

AOEP

Alde and Ore Estuary Partnership Update

ALDEBURGH WALL

Since May the Partnership have agreed the modelling specification for the whole estuary and spent a number of months waiting for the results. The good news is that we now have a good baseline model, the draft results are in line with the previous modelling undertaken and significantly underpins the Estuary Plan which is a great relief. It shows the impacts on other flood cells and highlights properties which may need localised protection. It will be necessary to discuss with Iken landowners a possible spill way and a retired wall to protect a number of properties. The final report will be available in late October and we will communicate our thoughts and any cost implications as soon as we can.

Phase I of the Aldeburgh wall upgrade is complete. No further work can be started until we have the schemes designed, costed and relevant consents from the Environment Agency which will be some time next year, but it is hoped to be able to start some mitigation work (removing rare species, water voles, adders etc) from the wall for upgrading work to start in earnest in 2019.

ENABLING DEVELOPMENT

The Partnership plans to raise £5million (committed by the landowners) of the £12m required, by selling a small number of residential plots with planning permissions on donated farm land. The District Council has agreed to consider development proposals submitted on this basis, subject to compliance with strict criteria that can be seen on Appendix 10 of The Estuary Plan on the website (www.aoep.co.uk).

Site Selection

We have a short list of 8 plots with a total of 15-17 houses. A small number of high value plots will raise significantly more funds per plot than we anticipated in the Estuary Plan and have much less impact than the 80-140 houses mentioned. In concert with these larger plots we are proposing a number of moderately priced homes to offer some balance. It is still early days in the consultation process and plans have yet to be drawn up. The shortlisted sites are:-

- . **Orford** Three 1 acre sites each with a single house at Newton Broadway, Raydon Lane and Mill Broadway
- . **Chillesford** Single site, with 2 pairs of small semi detached houses (4 x 3 bed houses in total) opposite The Froize Inn
- . **Sudbourne** Single site in the village with two (or three) houses on the south side of School Lane and a 1 acre site with one house on corner of Ferry Road and High House Farm Road
- . **Tunstall** Single site on edge of village in School Road – House numbers still to be agreed
- . **Iken** Single 3 acre site with one house north of the left hand bend by the High Street (discussions continuing on other sites)

We have taken immense care to appoint architects with a track record of good low energy design and careful and sensitive consultation; Wincer Keivenaar have a long standing reputation for bespoke projects of a practical nature, but with high quality design, while Charles Curry-Hyde specialises in sensitive sites in conserved places. Savills and Gotelee Solicitors have recently been appointed to advise on strategy and legal covenants for all enabling development sites.

Meetings have been held with all the Parish Councils and several meetings with neighbours to sites are

ongoing. There will be an Open Forum Meeting on Enabling Development at **Tunstall Village Hall on 10th November at 4pm** chaired by The Right Hon. Lord Deben to discuss all the 8 potential plots and the questions that have been raised. Everyone is encouraged to come to this as we would like to hear your views.

The Estuary Trust has held 3 fundraising launch presentations in Orford, Snape and Aldeburgh. Libby Purves, Paul Heiney and Lord Deben chaired the respective meetings. All were very well attended, the 20 minute Save Our Suffolk Estuary film was shown (7 minute version is now available on <http://aoep.co.uk/index.php/sos-estuary-trailer>) and a panel answered questions from the floor. It's not too late to book in for the Estuary wide Pub Quiz on 23rd November see the website for details.

