

Report for River Defence Committee re impact of the surge and tide of 5th/6th December.

Chapmans Creek to the Anchorage, Iken. Low tide Saturday 7th December 2013

Simon Barrow

Starting at Chapmans Creek

- For the first 400 m no indication of trouble reflecting the positive effect of salt marshes and the relative height of the wall
- At 44.5/55.6 first evidence of overtopping. Not serious damage since each occurrence less than a metre wide but created distinct courses down the land side bank. See pics 1 and 2. I noted that these banks had recently been cut very short. Is that good or bad ie if the grass was longer would it have protected the bank more (or vice versa?). I noticed the flood zone to the east (Sudbourne Marshes) had banks where the grass was longer. On the basis of this our flood zone (which has I understand a lower % of clay) needs some long lasting netting or matting to secure the bank. This is a priority for this zone as I will indicate later in this report.
Question 1: will the priority for the installation of this material be assessed on the existing quality of the wall content?



- At 44.3/55.8 a serious slippage circa 8m wide though the crest held (pic 3)



- Major flooding of agricultural land around old Stanny Farm

- At 44.0/56.8 a clear view of the extensive Hazelwood Marsh breach (Pic 5) **Question 2: was this wall not recently repaired and if so what lessons can be learned from the techniques, height specification and materials used?**



- Going east from this point widespread evidence of overtopping and the corrosive effect it has. Walls must ideally be circa 0.3 m higher with enhanced protection of the land side banks as described earlier.
- At 42.5/56.5 another serious 4m slippage (Pic 5)



- From the Pump House 43.2/56.2 to 42.5/56.5 several near breach slippages and the worst damage on the walls of this flood zone. I found these pictures truly shocking given the apparently solidity of the wall. **Question 3: It was good to see the bags and digger at this spot preparing for the subsequent full scale repair of these devastated section, has that work also included the slippages reported above further east. Question 4: Why did this section suffer so badly? Was it due to low height therefore facilitating overtopping or was the content of the wall inferior? Question 5: I and others in the RDC have walked this section many times, what if anything did we miss in alerting the EA to this risk?**



- Finally, the concluding stretch of a wall to the Anchorage appeared in good shape with the flood debris just below the crest.

Next actions

- **Walk these walls again and assess what urgent works remain to be done. Hopefully none.**
- **Raise these 5 Questions at next A&O c'ttee having coordinated them with all questions emerging from similar inspections in other A&O flood zones**

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