

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.

ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE BANKS OF THE ALDE AND ORE ESTUARY APRIL 2011

There were no significant tides this year with the result that the banks have suffered minimal deterioration from last years standpoint. The EA have managed to maintain a number of areas that were of concern but also had a programme of mowing the banks and cutting scrub which has greatly improved bank visibility.

1 **Snape Bridge (North and South Bank to Iken Church) - Richard Marson**

There is no change to report. I have pictures of the top of the wall where heavy traffic is degrading the surface and wondered if we could get SWT or SCHU to do some maintenance.

2 **North side – Blackheath (New England Farm) to Barber's Point – Richard Newman**

There is little to report. All the saltings and 'cliffs' at Blackheath and Little Japan are quite normal and unaffected by anything over the last year.

The only area that is still of some concern is the river wall at the Ham Creek entrance. It doesn't look as if any more work has been done than this time last year. About half of the length of the wall that was causing some concern still has interlocking concrete sections, some of which have become dislodged and fallen, causing cavities to appear behind the blocks.

On the other half the blocks have been removed and placed about 10 ft in front of the wall. This appears to be having the desired effect in building up silt between the wall and the newly placed blocks. In this section of the wall, the blocks have been replaced by clay -filled bags, which are already beginning to decay. I don't know whether this is intentional or not but at present the clay remains in position. The test will come when the wall is subjected to a SE gale at High Tide.

3 **Barber's Point to Brick Dock - Roger Baxter/Simon Reid**

Volunteer members walked with Jim Wheeler and Mike Steen to review the stretch of wall most vulnerable to erosion.

The Environment Agency has put in place revetment works between Roundhill and Colliers Hole autumn 2010, but had to stop because of the wet conditions.

Further west, there are still several breakdowns in the revetment blocks, as has been reported in previous years (photo 1).



The worst damage at Colliers Hole has had a temporary infill of gravel to prevent further erosion, see photo 2.



It is hoped that the Environment Agency will effect more substantial repairs in this year's programme following the breeding season (photo 3 and 4 are examples).



No top wall fissures were found and all back slopes are in good condition.

4 Brick Dock to Martello Tower – Alison Andrews

Very good to see repair work around Aldeburgh Sluice completed apart from one outlier of a breakdown of the armour (see below)



but no danger of breach at present. Twice in the year vandals have thrown down a few of the new blocks but these have now been edged by grass and so are less tempting.

No sign this spring tide of unusually high river levels: tide mark of high tide debris just reaching the base of the river wall all round this stretch.

Previous reports on this area of poor condition and update

Poor condition: As last year, the most noticeable breakdown of defences is the series of incipient degradation of the armour every few feet all along the curve of the bank from the old oyster beds where the westerly fetch of winds is strong. These are becoming more marked, as a few photos show.

Previous reports: 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

Note: at March 2010 'at least 5 places' is now about 8-10 places. At March 2011, now in 12-13 places



Also, behind the wall at this point, tractor marks had dug deep muddy paths at the base of the wall



Vertical earth wall near Stanny Point, vegetation is continuing to cover up the vertical bank

Saltings- I have the impression that there is some minor deterioration at some edges and some wider pools in the middle but it is difficult to judge how much. Photos have been taken and will compare next year.

5 Chapman's Creek to Orford – Simon Reid, Roger Baxter, Rufus Gilday.

With the exception of two areas, the Town Marsh stretch of bank and saltings are in good condition. Revetment work has been repaired close to Orford Sailing Club and a further section has been improved with wood stretchers inserted into the seabed. The damaged path in this area has also been repaired.



**6 Orford to Butley Creek (Flood Cell 3 and 4)
Inspection by Amanda Bettinson at end of April**

The footpath beyond Orford Sailing Club was maintained last autumn but has not stood up well during the hard winter and potholes have again developed. SCDC have been informed.

6.1 Cordle frontage – 300 metres from the steps there is a dip in the landward wall below the tree trunk (left after the EA scrub clearance) - can this be addressed during the crest trial maintenance?

Orford Beach is still being walked on. No signs have been forthcoming from the NT or NE. Consideration should be give to fencing this area off as a saltings trial if this area is to have any ability to regenerate successfully.



