

July 2026

## An update on our approach to the Estuary

Last year we updated you on our efforts to find alternative ways to make a start on capital works to improve the estuary walls, because the cost for the whole estuary plan had risen beyond our immediate reach.

Our plan had been to raise the embankments in the Upper Estuary first, with the lower estuary to follow as funds became available. However, detailed planning based on updated flood modelling showed that this approach could unintentionally increase flood risk elsewhere in the estuary, and we were not granted a permit for the works.

Aware that time is passing, and we all want to get work started, we have been reviewing alternative approaches which would allow us to at least start sustaining the estuary defences across the whole estuary, while we raise the additional funds needed to complete the full programme of capital works.

Our focus is on a programme of works across **ALL** flood cells in the estuary, maintaining the current flood protection afforded to all that lies behind the embankments. It's work we can activate quickly with minimal further need for permissions. Conserving the walls to at least today's levels will buy valuable time, allowing future protection or adaptation options to be considered, developed and — where possible — implemented.

**This proposal fits within the Estuary Plan and it will allow us to get on and make some valuable progress in the short term.**



Snape Maltings, Alde & Ore Estuary; Photo credit iStock Rob Atherton

The modelling did however show that works at Snape Maltings (FC06) alone do not cause an increase in flood risk elsewhere, Britten Pears Arts Ltd (BPA) is currently seeking to deliver privately funded works in this flood cell only.

## Work will now start on Sustaining the Estuary

The Alde & Ore Estuary Trust, Alde & Ore Community Partnership, East Suffolk Water Management Board and the Environment Agency have formed a new partnership to establish a coordinated and funded 5-year programme of works to prevent further deterioration to the defences and increase resilience. This was always a stream of work recognised within the Estuary Plan. This gives us much greater certainty and clarity about funding.

The Environment Agency has made it clear that funding for maintenance is extremely limited, but with the new partnership in place, we can be certain of a commitment of a minimum of £500k of works per year across an initial 5-year programme. With a 5-year programme in place, we will be able to deliver efficiencies and work more effectively.

Works will include rectifying 'low-spots', to more extensive block work, revetment and asset repair work to increase resilience and avoid breaches.

A systematic rolling programme will also create opportunities for improvement over time.

**The project will identify the flood defence maintenance and improvement activities that are expected to deliver the greatest benefits for communities, businesses and the natural environment across the estuary over the next five years.**

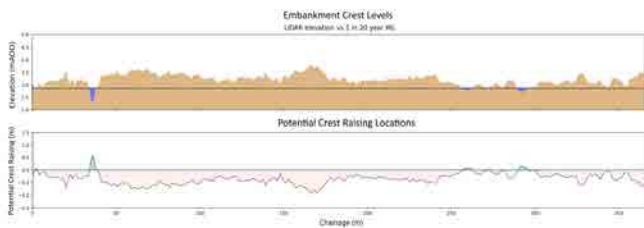
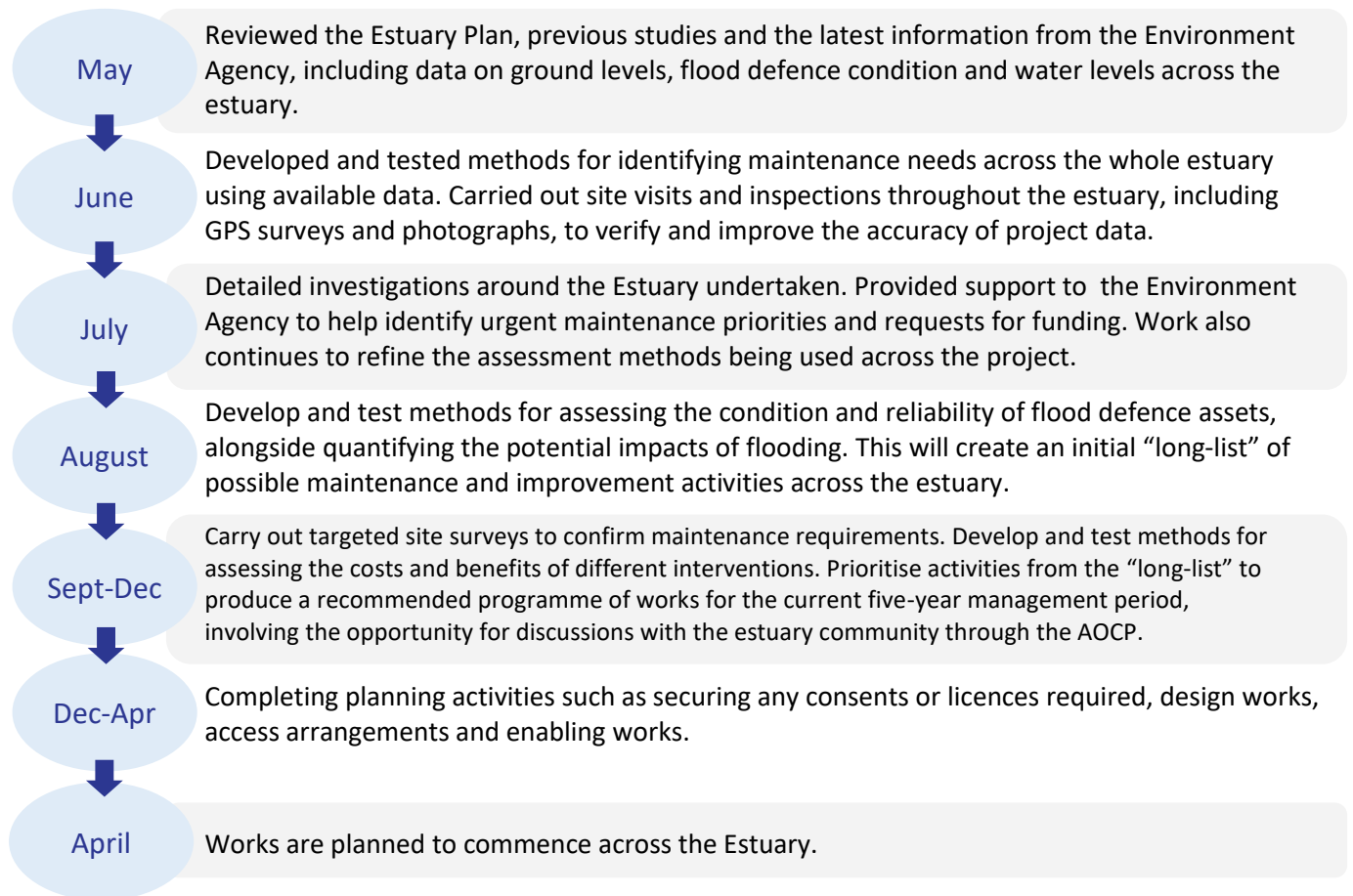
The work that will be undertaken between May 2026 and April 2027 is detailed overleaf.

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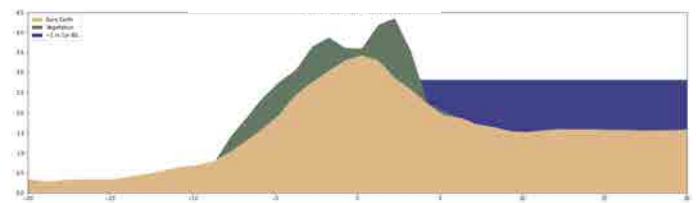


Alde & Ore Estuary Trust

## Project Milestone Timeline 2026-2027



Example Flood Cell Analysis of LiDAR to identify potential embankment height management locations



Example embankment cross section, extracted from LiDAR

## Contact us

### Get involved

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



**East Suffolk Water Management Board**

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