

# Babergh South Suffolk: positive and proactive



Positive about growth and proactively supportive of investment, Babergh (South Suffolk) District Council is planning ahead for the future and recognises that the ports and logistics sector on its doorstep is one of the biggest economic drivers for the area.

As such, it is moving ahead with a series of initiatives to encourage and support expansion of port-related business and operations within its boundaries.

Stretching from Sudbury in the west, to Ipswich and the Shotley peninsula – between Felixstowe and Harwich – in the east, Babergh is ideally located to serve the Haven Gateway sub-region's thriving ports industry and its support sectors.

In recognition of this, Babergh is a joint core partner, with the Haven Gateway Partnership, in a European Union project entitled Dryport. This initiative was set up to examine the way in which hinterland intermodal freight transport hubs can support the sea ports they serve, help the ports to operate more efficiently, help the ports sector to cope with traffic and cargo flow and, in many cases, reduce the overall environmental impact of import and export operations by smarter transport choices.

As part of its work within Dryport, Babergh has identified two brownfield sites with real potential for development for dryport or logistics support activities.

There are no 'mixed messages' from Babergh – we are pro-economic growth and recognise that the ports sector is one of the biggest drivers for this area.

We are very positive about port growth and investment; we have sites and land in this area to make use of in this connection, and we are keen to see it happen.

Babergh District Council (South Suffolk) is working with the wider Haven Gateway to put this area on the map. Babergh is rural and beautiful but it is also a living, working, dynamic place.

*"We are carrying out further research into the amount of land needed for ports-related activities in the future. We are looking to accommodate those requirements and will put in place a planning framework to ensure that they are provided for."*

**Rich Cooke**

*Planning policy manager, Babergh District Council*

## Former British Sugar site, Sproughton (edge of Ipswich):

- Excellent location and served by its own access to the A14, west of the Orwell Bridge;
- Ideally placed to serve the Haven Gateway's ports cluster of Felixstowe, Harwich, Mistley and Ipswich;
- Railway line runs alongside the site;
- 36 hectares of developable land;
- Market demand from existing commercial operators servicing the ports sector, looking to expand or relocate within the sub-region;
- Site safeguarded for employment use.

## Brantham Industrial Area, near Manningtree:

- Located immediately adjacent to the Stour estuary;
- Within a mile of Manningtree railway station and fast, frequent, mainline rail services to London;
- Approx. 20 hectares of developable land;
- Ideal location for offices, administration and other "light" port-related activities.



# The Haven Gateway: a maritime centre of excellence



Singled out by the European Commission as a "maritime centre of excellence", the Haven Gateway includes:

- Felixstowe, by far the largest container port in the country and the seventh largest container port in Europe;
- Harwich, a major East Coast ferry and cruise port;
- Ipswich, a substantial regional port and the UK's largest grain exporting point.
- Mistley, a small but thriving port on the Stour estuary.
- The Haven Gateway ports and logistics sector:
- Handled 37% of the UK's container throughput and a substantial share of its roll-on/roll-off freight in 2008;
- Welcomed 126,000 cruise passengers through Harwich International Port in 2008;
- Employs 32,200 people – 11.3% of employee jobs in the sub-region;
- Has a turnover of £3 billion a year;
- Buys about £100 million of services in the area.

Expansion is under way and the Haven Ports' importance will step up another gear:

- The Port of Felixstowe, which already handles the world's largest containerships, will offer much-needed additional deepwater berthing for the UK through Hutchison Ports (UK)'s Felixstowe South expansion, due for completion by the end of 2010.
- HPUK has permission to build a new deepwater container terminal at Bathside Bay, Harwich.
- Road and rail connections to the Haven Gateway ports are being upgraded.
- Ports and logistics continue to generate wealth for the local economy and initiatives are under way to ensure that the right skills are available for this growing sector.



**The growth and infrastructure of the Haven Gateway are of regional, national and international importance, and critical to the UK's economy.**

The Haven Gateway Partnership brings together partners from both public and private sector, who work together to promote economic opportunities and secure the future prosperity of this major gateway to the UK. The Haven Gateway sub-region offers an excellent quality of life – residents and

visitors enjoy bustling towns, quiet villages, a stunning coastline and estuaries, and beautiful, tranquil countryside. Our emphasis is on sustainable economic growth, while enhancing the sub-region's high-quality, attractive and natural assets.

*The Haven Gateway: a great deal to offer!*

For more information:

Suites 3 & 5 The Centre  
The Crescent  
Colchester Business Park  
Colchester CO4 9QQ

T: 01206 843753  
F: 01206 848419  
E: [info@haven-gateway.org](mailto:info@haven-gateway.org)  
W: [www.haven-gateway.org](http://www.haven-gateway.org)

The Interreg IVB  
North Sea Region  
Programme



European Union



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