

THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity No. 1064789



The Association exists to preserve and protect for the public benefit, the Alde and Ore River and the Butley Creek 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 BULLETIN 5

Following the Annual Meeting in March a meeting was held on 3rd June with Mike Steen. Also present were David Andren, Richard Marson, and Amanda Bettinson to discuss the annual survey of the river banks which was carried out after the March equinox.

It was decided that:

1. RDC Annual Survey

We should arrange to meet at the following sites which seem to be those most urgently in need of repair: Hazelwood Marshes, slip at Colliers Hole, Aldeburgh Corporation Sluice revetments, and erosion at Blackstakes Reach (Skepper). Richard Mann and Paul Cooke were to be asked if the Secretary and Chairman could walk their walls to assess urgency of work required there as no photos were taken for the last survey.

2. Protocol

There has been no agreement yet on terms for maintenance. It was understood that negotiations are ongoing on the Deben to trial the agreement. The RDC would seek a suitable site on the Alde and Ore estuary with a landowner willing to consider DIY repairs using the Protocol. As this is still in draft form it is suggested that a trial implementation might move it forward and enable landowners in future to deal more easily with the regulations surrounding DIY maintenance of their walls.

3. Crest Level Survey

Mike Steen reported that the Environment Agency were prepared to carry out a Crest Survey to measure the height of all 44000 metre of river walls on the Alde and Ore and regard this as an important part of the strategy proposal for the future management of our rivers. Besides bank heights, it will also identify all nearby properties which might become liable to flooding. The Agency will use a contractor with a backpack GPS theodolite to measure wall height every 5 metres. The EA are unable to do so at present due to lack of funds but in any event Mike thought this should now be left until after the first frosts when there would be less growth on the bank and a more accurate reading would result. Mike undertook to provide a firm date for this by 31st June.

4. IDB

It was noted that there is some discussion that the IDB may take responsibility, in the form of insurance, for repairs taken on by landowners under the maintenance agreements when they are agreed. Richard Marson has written to Sir Edward Greenwell, Chairman of the local area IDB suggesting a meeting with the Alde and Ore Association/RDC to discuss possible collaboration.

Richard Marson
Chairman, River Defence Committee

June 2008