The world is changing right before our eyes. The global landscape is being profoundly reshaped by forces such as evolving trade patterns and geopolitical shifts, ushering in a new era of transformation and opportunity. Further, the pervasive impact of climate change is impossible to ignore and as a responsible business, we need to adapt and innovate.

Henrik L. Pedersen, ABP Chief Executive Officer
INTRODUCING ABP

Associated British Ports (ABP) is the UK’s leading ports group, with a network of 21 ports handling around a quarter of the UK’s seaborne trade. Our ports support more than £13 billion of value from exports to the UK economy and 166,300 jobs.

Our ports provide essential gateways for trade, enable green infrastructure and catalyse investment and good jobs in coastal communities.

These contributions are built on the foundations of safe and resilient operations today, together with embracing innovation and people development to deliver the ports of tomorrow.

We are redefining what Keeping Britain Trading means in the greener, cleaner economy of the future. This is reflected in the launch of our sustainability strategy, ‘Ready for Tomorrow’, which sets out our plan to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions from our own operations by 2040 at the latest.

Our ports are vital to the nation’s industry:
- Agriculture, food and feed
- Automotive
- Construction
- Containers
- Cruise
- Energy
- Logistics
- Manufacturing
- Ro-Ro

Our port locations:
- **Humber**: The UK’s largest ports complex.
  - Handling 60 million tonnes of goods.
  - Key foundation of a vital super cluster for decarbonisation.
  - Handling £38.8 billion of trade.

- **Southampton**: The UK’s largest deep sea gateway.
  - Europe’s #1 cruise turnaround port.
  - Handling £62.2 billion of trade.

- **South Wales**: Key gateways for strategic sectors for Wales like steel and agriculture.
  - Handling £2.8 billion of trade.

- **Short Sea Ports**: Eleven ports spanning all corners of Great Britain proving essential regional connectivity.
  - Handling four million tonnes of freight and contributing to green growth.

The group’s other activities include port maintenance and dredging (UK Dredging) and marine and hydrographic consultancy (ABPmer) and marinas (The Beacon Marina Collection).

*This site is operated by Maritime Transport*
Welcome to our Annual Review 2023, which looks at ABP’s dynamic journey over the past 12 months. We have been busy operating in a fast-paced environment, navigating global supply chain disruptions amplified by urgent challenges such as the energy transition and developing ambitious growth plans for our future and that of Britain.

The world is changing right before our eyes. The global landscape is being profoundly reshaped by forces such as evolving trade patterns and geo-political shifts, ushering in a new era of transformation and opportunity. Further, the pervasive impact of climate change is impossible to ignore and as a responsible business, we need to adapt and innovate.

Amidst all this dynamism, one thing has remained the same – here at ABP, we are ambitious for the future. We are ambitious not just for ABP but also for Britain – and this is the theme of this year’s Annual Review.

Our ambition is evident as we continue to develop our core freight handling activities as the UK’s leading ports operator. Our acquisition of Solent Gateway in Southampton and further investments in freight handling capabilities across many of our locations such as Immingham, Hull, Newport, Lowestoft and Ayr demonstrate our commitment to delivering value for our customers.

Wind integration port in Port Talbot. In the last year we also announced major partnerships for hydrogen, carbon capture & storage and direct air capture projects. We have also continued to expand our position in facilitating the operation and maintenance of offshore energy.

We are ambitious for Britain as a whole, but especially for the regions where we operate. We are committed to being good neighbours and creating jobs and prosperity in local communities. The last year saw positive progress in the Freeports where we play a leading role – the Humber, the Solent and the newly awarded Celtic Freeport in South Wales. Likewise, we continue to enhance and expand the growth generating potential of our sites including the likes of Lowestoft and Newport. And I’m always proud to see our apprentice and graduate programmes continue to thrive.

But ambition is nothing without the strong foundations our business is built upon – safety, people and innovation. Of these, safety remains our core value. After several years of significant improvements, we were tragically reminded this year how our actions to improve safety can never cease.

