

THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity No. 1154583



ALDE AND ORE ESTUARY ASSESSORS REPORT

NAME: Mary James Alison Andrews	DATE OF INSPECTION: 21.4.2026 9.30am to 1.30pm
FLOOD CELL: FC4.3	AREA OF ASSESSMENT: Pump House to Orford Town TM 454536- TM427497 Walked Orford to Pump House, hence comments in that order.

SUMMARY

River Wall/Armour	Saltings	High tide Debris Line
Crest: in good condition (grade 2 in some places) except where heavy footfall near town (grade 4) and narrow near Pump House (grade4?) Slopes: mostly good except near Pump House Armour: in good condition generally but a three/four of faulty stretches, one 10 metres long, rest much smaller.	Extensive and generally healthy	Minimal evidence. Some at the foot of the wall, mostly away from the wall or not evident

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River Bank surveyed: Orford Town to Pump House TM427497 to TM454536



OVERVIEW

Low tide

General conditions: Dry, little/no rain for previous few weeks.

Footpath: Very heavily worn from Orford Sailing Club for first 300 metres, then the next 3.5 km crest in good/very good condition, last 600m up to Pump House, very narrow overgrown top.

Embankment crest and slopes: mostly good condition, grassy and gentle slope except for first 600 metres from Orford are steep and overgrown with Alexanders, and the last 600 metres before Pump House where slope is steep sided on landward side and over 100 metres actually overgrown with reeds.

Front/river face: mostly good condition, in a few places slight isolated disruption of concrete blocks.

DETAIL

Footpath:

Gate nearest town: Faulty – not shutting properly. (report to SCC ROW dept we think)

Heavy footfall wear from Orford Sailing Club to first gate : worn bare, little grass, extensive cracking See photo,

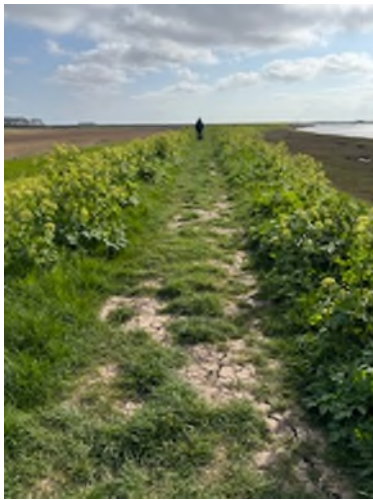
Then from gate for about 100 yards : also heavy wear and cracking, From then on grass growth stronger.

Alexanders: Present for c. 900 yards (c. 900 metres) in total from Orford gate.

Detail- From gate for 300 yards: Very thick Alexanders on **both sides** of the wall down to base of wall particularly on landward side.

Next 300 yards: Thick growth of Alexanders continues on all landward side of the wall, top to base, with narrow line on riverside of the wall

Next 300 yards: Alexanders petering out to sporadic growth.



Embankment Crest.

Apart from first 300 yards from Orford Sailing Club, the photo of 'box' below and last kilometre up to Pump, almost all the wall is in good condition (a mix of EA grade 2 and 3) and for part possibly merits Grade 1, see photo below



Exception on Crest of wall: worn path around stiles and old 'sluice concrete box' ? seen at about TM436497 where low (for 10 yards lower) along crest for about 150 yards from pipeline marker [TM435497] on the shore line to sluice box



Embankment slopes/sides

On river side: Concrete block armour defences generally in excellent condition (Image 0673)

Except: i) small patch (a couple of blocks) just out of place (opposite Mast 3[TM422514])

ii) a stretch of about 3 metres where the wall is damaged. Evidence of repair to the grouting but not effective. Opposite Mast 2(TM 442516)

iii) Grade 5 for 10 metres where only remnants of block work and tide line close to grass edges shown by seaweed on rubble rocks. and grass bank overhang being eroded .Opposite Mast 1 [TM442518]



Example i



Example ii



Example iii

On landward side

a) - bank may be a bit steep for first 600 metres walking away from Orford.

b) then a long 3 ½ km of broad and shallow slopes, is in excellent condition with walls on both sides looking good.

c) then last stretch of the wall, 600 m /1 km up to Pump House, --- Narrow crest, 5-7 feet wide just but looks narrower because of dense grass growth and narrow path, and generally lower walls.

-- Lush grass so it is hard to see but it does look, possibly, there is weakness on the landward slope which is very steep down to lower land behind.

-- Also of concern at the south end of the 600m stretch, is about 200m stretch where the reeds, which normally only grow in the ditches below the walls, grew all the way up the walls to the crest particularly on the landward side, plus a bit on the river side last year, see photo below- - indicating it is very damp?, quite unlike any other vegetation growing on the walls.(too early in year to see if reeds growing as strongly in 2026) At this point the saltings on the river side are some 50-100 metres wide alongside the embankment so the chances of erosion and overtopping are limited to extreme events.TM453530 .



Unhelpful vegetation, apart from the stretch wholly invaded by Alexanders and the reed stretch, the rest of the river wall has reasonable grassy back slopes except for in the last 600 m stretch up to Pump House (TM 454536) where there are:-

- i) large bramble on landward side which could undermine bank's integrity but is closely grown,
- ii) 250 metres before reaching Pump, the bank has an extensive (50 metres) hawthorn hedge/bushes growing down both sides, top to bottom, either side of the crest. The growth is very dense: would need an expert to judge whether this would weaken the embankment. The path along the centre of the thicket is about 60 cm wide.

Saltings

Generally, saltings extensive and healthy.

Narrow and poorer in stretches where it gets the force of the waves , Mainly in the N-S lying stretch between TM443507 and TM442520

Leading up to the first stile from Orford and about 40 yards beyond: no saltings but good armour lock wall

28 May 2026