

UK PORTS CONFERENCE 2026

3-4 JUNE | LONDON



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Ahead of [UK Ports Conference 2026](#) taking place on 3-4 June 2026, **David Gwynne, Investments & Advisory Director, National Wealth Fund**, shares the growth opportunities for ports and how to improve sustainability.

WHAT ARE THE GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES FOR PORTS CURRENTLY? HOW CAN PORTS RESPOND TO MAXIMISE THESE?

There are significant opportunities to support the continued growth in offshore wind and renewable energy more broadly. Ports can look to engage with developers, OEMs to try and gain a first mover advantage and / or build ahead of contractual demand

HOW CAN PORTS IMPROVE SUSTAINABILITY AND REDUCE EMISSIONS?

Many ports are commissioning their own renewable assets to reduce their carbon footprint (eg rooftop solar) . Ports can also support ship-to-shore power connections and facilities to support newer sustainable fuels. They can also look at their own assets, e.g. cranes, pilot boats, mafis and other vehicles and shifting them away from hydrocarbon fuels.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT CHALLENGES TO PROGRESSING PORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT? HOW CAN THESE BE NAVIGATED?

Key challenges are the certainty of timing of offshore contracts, the short-dated nature of many of those contracts and the risks to continuation of the programme. Equally, with moves to alternative fuels, the underlying economics and associated businesses cases need to be robust to support investment.

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