We hope you enjoy reading this document and that it serves as an invitation for all of us to be ambitious about the future and what we can achieve together, keeping Britain trading sustainably.

Henrik L. Pedersen
Chief Executive Officer, ABP
Against this backdrop ports’ crucial role as gateways for global trade, conduits for greener supply chains and testbeds for technological innovation has become even more pronounced. Choosing the right port location to transport products has become critical for businesses interested in optimising their supply chains. Offering proximity to products’ manufacturing and delivery locations, ABP’s ports are ideally located to ensure that businesses can minimise the financial and environmental costs of transportation and storage.

Thanks to our nationwide network, we have the scale and the expertise to offer our customers greater choice and flexibility. Every year, our ports handle trade worth £157 billion and benefit from strong rail and road connectivity to important domestic industrial clusters, logistics hubs and major conurbations.

ABP’s Humber ports handle trade worth £86.8 billion, making them the UK’s biggest ports complex. We continue to invest in capacity in the region, such as in short sea container handling, which is particularly important for customers post Brexit and in sustainability terms.

Global markets have seen increased volatility over recent years, with issues such as geopolitical instability, rising fuel costs and driver shortages coming to the fore. This has presented a challenging environment for businesses in the transport and logistics sector and their customers, who have had to navigate the choppy waters of uncertainty.
On the Humber, ABP is investing £50 million in its container terminals in Hull and Immingham and is on course to boost capacity to more than 500,000 containers each year. Our investment includes brand new Liebherr ship-to-shore cranes and state-of-the-art terminal management systems designed to provide a fast, reliable and efficient service. Hull and Immingham also both offer greater flexibility for customers with no forward booking for collections or drop-offs required, as well as value-added services for customers.

In Southampton, ABP is also investing in rail connectivity to help decarbonise supply chains. We are the UK’s leading rail-connected ports group with a wide network, generating around 100 rail movements a day via 16 of our 21 ports. In September 2022, ABP announced that it would be making a joint investment with Solent Stevedores worth £17.5 million in a new container offering for deep sea shipping lines at the Port of Southampton. This latest phase in the terminal’s upgrade project will create an 18-acre facility, which will link the existing intermodal rail transport site with laden and empty container handling, storage, maintenance and repair within a single site boundary – a first for the Port of Southampton.

Across ABP’s other 16 ports, the past 12 months have also seen significant investment, including the launch of a new terminal operation system at the Port of Newport, as well as two development sites to support around 90 acres of regeneration. In addition, ABP invested in the launch of a development site at the Port of Garston with the potential to deliver jobs and environmental benefits to the region.

Supporting regional prosperity and good quality jobs is a leading element of ABP’s ambition for Britain. Indeed, ABP is supporting growth through its unrivalled port-based development land, which provides access to energy-efficient, flexible facilities and renewable energy, often generated on port. 18 of our 21 ports already have renewable energy generation projects and we have reduced our own greenhouse gas emissions by 36% since 2014.

Freeport policy is another opportunity to stimulate economic prosperity and jobs in the region. ABP is involved in four English freeports and one in Wales. We are the leading port players in the Humber, Solent and Celtic Freeports. The latter will attract £5.5 billion inward investment in modern, green technologies and create 16,000 new, high-quality, green jobs, which will spearhead a new green industrial revolution in the region. We are supportive players in Liverpool City Region and Plymouth. And whilst one of the key lessons has been how different the Freeports can be in terms of scope, strategic intent and more, there are some important common lessons. Collaboration between the private and public sectors is crucial to ensure that future opportunities for investment can be maximised and British regions can reap the economic benefits.

ABP has invested around £750 million over the last 5 years in our ports and surrounding areas for growth and job creation.
As part of its sustainability strategy, ABP is planning to invest around £1.4bn in infrastructure and facilities to support customers involved in the energy transition. This includes working with businesses in key UK industrial clusters such as the Humber and South Wales, as well as playing our part in dramatically reducing emissions in global shipping. To make Net Zero a reality, it is essential that there is a partnership approach, both between industry players, but also between governments and industry itself. ABP is working with strategic partners on the development of a number of nationally significant green energy projects.