Amanda Bettinson, 26/10/2107

S&OEMG

Stour and Orwell Estuary Management Group Update

Update from Stour and Orwell Estuary Management Group

Harwich to Shotley section of England Coast Path

Kim Thirlby, of Natural England, gave an update on progress on this section of the new national trail at a recent Stour and Orwell Estuary Management Group meeting. Over two years of work, guided by the Coastal Access Scheme documentation (see

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5327964912746496?category=50007>) has led to a proposed route that will shortly be consulted on. Up to date info on consultation at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-harwich-to-shotley-gate#stage-of-progress>

Suffolk Estuary Officer, hosted at AONB team

Funding from both private and public sector for this post has been reduced leading to the AONB funds (core and project) covering the cost of the post by over 50. Following the resignation of the most recent postholder, the AONB, consulted other funding partners and took the decision to also withdraw financial support from this post. Many of the areas of work remain a priority for the AONB and responsibilities of the Suffolk Estuary Post will be re-distributed to other members of the AONB team. This includes the secretariat of S+O EMG, representing AONB interests at other estuary partnerships and development of projects, such as saltmarsh restoration. Some areas of work will not be taken forward. It is noted that some areas of work previously undertaken by the Suffolk Estuaries Officer are now being delivered by other partners and some areas of work will be covered by new opportunities such as Marine Pioneer and emerging Recreational Disturbance Avoidance Mitigation Strategy.

Stour and Orwell Landscape Partnership Scheme

The Stour and Orwell Landscape Partnership Scheme was unsuccessful in securing a first round pass from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a £1.6M scheme of landscape enhancements, public understanding, access and heritage management on the Shotley Peninsula. Partners will be meeting with HLF staff to understand the reasons behind the decision before deciding whether to re-submit a revised bid.

Mussel Fishery in the Stour Estuary

Following a second round of consultation responses, solicitors working on the order are still not in a position to make a recommendation to the Secretary of State in relation to this matter. It is understood there are still significant concerns around the environmental implications and impact upon river users of the proposals that need to be understood and mitigated against.

Simon Amstutz, AONB Manager: 31 Oct 2017

BCP

Bawdsey Coastal Partnership Update

No update at present.

DEP

Deben Estuary Partnership Update

The DEP is pleased with the significant step forward towards securing a permanent, all year round, foot ferry service between Bawdsey Quay and Felixstowe Ferry. Thanks to financial support from the AONB Unit, SCDC, Bawdsey Parish Council, local District and County Councillors and Felixstowe Ferry Residents Association enough money has been raised to support a 'Dial-a-Ride' trial service through the winter and early spring (weather permitting) of 2017 /18. Would-be passengers can ring to book a place in the boat on the day before they want to cross the river. The service is already proving an advantage for walkers and cyclists and very useful for local people from the Deben Peninsula wanting to get to Felixstowe.

Preparation for work to repair and enhance the flood defence wall of Bawdsey Marsh , FC1, is well underway. Although an important element in the flood risk management policy for the whole of the Deben Estuary it is unlikely that this area can qualify for Government funding and in order to meet the cost of the scheme some enabling development will be needed. As this project moves forward, step-by-step, information is being shared with local residents and parishes in the immediate area.

Monitoring of the Bawdsey side of the outer Estuary mouth – between the Quay and the point – continues to raise concerns. The steady loss of the shingle beach and exposure of decaying groynes, the 'creep' up-stream of the large and deep 'bites' eroding into the shingle bank, together with further loss of sediment around the slipway, show no sign of abating.

Other news in brief includes ongoing interest in the importance of saltmarsh as an element of natural flood defence, and in the anticipated outcomes of the work associated with the successful bid for SDF money to fund further research. Also, over the summer DEP members were able to join AONB volunteers and take part in the survey work to ground-truth the Tranquillity Project's 'heat map'. Publication of the important final report is due soon.

Christine Block, November 2017

BEP

Blyth Estuary Partnership

BLYTH ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP (BEP). Formerly Blyth Estuary Group (BEG)

Please note name alteration.

The BEP invited Kerry Blair, WDC & SCDC Head of Operations, to meet to explain the BEP's holistic view and facts of the estuary and the harbour's future dependency on the river banks, especially those upstream including west of the A12. The BEP offered to lead the discussions with WDC on future operations and projects and expenditure needed and also met with Paul Patterson of Coastal Partnership East.

If the banks are not maintained there will be a minimum of extra 25% of water flowing through the estuary which would make the harbour and its moorings untenable. This is a thriving harbour, one of a few working harbours in the country, with many Dutch and Belgian visiting boats and with Brexit the fishing industry looks set to revive. Its survival is of paramount economic importance along with the caravan site and the Southwold brand to East Suffolk and beyond.

