

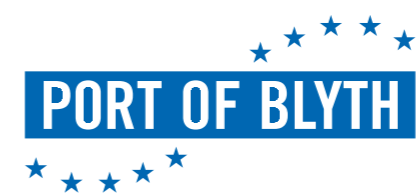
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**PORT OF BLYTH**

# ANNUAL REVIEW 2022



# CONTENTS

CHAIR'S STATEMENT	4
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REVIEW	6
PORT OVERVIEW & STATUTE	8
CONSTITUTION & BOARD	10
FINANCE	14
MARINE	16
ENVIRONMENT	18
PORT OPERATIONS	20
FORWARDING & LOGISTICS	22
SAFETY & TRAINING	24
PORT DEVELOPMENTS	26
ENERGY CENTRAL	28
STAKEHOLDERS & THE COMMUNITY	30
THE FUTURE	32
OUR MISSION, VISION & VALUES	34







# CHAIR'S STATEMENT

## Geoff Hodgson OBE DL

Chair

In my final year as Chair, I am delighted to report a record Group financial performance for 2022, following on from the record figures achieved in 2021. Turnover increased significantly to £30.4 million, translating into record profitability, with adjusted operating profit and profit before tax, increasing to £3.9 million and £3.5 million respectively.

Although the core port operating business continued to be the main contributor to Group performance, our logistics subsidiary, Transped, also performed well with a turnover of £11.9 million and pre-tax profit of £0.4 million. They remain an important part of the Group, playing an essential role in supporting the twice-weekly container service from the Continent and forming part of the "One Stop Shop" service we look to provide to our customer base.

High levels of capex continued in 2022, remaining around £7.8 million and supporting ongoing developments and growth. This included the redevelopment of our Bates terminal which is moving towards completion and further investment at Battleship Wharf. Other capex included the purchase of the largest electric crane of its type in the UK, investment in solar panels, warehouse upgrades and the purchase of other plant and equipment.

Such significant port operational activity also provided wider economic benefit to the region, and we understand our importance and obligations as a major catalyst for trade and prosperity. Working with our "Energy Central" partners in SE Northumberland, we continue to grow the nationally significant cluster of clean energy focused organisations around the Estuary, which has created hundreds of jobs. Furthermore, the additional large-scale inward investment announced for the coming 2-3 years will create an internationally significant cluster and create thousands of jobs for Northumberland and the wider region.

It is also pleasing that, as one of the UK's largest Trust Ports, we deliver more than just economic benefits to a diverse range of stakeholders from the local community to wider regional and national organisations and interest groups. In 2022, we continued

to support numerous charities, local schools, groups, initiatives and events, including our Christmas appeal for Blyth Food Bank, particularly important during the current cost of living crisis. We also maintained a commitment to skills and education and it is immensely satisfying that work on the regionally significant Energy Central Learning Hub initiative is underway, helping to inspire the local population, from school children to adults, and train the future workforce needed for a low carbon economy.

And finally, as my term as Chair and Commissioner of Blyth Harbour Commission draws to a close, I am extremely proud of what the Port has achieved during my tenure. None of this would have been possible without the support, hard work and dedication of staff, fellow Commissioners, partners and wider stakeholders.

Geoff Hodgson OBE DL

Chair

I AM EXTREMELY PROUD OF WHAT THE PORT HAS ACHIEVED DURING MY TENURE, AND I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT THE PORT WILL CONTINUE TO THRIVE.







# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REVIEW

## Martin Lawlor

Chief Executive

It is pleasing to report that our main port operating business delivered another record year in 2022, with turnover growing to £19.2 million and adjusted operating profit reaching £3.5 million. Despite the ongoing global economic challenges, the Port has achieved a record turnover, which will help fuel ongoing investment plans.

Despite an extremely busy year, cargo volume handled through the Port dropped slightly, to 0.61 million tonnes. This emphasises the specialist nature of the services provided, where rapid turnaround of high-value equipment is more important than tonnage, which is no longer an adequate measure of port activity. The number of commercial vessel movements is perhaps more appropriate, and at 1099 movements, this provided another record in an exceptional year.

The growth in our core offshore energy sector business continued at pace, with a particular focus on supporting the mobilisation of offshore wind farms. In particular, two major contracts, to receive and re-mobilise subsea foundation piles and inter-array cables, provided significant vessel and onshore handling activity across the year. Other offshore energy activities ranged from the handling of specialist subsea equipment, project lifts, cable and hose reel handling and support for the offshore decommissioning sector. The Port is widely acknowledged as one of the leading offshore energy hubs in the UK, handling nationally and internationally significant projects, and this reputation was only strengthened in 2022.

Containerised traffic reduced a little, with global economic trading conditions proving a challenge across the year. However, volumes still proved consistent and helped to maintain the twice-weekly service from The Netherlands. Transped also continued to provide the majority of cargo on this service, ranging from paper and board products to soft drinks and other consumer items.

Dry bulk handling also reduced due to an end to the coal export trade at Battleship Wharf. However, long-standing alumina, cement, aggregates, and sand trades continued to provide regular cargo across the terminal.

It was gratifying to see liquid bulks through the marine fuel terminal increase by over 40% in 2022, with the facility providing an important service to Port users, particularly in the growing offshore energy sector.

A variety of other breakbulk cargoes were handled in 2022, the largest trade being RDF (refuse-derived fuel). This has been affected by a temporary halt in exports to Scandinavia due to the refurbishment of processing facilities. Once complete, trade is set to resume as usual.

Other revenue streams that made an important contribution to overall performance included property income from tenants based in the Port, the majority of which are related to the offshore energy sector. Together with third-party terminal operations, general conservancy, warehousing storage and training income, this provided additional reliable revenue to the significant but fluctuating income generated from cargo-related activities.