**Green Port Hull (GPH)** was a £310m joint investment between ABP and Siemens Gamesa. GPH created a renewable energy hub with world-class offshore wind turbine blade manufacturing, assembly and servicing facilities as its centre piece.

**Future Port Talbot - Floating Offshore Wind**

ABP is planning to invest around £500 million to develop new and repurposed infrastructure in Port Talbot to enable the port to host manufacturing, installation and supply chain activity for the Floating Offshore Wind (FLOW) sector.

**Immingham Green Energy Terminal**

In 2022, ABP and Air Products announced their intention to bring the first large-scale, green hydrogen production facility to the UK. The facility will be located at the Port of Immingham and will import green ammonia, which will be used to produce green hydrogen to help decarbonise hard-to-abate sectors such as transport and industry.

**Lowestoft Eastern Energy Facility (LEEF)**

Designed to support offshore energy projects in the Southern North Sea, the award-winning LEEF project will attract many offshore energy supply chain companies to Lowestoft, bringing new jobs and prosperity to the area whilst safeguarding the important kittiwake population.

**Viking carbon capture and storage (CCS) project**

In 2022, ABP and Harbour Energy announced an exclusive commercial relationship to develop a CO2 import terminal at the Port of Immingham, the UK’s largest port by tonnage. The terminal will provide a large-scale facility to connect CO2 emissions from industrial businesses around the UK to high capacity CO2 geological storage sites under the North Sea.
The period between now and 2040 will be key as it will see ABP go on journey of investing around £600m to decarbonise its own infrastructure and equipment, as part of its sustainability strategy, ‘Ready for Tomorrow’. As part of this we will continue to build on our track record of delivering ever more sustainable port operations, having reduced our carbon footprint by 38% between 2014 and 2021.

We have a role to play in both reducing our own fuel and power consumption and in enabling the UK’s energy transition to limit the impacts of climate change.

We recognise that we have a responsibility, together with the shipping lines and inland-logistics providers using our ports, to outperform national ambient air quality objectives.

We will seek to drive a net positive biodiversity impact from our development projects and day-to-day operations, which we will be able to measure and value.

Partnering with our employees, we want to limit the amount of waste we create, segregate and recycle as much as possible, and minimise the amount being incinerated or in landfills.

We are working to improve our water monitoring, reduce our consumption, and reuse it where possible.

18 of ABP’s 21 ports already have renewable energy generation projects, which feed our own operations, as well as those of our customers and the National Grid. In addition, we have ambitious plans to considerably increase our renewable energy capacity, aiming to deploy an additional 80MW in the next five years.

Our sustainability strategy is based around a Net Zero target for our own operations (Scopes 1 and 2) and the key themes outlined above.

Investment of £2 billion in sustainability
Whilst some of these projects are future-looking and will require many years to become reality, some are already evident in our port estate. For example, in March 2023, ABP announced an investment of over £2 million to expand its fleet of electric forklift trucks servicing its Humber ports, including the installation of vehicle charging points. Four 10T Carer electric forklift trucks have arrived at Immingham Bulk Park and Immingham Fertiliser Terminal on the port. We have also started recycling decommissioned cranes and welcomed hybrid-electric vessels such as the MV Vertom Cyta, a brand-new hybrid-electric shortsea general cargo ship, which called at the Port of Ipswich in May.
// AMBITIOUS FOR SAFETY, PEOPLE AND INNOVATION

Our resilience as a business relies on our people and we have a responsibility to help keep them safe and create a great place to work, so that they can feel proud, valued, and inspired to be ambitious for what we can achieve.

