

Upper Alde & Ore Estuary Embankment Improvements

March 2023

What are we telling you about?

The Upper Alde and Ore Estuary Embankment Improvement Project, Phase 1 of implementing the Alde and Ore Estuary Plan. This is a project delivery update on the first two months of work.

2023 sees the preparatory work to enable construction in the following three years: this includes planning details of when and where construction will take place, taking account of local needs and environmental considerations, and securing of permissions / licences.

To aid this East Suffolk IDB have contracted an external design consultant who has commenced work on the four Upper Estuary Flood Cell detailed design packages. Preliminary work on this commenced in early March 2023.

A whole breadth of project delivery specialist appointments have been made by East Suffolk IDB. We have an external environmental consultant now engaged with managing early field survey work to underpin future licence applications. The focus has been on overwintering bird survey counts across the Flood Cells and will soon move to breeding bird surveys. Other environmental survey work has been resourced and awaiting the specific time of year window for field work.

Work is in progress to secure the next large package of survey work to be undertaken this summer for Water Voles.

A large proportion of landowners affected by the planned works have already been contacted and met with our Project Engineering Delivery Manager to discuss plans for this year and beyond.

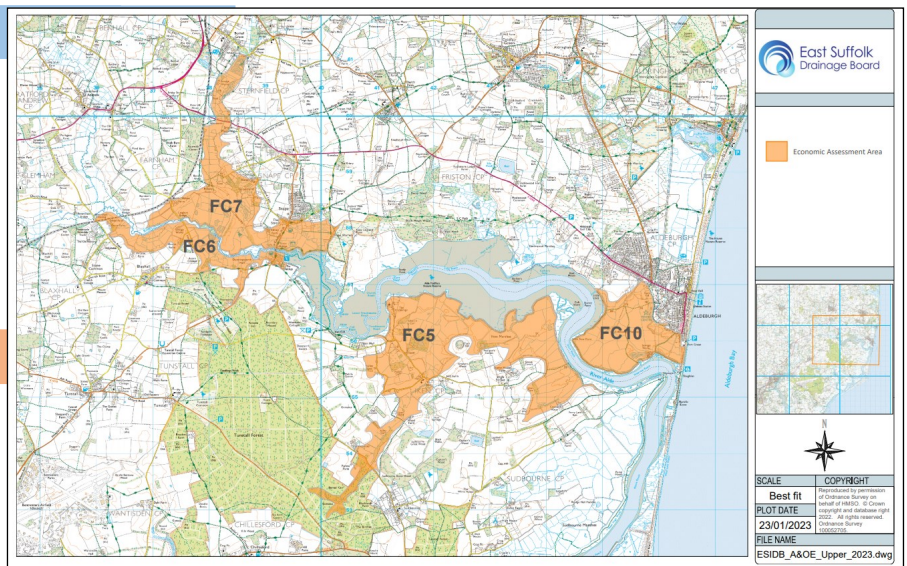
Where is this work happening?

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.

The next two months will focus upon continuing environmental surveys and starting new ones to gather underpinning data for statutory licences and permissions which will need to be applied for later this year.

The design consultants will be progressing preliminary design work. They will be producing a ground investigation specification to allow the Project Engineering Delivery Manager to tender the survey works package. Swift appointment of a suitable sub-contractor will allow commencement with the important field data gathering. This will likely take place during late spring / early summer.

We will continue to communicate and involve landowners and community members through all stages of the project.

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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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.

Improved embankments will protect 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 freshwater dependant coastal grazing marshes providing significant functional 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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COMMUNITY
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