

About the project

It has now been a year since this project, The Upper Alde and Ore Estuary Embankment Improvement Project, Phase 1 of implementing the Alde and Ore Estuary Plan, received full business case approval from the Environment Agency. This Newsletter provides an update on the first year of work, a year of preparation and planning to enable construction over the following three years.

How will this benefit you?

- For every £1 invested in flood defence upgrades, the local economy will benefit by £11 over the next 25 years, because homes and businesses in each village and town, and farmland and freshwater reserves along the whole estuary, will be protected.
- 562 residential and 196 non-residential properties currently at risk.
- It is predicted that 53 residential and 59 non-residential properties would be lost forever if no work is implemented.
- The B1069 road linking the village of Snape with Snape Maltings plus the B1122 linking Aldeburgh to Leiston and the A1094, which is the main road into Aldeburgh would be impacted by flooding.
- Improved embankments will protect 24 abstraction points that are used to irrigate 546ha of high value agricultural land outside the flood cells
- The estuary is nationally and internationally designated and is supported by c.974ha of diverse freshwater dependant coastal grazing marshes providing significant habitats for wildlife

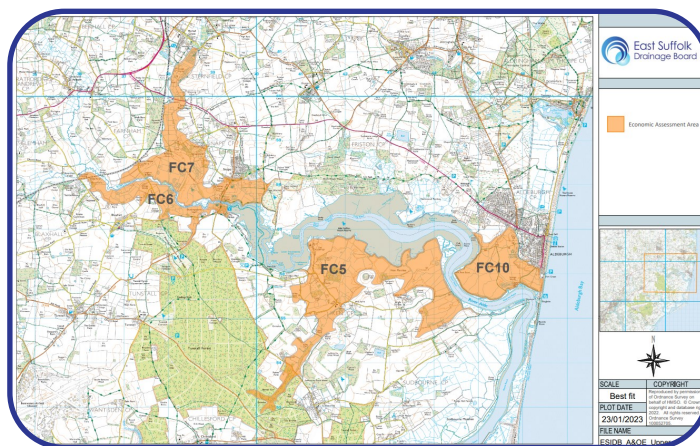
Where...

This phase of works covers the four Upper Alde and Ore Estuary Flood Cells (FC). See map (right)

These include Iken (FC 5), Snape Maltings (FC 6), Snape Village (FC 7) and Aldeburgh Town Marsh (FC 10).

When...

Phase 1 is a 4 year programme of works commencing January 2023 through to the end of 2027.



Why...

The current tidal defence provides a low standard of protection that exposes the communities to an increased risk of flooding. This risk will only increase over time due to rising sea levels as a result of climate change.

The Phase 1 improvement works programme will reduce flood risk for future generations. It retains local, national, and internationally important interests across many aspects of our daily lives.

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What's been happening...

We held a public consultation in October 2023 at Snape Maltings. It was a very well attended event and we launched our virtual room where you can read all about the project, watch the information video, provide feedback and find the current Newsletters. [Alde & Ore Whole Estuary Plan Virtual Engagement Room \(exhibition.app\)](#)



Ground Investigation (GI) work was a large part of the technical preparatory work, with over 300+ samples conducted between July and September 2023. Laboratory testing and data factual reports of the results of the GI were complete in November 2023. This information is a key component in developing the detail design of the walls, ensuring we have undertaken necessary technical due diligence to confirm what we propose will work and remain functional for many years to come.

Environmental surveys play another key part of gaining the right data to support the project into construction through statutory consents. Many environmental surveys and assessments have been completed throughout 2023 including over wintering and breeding bird surveys and water vole surveys including the installation and monitoring of over 513 water vole rafts. Water Vole are particularly prevalent throughout all food cells.



Source: Andrew Dore 2020



Source: www.RSPB.org.uk

The full detailed design is expected in March 2024, followed by consultation with landowners, parishes, and all other affected parties necessary before a final draft detailed design is arrived at.

Once the detailed design is complete, we will submit all outstanding statutory permits and permissions necessary before work on the ground can commence. We will undertake a procurement and assessment process before the eventual appointment of construction delivery subcontractors for each flood cell. Construction cost estimates will be reassessed to ensure delivery is still within the approved business case budget.

Work is continuing on development of the Lower Estuary Phase 2 business case.



Contact us

Get involved

This information is to let you know about the vital work we are doing in your community. We are happy to come along to community groups and residential associations to explain more about the work. Please contact us if you would like to discuss this in more detail. We will keep you up to date with any further developments.



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