

About the project

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 six 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 Water Management Board have contracted an external design consultant who continues to work on the four Upper Estuary Flood Cell design packages detailing what final plans will look like and how it all works. Outline plans are nearing completion for all earthworks and the majority of more traditional hard engineered solutions, specifically Snape Maltings with its likely need for concrete flood walls and demountable flood boards.

Fieldwork is complete in Flood Cell 06 Snape Maltings for the vital ground investigation data that will underpin structural and engineering calculations and assessments needed to prove a robust design. We currently await returns of statutory permit commencement approvals for ground investigation work in the remaining three Flood Cells Iken, Snape Village and Aldeburgh due for completion throughout August and September.

Environmental survey work continues to progress well. The initial focus was on overwintering bird and recently breeding bird survey counts across all Flood Cells, these should complete in August. Other environmental survey work is well advanced, such as that for water vole presence or absence assessment.

Our Project Engineering Delivery Manager will be working closely with landowners to discuss plans for this year and beyond.

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.



What...

Work in 2023 will be varied and an essential part of preparing for large scale construction in subsequent years.

The next few months will focus upon continuing environmental surveys to gather underpinning data for statutory licences and permissions. These will be applied for in the autumn / winter this year and hopefully approved shortly thereafter, vital to have in place before any construction work can start.

Ground investigation works will be completed in the remaining three Flood Cells. Once the laboratory analysis of field data is complete and factual reports issued our design consultants will be able to progress further with detailed design work. Technical analysis of the design will be able to get underway and by the end of autumn we should have the first draft detailed design data to share back with landowners and communities. Further permissions and permits will need to be applied for and granted ahead of any planned construction.

Once design is complete all planned construction work will have to be tendered for to ensure value for money and overall affordability.

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.

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.

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



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Alde & Ore Community Partnership

