

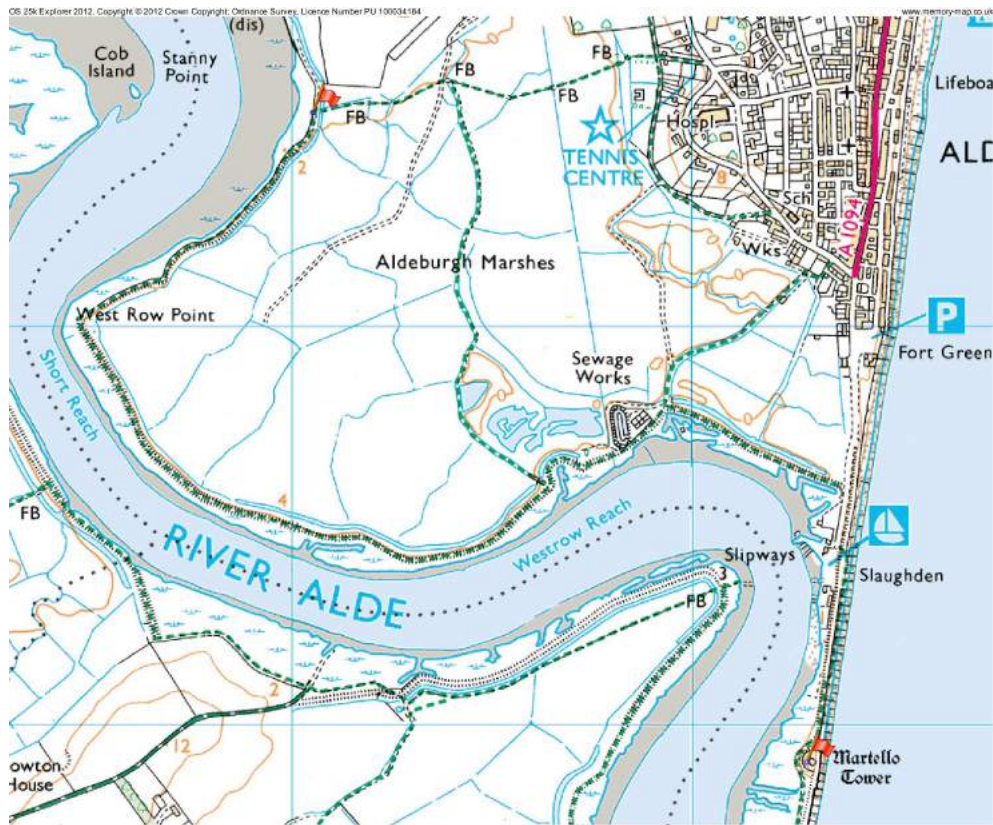
# THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity No. 1154583



## ALDE AND ORE ESTUARY ASSESSORS REPORT

<b>NAME:</b> Alison Andrews with Roger Baxter	<b>DATE OF INSPECTION</b> April 2017
<b>LOCATION :</b> <b>Brick Dock to Martello, river side</b> <b>TM 450565 to 463548</b> <b>Part I River walls</b> All map references from OS Explorer 2012	<b>MARCH/Equinox Spring tide</b>
<b>CO-ORDINATOR: Roger Baxter</b>	<b>Send to email: John Grayburn</b>