Of course, this was only achieved with the hard work and dedication of our workforce, who continue to go above and beyond in providing exceptional levels of customer service. I, therefore, cannot thank them enough for their contribution across another successful year.

**Martin Lawlor**  
Chief Executive

IT IS PLEASING TO REPORT THAT OUR MAIN PORT OPERATING BUSINESS DELIVERED ANOTHER RECORD YEAR IN 2022.







## PORT OVERVIEW & STATUTE

As a statutory trust, Blyth Harbour Commission is responsible for conservancy and safe navigation on the River Blyth and operates for the benefit of all stakeholders, who include our employees, commercial and leisure port users, the local community and the regional and national economy.

A diverse board of six Commissioners, including the Chief Executive, oversees the strategic development of the Port and its subsidiaries, through bi-monthly meetings with the executive management. A number of committees such as those convened for audit and pension scheme purposes also operate and, together with an Annual Public Meeting, ensure on-going good governance.

Board members are selected for terms of three years with the Chair and Deputy Chair appointed by the Board.

The Port routinely re-invests profits in order to improve the facilities and services offered to all Port users, generating enhanced economic activity and community benefits. As a recognised major UK Trust Port, the Port of Blyth also liaises closely with both regional and national government to ensure that benefits are maximised to stakeholders as a whole.

During 2022, Blyth Harbour Commission (BHC) continued to fulfil these important duties as well as operating a busy modern commercial port with four main terminals and associated cargo handling services.

In addition to its main port business, BHC operates a wholly owned subsidiary Transped Ltd providing complementary port related services. Transped is a well-established international logistics and forwarding company and plays an essential role in attracting trade through the Port.

Although not a separate legal entity, Blyth Harbour Commission also operates a training division, Port Training Services (PTS), offering award winning training provision on a nationwide basis. PTS also provide all in-house training ensuring a highly qualified workforce.

Appointments throughout the business are made adopting Nolan principles and best practice from Trust Port guidance, with candidates chosen for a range of skills to meet the needs of the business at any given time.







## CONSTITUTION & BOARD

A board of Commissioners, including the Chief Executive, oversees the strategy of the Port and its subsidiary Transped, meeting with the executive management on at least a bi-monthly basis. Commissioners are led by a Chair and are appointed based on their significant experience and skills, each serving a three year term with an option for re-election.

## BOARD MEMBERS (COMMISSIONERS)



★ Geoff Hodgson OBE DL  
Chair

Geoff Hodgson spent his early career in sales and marketing roles for multinational companies, including Proctor and Gamble, Diageo and Coca Cola. He returned to the North East in 1994 to work for Newcastle Breweries, ultimately becoming Chief Executive of the Federation Brewery. He is currently working as an investor, advisor and mentor with a variety of local companies and has held a number of non-executive Board positions regionally.

Geoff is currently involved with the Nigel Wright Group, Clearly Drinks, Trustack and UMI amongst other business interests. He is also deputy chair of the Tyne & Wear Community Foundation and Durham School.

**Geoff was appointed a Commissioner in 2012, became Deputy Chair in 2014 and Chair in 2016.**



★ Catherine Young  
Deputy Chair

Catherine Young qualified as a chartered accountant with KPMG before going on to spend time both in practice and industry, including with PwC and Reg Vardy PLC. Catherine has current roles in EdTech and not-for-profit businesses and has previously served in several non-executive roles. These include as Senior Independent Director and Vice Chair at the North East Ambulance Service, as a Governor at the University of Sunderland and as

Chair of Audit Committee at national charity Breast Cancer Care.

Catherine brings her experience in governance, board reporting and accountancy to her role as a Commissioner.

**Catherine was appointed a Commissioner in 2015, Deputy Chair in 2022.**



★ Martin Lawlor  
Chief Executive

Martin Lawlor was appointed Chief Executive of Blyth Harbour Commission in 2006, having previously held the roles of Deputy Chief Executive and Commercial & Operations Director. In overseeing the Group, Martin also acts as Chair of BHC's subsidiary company, Transped.

A former Chair of the British Port's Association, Martin remains on the BPA Council and is also a non-executive Board Member of Port Skills and Safety.

He is a director of regional skills and education initiative, Energy Central Campus and has held positions on a number of regional economic and strategic boards.

Prior to joining the Commission, Martin held various commercial management roles at the ports of Tees & Hartlepool (now PD Ports).

**Martin was appointed Chief Executive and a Commissioner in 2006.**





★ **Paul Hardisty**  
Commissioner

Paul has over 35 years' experience in the Energy industry, having worked for a number of global companies including GE, Halliburton, Aker Solutions and mostly recently Royal IHC. During his career he has spent a significant amount of time living and working overseas including Australia, Norway, USA, Brazil and The Netherlands.

Paul returned to the North East in 2014 as Managing Director of IHC Engineering Business and subsequently became Executive Director in Royal IHC B.V leading the capital equipment businesses in the UK and The Netherlands prior to leaving them in 2020.

*Paul was appointed as a Commissioner in 2021 and is Chair of the Audit Committee.*



★ **Richard Turner**  
Commissioner

Richard Turner is Chief Executive of Geoquip Marine, whilst holding a number of non-executive and advisory positions in the energy sector including the Offshore Wind Growth Partnership (OWGP). Previously, Richard was Chief Executive of Bel Valves & BEL Engineering, President and CEO of JDR Cables and member of the Offshore Wind Industry Council (OWIC).

Prior to JDR, Richard worked for Technip Umbilical Systems, where he was Vice President of Global Manufacturing. Earlier in his career Richard worked in the construction equipment industry with Komatsu and Terex. He has a Mechanical Engineering degree and an MBA from Durham University.

