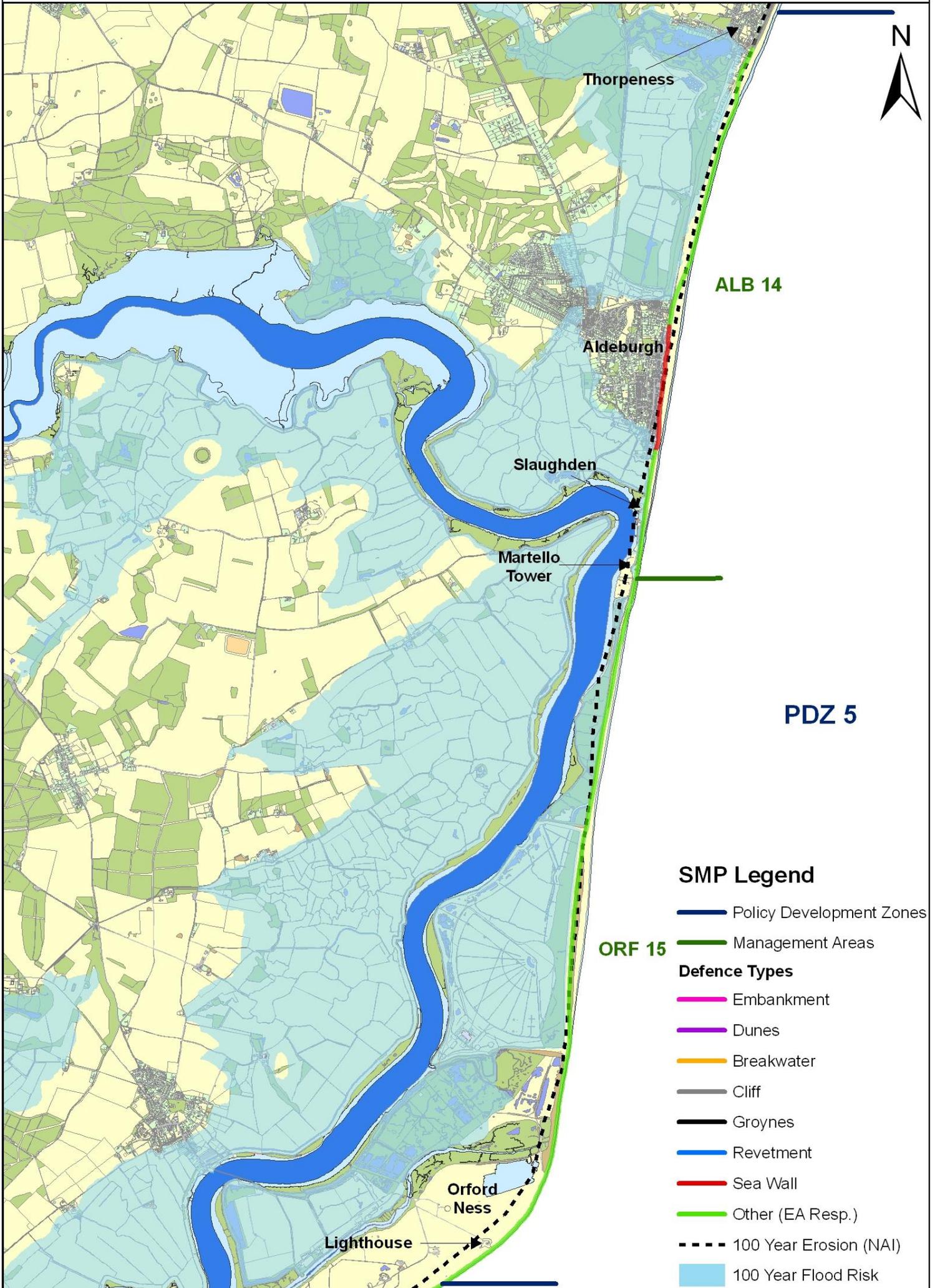
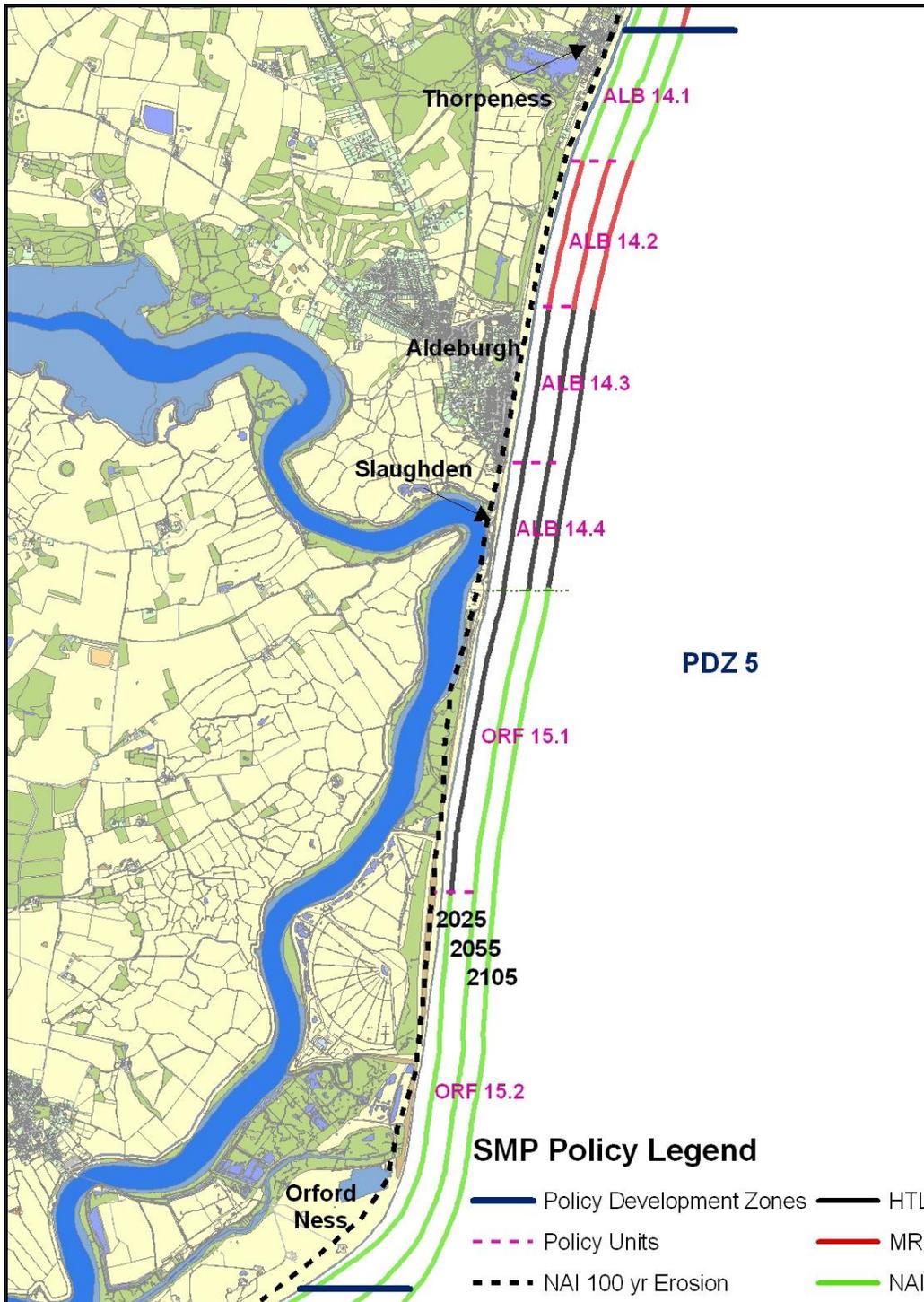