**CATEGORIES TO REPORT ON**

<b>RIVER WALL /ARMOUR</b>	<b>SALTINGS</b>	<b>HIGH TIDE DEBRIS LINE</b>
<p>As in 2016, the majority of the river defences on this stretch is subject to a substantial three year project to bring walls to a standard to withstand overtopping in a 1: 200 surge in 2050, so no comment on walls per se.</p> <p>The main points needing to be looked at are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The badly beaten down footpath between the Sea Wall and the Slaughden steps as in 2016 and earlier years TM 459558-464556</li> <li>ii. Continued watch needed on the erosion of the bay and saltings at the outlet of the Aldeburgh Sluice pump, where the river wall was rebuilt last year.</li> <li>iii. the part of the wall currently being raised has severe cracks as the top clay material has dried out given the near drought in the preceding three months.</li> <li>iv. query about potential damage to wall structure and stability from extensive growth of Alexanders.</li> </ul>	<p>Saltings projects: near Brick Dock most of the tensar plastic netting has been lifted off its posts in section most exposed to winds and waves.</p> <p>Iona site: healthy brown seaweed coated the faggots in 2016 but now a noticeable proportion of the original faggots have deteriorated (AOEP Plan in hand to replace them).</p> <p>Saltings adjacent to pilot project to protect the cliff edge saltings need consideration: it may be tidal flows are denuding the first foot or so of the tops adjacent to the chestnut stakes constructions or a result of the 2017 surge.</p> <p>Like last year, saltings generally battered down during the winter.</p>	<p>The Spring Equinox high tides did not bring the debris above the levels of the January 2017 surge. At that time in most places the debris rose no higher than within 2-2.5 feet of the top of the walls.</p>

## Report and comments

**Project running from Brick Dock to Aldeburgh Sluice TM450565 round to TM459558. This survey is not reporting the continuing vertical or near vertical sides of poorly refurbished walls recorded in previous years as work to remedy this is in progress.**

**It is good to report that the repair work of three years ago on the front of the walls on the Brick Dock curve is holding up well and not causing concern except, as last year, in a few points.**

**1. Footpath- Slaughden Road to next steps onto the marsh T M464556 to TM459558.** This stretch has been yet further degraded, and broadened. In the winter months it becomes a near impassable quagmire and walkers have trodden down the edges further. The 'path' width is now some three times that of the original hoggin plank contained path. Also there is concern that the vulnerable low part which was overtopped in 2013 is getting lower and broader and other parts are beginning to be similarly degraded. Several places where the bordering wood planks had been broken in earlier years are now further dilapidated.



**2. Bank east of Aldeburgh Sluice. TM 459557.** This stretch shows two new sections of deterioration, First the armoured section (Essex block?) is getting worn away above the block (the repaired section to the west still looking good). Second the earth bank next to the armoured section, above a mini shingle beach is getting washed away at the base, These are new areas of wear.







**3. Bare face of wall near Stanny, previously reported in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.** 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**. It was hard to see it this time because of works on the top but the section by the gate shows it , as below



**4. Brick Dock surrounding wall.** This was fully repaired some three years ago. In a few places the armour is beginning to dip as the earth behind is washed out. There is no substantial deterioration at present but these slight slumped parts will need to be monitored carefully over the next few years and could be dealt with when Phase 2 of the Aldeburgh Marsh project is done. TM448563



**5. Wall in process of being heightened and broadened.** While recognising the work is still in progress, it

may be worth pointing out that because of the near drought the newly laid clay top has extensive cracks, some 7 inches deep.



**6. The sluice opposite Stanny. TM445560.** This has noticeably been eroded/ widened/deepened further (result of the surge?)



**7. Stretch down to Martello from Slaughden-** On the sea ward side between Martello and the Aldeburgh Yacht Club, EA project has placed rocks and shingle and these held up well all winter. Only real damage in shingle bank is 500 yards south of Martello (EA are monitoring).

**8. Extensive growth of Alexanders:** much of the wall sides from Slaughden Road to the first public footpath steps are now covered in Alexanders, *Smyrniium olustram*. This plant has become far more widespread in the last two years (indeed in all this part of Suffolk): it has deep roots and smothers out any grass or other plant growth. Confirmation is needed that this is not damaging to the structure of the walls, both in terms of sucking out moisture, preventing rain entry into the bank, the deep root structure being a central core as opposed to the extensive web like structure of grass roots, and leaving the bank more exposed to weather in the winter when the plant dies down. Should this plant be mowed/cut down before reaching seed formation? ( see photo taken before Alexanders in full growth 3-4 feet high and covering a



much larger area)



### 7. Comparison of Aldeburgh Sluice outlet. 2016 then 2017



Written up: May 2017