*Richard was appointed as a Commissioner in 2021.*



★ **Gillian Hall**  
Commissioner

Gillian Hall is a highly respected contributor to private and public sector organisations in the region through various non-executive roles, her corporate finance consultancy business and mentoring for growth. Gillian was the first female Senior Partner at Watson Burton LLP, a national law firm with offices in Newcastle, Leeds and London, and before that, led the firm's corporate team for many years. Until recently, she

sat as a board member of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership, where she chaired the Innovation Board and was Deputy Chair of Investment Board. She currently chairs a very ambitious, growth-orientated digital marketing business with offices across the North.

*Gillian was appointed a Commissioner in 2014 and completed her final term on 31 December 2022.*



★ **Lucy Winskell OBE LL**  
Commissioner

Lucy Winskell OBE is His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Tyne and Wear.

Previously, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Employability & Partnerships) at Northumbria University, Lucy was a member of the Executive team after transitioning into higher education following a 28-year career as a litigation lawyer.

Lucy's non-executive career has been focused on economic growth and regeneration within the North East. She is the current Chair of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership.

*Lucy was appointed as a Commissioner in 2023.*

## EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT



★ **Martin Lawlor**  
Chief Executive

Martin has been Chief Executive of the Port since 2006 and also acts as Chair of Blyth Harbour Commission's subsidiary company, Transped. A former Chair of the British Port's Association, Martin remains on the BPA Council and is a Non-Executive Board Member of Port Skills and Safety. He has also served on various regional strategic boards, including a current position at the skills and education initiative, Energy Central Campus. Prior to joining the Commission, Martin held various commercial management roles at the ports of Tees & Hartlepool.



★ **Alan Todd**  
Port Director

Alan joined the Port in 2004 and as Port Director is responsible for overseeing the Operations and Technical departments, as well as assisting the Commercial team on new customer opportunities. Having qualified as a Chartered Civil Engineer, Alan previously worked for Volker Stevin as a contracts manager and Corus as a specialist advisor in the construction of quay structures around the world. Alan is the Chair of the British Ports Association's Port Infrastructure Group.



★ **Edwin Dick**  
Harbour Master

Edwin joined the Port's Marine Department in 2009 as a Pilot/Assistant Harbour Master. He served in the role of Deputy Harbour Master for six years before being appointed Harbour Master in 2019. Edwin is a council member of the UK Harbour Masters Association and represents the North constituency. He is also a member of the joint British Ports Association & UK Major Ports Group Marine & Pilotage Steering Committee, Environmental Committee and the Security and Resilience Group.



★ **Oran Robson**  
Finance Director

Oran joined the Port in 2016 and as Commission Secretary and Finance Director is responsible for both Finance and IT operations. Oran qualified as a chartered accountant with Ernst & Young before subsequently holding management positions with a number of listed organisations, including Rolls Royce plc. Oran is a member of the British Ports Association's Finance Group and is also a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.



# FINANCE

It was a stand-out year for group financial performance for the Port in 2022 as turnover reached a record level and operating profit increased significantly, with both the Port and its subsidiary Transped, posting excellent results.

## Financial results

GROUP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Turnover (£'000s)	30,413	25,517	21,992	21,676	21,877
EBITDA (£'000s)	6,426	4,601	3,374	2,581	2,103
Operating profit (£'000s)	3,670	2,132	1,298	634	303
Adjusted operating profit (£'000s)*	3,852	2,342	1,513	846	595
Profit before taxation (£'000s)	3,318	1,807	948	227	(25)
Adjusted profit before taxation (£'000s)*	3,500	2,017	1,163	439	267

PORT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Turnover (£'000s)	19,190	14,939	11,924	11,392	12,818
Operating profit (£'000s)	3,285	1,624	1,035	306	399
Adjusted operating profit (£'000s)*	3,467	1,834	1,250	518	691
Profit before taxation (£'000s)	3,208	1,578	841	105	72
Adjusted profit before taxation (£'000s)*	3,390	1,788	1,056	317	364
Total throughput inc road / rail (tonnes)	607,000	700,000	649,000	959,000	1,228,000
Total throughput seaborne only (tonnes)	577,000	652,000	502,000	617,000	572,000
Customer service feedback (scale 1 to 10)	9.0	9.1	9.3	9.1	9.1
RIDDOR accident statistics (per 100 workers)	0.8	0.0	0.9	0.9	0.8

The above data is extracted from the Annual Report and Financial Statements approved by the Commissioners and upon which the auditors have provided an unqualified audit opinion for the years shown.

\* Adjusted operating profit and adjusted profit before taxation are operating profit and profit before taxation excluding the impact of current and past service pension costs. As this is a non cash impact, which can be volatile from year to year, the Commissioners believe its exclusion presents a fairer presentation of performance.

## 2022 AT A GLANCE

TURNOVER OF  
**£30.4M** 19.2%  
INCREASE  
ON 2021



DEADWEIGHT  
TONNAGE GREW BY  
**20%**  
INCREASING FROM  
2.29M TO 2.75M

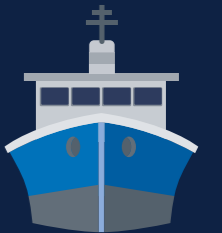


GROUP  
OPERATING  
PROFIT GREW  
TO A RECORD  
**£3.9M**  
ADJUSTED

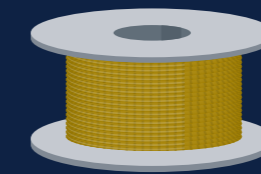


**23% GROWTH**  
IN OFFSHORE ENERGY  
RELATED VESSEL CALLS

2021 **470** 2022 **578**



**400KMS**  
OF INTER-ARRAY  
CABLE HANDLED



**516**  
OFFSHORE WIND  
FARM COMPONENTS  
HANDLED



**49**  
PORT OPERATIVE  
APPRENTICES  
TRAINED  
AT PORTS AROUND  
THE UK

**789**  
VOCATIONAL  
TRAINING  
COURSES  
DELIVERED







# MARINE

2022 was a record-breaking year for the Marine Department which celebrated several landmark achievements.

