

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 NO. 1 MAY 2007

HIGHLIGHTS OF LAUNCH MEETING 28TH APRIL 2007

The meeting was very well attended with over 50 land and property owners and interested parties representing the entire stretch of the estuary from Snape to Shingle Street.

Richard Marson Chairman of the River Defence Committee opened the meeting. He described the background to the creation of the committee, and how it might be organised.

The Alde and Ore Association now feels that it should play a more active role in deciding what action is required to manage the river in support of what seems to be the majority view, to maintain it in its present state for as long as possible. Therefore it is proposed to organise regular annual surveys of the walls and saltings from Snape Bridge to Shingle Street to identify any sites where these are eroding to the point of breaching if no action is taken. To achieve this, the river has been divided into nine zones, each with a volunteer coordinator responsible for liaising with the landowners within the zone and for seeing that surveys are carried out as requested.

The survey results will go, via the RDC, to the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency in turn will each year inform the RDC of its programme of works in time for this information to be passed to landowners and for a dialogue to take place.

Mike Steen (Environment Agency) agreed this was an excellent initiative and a good way

of formalising maintenance progress and mapping the river. He did, however, ask everyone to be realistic as the EA were only able to take action in the most serious cases of deterioration of the walls. A maintenance wish list has to be put up to a national bidding process before funding is allocated and areas of high population always have higher priority.

This year (April 07 – March 08) the following areas will be financed:

- Routine Maintenance of sluices – greasing, weed screens cleared
- Aldeburgh Town Marsh wall – 2 areas to be repaired
- Hazelwood Wall – block work damaged – repairs to the revetments.
- In the Estuary there are working restrictions due to nesting times, the weather may make access difficult and priorities may change, so the programme is not guaranteed

Photographs were passed round to show the type of damage assessors should be aware of. Although the photograph of the erosion on the Sudbourne wall looked severe, the wall is quite thick and it will have to become more serious before it could be put forward for funding. He warned that if landowners need to do maintenance they should seek consent from both The Environment Agency and Natural England.

Simon Barrow facilitated the discussion after lunch. Names were added to the list already circulated as interested parties in the River Divisions. They have been included in the revised list on the next page.

Further points raised were:

- **Training and Risk Assessment.** Training in general is common sense but a risk assessment would be agreed and given to every assessor
- **Timing of Inspections** was discussed. It was agreed that one inspection per year would be sufficient with an additional one after a serious storm or tidal surge – to be carried out April/May. This had the benefit of assessing the walls after the winter and providing the EA with a list of maintenance areas in time for their bidding process in May/June for the following years programme i.e. June 07 for 08/09 programme
- **Wall Maintenance** EA was not responsible for sea defence walls on National Trust or RSPB land – the EA are not obliged to do any work except on SSSI land
- Height of the wall should be the 1953 level and it was understood that restoration to that level does not constitute an improvement which would require formal approval. (Note: Mike Steen is seeking a definitive answer on the difference between maintenance and improvement)
- **Thorpeness to Hollesley Strategy** There would be a public consultation in July

- **Lantern Marsh** Concern was expressed over the breach as now there was only the sea wall and no second line of defence
- **Aerial Photographs** Fred Bentley offered to photograph the river from the air for mapping purposes
- **Breach contingency** There is emergency funding for the occasional breach and the EA would decide what might or might not be repaired at the time. If there was a repeat of the 1953 flood there would need to be national disaster funding

ACTION

- Coordinators to meet and agree the report form and criteria before the end of May, and discuss implementation within their respective areas. Deal with any liability issues for the A&O
- Aim to have reports finished by end of May/June – tight timetable for this year only!
- RDC to send reports of any serious damage to the EA by mid June
- Assess reports and feedback to landowners
- Inform landowners of EA's response

Richard Marson
Chairman River Defence Committee
02 May 2007

DIVISIONS OF THE RIVER

Snape to Iken – both banks

Co-ordinator **Richard Marson** Richard@marson.name 01728 452696
Gooderham/James/Alderson/Kerr/Chamberlain/Freeman/Raynor/Blount/Kilburn/Rix/RSPB

Iken to Skepper Boundary – South bank

Co-ordinator - **Simon Barrow** simon@pib.co.uk 01394 450863
Cook/Mann/Gillespie/Hughes-Hallett/Hailes/Turner/Hutson/Johnson/Barry Turner/Hugh Waterer

Iken to Barbers Point – North bank

Co-ordinator **Richard Newman** richardfoxearth@btopenwork.com 01728 453373
Hopkins/Wilkinson/Heald/Suffolk Wildlife Trust/Aldeburgh Golf Club/Deeker Blowers/Mike Russell Hill

Barbers Point to Slaughden

Co-ordinator **Alison Andrews** aldeblackburn@aol.com 01728 452660
Upton/AYC/Slaughden Sailing Club/Bone/Aldeburgh Town Council/Miller-Jones/Young/Ib/Bentley/Holland/ Haste/Sir John Wheeler

Aldeburgh to Shingle Street/National Trust

Left Bank only
Co-ordinator **Grant Lohoar** grant.lohoar@nationaltrust.org.uk
VT Merlin Communications Ltd/ Trinity House/Natural England

Havergate Island & Boyton Marsh/RSPB

Co-ordinator **Rob Macklin** rob.macklin@awell.co.uk

Sudbourne to Orford

Co-ordinator **Jane Marson** jane@horseit.com 01394 450887
Skepper/Black/Fellowes/Pool/Hitchcock/Grimsey/Waring/David Wass

Orford to Butley

Co-ordinator **Amanda Bettinson** amanda.bettinson@keme.co.uk 01394 450863
Sir Edward Greenwell/Watsons/Lord Bridges/Sir John Waite/Cordle/Read (Orford)/Raison/Orford Harbour Master /Orford Sailing Club/Pinney/Martin/Orford Town Trust/Read (Chillesford)/Johnston(Ben)

Butley to Shingle Street

Co-ordinator **Brian Johnson** Juliet@johnson.org 01394 411444
Greenwell (James)/Leggett/Pipe/Herford/HMP/O'Brien/Goodchild
Andrew King of Sewell Hewitt Farms Hill Farm Chillesford/Glyn Evans at Butley Mills/
John Woods

Please let Amanda Bettinson (01394 450863 amanda.bettinson@keme.co.uk) know of any further names that should be added to the list.