

# THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity No. 1154583



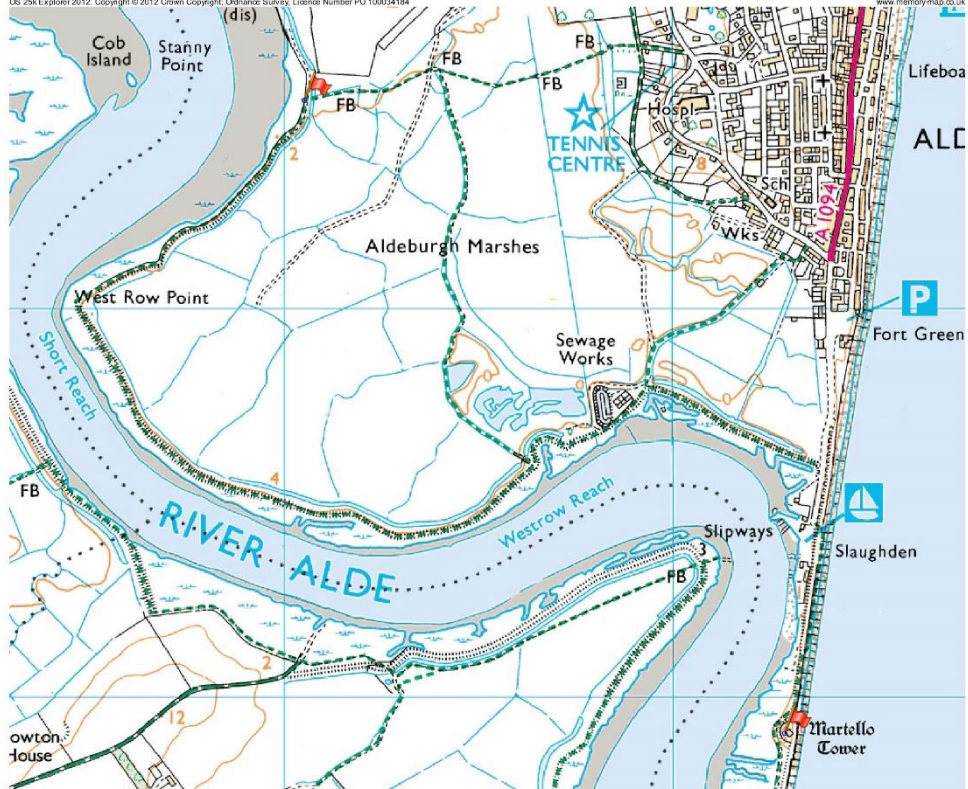
## ALDE AND ORE ESTUARY ASSESSORS REPORT

<b>NAME[S]:</b> A Andrews +	<b>DATE OF INSPECTION:</b>  31 March 2020 and mid April
<b>FLOOD CELL:</b>  FC10	<b>AREA OF ASSESSMENT:</b>  Slaughden Quay to Brick Dock Jetty

### SUMMARY

River Wall/Armour	Saltings	High Tide Debris Line
<p>Main weakness at east end of hard front extending from Aldeburgh Sluice where wave action is undermining the bank just where the hard defence ends</p> <p>Puddling at base of south end of new wall steps (not caused by footfall, never improved since wall section was completed.)</p> <p>Path on new stretch all- very bare of grass on walking surface, some strong beta maritima colonies</p> <p>Infestation of alexanders and in one 30 yards stretch winter and winter heliotrope in another</p>	<p>Further erosion of edges- may be not surprising given the very strong winds and hence waves in the river this winter</p> <p>Temporary over-the-wall outfall from drainage ditch onto saltings to be monitored.</p>	<p>Closest debris to top about 2 foot but mostly nearer the base of the walls but lying in very thick swathes where the southerly fetch is strongest (continuous strong S and SW winds over several weeks this winter)- will this damage the growth of saltings vegetation?</p>

Area Surveyed: TM 449569 in north west to TM 464555 in south east



**OVERVIEW & PHOTOS (P) [with grid reference]**  
**RIVER WALL ( going west then north from Slaughden)**

**Wall**

**TM464555 to 459557** i. No obvious slippage but in many places the path now covers the entire width of the wall instead of only the centre, so the walls are being broadened and flattened by footsteps especially when the surface is extremely muddy and slippery in the winter months. Worst broadening/lowering on the stretch between Slaughden Road and the steps up from the Aldeburgh Dump road point, especially where the wall is lowest anyway.



ii. Wall could be damaged by long stretches of alexanders infestation **particularly** at the Slaughden end for 100 yards or and intermittently after that.



iv. (Further on, slope covered in alexanders- on the river side of the wall in the Brick Dock curve  
TM 449565)

**TM 458558** defences to east of Aldeburgh Sluice- i. the bank is being worn away at the edge of the concrete armour protection beginning to be undermined and the beach muddy slope being extended upwards.





ii. large 'cave' (2 ft. high) in bank above the concrete protection has increased further making wall vulnerable to large waves.



iii. start of undermining of older concrete protection at join with the new armorlok (new about 10 years ago) and old blocks collapsing at the top





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**TM 458556 Outflow from drainage ditch to west of Aldeburgh Sluice.** A new over-the-wall pipe has been installed to drain Aldeburgh Marshes of the excess winter rain but instead of going directly into the sluice exit to the river has been placed (to break the fall?) by putting the pipe outlet onto a board which then goes into the saltings and then into the river. May be good for wetter saltings but might water force damage the saltings- to be monitored.



**TM456556** Puddling of mud/water at base of steps where footpath goes up from a cross field path to the start of the new wall. Is there a leak as the amount of water left after everywhere else has completely dried?





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**TM449558 north of Brick Dock steps** long area of slightly sloping concrete slabs. At about 7 points (at intervals of 30-50 feet) the slab line is starting to collapse inwards and at one point concrete blocks have been undermined out of place.



**Other:** Is bushy growth of *Beta maritima* bad for stability of the wall? The new section had many such plants mainly bordering the path.

No sign of vertical crack running along centre of new wall reported last year.

## **PATH**

Path at Slaughden end now triple the width it was when hoggin centre laid down 15? years ago, also making wall sides lower.

Particularly at Slaughden end and on the 'new wall' in the middle section, as there was excessively heavy rain early in the year and people still walked (skated) over the surface, but has been no rain since end of February so now mud that was near impassable is a solid cake and means recovery of grass growth is severely inhibited. Considerable stretches with fairly bare earth and only a few tufts of grass. (photo of 'new wall' section southern end)





## **SALTINGS**

**In summary, as each year saltings showing signs of having lost a bit more off the edges but no greater ponding.** A separate paper covers the factual report on the saltings projects ( on the ground measurements can only be done post Covid 19 with two or more people as mud edges of river are good as sucking your boots off!)

## **DEBRIS**

Mostly all along at the base of the river walls- only nearer to 2 feet or less on the stretch north of the Brick Dock steps TM 449567. Very heavy deposition as corner of wall with Slaughden road- to be watched as may smother existing salting vegetation.

## **AREA BETWEEN SLAUGHDEN ROAD AND GATE JUST SOUTH OF THE MARTELLO TOWER**

This winter has seen much more extensive flooding of the large saltings area to the south of Aldeburgh Yacht Club with debris coming to the base of the Martello low road. No great change otherwise to report.

Alison Andrews  
20.4. 2020