

# F O L K E S T O N E H A R B O U R C O M P A N Y L I M I T E D

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## **NEW COMPANY STEERING PORT'S REVIVAL IN DRIVE FOR MORE BUSINESS**

Owners of the Port of Folkestone, the newly formed Folkestone Harbour Company Limited, is targeting increases in its throughput of cargo handling, as more companies begin utilising the port's exclusive facilities and services.

The growth in using the port for cargo commodities such as grain, clay, aggregates and machinery, has emerged from companies preferring to use the smaller, user-friendly option of Folkestone Harbour compared to other larger, heavily-congested cross channel ports.

With a current choice of three berths able to accommodate ships of up to four metre draught, combined with increasing demand, the port owners are planning to introduce two further berths to accept larger vessels of six to seven metre draught.

The development of its cargo handling services, forms part of the Folkestone Harbour Company's plans to extensively regenerate the port. These include a harbour dredging programme, refurbishment of existing berths, the creation of more cargo handling storage space and vehicle standage areas.

"We are very encouraged with the response we are receiving from existing customers and firmly believe that we can offer a level of dedicated, friendly service that no other channel port can provide," says Port Manager, Glyn Richmond.

Unique amongst all other UK South Coast channel ports, Folkestone Harbour also boasts a direct rail link into the port. The company regards this asset as providing further commercial opportunities to attract railfreight cargo traffic, which can be loaded swiftly from rail wagons, arriving directly alongside the ships' berths.

The direct rail link to the harbour will also continue to be utilised, with station access and car parking for passengers and vehicles, related to the Venice Simplon Orient Express luxury train service and the British Pullman Tourist Trains.

The Port of Folkestone was purchased from previous owners Sea Containers in August 2004, by well-known local businessman and former Chairman of the Folkestone based Saga Group, Roger De Haan.

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