Grass and cow parsley was quite high and difficult to see any problems on the landward bank. The crest level was not addressed as this is managed under the crest level survey and work on the A&O Futures Landowners Group.

6.2 Greenwell Estate – 500 metres in from the Cordle boundary there is an area approx 10 metres in length of earth just above the revetments. Little changed from last year. One or two areas of collapse in the revetments but these do not seem to have altered much from last year either. Little change between here, Chantry Point and the Tide Gage (415485).

At approx 413479 on landward wall there is a slip as shown below 1 (on the corner where loose rock and revetments meet). At approx 409475 there is a deep hole about 3-4' deep on the path by the fence – about 6-8" in

diameter – photograph 2 below shows top of walking stick in the hole. There is a similar hole on the path just past the entrance to the Butley at approx 440474 photo 3



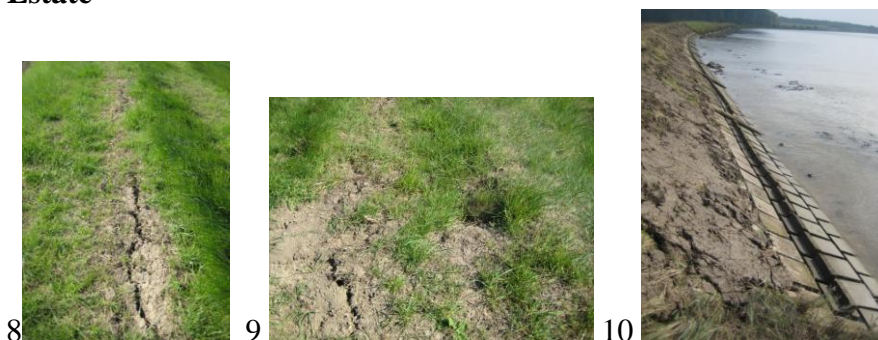
Inset Point – further photographs taken to compare with previous years but it is obvious saltings are eroding. This area should be considered for a trial regeneration site as it could be easily fenced off on the bend following previous NRA posts line.



The landward wall just before the corner looks to have suffered some slippage – see below 4. And further areas (5) directly in from entrance to Butley River (402473). Work completed last year at entrance to the Butley River is grassing over well (6). There is a large ?rabbit burrow and bare earth at the start of the wall in the field beyond the Butley beach area (7).



6.3 Watson Estate



Apart from a small area of fissures (8 and 9) on the top of the wall by the area that was maintained by the EA last year there is little to report on this stretch. The photo (10) of EA work was taken last year and this work has vastly improved the bank.

7 Shingle Street To Butley Mills (Flood Cell 1 & 2)

Brian Johnson. Inspections on 27th 28th and 29th March 2011.

General There is very little change in the whole of this length from last year. The river wall is protected by saltings for the complete length except for two short lengths (see comments below) and a length of compacted shingle beach. The landward side of Barthorps Creek does not have saltings.

The grass on both sides and top of river wall has been mown, probably last autumn throughout this length and all shrubs, brambles, gorse etc. and small trees have been completely removed. Fencing and gates around Colony Evacuation Sluice and Tang River outlet have been renewed presumably by EA.

Damaged Areas

Two damaged areas to be kept under review (see also remarks on same areas in previous year's reports)
Position 397465 immediately north of Flybury Point opposite south end of Havergate Island. Two short lengths where concrete armour partially exposed, timber footing undercut leading to erosion (photosRDC2011.1)



An in situ concrete repair half way up slope has cracked, bulging at this point suggests movement (see photos RDC.2011. 2 and 3 below)



Approx 2.75 M on Lidar survey. I expect that this point is subject to considerable flow pressure at the confluence of the two channels.

Position 394496 to 393495. Part timber footing missing, part deteriorating timber footing backed by loose concrete fill. No obvious change since last year but defence not robust (see photos 4 & 5) How long will it last ?



NOTED

Stone filled gabion defence to outflow from electric pump into saltings at 393486 (bank app. 2.8 on Lidar Survey at this point) (see photo 6 below)



Banks generally in good condition, see typical landward slope app. 35 degrees above (7)