## MOVEMENTS & PILOTAGE

The Harbour Master and his team oversaw more than 10,000 vessel movements in 2022 and executed 1,099 pilotage acts, comfortably exceeding the previous record of 877 set in 2021. To accommodate the steady increase of pilotage acts, the Port purchased an additional pilot boat 'Blyth Energy' to maintain 24/7/365 pilotage cover.

In 2022, the Port also welcomed the widest-ever vessel to enter the harbour. With an overall length of 151 metres, a breadth of 50 meters and an 800T crane, the Blue Tern made history as it arrived at the Port whilst supporting the construction of the Neart na Gaoithe offshore wind farm.

Deadweight tonnage for the year rose again, and for the third time, the Port exceeded two million deadweight tonnes at 2.75m DWT, another record. This growth continues to highlight the increase in the average vessel size handled by the Port each year.

Furthermore, berth utilisation was again significantly higher than in previous years, demonstrating the more significant scope of vessel mobilisations and demobilisations.

## PORT MARINE SAFETY CODE

The Port remained compliant with the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC). This was proven following an external PMSC Audit executed by NASH Maritime, who found the Port displayed

'Good Compliance' with the code. This reflects the Port's commitment to enhancing safety for all Port users and employees.

An internal audit of the 'Marine Safety Management System' was undertaken by the 'Designated Person', Stuart Balmer-Howieson, the Port's HR Manager. The findings were presented to the Board of Commissioners, who serve as the 'Duty Holder' for the Port under the PMSC. The report detailed that the Port of Blyth continues to demonstrate best practices and maintains an excellent safety culture.

## SECURITY

Port security and control remained a key priority in 2022, with a range of improvement initiatives executed, with the Port's security contractor Triton Group. These included a significant upgrade to CCTV equipment, providing enhanced analytical features.

The Port also held periodic security review meetings during the year and remained compliant with the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code.

## LEGISLATION & PLANNING

All marine plans (Oil Spill Response Plan, Port Emergency Plan and Port Waste Management Plan) were effectively managed during the year to ensure ongoing compliance with relevant codes and legislation.

THE BLUE TERN MADE HISTORY AS IT ARRIVED AT THE PORT WHILST SUPPORTING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEART NA GAOITHE OFFSHORE WIND FARM

A triennial incident management exercise took place with an excellent turnout from emergency services, local environmental groups and relevant agencies. This demonstrates the strong working relationship that the Port maintains with government regulatory bodies and emergency services.

It is also pleasing to report that no marine pollution incidents were recorded during 2022.

## DREDGING & CONSERVANCY

Dredged material removed during 2022 totalled 254,000 tonnes, slightly down on the 260,500 tonnes removed in the previous year. This spoil was deposited in the strictly controlled disposal ground off the Port which remains licensed by the MMO until May 2025.

Trinity House conducted the annual inspection of Aids to Navigation in November, with no defects recorded and therefore the Port remains compliant as a local lighthouse authority.

The Port's workboat, Blyth Endeavour, undertook four external dredge campaigns and five bathymetric surveys to external clients during the year, demonstrating its ability to provide extra services outside the Port.



THE PORT CONTINUES TO FULLY  
SUPPORT THE UK GOVERNMENT'S  
MARITIME 2050 PROGRAMME,  
INCLUDING THE GOAL OF NET ZERO  
CARBON EMISSIONS FROM THE  
PORT BY 2040

## ENVIRONMENT

Highly dedicated to protecting the Blyth Estuary and committed to the decarbonisation of all Port activities.



### DEVELOPING GREEN TRADE

As one of the UK's leading offshore energy bases, the Port of Blyth has continued to attract and retain a mature supply chain of companies who are actively supporting the energy transition. The strength of this cluster was increased in 2022, with the announcement that Bates Clean Energy Terminal had been selected by RWE as the Offshore Construction Base for Sofia, one of the world's largest single offshore wind projects. With the Port also home to the world-leading test facilities of the ORE Catapult, the Blyth Estuary is therefore playing a significant role in supporting the green energy revolution.

### DECARBONISATION

Not only is the Port of Blyth home to numerous key players within the clean energy sector, but it has also made huge strides with its own commitment to support Government Net Zero targets. The Port's carbon emissions have been more accurately defined and 2022 has now been established as a base year from which decarbonisation can be further monitored and progressed. This process is closely aligned with the Government's Maritime 2050 strategy and with the Port's target to be carbon neutral by 2040.

Initiatives are already underway to achieve this goal, with the largest electric heavy lift crane of its kind received at the redeveloped Bates Clean Energy Terminal in 2022. This facility was officially opened by the Secretary of State for Transport and represented another important milestone in the Port's commitment to the national decarbonisation strategy. It has created a unique opportunity for low carbon-focused inward investment and has already been instrumental in attracting significant offshore energy customers such as RWE.

Other low carbon initiatives already underway across the Port, are the acceleration of the electrification of plant, such as forklift trucks and the installation of the latest technology, solar power PV panels, set to generate an annual production of half a million KW hours. This will further reduce the carbon footprint of operations on site, offering a clean, energy-efficient power supply.

### MARINE CONSERVATION

In 2022, the Port of Blyth continued to take its environmental responsibilities seriously, playing a pivotal role in helping to manage and maintain several important habitat designations, including a marine conservation zone, site of special scientific interest and both a marine and coastal special protection area.

This was managed together with several conservation bodies including the Marine Management Organisation, Environment Agency and Natural England.

Meanwhile, the Port's support for the London Zoological Society and the Blue Marine Foundation's ambitious project to reintroduce native oysters back into UK waters continued in 2022 and has been extended for another year. Seventeen nurseries were established in the Blyth Estuary in 2020 and it is hoped that more than 3 billion oyster larvae will be released and taken out to sea by the tide, where they should settle on rocks and other hard structures, helping to create cleaner water and increase marine biodiversity within the UK.

