

Upper Alde & Ore Estuary Embankment Improvements

Version 1 January 2023

What are we telling you about?

This project is part of the Alde and Ore Estuary Plan, approved in 2016. In early January 2023 East Suffolk IDB received funding approval for phase 1 Upper Alde & Ore Estuary Embankment Improvements totalling £11.941m.

This funding enables the commencement of Phase 1 of 2 of the Whole Estuary Plan, the culmination of many years work within the Alde and Ore Estuary, involving a multitude of individuals and organisations representing local communities' businesses and the environment.

Preparation to develop the necessary Outline Business Case for Phase 2, the Lower Estuary, will now progress.

The Alde & Ore Community Partnership worked closely with East Suffolk IDB on the early development of this flood defence improvement scheme that provides both resilience and adaption in a changing climate, reducing tidal flood risk whilst enhancing the environment of the estuary. The Alde & Ore Estuary Trust were able to fund the business case for this work from local donations and from a Garfield Weston Foundation grant.

Where is this work happening?

This phase of works covers the four Upper Alde and Ore Estuary Flood Cells (FC). These include Iken (FC 5), Snape Maltings (FC 6), Snape Village (FC 7) and Aldeburgh Town Marsh (FC 10).



When is this work happening?

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

What will we be doing?

Work in 2023 will be varied and an essential part of preparing for large scale construction in subsequent years. Primarily, the focus is now on appointing key project delivery roles and support through local consultants and contractors, in addition to East Suffolk IDB's project delivery staff.

The next six to ten months will involve work on preparation of detailed design which will allow us to tender the works. This will involve gathering local site investigation data to underpin the delivery of technical engineering and environmental assessments.

A lot of communication and involvement with landowners will be necessary to deliver the design work. Consultation and meetings, involving the local communities likely to be affected by the construction works, will follow as the design process gathers pace. At these meetings our team will present their initial findings and plans. These designs will be the foundation for construction work from 2024 and beyond.

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An important component of safeguarding the needs of designated habitats and species within the Estuary will involve Environmental monitoring throughout 2023 and undertaking enabling mitigation work.

During this period all remaining statutory licences, consents and other permissions will be sought by our Project Delivery team.

Work from 2024 to 2027 will be construction work with plant mobilised to site.

Why are we doing this work?

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.

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.

There are 562 residential and 196 non-residential properties currently at risk within the Upper Estuary. It is predicted that 53 residential and 59 non-residential properties would be lost forever if no work is implemented. Additional residential and non-residential properties would be impacted by 2055 due to the cumulative impacts of climate change.

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.

Protection of 24 abstraction points that are used to irrigate 546ha of high value agricultural land outside the flood cells, including a water supply for a vegetable cleaning and processing facility.

The estuary is nationally and internationally designated and is supported by c.974ha of diverse water dependant marshes providing significant functional freshwater habitats for wildlife within the tidal floodplain.

How can you get involved or get in touch?

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.

Contact us



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The Alde & Ore Estuary Trust — Funding the whole estuary embankment improvement works



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Alde & Ore Community Partnership



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