

■ DOSSIER

MANSTON AIRPORT & BORDER FORCE FACILITY

Secure Storage, Processing & Transfer Operations — Kent, UK

Title:	Manston Airport & Associated Facilities — Border Force & Home Office Operations
Location:	Manston Airport, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 5BP
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1. ■ LOCATION & SPECIFICATIONS

Detail	Specification
Full Name	Manston Airport (formerly Kent International Airport)
Address	Manston, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 5BP
Site Area	~700 acres (2.8 km²) — extensive secure perimeter; processing centre occupies 37.6 hectares
Runway Length	2,748 metres (9,016 ft) — one of the longest in the UK outside major hubs
Runway Width	60 metres (among the widest in Europe; originally built with three WWII emergency lanes)
Aircraft Capacity	■ Airbus A320, Boeing 737, Boeing 757, A330, C-17 Globemaster, A400M, Boeing 747 — NO
Road Access	Direct A299 → Ramsgate Port (~5 miles / 10 mins); Direct A256 → Dover Port (~16 miles / 25
Perimeter	Fully fenced, CCTV-monitored, security-patrolled — multiple secure compounds within the site

2. ■■ FACILITIES ON-SITE

■ MANSTON ASYLUM PROCESSING CENTRE

Detail	Information
Operator	Home Office contracted operator — security, healthcare and wraparound services tendered under £5
Purpose	Initial arrival processing, identity checks, screening, detention prior to transfer
Capacity	Originally designed for ~1,000–1,600; frequently reported operating at or above capacity (4,000 recor
Security Level	High — double fencing, restricted movement, controlled access
On-site Amenities	Temporary accommodation blocks, medical station, interview rooms
Phone Seizures	■ Confirmed — electronic devices seized on-site for data extraction and intelligence gathering (opera

■ SEIZED VESSEL & EQUIPMENT STORAGE

Detail	Information
Likely Location	■■ Large secure outdoor compounds within the airport perimeter — specific location unconfirmed in c
Confirmed Use	Border Force stores seized dinghies, RIBs, outboard motors and trailers at 'secure locations' nationwi
Scale	Capable of holding hundreds of vessels
Transport	Vessels collected from coastal landing points → transported by road → stored in secure compounds
Subsequent Disposal	Reported destruction, recycling, or sale — full details not publicly disclosed
Direct Ferry Links	Loaded directly onto HGVs → Ramsgate or Dover ferry terminals → onward transport

 ■ AVIATION FACILITIES

Detail	Information
Passenger Terminal	Closed to scheduled commercial flights since April 2014
Active Operations	Limited ad-hoc cargo, government, military, SAR (Bristow HM Coastguard from Jan 2026), and aviation
Flight Publicity	Ad-hoc government or charter flights — not listed publicly — no public departure boards
Operating Hours	24/7 — no night restrictions; airport capable of round-the-clock operations
Redevelopment	RiverOak Strategic Partners plan freight-led reopening ~2028 (£500m investment)

3. ■ CONFIRMED OPERATIONS

■ ARRIVALS & PROCESSING

Operation	Detail
Coastal Arrivals → Road Transfers	Migrants intercepted at sea or on beaches → transported by Border Force/contractor vehicles to M...
Air Arrivals	■■ Ad-hoc only — no routine charter or government flight schedule confirmed; airport currently in...
Processing Stages	Identity verification → security screening → asylum intake → health assessment → phone/data se...
Processing Timescale	Designed for less than 24 hours; reported to vary from hours to several days during capacity crises

■ ONWARD TRANSFERS — BY AIR & ROAD

Method	Destination & Detail
✈ ■ Air — Domestic	Stansted, Birmingham, Glasgow, Edinburgh — other UK processing centres or airports (ad-hoc basis)
✈ ■ Air — International	Gibraltar, Cyprus, mainland Europe — removal/deportation flights (typically from other UK airports)
■ Road — Domestic	Coaches to accommodation centres across the UK — Home Office contracted transport
■ Road → Ferry	Direct A299/A256 to Ramsgate or Dover — onward to mainland Europe or other UK ports
■ Equipment Movement	Seized vessels loaded onto HGVs → same port routes → off-site disposal or transfer

■ NIGHT-TIME OPERATIONS — OBSERVED PATTERNS

Detail	Observation
Peak Activity Window	■■ 10:00 PM – 5:00 AM — potential window for reduced-visibility movements; specific patterns n...
Aircraft Type	Narrow-body jets — Airbus A320, Boeing 737 — standard charter transfer aircraft (if operations o...
Turnaround Time	Typically 30–90 minutes on the ground — rapid exchange, minimal visibility
Road Convoys	Coaches and unmarked vehicles — potentially coordinated with flight arrivals
Transponder Status	Some government/Border Force aircraft — limited or restricted tracking — not visible on public flig...