Elsewhere on the river, the Port worked with Groundworks in 2022 to install a further nine vertipools on its East Pier, aimed at increasing intertidal biodiversity and enhancing the local habitat.

Towards the end of the year, the Port partnered with Journey Blue who provides a not-for-profit net collection programme, to supply fishermen with access to a free fishnet waste disposal facility, which will be located at South Harbour to try and eliminate fishing net pollution.

The Port of Blyth also remains an active member of the Berwick and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership, the Northumberland Rivers Catchment Partnership and the NE Coastal Group Forum.

### ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & ACCREDITATION

In 2022, The Port of Blyth achieved the accreditation of ISO 14001. The Environmental Management system will allow the Port to further support the UK Government's Maritime 2050 programme whilst minimising environmental impacts. Aligned with this, our Environmental Policy focuses on air quality, emissions in port, energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives.



# PORT OPERATIONS

A successful year as one of the UK's leading offshore energy hubs, supporting the installation of some of the largest offshore wind farms in the world.



## OFFSHORE ENERGY

The Port Operations Department had an extremely busy year supporting a diverse range of major offshore energy related projects.

In 2022, the Port supported Saipem with their project for the Neart na Gaoithe offshore wind farm located off the east coast of Scotland. This contract resulted in over two hundred vessel calls into the Port of Blyth in 2022, averaging four calls per week. The operations team also expertly handled 168 pin piles, with the support of heavy lift cranes and SPMTs. As part of this project, the Port demonstrated its ability to successfully handle some of the largest installation vessels operating in the North Sea, including the Blue Tern and the Saipem 3000.

Another major offshore wind farm, Seagreen, was also supported across 2022, with the Port acting as a cable storage and mobilisation base on behalf of Subsea 7. This project saw a total of 12,000 tonnes of inter-array cable successfully spooled from supply vessels and placed into Port-designed and constructed quayside storage tanks. Purpose-built for the client and capable of holding more than 400km of cable, the tanks have proved attractive to the offshore energy industry, with more projects already in the pipeline. The Port worked closely with Subsea 7 to ensure spooling and vessel operations were prioritised throughout the year in line with their schedule.

The Port also continued to provide ongoing project support for vessel operations for several other Port tenants and customers, which made for a very busy year for offshore energy focused projects.

## CONTAINER SERVICE

Container operations remained busy throughout the year, despite a significant rise in the costs of shipping and haulage due to the record-high fuel prices. In 2022, the Port invested in new electric forklifts to increase capacity for the container service whilst minimising carbon emissions.

## BULK HANDLING

Bulk handling movements continued throughout 2022 at the Port's Battleship Wharf terminal with core sand, cement, aggregate, grain, salt and refuse derived fuel cargoes as the main products handled. The unloading of alumina at the SUF bulk terminal continued monthly, with the Port providing a comprehensive maintenance and management service for the terminal on behalf of Alvanco British Aluminium.

## DECOMMISSIONING

The decommissioning partnership with Thompsons of Prudhoe continued to thrive in 2022, with consistent growth in trade since an Environmental Permit was granted in 2017. The decommissioning facility at Battleship Wharf saw the unloading of 30 vessels with the operations team assisting in handling 15,000 tonnes of subsea material, averaging 500 tonnes per vessel call. The facility has enhanced the UK's offshore decommissioning capability and has received excellent feedback as a result of the flexibility and can-do attitude of the operations team.

## LABOUR & EQUIPMENT

The Port's in-house Maintenance Department again provided a comprehensive maintenance programme to ensure all plant and machinery remained in service throughout the year. New plant and machinery were invested in across several areas of the business in 2022 but the most substantial investment made was for the first fully electric, heavy lift crane in the Port's fleet. The new Kone ESP6 crane was successfully delivered in May 2022. Following its delivery, a relocation plan for the existing cranes was implemented, to enable the Port to handle 100-tonne project cargo pieces on all main terminals around the estuary.



# FORWARDING & LOGISTICS

Transped continued to establish its reputation as a leading logistics, storage and forwarding provider to clients across the world throughout 2022.



## STRONG PERFORMANCE

As for most businesses, 2022 provided a number of challenges, from Brexit-related documentation to the war in Europe and the cost of living crisis. Despite this, Transped ultimately delivered an impressive performance, with turnover exceeding budget for the year and with a healthy operating profit. The twice-weekly container service from The Netherlands, provided by partner A2B-online, continued to thrive, bringing a wide range of consumer products into the UK. The service was heavily supported by Transped, who generated over 80% of the trade, whilst also acting as UK agents for the line.

## WAREHOUSING

Transped continued to boast extensive warehousing within the Port of Blyth, enabling them to offer customers cost-efficient stock holding and next-day delivery services. This has proved a particular strength and provided huge benefits over direct trailer deliveries for key customers in terms of lead time and reliability.

In 2022, Transped's staff expertly managed the safe storage of goods, ensuring close monitoring of stock in a watertight and secure facility. They also managed to flex the amount of storage space available, extending into additional Port warehouses to meet peak demands for a number of customers.

## HAULAGE & SHIPPING

A key focus was required on haulage and distribution given the challenges and complexities of post Brexit movement of goods. However, despite these issues Transped managed to maintain an excellent level of service provision, with goods arriving on time and in good condition to their end destination. This was achieved due to an extensive network of first-class partner hauliers throughout the UK and Europe, and a dedicated continental agent ensuring efficient and reliable services were sustained from door to door.

## PROJECT FORWARDING

In 2022, Transped continued to grow its project forwarding division, offering out-of-gauge and specialised cargo transport on a global basis. In addition, the well-established export packing service supported Port tenants and businesses across the region, providing a 'one-stop shop' service for customers located within the Port of Blyth. It was also pleasing to see an increase in turnover and profitability for the Project Forwarding operation for 2022.

