

AOCP

Alde and Ore Community Partnership Update

ESWMB are well into the detailed design and planning work to enable the Upper Estuary Embankment Improvement Programme to begin the major project construction in 2024 years to get the upper estuary embankments into a good resilient shape to be resilient against surge floods for at least the 25-50 years. The works will take three years and the walls will also be constructed in such a way as to enable effective maintenance.

Work is now in hand for Phase 2 working up the Business Case for that project phase to do the same for the lower estuary (flood cells Sudbourne, Orford and Gedgrave, Chillesford. Boyton, Butley and Hollesley).

To ensure good community engagement the next meeting of the AOCP on 29 June is being especially advertised to encourage members of the public to come and hear what needs to be done for the lower estuary and to contribute their thoughts at this planning stage.

A major open day, exhibition and talks, on the whole of the estuary plan implementation is being held in early October so that anyone interested to know the full details of the implementation of the Phase 1 Upper Estuary project for which grants of £11.9m have been secured, with other funds coming from those raised locally, and what is being planned for the lower estuary.

The AOCP is also in discussion with RAMS and local NGOs about a possible code of practice for estuary area users.

Alison Andrews, June 2023

BCP

Bawdsey Coastal Partnership Update

No update at present.

BEP

Blyth Estuary Partnership Update

No update at present.

Coastal Partnership East

East Suffolk Council Coastal Management Team Update

No update at present.

DEP

Deben Estuary Partnership Update

No update at present.

Eastern IFCA

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities Update

Authority Meetings

The 51st meeting of the full Authority took place on the 8th March 2023. At this meeting, the Authority made two byelaws, the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Byelaw 2023 and the Crab and Lobster Byelaw 2023 (further details below). In addition, Members agreed the Business Plan 2023-2028.

The next meeting of the Authority will be held on 14th June 2023. For more information and to see the agenda for this meeting, please visit our website: [Authority Meetings - Eastern IFCA \(eastern-ifca.gov.uk\)](https://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/authority-meetings)

Eastern IFCA Business Plan 2023-2028

Eastern IFCA's Business Plan is intended to inform our funding authorities (County Councils and Defra), local communities, bodies and key delivery partners of the statutory duties of Eastern IFCA and how we intend to carry them out on time and within budget. It is a rolling 5-year plan with annual reviews of priorities. Authority members agreed the draft Business Plan and the priorities for the 2023-2024 financial year at their last meeting on 8th March 2023. The Plan is available on our website: [Eastern IFCA Business Plan 2023-2028](https://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/business-plan-2023-2028)

Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ

We have recently published the second edition of our MCZ newsletter. This contains the most recent updates in relation to management and research in the MCZ. The newsletter is available on our website through the following link: [Eastern IFCA Update: Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ \(Issue 2, May 2023\)](https://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/newsletter). The key highlights are summarised below.

Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Byelaw 2023

Authority members agreed to make the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Byelaw 2023 at the 51st Authority meeting on 8th March 2023 and instructed officers to proceed with a formal consultation on the wording of the byelaw and associated impact assessment. The formal consultation is now closed, and officers are reviewing the responses received. The review will inform whether any amendments are needed to the wording of the byelaw. As with all Eastern IFCA consultations, we will publish a consultation outcome report outlining how responses have been considered.

Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Byelaw 2023 is a flexible permitting byelaw, designed to deliver agile management of the historic crab and lobster potting fisheries that take place within the MCZ designation. The intention is to have a flexible framework which can adapt to changes in best available evidence and continue to support the Adaptive Risk Management approach we have been pursuing in the MCZ in close collaboration with stakeholders, Natural England and others.

More information, including the wording of the draft byelaw and impact assessment can be found here: [Eastern IFCA Formal Consultation: Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Byelaw 2023; Crab and Lobster Byelaw 2023](https://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/formal-consultation)

Eastern IFCA – Natural England Joint Position Statement (March 2023)

Eastern IFCA and Natural England have agreed a Joint Statement outlining our joint position on Natural England's latest advice (received in January 2023) on the impacts of potting in the MCZ. The Joint Statement is available here: [Eastern IFCA – Natural England Joint Position Statement: Management of the Potting Fishery in the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Marine Conservation Zone \(March 2023\)](https://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/joint-statement)

Research

We have recently published our 2023 Interim Research Report which provides a detailed summary of the research work being undertaken by the Authority to inform adaptive management of the potting fisheries. The report covers the progress made over the last two years, shares findings that have been made so far

and discusses the focus for further work over the next couple of years. This work is available on our website and can be accessed here: [2023 Interim Research Report](#)

2022 Rugged Chalk Review and Interactive Maps Now Online

At the end of last year (2022) officers completed a review of the extent of the rugged chalk in Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ which incorporated all new available data sources at that time. This review is now available online alongside interactive maps which show how different evidence has been incorporated into the review: [2022 Rugged Chalk Review and Interactive Maps Now Available](#)

Wider Crab & Lobster Management – Crab and Lobster Byelaw 2023

Alongside our consultation on the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Byelaw 2023, Eastern IFCA consulted on the Crab and Lobster 2023 which was also made by the Authority at its 51st meeting on the 8th of March. The consultation is now closed and officers are reviewing responses to assess whether any amendments are needed to the wording of the byelaw. A consultation outcome report will be published in due course.

