

THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION

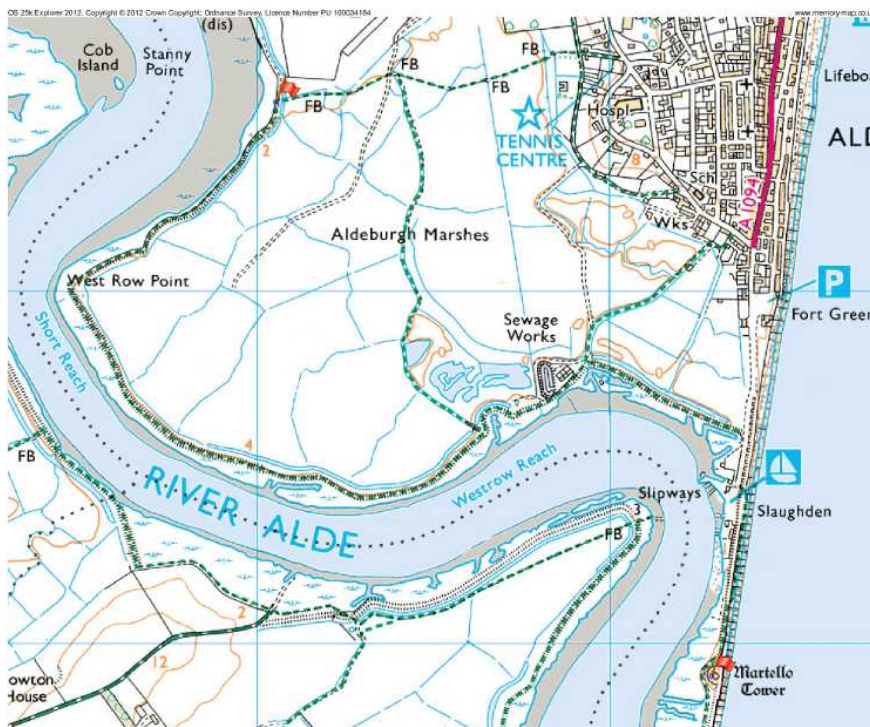
Registered Charity No. 1064789



ALDE AND ORE ESTUARY ASSESSOR'S REPORT

NAME: Alison Andrews (with Roger Baxter and Simon Reed)	DATE OF INSPECTION 12 April 2016
LOCATION : Flood Cell 10 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

The majority of the river defences on this stretch are currently subject to a substantial Environment Agency funded project to make good the bad work of contractors a few years ago. IDB are doing the work, initially wild life mitigation to be followed by work to improve the wall profiles involving digging out clay near the wall and creating new borrow ditches.

The main points needing to be looked at are

- i. The badly beaten down footpath between the Sea Wall and the Slaughden steps TM
- ii. The need to watch carefully the erosion of the bay and saltings at the outlet of the Aldeburgh Sluice pump, where the river wall was rebuilt last year.

SALTINGS

Saltings projects: that near Brick Dock, again the tensar plastic netting has been lifted off its posts where the stretch is most exposed to winds and waves. Reported to D. McGinity

Iona site: healthy brown seaweed has recoated the faggots.

Like last year, saltings generally battered down during the winter

HIGH TIDE DEBRIS LINE

The winter and March tides Debris: all along base of wall, much thicker in some places, possibly smothering the saltings vegetation (to be watched). It has been a winter of high spring tides with the saltings getting more inundation than in some years but there have not been the winds or surge piling the debris higher up the walls.

Report and comments

Environment Agency 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 being undertaken this summer. It has also been assumed that where the footpath has deteriorated such as where contractors broke the boards holding the hoggin in previous years this too will be mended when the wall back slopes are restructured.

It is good to report that the repair work, of two years ago, on the front of the walls on the Brick Dock curve is holding up well and not causing concern except in two lone points (will monitor next year)

1. Footpath- Slaughden Road to next steps onto the marsh T M464556 to TM459558. This stretch has been yet further degraded as over the winter months it becomes a quagmire and people who still choose to walk along it are broadening the path (over double the width of the narrow hoggin path some 5 years ago and now there is almost no grass margin) by treading down the edges, taking surface away on their boots and what boarding was there is very broken and intermittent. There is real concern that the part that is already lower and 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. Bare face of wall previously reported in 2013, 2014 and 2015 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**



3. Stretch down to Martello from Slaughden- On the sea ward side between Martello and the Aldeburgh Yacht Club, severe shingle loss since Christmas 2015 but EA project placing protective rocks in hand.

SALTINGS

General comment- as last year 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

Photo at TM448555 below



Photo at Brick Dock



TM446563

Photo from 2015 below for comparison



Concern also on the need to monitor the edges near new Aldeburgh Sluice outflow. It appears there has been more salting loss, TM458556



Written up: May 2016