

THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION

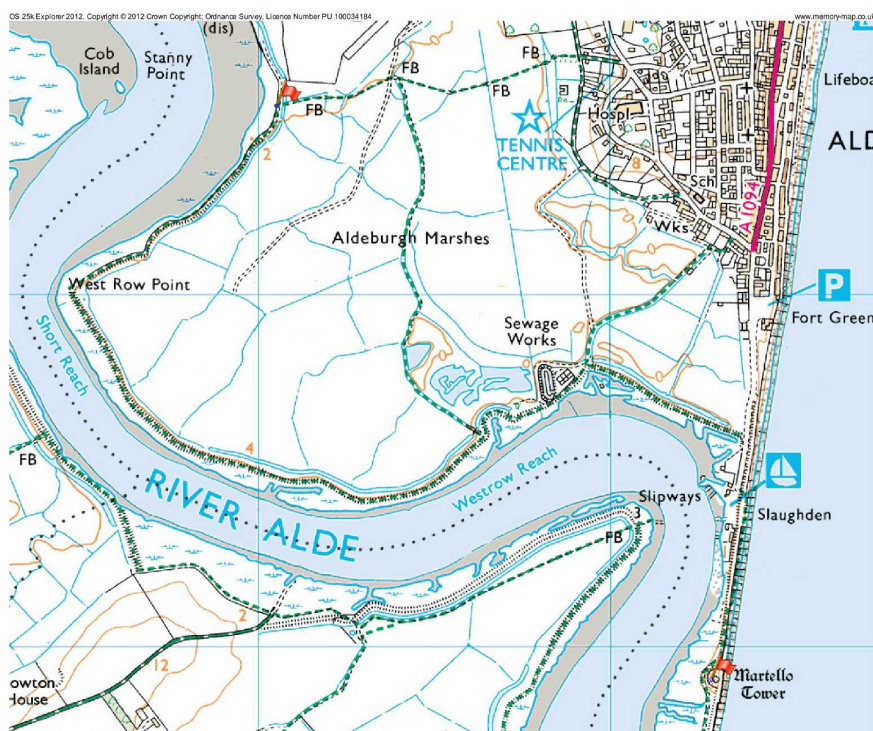
Registered Charity No. 1064789



ALDE AND ORE ESTUARY ASSESSOR'S REPORT

NAME: Alison Andrews	DATE OF INSPECTION 23 March 2015
LOCATION : Brick Dock to Martello, river side TM 450565 to 463548 All map references from OS Explorer 212	MARCH/Equinox Spring tide
CO-ORDINATOR: Amanda Bettinson	Send to email: John Grayburn

River wall inspected



CATEGORIES TO REPORT ON		
RIVER WALL /ARMOUR	SALTINGS	HIGH TIDE DEBRIS LINE
<p>Three concerns-</p> <p>1. Major concern- is the river seeping under the wall for much of the length from the Brick Dock Steps to near Fulcher Sluice: there was much water, deeply wet mud, particularly in the machine tracks left extensively by the contractors from the work two years ago and possibly from the grass cutters in the 2014 summer. As there had been no rain for at least 4 weeks before the survey there is no possibility that the water is the result of heavy rain.. TM450566 following round to TM458554, particularly bad TM450565 west to 447563.</p> <p>2. the land ward side of long stretch of wall (TM 450564 to 459558) which was 'repaired' over 2012\13 now has some vegetation, but it is hard to judge how dense the roots are on the steep almost vertical walls.</p> <p>3. On much of the path on the Brick Dock curve, the wooden boarding bordering the hoggin path has been broken down by contractors vehicles.</p>	<p>Saltings projects: that near Brick Dock, netting is coming away and needs repairing- reported to A.Hawes and D. McGinity</p> <p>Iona site green sea weed washed off in October 2014 mini surge but brown seaweed beginning to recoat the faggots.</p> <p>Saltings generally more battered than in previous winters</p>	<p>The winter and March tides Debris: all along base of wall but in some places within 2 foot of all wall while in a few patches patches on Brick Dock curve within 7-8 inches of the top. Debris lies at the base of the walls and is most thick on western (Brick Dock) and southern (Slaughden river walk) facing walls, some smothering the saltings for 2-3 yard width</p>

Report and comments

Wall at Aldeburgh Sluice was reconstructed during 2014 to repair broken pipe. As a result the seepage under the wall has stopped. The outfall of the pipe has been improved to reduce the damage to the saltings which was occurring. TM458557.