TRANSPED ULTIMATELY  
DELIVERED AN IMPRESSIVE  
PERFORMANCE WITH TURNOVER  
EXCEEDING BUDGET FOR THE  
YEAR AND WITH A HEALTHY  
OPERATING PROFIT





# SAFETY & TRAINING

Committed to providing a safe working environment for all port users and employees, safety underpins all operations at the Port of Blyth. Driven by an in-house training company, the Port of Blyth sets the standard for port safety and skills in the UK.



IN 2022, THE PORT CONTINUED ITS COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF ITS EMPLOYEES, CUSTOMERS, AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

## HEALTH & SAFETY

In 2022, the Port continued its commitment to protecting the health, safety and well-being of its employees, customers, and the local community, as demonstrated by the excellent safety record achieved in 2022, which compares favourably with national benchmarks. This is a true reflection of the safety-first approach applied throughout the Port of Blyth.

The Port has also been closely monitoring 'leading indicators' across 2022, which focus on the potential for injury and near misses rather than injuries and lost time incidents alone. These cover everything from the correct use of PPE, driving safely, and damage to equipment to other general hazard identifications, allowing preventive action to be taken before an injury occurs.

In terms of safety initiatives, there was further work across the year to improve people and plant segregation and a focus on additional safety critical training for those working with heavy plant and machinery.

All of the above helped the Port to maintain the Health & Safety certification to ISO 45001 and further strengthen its reputation as one of the safest ports in the UK.

## TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

As the training arm of the Port of Blyth, Port Training Services (PTS) continued to deliver industry-leading training at ports around the UK, from the north of Scotland to the south coast of England. In particular, 49 trainees graduated from the Port Operative Apprenticeship, with an impressive 46 of them now in full-time employment. 2023 will see PTS support further apprenticeship recruitment from ports across the UK, maintaining its position as the leading provider in the sector.

In terms of commercial training, the Wind Turbine Training Facility has proven to be a great asset to PTS and the Port, attracting several pioneering businesses from across the UK to use for testing purposes during product development phases. This included innovative, next-generation robots and drones used for the inspection of wind turbine components, particularly blades. The facility also provided a practical environment to train individuals looking for employment in the offshore energy sector. Further demonstrating its diversity, the facility also supported local charities with sponsored abseils as well as a unique experience where a local resident abseiled from the turbine with the Queen's Baton as part of the Baton Relay for the Commonwealth Games.

In addition, PTS successfully delivered a wide range of other plant training regionally and across the UK. This included working with Port tenants, other UK ports and major businesses such as Siemens Gamesa, delivering the training and competency required to meet their needs.

The year also saw investment in new facilities, such as a new dedicated telehandler training area at Bates Clean Energy Terminal and there are further new commercial courses under development for 2023.

However, as part of a Trust Port, PTS do not solely focus on commercial training and continued to be actively involved with provisions to support communities across the region. This included STEM @ Energy Central, an initiative which strives to engage schools and promote the offshore energy sector to thousands of students from across the North of Tyne Combined Authority, through visits to the Port, visits to schools, career fairs and STEM events.

PTS recognises the importance of addressing the industry-wide skills shortage and therefore sits across several relevant boards and industry groups alongside the Port, including Port Skills and Safety and Energi Coast.

A further community-focused initiative was the delivery of a Plant Operative Programme in partnership with Northumberland Skills, the Department of Work & Pensions and TEXO Recruitment. This equipped 62 unemployed people from the surrounding areas with plant licenses and the experience to be better placed to find employment.

Whilst doing all of this, PTS also had to be relocated to temporary facilities in South Harbour whilst the new Energy Central Learning Hub is built and anticipated to open in 2024.



# PORT DEVELOPMENTS

Another busy year for the technical department in 2022 following the completion of the Bates Clean Energy Terminal redevelopment and the substantial extension of the decommissioning facility.



## BATES CLEAN ENERGY TERMINAL

A significant milestone was reached for the Port following the completion of the innovative Bates Clean Energy Terminal. Infrastructure works consisting of the construction of a substantially upgraded heavy lift quay and the remediation of 7 hectares of prime quayside development land were completed and the terminal is now fully operational following the official launch in 2022.

## DECOMMISSIONING

A further Investment into the decommissioning facility at Battleship Wharf was undertaken during the year with support from Thompsons of Prudhoe. This has added approximately 4000 sqm to the existing ground slab and will allow the site to cope with the significant volume of work that has been booked for 2023.

## BATTLESHIP WHARF-NEPI LINK

The project to link the Port's Battleship Wharf Terminal to the former Blyth Power Station site, now known as the Northumberland Energy Park Phase 1 (NEP1), continued across the year.

When completed this significant development will provide a direct route between the new quay on NEP1 and the four berths at Battleship Wharf for the easy movement of plant, machinery and cargo. The works on Battleship Wharf have now been completed to the value of £0.85 million and are inclusive of new hard standing and a roadway for the link between the two sites using fibre-reinforced concrete to help meet the strict timescales for the project.

## ADDITIONAL UPGRADES AND SITE WORKS

The Technical Department initiated the construction of a new facility based at South Harbour, which will be used to accommodate Port events, training and STEM education. The South Harbour Workspace is set for completion in early 2023.

Works began at Bates Clean Energy Terminal to prepare for the construction of RWE's offshore construction base, once complete in 2023 the new build facility will include office space, a designated storage area and a car park suitable for up to 80 cars.

The team worked closely with the Port's Health & Safety department to ensure the continuous improvement of Port facilities, including further investment into improving footpaths and vehicle parking facilities across the terminals.

Additionally, the final large area of historic asbestos roofing was safely removed from B Shed at Bates and replaced by modern cladding.