The Crab and Lobster Byelaw 2023 is a district-wide byelaw which reviews and consolidates the measures under four byelaws inherited from our predecessor Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee into one byelaw, for increased clarity and accessibility. The effect of the inherited byelaws is maintained, with an amendment included in relation to the use of edible crab and bait. The amendment is to allow the use of edible crab as bait in commercial fisheries if it is cooked offal. In addition, recreational hook and line fishing (including from a charter vessel) may use edible crab for bait but doing so requires the user to provide evidence that the crab did not come from within the Eastern IFC district or that it was bought as bait.

More information, including the wording of the draft byelaw and impact assessment can be found here: [Eastern IFCA Formal Consultation: Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Byelaw 2023; Crab and Lobster Byelaw 2023](#)

Management of The Wash Cockle and Mussel Fisheries

Eastern IFCA is continuing to use interim measures under [Byelaw 8: Temporary Closure of Shellfisheries](#) to manage the cockle and mussel fisheries in The Wash while we await Defra's sign-off on the Wash Cockle and Mussel Byelaw 2021 (please refer to our previous partner update from the 8th February 2023 for additional context).

To ensure that this interim period has minimal impact on the industry we have been proceeding with the transition from entitlements under the Wash Fishery Order 1992 to eligibility under the Wash Cockle and Mussel Byelaw 2021. This process is nearly complete and with its conclusion, the Authority will be ready for a smooth transition into the byelaw whenever this is confirmed.

Mussel Re-Laying Fishery 2023

Following our annual mussel stock survey and a stakeholder consultation, we will be opening the Wash Interim Measures Mussel Re-Laying Fishery on 12th June at 00:00. More information including application forms, the consultation outcome report and an infographic summary of the applicable management measures can be found on our website: [Mussel Re-Laying Fishery 2023 Opening](#)

Cockle Fishery 2023 Consultation

Following the completion of the annual cockle survey, we have launched a consultation on proposals for the 2023 cockle fishery. The deadline for responses is midday on 19th June 2023 and due to the available tides, the earliest likely opening date for the fishery is the 3rd of June 2023. Part of the proposals for this year's fishery includes a potential change to the way that the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is calculated. More information on the proposals under consultation is available through our website: [Wash Cockle Fishery 2023 Consultation](#)

Kristina Gurova, June 2023

EA
Environment Agency Update

No update at present.

IDB
Internal Drainage Board Update

No update at present.

MMO
Marine Management Organisation Update

Marine Plan Monitoring Surveys are out

The MMO has recently sent out monitoring surveys for each marine plan area to help us establish how Marine Plans are being used and understood. The surveys for your Marine Plan area can be found [here](#) and will take you less than 1 hour to complete. The MMO would appreciate any responses that are given as it is your chance to have a say on Marine Plans especially with the up and coming East Marine Plan refresh next year.

For future updates, please feel free to get in touch with me with regard to any areas or subjects you would appreciate to receive updates from the MMO.

Louise Feavoyour, June 2023

NE
Natural England Update

To celebrate the coronation, the England Coast Path has been renamed the King Charles III England Coast Path (KCIIECP)

- The use of the new King Charles III England Coast Path name and signage / identity will be adopted hereafter across the 1,000 miles / 41% of the trail *still to enter establishment*.
- Whilst the whole trail will be referred to in future using the new name *existing signage or other identity will only be replaced on already open / in hand stretches through routine cyclical maintenance*. This will take a period of many years to complete.

Two sections of the KCIIECP were approved on 5 May 2023, on the Felixstow Ferry to Bawdsey stretch (FFB 2: Sandy Lane, Waldringfield to Kyson Point and FFB 3: Kyson Point to Wilford Bridge). Summary table of progress with KCIIECP below.

Stretch	Status	Notes
AHS Aldeburgh to Hopton-on-Sea	5 of 6 sections approved	Plan to submit comments on objections by end of April
BSA Bawdsey to Aldeburgh	1 of 5 sections approved	Awaiting Planning Inspector's report & Secretary of State's decision on 4 sections
FFB Felixstowe Ferry to Bawdsey	2 of 6 sections approved	Awaiting Planning Inspector's report & Secretary of State's decision on 4 sections
SGF Shotley Gate to Felixstowe Ferry	Approved	Establishment works being planned by SCC

HSG Harwich to Shotley Gate	2 of 6 sections approved	Awaiting Secretary of State's decision on 4 sections
-----------------------------	--------------------------	--

Daniel Turner, June 2023

S&OEMG

Stour and Orwell Estuary Management Group Update

No update at present.

Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB

Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Update

Coast & Heaths Management Plan Review

There is a legal requirement placed on local authorities to produce a management plan for these nationally designated landscapes. The AONB staff team have been working closely with its funding partners and environmental, business, tourism and farming organisations to draft the 2023-2028 version.

That draft now needs to be shaped by everyone with an interest in the area. There is an opportunity to comment on the draft plan which is intended to inform decision making in the Coast & Heaths National Landscape, the new name for AONB. Views can be shared via a short survey or by detailed comments on the draft document.

More information at

<https://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/managing/management-plan/management-plan-consultation/>

AONB or National Landscape?

AONBs will soon have a new name. While the legal name will remain the same the two local outstanding areas will be known as National Landscapes. The new name reflects the desire of AONB's to be fit for the challenges in the twenty first century. More detail at:

<https://landscapesforlife.org.uk/designation/>

Outstanding Newspapers

The brand new, free, National Landscapes newspapers are out now. Packed with information about the special landscape and stories about those seeking to conserve and enhance them. They also contain walking guides, maps, wildlife and nature news and much more. Available online from:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/5b7d5f6bdc9/coast-heaths-2023-24-edition/full-view.html>

Or you can pick up a copy at locations across the Coast & Heaths (the images on the front covers are worth a look on their own).

Nature Recovery Assistant

The AONB team is delighted to welcome Greg Chester-Parsons as its Nature Recovery Assistant. Greg will work across both the Dedham Vale and Coast & Heaths National Landscapes in this hands-on role supporting the work of the team's Nature Recovery Officer, the two Countryside Project Officers and the tremendous volunteers.

The position is funded through the New to Nature Programme. New to Nature sees young people aged 18-25 given new, full-time, temporary jobs in nature and landscape organisations across the UK, increasing diversity and enriching the sector. Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of the celebrations to mark the Queen's platinum jubilee, the programme runs until May 2024 and provide paid work placements for at least 70 young people from diverse backgrounds to undertake a range of environmental roles. New to Nature is delivered through a partnership of Groundwork, The Prince's Trust, Disability Rights UK, and Mission Diverse.

AONB Films

To help highlight the stunning beauty of the nationally designated landscapes and to explain the work undertaken in them to conserve and enhance the areas natural beauty, two new short films have been produced featuring breath taking drone footage and much more (apologies for 15 sec advert at the start). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8sA2vwhZ1c&feature=youtu.be>

Access Enhancements in the AONBs

Defra have made available around £100,000 to the Coast & Heaths and Dedham Vale AONBs to deliver access improvements in the nationally designated landscapes. The AONB has awarded grants to landowners, charities and local authorities to undertake projects including improved surfacing, construction of boardwalks, replacement of stiles with easy access gates, improved signage and accessible interpretation.

These projects will improve access opportunities and understanding of the AONBs.

Outstanding Volunteers

362 volunteers undertook 26 surveys in the Coast & Heaths AONB area in 2022, surveying a length of 2,700metres, collecting 116 bags of waste weighing 117Kg of litter. They collected a total of 7,034 items of litter.

Defra invest in extension of the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme

Defra recently announced the extension and expansion in the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme. The 12 month extension, taking the programme to March 2025 with an anticipated uplift of around 30% in funds available allows the programme to build on the successes of the programme. The programme is designed for enhance nature, deliver adaptation to climate change, enhance access and build a sense of place. The programme is facilitated by the local AONB team with grant decisions by a panel made up of environmental, farming AONB interests. More info at:

<https://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/managing/farming-in-protected-landscapes/>

Heritage Coast Review

The AONB team engaged in the recent Heritage Coast review. Heritage Coasts are a landscape definition applied to the finest stretches of our most scenic and undeveloped coast. There are 32 in England covering around a fifth of the coastline, including much of Suffolk Coast. Their objectives are to conserve, protect and enhance the natural beauty of the coasts; facilitate and enhance their enjoyment, understanding and appreciation by the public. Together with AONBs and National Parks they are part of our national network of England's most valued landscapes.

More information and copies of report (and summary) at:

<https://www.coastalcommunities.co.uk/knowledge-base/category/reports/heritage-coast-review-2022>

Want more news about the AONBs...

Sign up for visitor and residents focused newsletters at bottom of these pages from our website:

<https://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/>

Simon Amstutz, June 2023