The BEP has met with Philip Ridley, Head of Planning and Coastal, WDC & SCDC, and other planning officers to discuss enabling for bank rebuilding and maintenance for which it has extant planning permission. The BEP will be consulting with landowners, local councils and organisations and the public.

A project plan is being established. The Walberswick bank from the Bailey bridge eastwards, the Reydon bank and the cottages and businesses being the priorities.

We have now produced a Constitution.

Sue Allen, November 2017

AONB

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Update

Great British Beach Clean, 15 to 18 Sept. 2017:

A national event organised by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) with events in Suffolk being co-ordinated Suffolk by the AONB team led to some outstanding results:

- At least 21 teams took part along the Suffolk coast and estuaries, involving in the region of 600 volunteers and comprising at least 8 new teams including 1 school group.
- Plastic remains a massive problem, comprising between 70-90% of all the litter found.
- Suffolk events featured in Saturday's EADT Environment supplement, <http://www.eadt.co.uk/ea-life/suffolk-given-a-cleaner-coastline-thanks-to-a-bumper-beach-clean-up-1-5201292>
- The largest event was hosted by Suffolk Wildlife Trust on their Trimley Marshes Reserve, and joined by Orwell District Scouts and BT. 105 volunteers took part, collecting over 700kg of litter from 750m of foreshore, including over 20kg of hard plastics which filled our first TerraCycle crate for recycling.

Going Underground: Stage 1 pass for landscape enhancements projects

Three stage 1 approvals for projects to underground low voltage power cables in Shotley North, Shotley South, and Blythburgh) worth around £1.5m have been agreed following submissions by the AONB team.

Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Boundary Review

The Natural England board have approved the technical assessment undertaken by Natural England staff and have approved progress to public consultation on proposals to review the AONB boundary at the southern end of the AONB. Natural England have planned the formal consultation will start on 8 Jan 2018.

Volunteer placements

The AONB team have offered 6-month volunteer placements to Holly Wickens and Charlotte Norrbom and are delighted that both have accepted. They join us with lots of enthusiasm to work in the conservation sector and started on 3rd October. Both will be doing 3 days a week. A real win win in terms of support for purposes of the AONBs and career development for individuals.

Simon Amstutz, 24/10/2017

IDB

Internal Drainage Board Update

[Update from SCF conference]

The Water Management Alliance (WMA) are a group of 5 [Internal Drainage Boards \(IDBs\)](#) operating across 584,000 hectares of land in Anglian Region. IDB's have over 900 years of experience managing water levels against drought and flood. Almost one third of the county of Suffolk falls within the IDB drainage districts of the East Suffolk IDB (ESIDB) and the Waveney, Lothingland and Lower Yare IDB (WLLYIDB). Much of this land is within the tidal floodplain and consequently the IDB's are increasingly involved in projects around the Suffolk coast.

Following the tidal surge of December 2013, the ESIDB have been working with estuary partnerships to repair flood defences in the Suffolk estuaries. We are pleased to have Public Sector Cooperation Agreements (PSCA's) in place with EA and local authorities which will allow greater flexibility for partnership working and delivering efficiencies for the taxpayer. Since 2013 we have undertaken defence repairs and improvements at Waldringfield and Snape Village. We recently completed the first phase of wall improvements at Aldeburgh Town Marshes with funds from EA and local contributions and enhanced freshwater wetland habitat in the process. WMA are supporting the Waveney, Lothingland and Lower Yare IDB, in developing a £7-10M business case for government and partnership funding on behalf of the Environment Agency, Coastal Partnership East and Suffolk County Council. Working with Kessingland Parish Council and local businesses, the multi-agency project team will consider how best to fund and manage flood risk in Kessingland Village and the lower Lothingland Valley at Benacre just south of Lowestoft. The project has interesting opportunities for growth, tourism, and environment. Given the challenges we face in Suffolk in terms of drought and flood scenarios, the IDB's are committed to finding new solutions for the problems we face together. We are partner in the Deben Holistic Water Management Plan and are currently part of an innovative project to better manage the freshwater resources within the Felixstowe peninsula area of the Deben. We are also working closely with Coastal Partnership East to offer emergency response services during surge events to deploy temporary barriers to protect the heart of Lowestoft ahead of capital works in the near future. Following our completion of the largest saltmarsh restoration project in Suffolk led by the Waldringfield Flood Defence Group, we are working with Suffolk Coastal Forum members to develop a saltmarsh restoration pilot for Suffolk within the Deben Estuary. It's hoped that this pioneering project will create a new way to fund local saltmarsh projects that aim to retain the 1000ha of saltmarsh we have left in Suffolk.