Walls:

A.1 Brick Dock Curve Repaired (2011)stretch (TM 450564 to 446551) The repair to the armour facing Brick Dock curve done in 2011 is mostly standing up well. But in a few parts the tar/mastic is sinking away and the polystyrene filler below it is coming out, and the concrete blocks beginning to twist out of place.



But this stretch and the part near the Slaughden path low (see Item) also saw

A 2. Footpath- several places where the bordering wood planks have been broken, and is now further dilapidated.



A 3. Track at base of landward side.

The track damage at the back of the wall originally done in 2012/13 works is in many parts appears permanently full of lengths of water as there had been no rain for the month before the survey and all other ground was very dry. Where the water has dried out in the tracks the mud left is so compact that vegetation struggles to grow. What grass there is not green but brown and yellow unlike grass away from the tracks. At around TM446556 the profile from the top is vertical down to slightly less steep ending at a boggy bottom.



A 4. Bare face of upper wall : TM446557 to TM 4534556. This **repeats** the report of 2014 as the bare surfaces are the same as last year, that is there has not been an improvement in vegetative cover on the steep sides of the path (where the path was expanded to fill the entire width of the wall top and no allowance made to modify the steepness of the slope in 2012/13). This problem occurs on both the river and land side of the path. For some 150 plus yards the vegetation has not grown from the top of the path side down the bank to a depth of at least one foot, more in places, as the slope is too steep. This endangers the holding capacity of the wall should it be overtopped. See photos from last year as no change in situation , first two show the bare wall between TM 446556 and TM 456555



A.5 near vertical back/land ward slope of almost 1/5th of a mile of river wall TM445561 -449564.

This is repeating the report last year as there has been no structural change in the wall but the waterlogged landward side base is of new concern as it is not a one off appearance as there has been no rain.



A 6. New concern that the landward face of the wall from West Row Point 445560 south east to 450554 is now showing a concave structure for some 100 yards. Does this mean it is slipping?

B. Previously reported problems:

B.1 Bare face of wall previously reported in 2013 and 2014. This 20 yard long stretch is protected from the river by saltings but the erosion is increasing and in one place is beginning to undercut the path **TM 445559**



B2. Rear of bank at Aldeburgh pump. Now repaired, thank you.

B.3 Slumped wall on the most walked stretch between Slaughden and the steps TM 460558

This part was overtopped in the December 2-13 surge. It dips below the rest of the wall and suffers a lot of heavy walking wear. During the 2014/15 winter further heavy wear on the path has lowered the top surface further.



B.4 Pump at 'West Row Point as marked on OS TM445 560 Some work was done on the pump in 2014 but the land between it and the river wall is damaged and waterlogged, see photo.



B.5 Stretch down to Martello from Slaughden- On the sea ward side between Martello and the Aldeburgh Yacht Club, the shingle which had largely disappeared has not reduced any more south of the Aldeburgh Yacht Club but to the north what was left of the shingle shore has reduced in width for at least 50 yards.

C. SALTINGS

General comment- along the entire stretch the vegetation on the saltings appears to have been more severely battered by the tides, which have been noticeably higher covering the saltings around the spring highs more than in previous years. At numerous points the saltings are also eroding at the edges (perception of both walkers) Concern also relates to edges near new Aldeburgh Sluice outflow but that may have been addressed by the extension of the pipe once concern had been expressed. Photo shows as an example the saltings vegetation behind the Brick Dock Saltings trial TM 449564. .