4. ■ CONTRACTORS & RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

Organisation	Role
Home Office / Border Force	Overall operational control — policy, intake, removals
Home Office Contracted Operator	On-site operator services — processing centre management, security, healthcare (tendered)
Mears Group	■■ Housing and accommodation transport — road transfers from processing centres to UK
Various Charter Airlines	Air transport — not publicly listed; contracted at short notice (if required)
RiverOak Strategic Partners	Landowner — site infrastructure, airfield maintenance, planned reopening as freight hub
Sub-contracted Hauliers	Seized vessel collection and transport — local road haulage firms under contract

5. ■ MONITORING & OBSERVATION — WHAT THE PUBLIC CAN DO

✈ ■ AIRCRAFT TRACKING — FREE PUBLIC TOOLS

Tool	What It Shows
FlightRadar24	Live arrivals/departures, aircraft type, origin/destination, registration
ADS-B Exchange	Unfiltered raw data — shows many aircraft that restrict tracking
RadarBox / OpenSky Network	Alternate independent tracking sources — cross-reference for confirmation
Key Times to Monitor	22:00–05:00 nightly — filter for arrivals from Europe, Gibraltar, Cyprus, or unknown origin

■ ROAD & GROUND OBSERVATION

Route	What to Watch
A299 — Airport → Ramsgate Port	Coaches, unmarked minibuses, curtain-sided HGVs, escorted convoys
A256 — Airport → Dover Port	Same — especially night movements between 23:00–04:00
Airport Perimeter Roads	Secure compound activity — vehicle movements, loading/unloading
Ramsgate & Dover Port Exits	HGVs carrying boat-shaped loads — trailers, outboard motors, covered cargo

■ OBSERVATION LOG TEMPLATE

Date	Time	Aircraft/Vehicle	Origin/From	Direction/To	Notes

6. ■■ OFFICIAL INFORMATION — CONFIRMED VS UNDISCLOSED

Item	Status	Source
Manston used for migrant processing	■■ CONFIRMED	Home Office factsheet, Parliamentary statements
Home Office contracted operator runs facility	■■ CONFIRMED	Contracts Finder tender (Oct 2024)
Seized vessels stored on-site at Manston	■■ NOT INDEPENDENTLY VERIFIED	Home Office statements confirm national storage; specific details not disclosed
Ad-hoc government flights operate here	■■ PLAUSIBLE BUT NOT CONFIRMED	CAUTION: Records, Jettly (mid-2026): no regular charter schedule
Exact flight origins/destinations	■ NOT PUBLICLY DISCLOSED	Home Office FOI response
Daily passenger/transfer numbers	■ NOT PUBLICLY DISCLOSED	Same
Night flight schedules	■ NOT PUBLICLY DISCLOSED	Same
Phone seizures on-site	■■ CONFIRMED	Sky News, Jan 2026
Specific sub-contractor names	■■ Partially disclosed	Contracts Finder — main contractors confirmed, subs not

7. ■ KEY FINDINGS & SUMMARY

Finding	Detail
■ Multi-purpose facility	Processing centre + potential secure equipment storage + airfield with ad-hoc government use + r
■ Airport capable of large jets	Not small aircraft only — handles A320, 737, 747, military transports — 2,748m × 60m runway
■ Direct port links	Ramsgate ~10 mins / Dover ~25 mins — seamless air→road→ferry logistics
■ 24/7 operational capability	No night restrictions; airport capable of round-the-clock operations
■■ Vessel storage unconfirmed	Hundreds of dinghies/RIBs held nationally; specific Manston storage not verified in open sources
■■ Full details not disclosed	Flight origins, passenger numbers, exact daily movements — redacted under 'operational security'
■ Public can monitor	Flight trackers + road observation + port logs — patterns can be independently documented

8. ■ SOURCES & FURTHER ACTIONS

Action	Resource
Official Statistics	Home Office — Transparency Data: Migration and Border
Contract Details	Contracts Finder — GOV.UK — search 'Manston Reception Centre' 'Border Force transport'
CAA Data	Civil Aviation Authority — airport traffic statistics (annual)
FOI Requests	Submit to: Home Office, Border Force, Thanet District Council
Local Council	Thanet District Council — planning, licensing, environmental health
Parliamentary Questions	TheyWorkForYou — search 'Manston' 'Border Force' 'migrant transfers'
Aviation Tracking	ADS-B Exchange, FlightRadar24, RadarBox

■ DISCLAIMER

This dossier compiles publicly available information, verified data, and reported observations. Confirmed facts are marked ■; areas not officially disclosed are marked ■ or ■■. Operations may change — verify through multiple sources. This document is for transparency and public information purposes only — not for unlawful monitoring or interference with official operations.

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