In addition to our traditional drainage work on Suffolk's rivers and streams, we are supporting delivery of flood defence works in more rural locations where central government funding is challenging. We have recently completed an RFCC-funded full estuary modelling study with HR Wallingford on behalf of the Alde and Ore Estuary Partnership. This new evidence will inform the AOEP's £10-12M programme to ensure the estuaries defences are made more resilient to tidal flooding. Much of this funding will be raised locally including a £3M Public Works Loan raised by the IDB and local landowners. We understand the need for cost-effective solutions given the funding challenges and work hard with partners and community members to develop funding strategies alongside our projects. Our locally based technical team know the area well understand the flood risk management needs of people in Suffolk. Our projects are delivered by our own operatives who apply their knowledge of the local landscape to deliver wider outcomes for flood risk management people, economy and the environment.

Karen Thomas, October 2017

EA **Environment Agency Update**

The following update covers the key locations from an EA coastal flood risk management perspective.

Benacre Pumping Station and the Kessingland Levels

We continue to working with Waveney, Lower Yare & Lothingland Internal Drainage Board, local businesses and other partners on a long term solution for the Kessingland Levels.

Easton Broad and Potters Bridge

We continue to liaise with NE and SCC regarding this site and what further options are available for the future. SCC Highways are undertaking a bridge inspection and the outcome of this will help inform a way forward.

Slaughden

We have applied to SCDC for ongoing permission to recycle shingle at Slaughden. We have modified this consent to have the option of widening the ridge landwards at its most vulnerable points. This will result in a much more robust ridge that is able to withstand winter storms.

SMP policy reviews

We continue work closely SCDC and partners on the assessment of policy options for Slaughden and East Lane, Bawdsey. The Slaughden review is progressing well. The Client Steering group along with an AOEP representative has met with technical specialists from CH2M to look at what options are available for the long term management of the site.

Suffolk Estuaries

The RFCC have allocated £50K for the development of a modelling study for the proposed Alde and Ore defence improvements. The modelling is expected to be completed in November 2017 and is already beginning to inform priorities for the AOEP.

The Environment Agency has been allocated £90,000 for a saltmarsh project in the Suffolk estuaries. This has been recommended for approval by the Large Project Review Group.

The Ipswich Flood Defence Management Strategy – Ipswich Barrier – Site progress update

Work at the Ipswich Barrier site continues to progress well. All of the main structural concrete pours are now completed, with both East and West piers at their final level. Secondary pours are now underway including the casting in of the cill plates, roller guides and side seal plates. The main gate was transported over from Holland in October. Its arrival was reported well in the media with coverage on Look East and local papers.

Mark Johnson, November 2017

Coastal Partnership East

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Council Coastal Management Team Update

CPE

New CPE website has launched www.coasteast.org.uk and Twitter account is @CPE_NandS

Environment Agency Directors have recently visited the Suffolk coast to see the work that is underway and see some of the coastal management issues first hand. This included John Curtin (Exec Director Flood and Coastal Risk Management) and Ken Allinson (EA Director of Allocation and Asset Management). Emma Howard-Boyd (Environment Agency Chair) will visit Lowestoft on 11th December.

