



SAVE OUR DOCKS!

For 400 years Chatham Docks has protected Britain's shores and provided livelihoods for generations of Medway families.

Today Chatham Docks is a thriving, working port.

400
YEARS

HOW CHATHAM DOCKS DELIVERS FOR MEDWAY

JOBS & MONEY

- Every year **Chatham Docks generates £258 million worth of business for Medway**
- The Docks **directly employs 800 local people in highly skilled jobs**
- & **1400 more local jobs** are provided indirectly through the Docks supply chains ¹

Businesses that operate at Chatham Docks include manufacturers that make the steel that builds London's infrastructure; hi-tech specialist recycling firms; and ship repair and maintenance operators.

ArcelorMittal Kent Wire is the main tenant at Chatham Docks and has been there since 1988. Its parent company is the world's leading steel producer.

In addition to being the hub of UK operations, Kent Wire is this country's leading manufacturer of fabric reinforcement, which it supplies to the construction industry in the UK.



THE ENVIRONMENT

As a port Chatham Docks delivers huge **environmental benefits** to Medway residents.

Transporting cargo by water – instead of road – is one of the greenest solutions available. It reduces carbon emissions and helps keeps the air residents breathe clean. A recent expert report ² confirmed that if the Docks close there will be a **massive increase in CO2 emissions** (12,610t/CO2 per year) through loss of on-site recycling, engineering & the transport of finished goods that is currently done by water:

- **Air quality will worsen by 300%** - Rezoning Chatham Docks from industrial to mixed use will worsen air quality by 300% from its current level.
- In terms of air pollution, Chatham will become **“one of the worst affected areas in the UK outside of Central London”**.

Two Docks' businesses – Total Ships Services & Street Fuel Ltd – are directly involved in making sure the UK meets its environmental targets:

- Every year circa 150 of Total Ship Service's vessels transport 250,000 tonnes of freight in and out of Chatham Docks. The cargo they carry includes fuel for green energy generation.
- Street Fuel Ltd – based at Chatham Docks since 2013 – is a recycling specialist. They work under permits issued by the Environment Agency and recover 290,000 tonnes of waste each year, much of it hard to recycle waste that would otherwise have to be sent to landfill.

¹ Chatham Docks Economic Impact Report (Feb 2020) Prof. Tim Strangleman Professor of Sociology, School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, University of Kent.

² Analysis of CO2 emissions of Vessels importing and exporting via Chatham Docks and the potential impact of those vessels being transferred to Sheerness Port or being replaced fully by road vehicle transport. Author: Dave Sheedy, CQP MCQI MICRS.

THE FUTURE – HOW VIABLE IS CHATHAM DOCKS GOING FORWARD?

The business landscape changes over time but the value of the site as a working port and manufacturing hub for highly skilled, well-paid employment for the people of Medway is not in question.

So long as Britain is surrounded by water, ports will need ship repairers. And the proximity to cargo berths is always attractive to a whole range of diverse operations.

Steel Builds Britain - Given the harmful impact of COVID on the UK economy, the Government's infrastructure projects over the next 20 years have become even more critical. They include:

- HS2 – High Speed Rail connection between London and the North
- Lower Thames Crossing
- Silver Town Tunnel
- Crossrail 2

Steel Reinforcement is the basic fabric of UK construction and without it these projects cannot be delivered. ArcelorMittal Kent Wire is already contracted to deliver the core materials for several of these key projects.

They want to stay at Chatham Docks, have invested heavily in the site and intend to renew their leases for a further 25 years when they come to an end.

THE BEATING HEART OF THE RIVER MEDWAY

Chatham Docks is a unique port and manufacturing hub. All of the businesses that operate there have chosen to be based at the Docks precisely because:

- It's the only non-tidal, enclosed dock in the whole of Kent.
- It is a feeder port for European trade and a manufacturing hub. Significantly, the Docks provides the only commercial non-tidal berth on the whole of the Medway, upstream of the Isle of Grain.³
- Chatham Docks keeps the ships of the South East afloat. Quite literally. From river dredgers to barges filled with the aggregates that will build the capital's new homes, the capacity of ship repairers at Chatham Docks outweighs anything available on the Thames and Medway combined.

Relocating to another port such as Sheerness is not a viable business option.



³ GPS Marine Contractors Ltd

THREAT FROM MEDWAY COUNCIL

Peel Land & Property owns the freehold of the Chatham Docks, along with several other of Kent's historic waterways.

Peel has a history of underinvesting in the site and they have announced they want to close the Docks in 2025. In the past any plans Peel might have had for redeveloping the site were restricted by the existing Medway Council Planning policy. It safeguards the Docks by preventing redevelopment for anything other than industrial or employment use.

Now - shockingly – Medway Council's own Leader Cllr Alan Jarrett seems determined to throw four centuries of history overboard by dumping Chatham Docks' "protected" status.

Siding with Peel Land & Property, when the new development plan is published later this year Cllr Jarrett wants to rezone the waterside and offer it up as fodder to the property developers.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

The *Save Chatham Docks Campaign* has received fantastic support from local residents, as well as from some cross-party, political big hitters:



Local Rochester & Strood MP Kelly Tolhurst, a passionate supporter of the fight to save the Docks, slammed the plans for closure at a recent Prime Minister's Questions, calling them **"SHORT TERM"** and designed purely to **"MAKE PROFIT FOR THE LANDOWNER AT THE EXPENSE OF LONG-TERM ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS."**

Responding, PM Boris Johnson said he hoped **"A SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND WHICH GIVES THE BENEFITS SHE DESCRIBES FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY."**



Sir Keir Starmer QC MP & Labour Leader is another campaign supporter, **"WE CAN'T RECOVER FROM A HEALTH AND ECONOMIC CRISIS LIKE CORONAVIRUS ON THE BACK OF UNEMPLOYMENT. THAT'S WHY I'M PROUDLY BACKING THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT QUALITY JOBS AT CHATHAM DOCKS."**



ACDCO Website: www.savechathamdocks.co.uk

 [@savechathamdoc1](https://twitter.com/savechathamdoc1)

For further information and to arrange a visit to Chatham Docks please contact Kim Humphreys at Carvil Ventures Limited: kim.humphreys@carvil-ventures.co.uk

