

About the project

The Upper Alde and Ore Estuary Embankment Improvement Project is Phase 1 of the Alde and Ore Estuary Plan. Its goal is to upgrade river walls, reducing flood risk to towns, villages, farmland, infrastructure and wildlife habitats. This newsletter provides an update since April 2025. Progress updates will soon be available on the Water Management Alliance (WMA), the Alde and Ore Community Partnership and The Alde & Ore Estuary Trust (AOET) websites.

What's Been Happening

Over the past three months, efforts have focused on further design work and delivery preparations. In mid-May, the East Suffolk Water Management Board (ESWMB) received initial feedback from the Environment Agency (EA) regarding the proposed project scope change, originally submitted in mid-March. ESWMB responded to the EA's queries in mid-June, and further questions were received at the end of the month, which we have responded to. Also in June, ESWMB engineers submitted a key application for a Flood Risk Activity Permit to the EA. This permit outlines the proposed works and how flood and environmental risks to others will be managed. The EA's determination process is expected to take around six to seven months. Tendering for construction work in FC06 Snape Maltings is underway via the government's 'Find a Tender' portal. The process launched in mid-April and will close mid-August, with evaluation of submissions expected to finish by the end of August. Earlier, in April, WMA engineers, alongside representatives from AOET, AOCP, and the EA, held a public consultation workshop at Snape Village Hall. The event, which focused on plans for FC06 and FC07, was well attended by local residents.



Where

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

These include Snape Maltings (FC06) and Snape Village (FC07) initially and then, subject to further fund raising, Aldeburgh Town Marsh (FC10) and Iken (FC05).

Programme

The new construction programme is subject to sign off on the two key permissions: the FRAP and the project scope / finance change by the EA. This may delay start dates by 6-7 months, as these permissions must be in place before work can start.

We will publish an updated programme once outcomes on these key permissions are known.

Start Date subject to ongoing fund raising

FC10 Aldeburgh	Spring 2027 to end October 2028
FC05 Iken	Spring 2028 to end October 2031

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Lower Estuary

ESWMB is mindful of the need to develop plans to address the Lower Estuary in consultation with the AOCPP and the AOET. The AOET is considering the best way to fund ground investigation work, which will help clarify our design and manage construction costs. This has to be done before we can submit an Outline Business Case to the EA. The AOET is simultaneously working on a strategic funding plan for the community, to include local and central government funding, which may be ready by Autumn 2025. Once the EA's response to the request for the amended scope for Flood Cells 06 and 07 has been received, the AOCPP intends, as said at the last AOCPP meeting in March, to set up a working group to look at options for the wider estuary. The AOCPP is also planning to start addressing the 10 yearly review of the estuary plan, which was part of the conditions for its approval: the first review is due in 2026.

Other Statutory Permits

Footpath diversions will be phased with each Flood Cell work programme.

We are consulting SCC Highways/Bridges to address risks at Snape Bridge.

A bespoke waste licence from the Environment Agency is essential for importing construction materials for FC06 and FC07, this will be progressed once the FRAP application outcome is known.

Design

FC06 designs are complete to enable tendering, further structural detail and final revisions will follow post tender.

FC06 tender was released in mid-April.

Designs are being shared with communities, landowners, and partners.

Project Costs

A final cost review will be conducted before construction, to ensure we remain within budget constraints, all findings shared with ESWMB, AOET and the AOCPP.

Ecology

A bespoke approach is needed to manage Water Vole mitigation across all flood cells and requires a licence from Natural England (NE). We've worked with specialists and will soon submit our final application. Habitat enhancements in FC06 and FC07 are ongoing, with further work planned.



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