Underpinning everything is safety which is and will remain our core value at ABP. Ensuring all our people go home safely every day is at the heart of everything we do. Our behavioural safety programme ‘Beyond Zero’ has set an ambitious objective: no accidents at ABP. Embedding a safety-led culture is a critical step towards eliminating harm and creating a great place to work. The continuous emphasis on behavioural safety has witnessed teams of front-line colleagues taking part in an extended range of safety culture and leadership courses. We are also deploying new technologies and techniques, such as our virtual reality, fully immersive training course, to help raise awareness amongst colleagues about the dangers and challenges of the workplace. This safety training earned ABP the ‘Innovation in Port Safety’ Award at the Multimodal trade show in Birmingham in June 2023, reinforcing cross-industry recognition of ABP’s excellence in the maritime sector.

ABP has already made progress when it comes to investing in safety improvements, including becoming the first UK ports operator to adopt women’s Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) workwear in 2019. Building on this, ABP has developed a new range of PPE with an SA8000 certification of social responsibility, in partnership with APOCO, experts in safety, and MASCOT workwear, who share ABP’s commitment to the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. We have also invested in an award-winning immersive safety training programme, Thrive, in 2021 and other courses, which help equip colleagues with the right skills to create a safer workplace for everyone.

Our continuous programme of asset renewal and improvement, plus our focus on operational performance, have meant that ABP’s ports have remained open and fully operational despite the tests of the pandemic and global supply chain shocks. As operators of critical national infrastructure, we have specialist physical and cyber security resources and work closely with the relevant authorities.

WE WERE DELIGHTED TO WIN BOTH THE ‘MARITIME 2050’ AND ‘EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR’ ACCOLADES AT THE 2023 MARITIME UK AWARDS, AS WELL AS THE ‘INNOVATION IN PORT SAFETY’ AWARD AT MULTIMODAL 2023’
Investing in training is a key part of our journey towards building a sustainable business. Our employees benefit from access to the ABP Academy, our in-house training provider, which provides a range of courses, which cover topics such as practical skills in workplace safety and IT but also extend to leadership and mentoring training. In 2023, ABP became the first ports group in the world to be approved by the IEMA (Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment) to act as a training provider for IEMA courses. As a result, ABP employees have started benefitting from the IEMA-accredited course “Environmental Sustainability Skills for the Workforce” to help them deliver our sustainability strategy.

But we also look to the future, both in terms of innovation and human capital development. Recent examples of our innovation activity include deploying drone technology, private 5G networks and wearable safety devices. As we look to the ports’ workforce of the future we continue to develop our sector-leading training programmes (through our in house ‘Academy’ and Apprentice and Graduate schemes) as well as a broad diversity, equity and inclusion programme.

ABP is committed to increased gender diversity, something which is reflected in its Executive Team, with 30% female representation. In December 2020, ABP achieved Women in Maritime chartered-company status to build on this commitment.
BEING GOOD NEIGHBOURS TO THE COMMUNITIES SURROUNDING OUR PORTS IS IMPORTANT TO US.

This not only means supporting charitable causes and contributing to regional economies, creating high-quality jobs. It also means we work hard to demystify the maritime sector and help local communities see the central role ports play in keeping their fridges stocked, and their cars and homes powered – to name just a few examples of how our business touches their lives. From resident painters to schoolchildren, everybody is welcome at our ports. In fact, we regularly host many different groups, for example during Heritage Open Days.

We also support many community events and initiatives, including sponsorship of marathons in Southampton, Newport, Cardiff and the Humber. Also on the Humber, we support the Grimsby and Cleethorpes Sea Cadets, Hull and East Riding Children’s University and Immingham Museum.

Across the group, we organise beach cleans and tree planting initiatives, including a project to plant 21,000 trees across UK regions, in partnership with Trees for Cities, which forms part of The Queen’s Green Canopy.

In the summer of 2023, ABP is organising a sustainability-themed ‘Ready for Tomorrow’ school competition, to encourage pupils living in the coastal communities surrounding its ports to make their schools more sustainable. Celebrating ABP’s own Net Zero sustainability strategy ‘Ready for Tomorrow’, the competition is open to pupils aged 8 – 10 years in participating schools. Spread across ABP’s regions, participating schools are situated in coastal communities in the Humber, Solent, East Anglia, South West England, Scotland and Wales. Winners and runners up will be selected in each of these locations and will receive prizes including book vouchers and school donations. The winners will also be invited to attend ABP’s Annual launch reception at the Houses of Parliament in London.

