

# UK PORTS CONFERENCE 2026

3-4 JUNE | LONDON



**TOM WILLIS**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
SHOREHAM PORT

Ahead of [UK Ports Conference 2026](#) taking place on 3-4 June 2026, **Tom Willis, Chief Executive, Shoreham Port**, 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?

We are at an exciting time, Ports are complimenting their role traditional trading models with strategies to develop energy hubs and tourism offers. Asset and particularly space utilisation are critical to running these new models alongside maintaining core business.

## HOW CAN PORTS IMPROVE SUSTAINABILITY AND REDUCE EMISSIONS?

With solutions such as electrification and alterative fuels (HVO) increasingly available the challenge is frequently more financial than technological. This is particularly acute in short sea markets where margins are small. Small pilots (such as testing eHGVs) can build confidence before making larger investments.

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

Cost of capital, grid connectivity and supply chain disruption are all significant challenges to infrastructure development. These can be navigated through close partnership working and long term planning.

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