Work has begun by Balfour Beatty on identifying suitable projects along the Suffolk coast to develop into business cases as part of a review of the 10 year programme.

Corton: CH2M are being commissioned to develop the business case for Corton and North Corton. In the mean time access to Corton Village Prom will remain open until at least the New Year, when the conditions will be reviewed again. If conditions change and become dangerous the prom could be closed for public access sooner.

Lowestoft: The Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project outline design has been costed at £32.8m. A consultation on Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project is now open until 14th December. See online at <http://lowestoffrmp.org.uk/> . A drop in event is being held for the public to enable them to speak to the LowestoftFRMP team on 30th November at Riverside.

The Lowestoft project is hosting the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day on 17th November at the Orbis Centre. The event includes a competition which will enable a school to win filming equipment and work alongside the project team to promote community engagement through digital and social media.

Southwold: Works are planned to take place at Southwold Boating Lake on 14th/15th November, to upgrade the intake pipe.

Brackenbury (Felixstowe): Work on a new footpath to improve access around a rock revetment between the two promenades will begin shortly.

Promoting the work of Coastal Partnership East. A presentation has been made to the Anglian (East) Regional Flood and Coast Committee on the work Paul Mackie is undertaking on funding and financing was well received by committee members. In addition presentations have also been made at the Defra & EA National Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Stakeholder Forum and NCE Floods Conference by Rob Goodliffe on the Sandscaping work being undertaken North Norfolk District Council /CPE at Bacton providing protection for the major gas terminal which will be only the second such project in the world and Paul Mackie on new thinking in financing and funding.

Bill Parker, November 2017

LGA Coastal SIG

Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group Update

Following from the submission of the annual report (2016 – 2017), Lord Porter, Chairman of the LGA, wrote to thank SIG colleagues and member authorities for their activities and work undertaken throughout the year.

Lynne Frostick (EA Main Board Non Exec)and Catherine Wright (EA Director of Digital and Skills) attended the September LGA Coastal SIG meeting learn about the barriers to better working between EA and Local Authorities to improve delivery to our communities.

MMO Director Trudi Wakelin will attend the December SIG meeting to continue learning and improving working methods with LAs and others. South Tyneside Council are working to continue to build relationships with the MMO.

Bill Parker made a presentation with representatives from other local authorities and with Kellie Fisher to Committee on Climate Change Adaptation Committee to highlight the role of CPAs. It was acknowledged that our input had been missing but our concerns are recognised and we had an opportunity to input into the brief for future CoCC research.

Bill Parker is pressing adaptation work – Defra discussions ongoing but not making as much progress as hoped.

In case you have not seen it already the LGA have produced a Water Safety Toolkit for councils, to ensure locals and visitors enjoy the natural environment safely whether on the coast or inland. See the toolkit at <https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/community-safety/water-safety-toolkit>

Andy Smith, November 2017
SIG Chairman

MMO

Marine Management Organisation Update

No update at present.

IFCA

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities Update

No update at present.

NE

Natural England Update

Flood and Coastal Erosion Management:

- **Benacre Sluice and Kessingland Valley:** on-going engagement on Kessingland Levels study.
- **Easton Valley:** Advice provided to Environment Agency over sustainability of proposed flood management scheme in the valley and implications for freshwater SPA reedbeds.
- **Alde-Ore Estuary:** NE 17/18 saltmarsh transects survey and 'Healthy Estuaries' study **ongoing**. AOEP Monitoring plan review meeting held in September.

- **Slaughden and East Lane Bawdsey** engaged in SMP client steering group policy review. Provided Specialist Geomorphological Advice (Professor Julian Orford) on Bawdsey East Lane summer 2017.
- **Deben Estuary:** NE 17/18 Bid for funding towards 'Healthy Estuaries' study **ongoing**.
- **EA Saltmarsh Project:** Emma Hay working with EA Flood & Coastal Risk Management team re prospective sites that will use DEFRA funds (£90,000) over 4 years on projects that demonstrate flood defence benefits of saltmarsh.
- **Suffolk Saltmarsh Group (SSG):** NE key member of this which will provide a strategic framework and support for those wishing to undertake saltmarsh projects in Suffolk.

