

THE PORT IN AUTUMN

Over October and November 28 cargo ships arrived at ABP's Port of King's Lynn and 25 departed, with 14 and 15 in ballast respectively.

Timber from Scandinavia and the Baltic is Lynn's major import with consignments taken by lorry to England's inland cities. There was a single full cargo discharged by MV Libero which had sailed to the Wash from Riga in Latvia. From the same Baltic port, MV Kerda landed a part-cargo of timber. Another six part cargoes were shipped to Lynn from Hull (3) and Seaham (3) which vessels from Europe had already visited.

Salt in bulk or bagged has become a regular import though there was only a single shipment over this period. From Wismar on the German Baltic MV Eems Solar arrived at Lynn on 18 November and sailed in ballast to Rotterdam on 21 November.

MV Wilson Amsterdam transported coke from the Polish port of Gdynia and MV Wilson Husum another such cargo from the same Baltic harbour. Both consignments were destined for the sugar beet factory at Wissington.

From the French Atlantic river port of Bordeaux MV Baltic Grain carried a mixed cargo of maize and soya to Lynn.

Two cargoes of aggregates for the construction industry from Glansanda on Scotland's west coast were discharged by MV Eems Servant and MV Scot Trader. This coastal traffic is occasional rather than regular.

The export of malt barley from Lynn to Scotland's distilleries continues to be significant. MV Nautica and MV Pregol Hav took loads to Buckie which is a small port on the Moray Firth. MV Victress carried malt barley to Port Ellen which is on Scotland's west coast. Two single shipments were taken by MV Rix River and MV Rix Atlantic to Eemshaven which is a port in the north Netherlands.

Vessels taking beans for animal feed from Lynn to Norway is another regular run. MV Willson Saimaa and MV Wilson Wisla both carried single cargoes to Floro and Egersund respectively. These two small towns on the west coast of that country were once thriving fishing ports.

The mini mountain of scrap metal on the Bentinck Dock is kept in check by shipments to Europe and sometimes North Africa. MV Sky Marine carried a cargo to Jorf Lasfar which is Morocco's second largest port. Amsterdam was the destination for MV Breb Timber which sailed with another cargo on 17 October.

Sugar beet pulp product (SBPP) is an occasional export from Lynn and a single cargo was carried by MV Rix Union to Frederica in Denmark. It is used in the making of animal feed (cows, sheep and horses included).

Associated British Ports (ABP) owns 21 ports which handle around 25 percent of Britain's seaborne trade. The company acquired Lynn in 1983 and has invested in port facilities. Of current public interest is the construction of a large bulk storage warehouse adjacent to the Bentinck Dock. This £7million project for Azelis (a supplier of chemical and food ingredients) is due for completion in March 2025.

Pilotage for ABP at Lynn is provided by the King's Lynn Conservancy Board (KLCB) which operates two pilot cutters amongst other work boats. The maintenance and placement of buoys to ensure safe navigation in the Wash is the assignment of the St Edmund. It is stationed at the top of the Purfleet Quay. A pilot boat and other KLCB craft can sometimes be seen moored at the Pontoons on the South Quay.