th April 2007

Dear Mr Goulette

MA/07/0682 **Land East of Maidstone, M20 Junction 8.
Scoping opinion sought in respect of an environmental assessment
to be submitted in relation to a proposed rail freight interchange
with associated development.**

Thurnham Parish Council has considered the proposals for RPS Planning Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report on Land to the East of Junction 8, M20.

We find ourselves totally in opposition to the use of this land for a rail and road interchange site. We believe any impact study must come to the conclusion that this use does not have sufficient merit to overcome the obvious adverse environment impact on Maidstone.

Such a development would seem to be contrary to the objectives of the preferred option for the Local Development Framework in that it will not contribute in any way the prosperity and positive development of Maidstone. Warehouse developments do not generate many jobs and any jobs that are generated have low status and low pay.

We do not consider that large swathes of the countryside in the County Town of Kent should be taken up with highly illuminated railway marshalling yards, lorry parks working a 24hr day.

We further believe that this proposal would have the effect of forcing Operation Stack further north and east which cannot be a desirable feature.

It was our understanding that Maidstone had rejected any land use of this type on this site.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. S Babington
Clerk to the Parish Council