# SMP7 Summary - Thorpeness to Orford Ness





## Management Responsibilities

SCDC: Alb 14.3

SCDC Assets:

Alb 14.3 Recurved concrete wall with timber topped concrete groynes

EA: Alb 14.1 to Alb 14.2; Alb 14.4; Orf 15.1 to Orf 15.2

EA Assets:

Alb 14.4 Slaughden concrete recurve wall,

Orf 15.1 Sudbourne Beach concrete wall

## SMP Information

Area vulnerable to flood risk: Approx. 27,300,000m<sup>2</sup>

No. of properties vulnerable to flooding: 489

Area vulnerable to erosion: Approx. 1,220,000m<sup>2</sup> (2105 prediction – no defences)

No. of properties vulnerable to erosion: 75

Vulnerable infrastructure / assets:

Thorpeness cliffs, beach and common, Leiston Abbey, Thorpeness Meare, North Warren RSPB reserve, Hundred River outfall, Lifeboat station, Moot Hall, Aldeburgh marshes, Alde/Ore Estuary, Martello Tower, Sudbourne marshes, Orford Ness, Orford Castle, Orford Port, Lighthouse

## SMP Objectives

- To maintain in a sustainable manner Aldeburgh as a viable commercial and tourism centre, recognising its cultural and heritage value;
- To maintain in a sustainable manner Thorpeness as a viable coastal settlement and tourist destination, recognising its cultural and heritage significance;
- To maintain a range of recreational activities along the foreshore and within the estuary, including sailing and navigational access;
- To maintain Orfordness as a designated site of international and European importance;
- To support the adaptation of local coastal communities;
- To support the adaptation of local coastal farming communities;
- To maintain biological and geological features in a favourable condition, subject to natural change, and in the context of a dynamic coastal environment;
- To support appropriate ecological adaptation of habitats;
- To promote ways to maintain access to and along the coastal path;
- To maintain or enhance the high quality landscape.