**A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE  
WAS REACHED FOR THE PORT  
FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION  
OF THE INNOVATIVE BATES  
CLEAN ENERGY TERMINAL**



# ENERGY CENTRAL

Port of Blyth, Advance Northumberland, Northumberland County Council and ORE Catapult worked together in 2022 as Energy Central partners, to attract inward investment, nurture partnerships and support growth within the offshore energy sector around the Port.



## LARGE SCALE DEVELOPMENTS

In September 2021 JDR Cable Systems made the significant announcement of their commitment to build a £130m manufacturing facility to produce cables for the offshore wind sector on the Blyth Estuary that will create an initial 170 new jobs. The 69,000 sqm facility will occupy the site of the former coal-fired Blyth Power Station, adjacent to the new heavy lift, deep water quay already well under construction.

The JDR development made significant progress in November 2022, when work officially began on-site. JDR marked the start of construction for the project at a formal ceremony event involving JDR staff, local stakeholders, politicians, community leaders and supply chain partners.

Once complete, it will be the only facility in the UK capable of producing high-voltage subsea cables for offshore wind farms from start to finish, supporting the growing renewable energy market.

Plans for a large-scale battery factory around the Blyth Estuary also progressed, although with Britishvolt getting into financial difficulties late in the year and ultimately falling into administration. However, hopes have since been revived, with a buyer being found for the company and plans for an alternative battery factory starting to emerge.

## ENERGY CENTRAL ENGAGEMENT

To drive forward opportunities for collaboration in 2022, the Port actively promoted the services of all its tenants both formally and informally. All offshore energy related tenants automatically become members of Energy Central, with many taking advantage of the regular Energy Central Breakfast Briefing networking events, which encourage supply chain collaboration. The partnership also continued to promote its unique offering and raise its profile across a wide range of events and exhibitions throughout the year.

## ENERGY CENTRAL CAMPUS

In 2022, planning permission for phase one of the Energy Central Campus was granted. This was a significant milestone for the development ahead of the start of small-scale demolition and site clearance at the South Harbour entrance of the Port. Once complete, the £11m Energy Central Learning Hub will provide a range of state-of-the-art industrial training, education and STEM-related skills facilities, together with conferencing facilities and a visitor centre. Construction set to start early in 2023.

As a strategic partnership, Energy Central exists to support opportunities for growth for the offshore energy sector in Blyth. With all four partner organisations highly invested in supporting

skills development in the region and ensuring the growth of the clean energy sector, Energy Central is perfectly placed to welcome a clean energy skills, education and training campus.

The Energy Central Learning Hub is phase one of the Energy Central Campus, with a further phase planned in the town centre. Phase two, The Energy Central Institute, is yet to be submitted for planning approval but the proposed project will focus on higher-level skills, research and innovation in support of clean energy sector growth.

The completion of the campus will ensure local schools and residents have the skills to capitalise on the growth of the clean energy sector within a highly visible and easily accessible hub for learners and businesses alike.

The Energy Central Campus is part of the £70 million Energising Blyth Programme funded by Northumberland County Council, HM Government Towns Fund and the North of Tyne Combined Authority.



# STAKEHOLDERS

As one of the largest Trust Ports in the UK, the interests of its wide range of stakeholders is a fundamental priority of the Port of Blyth. A proactive and creative approach is therefore adopted to ensure appropriate engagement with all relevant groups and individuals.



## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Port of Blyth continued to host consultations with a variety of stakeholders in 2022. The Port's Annual Public Meeting took place as a hybrid event, where attendees could attend online or in person to ensure accessibility for all. The meeting enabled the Port to share the highlights and achievements from the previous year, including financial results, whilst also providing stakeholders with the opportunity to engage with the Port's board and management. The Port User Liaison Group also met in person, allowing for the sharing of information and the chance to provide feedback directly. The Port's popular Annual Community Photography Competition attracted hundreds of high-quality entries and was won by Tab Hunter with his image, 'A Sunny Morning'. The winner was announced during the Port's Christmas Reception which returned in 2022, after being suspended for a prolonged period due to COVID-19.

## CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE GENERATION

In 2022, planning permission was granted for the new Energy Central Learning Hub, a community focussed initiative to be developed with the Port's Energy Central partners. Once complete in 2024, the hub will provide a range of state-of-the-art training, education, and STEM-related skills facilities, together with

conference facilities and a visitor centre. The new building at South Harbour will create a highly visible and easily accessible public interface with industry and education in the area and provide a clear pathway into clean energy related opportunities.

## SPONSORSHIP & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Port continued its support for deserving charities and not-for-profit initiatives in 2022, with a particular focus on those who promote health and well-being locally, maritime heritage, community improvements and sustainability.

Support for the Blyth Tall Ship Project was maintained during the year as it continued to provide opportunities for local young people, including a new range of maritime heritage courses named 'Learn the Ropes'.

The Port also continued as a leading sponsor of the town's National League North football club Blyth Spartans AFC, Blyth Running Club's popular Port of Blyth 10k and Blyth Town Council's free Northumberland Live music festival as the title sponsor.

For its Christmas appeal, the Port supported Blyth Food Bank, who were struggling with increased demand and a lack of donations as a result of the cost of living crisis. Together with other stakeholders,

the Port donated a considerable amount of cash to the food bank as well as over 100 selection boxes donated by Port employees. Community based groups as well as local schools based near the Port's four terminals also continued to receive financial and in-kind support. This included a donation to the local boxing club, Empire School of Boxing, to facilitate local boxer, Savannah Stubley, to make her senior international debut at the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

## NON-COMMERCIAL PORT ACTIVITY

As well as handling commercial traffic, Blyth Harbour Commission continued to provide safe navigation on the river to a range of other craft as part of its role as a Statutory Harbour and Trust Port. This included close cooperation with Blyth Fish, the RNLI, the Royal Northumberland Yacht Club, a university research vessel, and many other leisure crafts. In addition to the variety of seaborne visitors, the stunning estuary attracted many anglers, water sports enthusiasts, walkers and other visitors, who enjoy public quayside and pier access provided by the Port.

