



# This Earth Day meet our Head of Environment and Sustainability Anne Hayes



## WHAT INITIATIVES HAS BRISTOL PORT IMPLEMENTED TO REDUCE ITS CARBON FOOTPRINT AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY?

We're implementing a diverse range of sustainability strategies at the Port to reach our net zero targets by 2040. Initiatives include LED adoption for energy efficiency, transitioning to a 100% electric fleet, and exploring alternative fuels like hydrogen for our large cargo handling equipment and harbour vessels. Additionally, we're installing solar panels, encouraging active travel, and enhancing biodiversity with nature-based solutions like tree planting and salt marsh preservation.

## HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THE ROLE AND HOW DID YOU COME TO FALL INTO THIS FIELD?

With over 30 years of experience in the specialist port environmental field, I am a biologist and hold a master's degree in Coastal Management. My first job was environmental officer in beautiful Fowey Harbour in Cornwall, followed by five years with ABP in Southampton, where I specialised in undertaking Environmental Impact Assessments for port developments. I've been with the Port since 2000, based in the marine department meeting our environmental duties as a harbour authority, delivering a long-running conservation programme and promoting sustainable port development.

## HOW DOES BRISTOL PORT BALANCE ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION EFFORTS?

It is definitely a challenge, but the Port is committed to managing our operations and development projects in a way that allows both business and wildlife to thrive. Bristol Port has expanded considerably over last 30 years or so, and continues to evolve and grow whilst conserving the environment and promoting biodiversity. In addition to our extensive network of environmental corridors and green areas in Portbury Dock, we have created large areas of new habitat (including ponds, wetlands and meadows) for a variety of wildlife on around 50 hectares of the Port's farmland at the Bleadon Levels to the south of Weston-super-Mare.

## WHAT ROLE DOES INNOVATION PLAY IN DRIVING SUSTAINABILITY AT BRISTOL PORT?

Huge, innovation and new green technology plays a central role to meeting our sustainability goals, particularly in reducing emissions from our port operations. Take, for instance, the hydrogen electrolyser installed on our dredger Malago. It's a prime example of how we're cutting fuel consumption, benefiting both carbon emissions reduction and air quality enhancement. Port's will be at the forefront of the UK's decarbonisation journey, supporting the transition to new zero emission energy and creating green jobs.

## WHAT PARTNERSHIPS OR COLLABORATIONS HAS BRISTOL PORT ESTABLISHED TO FURTHER ITS CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY GOALS?

Collaboration is key for us. We have partnered with organisations like the Hawk and Owl Trust for owl conservation, teamed up with Bristol Zoo to reintroduce



water voles into Portbury Drove Rhyne, and currently, we're working with a local organic farmer to graze sheep on Port saltmarshes to improve their diversity. We also work in partnership with other Ports, local authorities and conservation bodies to manage the important designated marine habitats and species in the Severn Estuary.

## IN WHAT WAYS DOES BRISTOL PORT CONTRIBUTE TO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT?

The Port demonstrates our commitment to the environment through a 30 year ongoing programme of environmental management and conservation projects. Over 10% of our Port Estate is designated as wildlife corridors and green areas, like Vole City - the Port's conservation area in Portbury Wharf. We monitor and manage these areas to not only protect but enhance them. You will find a wide range of important wildlife right in the heart of the Port, including water vole, badgers, deer, otter, barn owls, birds of prey and important populations of estuary wildfowl and waders. This is rare in a major port and something I am incredibly proud of.