Policy Unit ID	Policy Unit Name (Location)	Current Policy 0-20 yrs Short	Current Policy 20-50 yrs Medium	Current Policy 50-100 yrs Long	Policy Comments	Action Reference	Action Description	Activity	Theme	Action Lead Organisation	Key Partners	Primary Action Objective	Epoch for Action Delivery	Epoch Comments	Priority	Funding Source	Estimated Funding Requirement (£'000)	Implementation Cycle	Target Start Date (financial year)	Actual Start Date (financial year)	Target End Date (financial year)	Action Progress Status 2017	Action Progress Supporting Information 2017
Work Underway																							
ALB 14 - ORF 15	Aldeburgh to Orford Ness					68	Initiate discussions to develop sustainable management.	Land Cultural and Environment Management	Prevention	Environment Agency	Alde & Ore Association, Local Residents, Suffolk Coast & Heaths Unit, Estuary Planning Partnership, Suffolk County Council, Natural England, SCF, Historic England and RSPB		0-20 yrs Short		Medium	FDGIA	3000	Cycle 1 2012-2015	2012/13	2012/13	2032/33	Progressing	SMP policy review underway.
Proposed future activity																							
ALB 14.3	Aldeburgh	HTL	HTL	HTL	Control at Fort Green	65	Aldeburgh Town Frontage Project Appraisal Report	Studies, Assessments and Plans	Preparedness	Suffolk Coastal DC	Environment Agency, Natural England, National Trust, Community and RSPB	Economic	0-20 yrs Short		Medium			Cycle 3 2021-2027	TBC		TBC	On Hold	This is a contingency against future significant increase in erosion pressure at Fort Green shoreline.
ABP Associated British Ports, AOA Alde & Ore Association, AW, Anglian Water, BE Benacre Estates, BEG, Blyth Estuary Group, BM Bawdsey Manor, CG Community Groups, DEP Deben Estuary Partnership, EA Environment Agency, EH English Heritage, EPP Estuary Planning Partnership, GYBC Great Yarmouth Borough Council, KC Kessingland Community, LO Landowners, LRA Local Residents Association, NE Natural England, NNDC North Norfolk District Council, NT National Trust, RSPB Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, SCC Suffolk County Council, SCDC Suffolk Coastal District Council, SCF Suffolk Coast Forum, SCH Suffolk Coast & Heaths, SHT Southwold Harbour Trust, SSSC Shingle Street Settlement Company, SWT Suffolk Wildlife Trust, WDC Waveney District Council																							

# **Thorpeness to Orford Ness**

## ***Summary Discussion***

The zone covers two distinct areas. To the north is the section including the headland of Thorpeness and the high ground at Aldeburgh, with the valley of the Hundred River and low lying area situated behind the shingle bank at the back of the foreshore. The second section of the zone comprises Orfordness, extending some 7.5km south of Aldeburgh. The point of the ness is marked by the Lighthouse. At the north of this section at Slaughden is a narrow neck of land only 50m to 75m wide, separating the coast from the estuary.

To the north of Aldeburgh and in front of the town the aim is to maintain a healthy shingle beach and ridge. Over the northern section this may result in increased overtopping and the aim would be to examine in detail where set back flood defence may be required to provide additional protection to the Mere and to properties in Thorpeness and Aldeburgh. The definition of policy over the northern section of the frontage from Holding the Line in front of the properties at the Haven to one of managed realignment. This reflects more in the approach being taken rather than in suggesting greater risk to the properties along the Haven. In the review of policy it is more appropriate to maintain the defence provided by the naturally functioning shingle bank rather than attempting to fix this important feature through man made works.

An essential aspect of maintaining protection to the town of Aldeburgh is the control of shingle over the frontage. This brings in the issue of managing the section of coast south of the town and the potential breach between the shore and the estuary. This is recognised to be a very complex issue, with potentially far reaching impacts on the estuary and the agricultural, recreational and nature conservation interests of the estuary.

The SMP has taken a pragmatic approach to this, recognising that some of the issues require far closer examination. The SMP, therefore, aims to provide guidance to these further studies in setting out the consequences of different approaches solely from the perspective of managing the shoreline.

The main pressure for a breach arises from the persistent erosion of the coast. If this were to be managed to prevent a breach into the estuary then considerable effort would be required over time in preventing this. In effect, protection would be needed against increasing pressure over some 4km of coast. From a shoreline management perspective this would not be recommended. In addition to the large resource required, there would be significant impacts on both the landscape and nature conservation values.

The alternative is to allow a breach. The plan suggests this (subject to the conclusion of the broader scale integrated approach being developed through the Alde/Ore futures initiative). The SMP does not attempt to pre-empt the decisions being made through this initiative but rather provides valuable guidance from a shoreline management perspective.

The plan recommends that should a breach be allowed or managed, this would be engineered to the south of the Martello Tower. This approach is seen as managing many of the important coastal objectives identified for the area. It also provides the intent to maintain a beach in front of Aldeburgh. The SMP policy for Slaughden is under review with consultation on conclusions expected in autumn 2018..