SUFFOLK ECONOMY

AGRI-FOOD & DRINK IN SUFFOLK

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Suffolk's Agri-food & Drink sector is the larder for the UK, excelling in horticulture, cereal, sugar beet, pig and poultry farming and beverage manufacturing.

Alongside Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire and Norfolk, Suffolk forms part of 'Britain's breadbasket' - producing a third of the UK's crops and nearly half of its home-grown vegetables.

Suffolk's agri-food industry has deep roots that grew rapidly after WWII with advances in machinery, food processing, and logistics.

It now combines large-scale agri-business with a strong farm-to-fork tradition, centred around Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, Newmarket, and Lowestoft, dominated by agriculture, farming, and forestry.

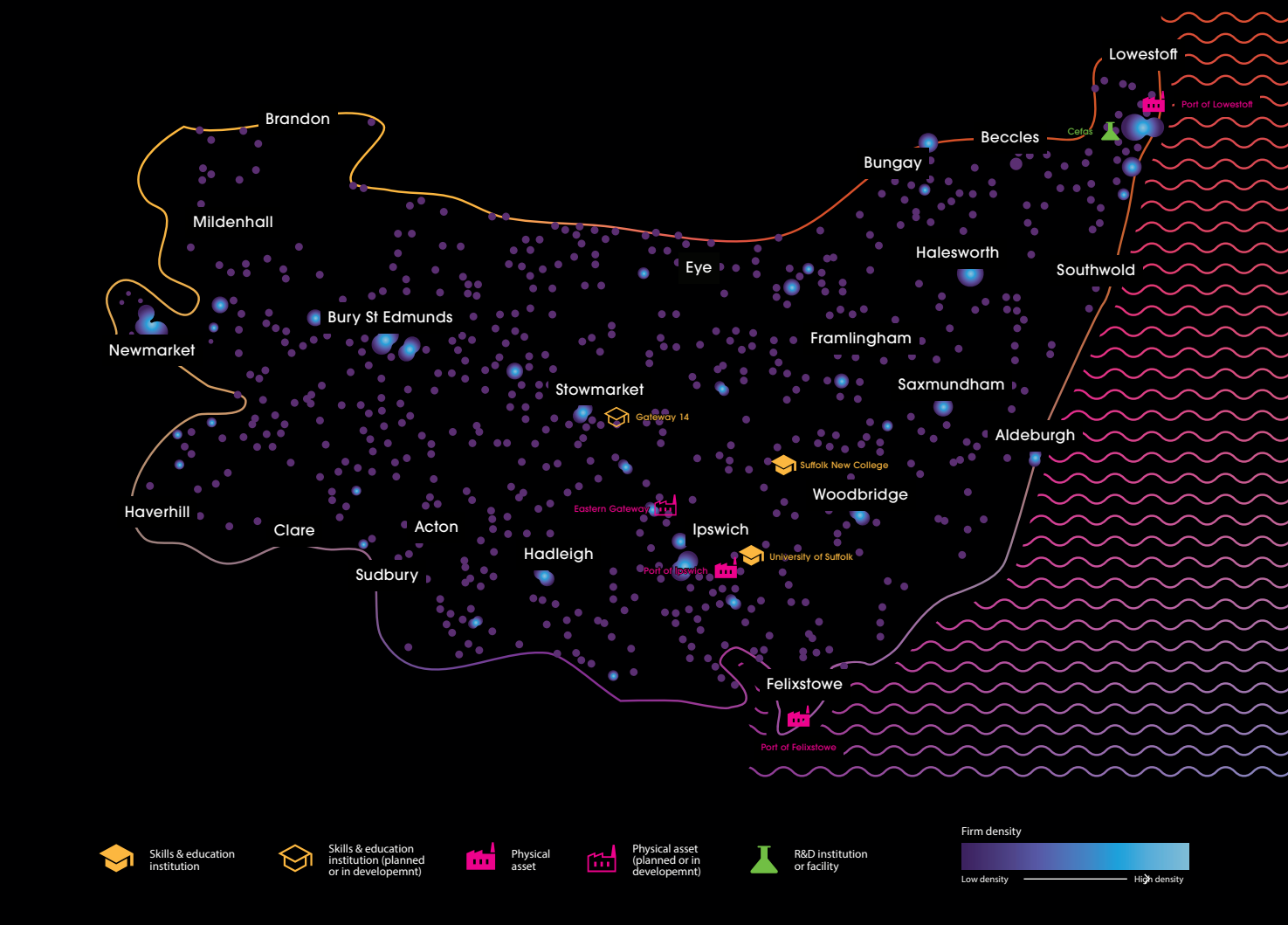
11% OF SUFFOLK'S WORKFORCE

PROJECTED TO REACH £4BN BY 2050

39.7K GVA PER JOB ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

54% MORE JOBS THAN THE ENGLAND AVERAGE

40,000 JOBS ACROSS 3,500 BUSINESSES IN SUFFOLK


Lowestoft
Port of Lowestoft
Cefas
Beccles
Bungay
Brandon
Mildenhall
Halesworth
Southwold
Eye
Bury St Edmunds
Newmarket
Framlingham
Saxmundham
Stowmarket
Gateway 14
Aldeburgh
Suffolk New College
Woodbridge
Eastern Gateway
Haverhill
Clare
Acton
Ipswich
Hadleigh
University of Suffolk
Port of Ipswich
Sudbury
Felixstowe
Port of Felixstowe
Skills & education institution
Skills & education institution (planned or in developemnt)
Physical asset
Physical asset (planned or in developemnt)
R&D institution or facility
Firm density
Low density
High density

OPPORTUNITIES IN SUFFOLK

Boost Local Processing and Packaging: Build capacity to keep more value in Suffolk, using Sizewell C as a catalyst for integrated supply chains and an "agri-hub" model to create new processing and packaging capability that provides legacy capability and jobs long after the completion of Sizewell C construction, enabling Suffolk to retain more of the economic value chain.

Lead in Water Resilience: Position Suffolk as the UK testbed for water-efficient farming through pilot projects and satellite-enabled, data-driven solutions. This will support national goals on climate and food security, whilst embedding smart infrastructure across the countryside. Farms will use AI, sensors, and real-time analytics to optimise water use, creating a thriving ecosystem where productivity and environmental balance go hand in hand. Rivers, streams, and reservoirs will be continuously monitored, with data fed into digital twins that guide infrastructure investment and enable rapid responses to pollution and drought alerts.

Drive Collaboration: Connect farmers, academia and industry, and partner with Norfolk's research hubs to create unified regional innovation corridor. Examples for collaboration could include clean energy integration to decarbonise agriculture; catalysing logistics and cold-chain innovation, improving food traceability and reducing waste through advanced storage and transport systems; strengthening advanced manufacturing capabilities, creating opportunities for precision agri-tech equipment and sustainable packaging solutions; accelerating digital transformation, deploying AI-powered analytics, sensors, and satellite imaging to optimise land use and water management.

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