THE PORT CONTINUED ITS  
SUPPORT FOR CHARITIES  
AND INITIATIVES IN 2022,  
WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS  
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HEALTH AND WELL-BEING  
LOCALLY, MARITIME HERITAGE,  
COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS  
AND SUSTAINABILITY





THERE IS CONTINUED OPTIMISM  
FOR THE FUTURE PROSPECTS  
OF THE PORT, AFTER TWO  
CONSECUTIVE RECORD YEARS OF  
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

## THE FUTURE

The future looks bright for the Port of Blyth as it continues to lead the clean energy revolution in the region, securing opportunities for generations to come.

There is continued optimism for the future prospects of the Port, after two record years of financial performance, despite the challenges of Brexit adjustments, the Covid pandemic, the war in Europe and the cost of living crisis.

In these uncertain times, it is comforting that Government has committed to the long-term and rapid growth of the offshore renewables sector, particularly offshore wind, which is targeted to increase fivefold to 50GW by 2030 and with continued growth thereafter. Given that the Port is already recognised as a major offshore renewable energy hub and well-placed for ongoing development in the North Sea and beyond, it is expected that the sector will form a core trade for many years to come. This includes the decommissioning sector, with the facility at Battleship Wharf already busy decommissioning oil and gas assets but able to transition to the decommissioning of offshore wind turbines as they are inevitably replaced over the coming years and decades. However, to further strengthen long-term sustainability, the Port will continue to serve a variety of other sectors including, unitised, breakbulk, dry bulk and liquid bulk.

In order to service this anticipated growth, the Port will be looking at further development and expansion across all of its terminals. In particular, there will be a focus on attracting inward investment and jobs to the redeveloped Bates Clean Energy Terminal, with a particular emphasis on companies wishing to operate in a low carbon

generating environment such as RWE who will have a fully operational construction base for their Sofia offshore windfarm in place during 2023. The Port will also look at the opportunity to deepen berths and the main channel, in order to accommodate the ever-increasing size of vessels wishing to utilise our facilities.

The Energy Central partnership with Northumberland County Council, ORE Catapult and Advance Northumberland will no doubt continue to play an important role in the wider success of the Blyth Estuary, helping to secure inward investment and boost job opportunities. As part of this, the new major cable factory for JDR Cables will start production over the next couple of years and plans remain for a battery factory on an adjacent site, which it is hoped will bring additional jobs and economic activity. The Energy Central partnership has also established Energy Central Campus to focus on skills development around the estuary and across the wider region. The first phase Energy Central Learning Hub will form an important part of this, offering STEM and apprenticeship level training and education, with the ultimate aim of helping to develop the thousands of clean energy sector workers required over the coming years.

The Port's subsidiary operations will also not stand still with plans to expand the logistics division, Transped, attracting growth in container throughput and strengthened operations both in the UK and on the Continent. Furthermore, the Port's training arm, PTS, is looking to expand its training portfolio with the introduction of new courses linked

to the green energy sector and with anticipated further growth in the delivery of port-related apprenticeships around the country.

Whilst supporting growth and inward investment around the estuary, the Port is also passionate about progressing its decarbonisation agenda, aligned with the Government's Maritime 2050 strategy, and with a target of carbon neutral operations by 2040. This will no doubt involve further electrification but also alternative fuels and the potential of heating buildings from mine water sources.

As a Trust Port, we will continue to provide benefits to the diverse range of stakeholders we serve, including further developing our community support programs. The Energy Central Learning Hub under construction will undoubtedly be a major asset for the community including a visitor centre and school STEM activity, alongside more specific training delivery. There is also the opportunity to promote the rich maritime heritage of Blyth and, working alongside Blyth Tall Ship, we hope to create a new visitor attraction in the town centre with an additional focus on community well-being.

Ultimately, our fundamental mission, adopted by the entire workforce, is "to provide an exceptional service to all our stakeholders, maximising both economic and social value". We have every confidence that we will continue to achieve this, helping to deliver long-term, sustainable, economic growth and jobs around the Blyth Estuary and beyond.



# OUR MISSION, VISION & VALUES

How we do things is just as important as what we do. Our values reflect the important shared attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours that everyone working at the Port of Blyth is expected to demonstrate. Having clear and widely understood values shape not only how we do business with each other, but also our suppliers and customers.

## OUR MISSION

TO PROVIDE AN  
EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO  
ALL OUR STAKEHOLDERS,  
MAXIMISING BOTH  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
VALUE.



## OUR VISION

TO BE WIDELY RECOGNISED  
AS A NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT  
AND SUCCESSFUL TRUST  
PORT, AT THE FOREFRONT OF  
SUPPORTING THE OFFSHORE  
RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR.



## OUR VALUES



### A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL

We are committed to protecting the health, safety and well-being of our employees, customers, and the people of the communities in which we operate. We care for the environment by protecting the Blyth Estuary and committing to the decarbonisation of all our activities.



### BUILT ON TRUST

We are a proud Trust Port providing benefits to a wide range of stakeholders including employees, customers, all port users, and the wider community. Our stakeholders count on our dependability and integrity to always deliver on our commitments to create a trusting working environment for all.



### DELIVERING A HIGH QUALITY SERVICE

We seek to achieve and maintain the highest level of excellence across all our services and facilities. We aim to continuously learn and improve to set the standard for others.



### WORKING AS ONE TEAM

We work closely and openly together with all stakeholders to achieve our goals and realise our vision. We recognise that we will always accomplish more together by combining individual strengths to deliver exceptional results.



### GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

We provide an all encompassing service for our stakeholders. By creating solutions to problems with a flexible approach and a 'can do' attitude, we exceed all expectations.





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