This is not the time to stand still, it is a time to be ambitious. We need to work together to secure a better future for this and future generations.
## KEY STATISTICS

### UNITS
- Containers: 1.3 M
- RO-RO: 0.7 M
- Vehicles: 1.1 M

### TONNES
- Forest products: 1.5 M
- Agribulks: 4.0 M
- Liquid bulks: 17.3 M
- Construction and manufacturing: 11.2 M
- Energy bulks: 11.1 M

### PASSENGERS
- Cruise: 1.9 M
- Ferry: 0.7 M
SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

// SUMMER 2022

1. ABP Ipswich welcomes 50 yachts for the Jubilee celebrations.

2. Large-scale green hydrogen for the UK: ABP and Air Products partner on renewable hydrogen production.

3. Maritime Transport takes over long-term lease to operate Hams Hall, one of the UK’s busiest rail freight terminals.

4. Solent Freeport launch brings community stakeholders to Horizon Cruise Terminal at the Port of Southampton.

5. Port of Garston becomes first port in the UK to trial new wearable safety devices to enhance employee safety.

6. Port of Ipswich is the number one for agricultural products exports for 17 years in a row.


8. Two development sites at the Port of Newport launched to support around 95 acres of regeneration.

9. 100-mile charity bike ride to raise funds for St Elizabeth Hospice organised by ABP.

10. Princess Cruises’ Sky Princess becomes the latest cruise ship to be commissioned for shore power at the Port of Southampton.
SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

// AUTUMN 2022

1. Development site at Port of Garston to deliver jobs and environmental benefits.

2. Multi-million pound rail investment at the Port of Southampton to enhance container offering.

3. Development site at Port of Garston to deliver jobs and environmental benefits.


5. Port of Cardiff celebrates new distribution centre lease with Owens Group.

6. ABP Graduate Training Scheme 2023 opens for applications.

7. ABP and Viking CCS embark on major step towards a future CO2 shipping industry in the UK.

8. ABP supports innovation by testing new drone technology to monitor operations.


10. Volunteers come together for the ABP Coastal Half Marathon and 5K along the stunning Cleethorpes coastline.
SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

// WINTER 2022

1. ABP’s Mark Collier recognised as UK Ports Harbour Master of the Year 2022.

2. ABP first to trial hydrogen terminal tractor in UK.

3. Port of Southampton publishes air quality strategy update.

4. ABP supports Marchwood Port site through acquisition of site operator.

5. Search for new intake of ABP Apprentices launched.

6. 21,000 trees planted across the UK as part of ABP’s sponsorship of Trees for Cities.


8. £4.8 million invested to expand Hull Container Terminal storage capacity.

9. ABP becomes world’s first IEMA-approved training provider in the port sector.

10. ABP launches £2 billion plan for energy transition growth and Net Zero 2040.

16,000 trees planted across the UK as part of ABP’s sponsorship of Trees for Cities.
Clarksons Port Services celebrate 25th anniversary at Port of Ipswich.

Wealth of maritime career opportunities celebrated during International Women’s Day.

Industry ‘Offshore Wind Plan’ for delivering green jobs and investment backed by ABP.

ABP wins ‘Employer of the Year’ and ‘Maritime 2050’ categories at Maritime UK Awards.

Fleet of electric forklift trucks grows on the Humber.

Humber Freeport set to bring thousands of jobs to local community.

Onshore wind investment proposal to enhance Humber ports green credentials.

Onshore wind investment proposal to enhance Humber ports green credentials.

Green light for transformational Celtic Freeport bid, set to deliver over 16,000 new, green jobs.

Southampton Marathon supported by ABP for 8 years in a row.

Maritime Minister visits Port of Southampton.

Onshore wind investment proposal to enhance Humber ports green credentials.
Thank you for reading our Annual Review 2023, please click here to go to our website for more information:

www.abports.co.uk