

St James Isle of Grain Parish Council

CG/105

23rd May 2014

Airports Commission
6th Floor
Sanctuary Buildings
20 Great Smith Street
LONDON
SW1P 3BT

Dear Sirs

RE: FUTURE AIRPORT PROVISION – THAMES ESTUARY

This Council, being one of eleven parish councils within Medway, has resolved to object to the construction of an estuary airport and reiterates its objections as per letter dated 16th May 2013, as follows:

Our specific grounds of objection to an “onshore” airport on the Hoo Peninsula are based upon the following issues and considerations:

- The destruction of whole villages, and the severe reduction in the quality of life for those continuing to reside on the Hoo Peninsula.
- The loss of over 4,000 hectares of valuable marshland and agricultural land that benefits from the highest designations, including SSSI, ESA and Ramsar.
- The resultant levels of air, noise and light pollution.
- The economic case has not been made for an Estuary option.
- Any stated benefits for the economy of the Medway Towns are outweighed by the ecological and environmental harm that the

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development would cause.

- The loss of specific sites of wildlife conversation, and habitats, including the heronry at High Halstow, and the sites visited by over 155,000 migratory and other birds.
- The loss of the army firing range at Yantlett, West Lane, in this parish, appears not to have been considered.
- This parish is the site for a number of heavy industrial plants, including hazardous activities – two power stations and an LNG plant (recently extended). Additionally, the US Liberty Ship 'Richard Montgomery' lies beyond our boundary in the estuary as a wreck, deemed too hazardous to have been moved since it sunk whilst semi-loaded with ammunitions during World War II.

This Council urges the Commission to discount any "onshore" Estuary airport. The offshore so-called "Boris Island" option is also opposed. Although properties would not be demolished, there would be a severe ecological effect, particularly in relation to birdlife.

Yours faithfully

