

THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity No. 1064789



The Association exists to preserve for the Public benefit the Alde, Ore and Butley Creek rivers and their banks from Shingle Street to their tidal limits and such of the land adjoining them or upstream as may be considered to affect them, together with the features of beauty and or historic or public interest in that area.

RIVER DEFENCE COMMITTEE REPORT APRIL 2009

1 SNAPE WARREN TO BARBERS POINT (Richard Newman) Ham Creek

The only area of any worry is the west end of the Ham Creek wall. This has been reported before. The first 50 yds of this wall is reinforced with concrete, interlocking blocks. They are in very bad repair, with the river getting behind them in several places with some substantial erosion of the wall itself. The threatening wind would be from a southerly direction at high tide.

The rest of the area is either covered by saltings (from Blackheath House to the western end), or cliffs at Little Japan so is under little immediate threat.

2 BARBER'S POINT TO BRICK DOCK (Roger Baxter)

Repair work has now been completed at Barber's Point and a section of wall between Collier's Hole and Roundhill.



Barber's Point repairs complete



Beach Area at Barber's Point



Overtopping repairs complete east of Barber's Point, with fissures filled in



Repair work complete to the west of Roundhill

However, some sections around Collier's Hole require **urgent repair work** as water level erosion and brickwork displacement continues. (see below)



Fissures have appeared E of Colliers Hole; these will be monitored as they will become deeper with drying out over the summer. At present they are less than 18 inches deep.

Fissures identified in the 2008 report have been repaired as part of the Barber's Point improvements.

3 BRICK DOCK TO MARTELO TOWER (Alison Andrews)

Unlike previous years the high spring tides of March 2009 appear not to have threatened the river wall. Further with the wet summer last year, some vegetation has grown in parts where the bare earth was previously eroding, such as the river wall at Fulcher Sluice or near Stanny so the erosion has been held at bay.

VERY SERIOUS CONDITION - As reported in 2007 and 2008, the river wall either side of Aldeburgh Corporation Sluice (TM45857), continues to be increasingly in need of repair (grid reference 458556)

- i 17-25 feet to west of Sluice steps, broken defence now rather more than 10-12 revetment blocks wide (a revetment block is about 15 inches square wide) (was about 6 in 2007, 8-10 in 2008), 2-3 blocks deep, with bank mud exposed behind (see below photos of 2008 report)



This is a useful indicator - the longer maintenance is delayed the more hours work to repair it.

- ii similar within 10 feet of Sluice (see 2008 picture below)



- iii blocks coming loose near steps



- iv 30 feet east of steps, about 8' of revetment wall broken (see photo 2008 report below)



- v. 40 feet or so to east, 2 block wide gap with mud bank exposed above including 15 inch crack into the river bank (photo in 2008 report)



River wall immediately south of Martello - as reported in June 2006, only a flat area some 17 feet wide from the concrete curtain wall before the shingle slopes down, not helped by many vehicles using the wall Grid reference 463548.

River wall debris: most of the recent high tides have deposited debris lower than 3 feet of the top of the river wall.

Report on parts deteriorating or in early stages of poor condition. Must be watched:-

- i **Hard defences** stretch behind former oyster beds flanking south eastern edge of Brick Dock area (449565 – 448563). Wall protection is built of foot wide concrete ‘steps’. These blocks are falling in about every 6-10 yards in at least 5 places and at south end three blocks have fallen out exposing mud bank. See Photos from 2008 RDC 13.4.08 nr Brick Dock 1st and 2nd. Have photos for 2009 which show similar picture. This area might benefit from minor repairs by landowners?
- ii **Saltings** near oyster bed appear to have deteriorated in an area about 20 foot square, seem to have been washed away.
- iii **Erosion of side of river wall:** mostly where cattle trod round the edge of the saltings last year, the steep side has been ‘shaved’ off vertically and had lost most of its vegetation exposing earth wall with nothing to protect it. During 2008-9 with the wet summer some vegetation has grown back but the area is still vulnerable with sheer sides unprotected by vegetation. The barest stretch is near Stanny, 445559 for some 20 yards and 446557 for 25 yards where the exposure is more intermittent. Vegetation is also missing for a few yards above the low revetments near Chapmans 449555, a bit along the newly raised top (**NB** top and its relation to debris level looking good), and around loop in wall 456556 to land ward side on west aspect, and river side at east end.
- iv River wall narrowed by paths (mostly cattle either side) to 3 foot wide south side of Fulcher Sluice by gate but partly now protected by new vegetation although wall still very narrow at this point.

EA had left a wide earth slipway up on to the wall around 450550 which I feared might prove attractive to bikers but so far it has remained unused

4 SNAPE BRIDGE TO IKEN (Richard Marson)

No areas on either side of the river are likely to breach in next 12 months but on OS212 at 5759 3983 there was an area of wall under the grass which needs watching. It will be interesting to see the LIDAR report for the north bank here as there were several points where over topping occurred in 2007.



5 IKEN TO CHAPMAN'S CREEK (Simon Barrow)

John Hale's section is in good shape but on top of the wall there is heavy vegetation (gorse and brambles) and this in time will disturb the armour and, in the event of overtopping, make matters worse as the water will put pressure on it as opposed to just sliding over the wall.

The bank on the whole is in good shape for the first half mile but there are several bad spots thereafter. The worst area is the big bite at the end of Paul Cooke's land (443560) where the armour stops, as highlighted in the previous years report.

6. CHAPMAN'S CREEK TO ORFORD (Jane Marson)

6.1 The Skepper bank was walked from the Pump House on the West bank of Home reach to where the river wall footpath turns away from the river to Ferry Farm. Only at one point, N 52 07 844 E 001 35 321, does the wall need maintenance to avoid significant deterioration in the next year-see photo below.



Two further notes-first the sheep are doing a good job keeping the top of the wall clear enough to absorb rain. The two areas highlighted in last years report (two 2008 photos below) could well be dealt with under landowner protocol arrangements. Finally, the Skeppers hope to have dealt with the authorized maintenance project before mid April.

6.2 Blackstakes Reach Landowner: John Grimsey/David Black boundary
Grid Reference: TM 443 520



6.3 Blackstakes Reach Landowner: John Grimsey/David Black boundary
Grid Reference: TM 442 523
Erosion, cutting into the wall.