Other Coastal Planning:

- **Sizewell C:** In April, we provided our initial comments (in conjunction with EA) on EDF's ecohydrological work but have had no further engagement with the project subsequently.

Marine Designations:

- **Marine Conservation Zones:** Sites going forward for consideration in Tranche 3 are the Alde Ore Estuary and Orford Inshore in Suffolk, and the additional feature of native oyster for Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ in Norfolk (designated in T2 Jan 2016). Our pre-consultation advice was delivered to Defra at the end of Feb 2017, and Defra and Ministers are currently using this advice to decide which sites will go forward for formal consultation. The consultation was scheduled for late summer 2017, however there has been some slippage so it is likely to be in 2018. We will send out notification once a specific date is set for the beginning of the consultation. If anyone has any questions then please contact Fiona Tibbitt (Fiona.Tibbitt@naturalengland.org.uk).

England Coast Path:

Shotley Gate to Felixstowe Ferry (Laura Chellis);

Stage 1 (Prepare) almost complete and Stage 2 (Develop) underway. Walk the course visits have begun and stakeholders approached to hear their views. Current focus to end of the year is on site visits and engagement with landowners and occupiers.

Felixstowe Ferry to Bawdsey - Claire & Alice – to be joined by Kim (01/11/17)

- * Work started in Summer.
- * Started gathering info from stakeholders
- * Familiarisation ongoing
- * Considering role of ferry & estuary discretion
- * Letters sent out to all landowners
- * Drop-in arranged for 17 Nov, 10 - 12.30, Woodbridge Library
- * We'll soon be meeting with landowners and local people.
- * Information gathering re: access and sensitive features data

Bawdsey to Aldeburgh – David, Fiona and Jonathan

- * Work started in Summer.
- * Started gathering info from stakeholders
- * Familiarisation ongoing
- * Letters sent out to all landowners
- * Drop-in events at Snape and Hollesley village halls that were well attended.
- * We'll soon be meeting with landowners and local people.
- * Information gathering re: access and sensitive features data

John Jackson, 10/11/2017

Suffolk Saltmarsh group

No update at present

Suffolk Shingle Engine

No update at present.

Marine Pioneer

Update from the Suffolk Marine Pioneer

The Suffolk Marine Pioneer has established its position and working relationships over the past few months. The catalyst of the Pioneer -the Government's 25 year Environment plan- is yet to be published, although this is expected to change in '*the new year*'. The Marine Pioneer has been asked to keep a low public profile until such time as the 25 year plan is published, however the Pioneer is preparing communication materials in anticipation of maximising impact at the point of publication.

The Marine Pioneer's four objectives; to test a natural capital approach; share learning; demonstrate integration and assess novel finance mechanisms remains consistent with the Pioneer's inception. As does the intention to deliver these objectives through partnership with existing Suffolk-based project work.

The Pioneer's work with the Suffolk Saltmarsh Group presents opportunities for good early progress with initial outputs expected in the coming months. There is a great deal of support for collaborative working with other projects including; Kessingland and Benacre, The Shingle Engine and with developments further offshore. The Pioneer Steering Group are working hard to identify how such collaborations might best work. Notably the RSPB, MMO, ABP work on beneficial dredging and it's relevance to the Suffolk estuaries and saltmarsh projects. The extent to which the Pioneer will integrate with each project will be determined following a resourcing workshop in next month.

Evidencing and Information

Attendance at the 2nd annual [Valuing Nature Network Conference](#) offered experience from the wider academic interest surrounding natural capital and an insight into the business perspective of natural capital.

The network between the terrestrial, marine, urban and catchment pioneers is improving, with resources being made more freely available. In addition, A systems mapping exercise and Marine Environment: Post Brexit seminar present immediate opportunity for the Suffolk Pioneer to benefit from the wider network.

Pete Cosgrove, 24/10/2017