

## Newsletter Issue 6

Welcome to the sixth instalment in the series of SES Newsletters, to be produced throughout the development of the strategies to keep people informed of the progress made in each of the estuaries.

In this issue, we have included a summary of the responses from the Deben Shortlisting Options Consultation and the Thorpeness to Hollesley Coastal Strategy Plan.

### Blyth Estuary

#### *Deben Preferred Option*

The consultation period for the next stage of the Blyth Strategy, 'The Preferred Option' is due to commence in mid-September. Those consultees who have expressed an interest in the Strategy will be notified by letter and email in the forthcoming weeks.

A public exhibition will take place on the **29th September** in the **Beachcombers Room, Southwold Pier** from **2pm to 7pm**. There will be the opportunity to attend two 'drop-in' sessions after the public exhibition.

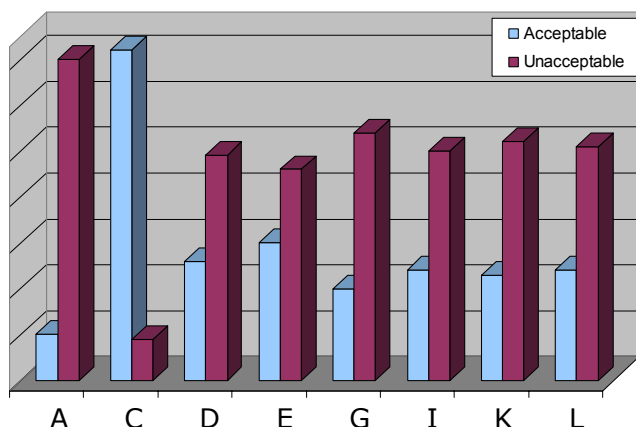
### Deben Estuary

#### *Deben Options Shortlisting Public Exhibition*

The public exhibition at The Carlows Room, Bull Hotel Woodbridge, on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May and two follow-up 'drop-in' surgeries were well attended by local residents.

#### *Summary of Responses to Shortlisted Options Consultation*

A total of 94 responses to the consultation document were received for this consultation stage.



These responses were largely from members of the general public – local residents, landowners and local organisations.

The full summary of the Deben Shortlisting Options stage can be found at [www.suffolkestuaries.co.uk/projectnews.htm](http://www.suffolkestuaries.co.uk/projectnews.htm).

#### *Deben Preferred Option*

This next stage in the Deben Estuary Strategy is due to commence in late October. Consultees will be notified in the forthcoming weeks.

A public exhibition will take place on the **2<sup>nd</sup> November**, at **The Bull Hotel**, Woodbridge from **2pm to 7pm**.

### Alde and Ore Estuary

#### *Update on Strategy Progress*

We are continuing to study the shortlisted options for the Alde and Ore Estuary, including making sure the impacts of the estuary options and the impacts of the coastal options (see over page) are all considered when weighing up the options.

A vital part of the study is the assessment of economic damage caused by flooding or economic changes caused by changes in the management of the estuary. We have been using local data on abstractions and agricultural use, residential and commercial property and infrastructure to develop a baseline. We have also been discussing with the Alde Ore Association the best way of evaluating the income brought to the area by boating and river users.

We have recently been made party to an independent review of the long term evolution of the estuary, commissioned by the Alde Ore Association. We will incorporate any additional findings into our Strategy as it is developed.

The complexity of the study area, and the ongoing data gathering, makes the option appraisal process time consuming, but worth investing our time in!

#### *Alde and Ore Preferred Option*

The final stage for the Alde and Ore Estuary Strategy is scheduled to take place in Spring 2006.

## Thorpeness to Hollesley Coastal Strategy Plan

The Thorpeness to Hollesley Coastal Strategy Plan is to be carried out in two separate stages. Stage 1 of the Strategy involved the preparation of a Coastal Processes Report and an Environmental Baseline Report. The Coastal Process Report includes a study of historical data, new computer modelling work and an assessment of recent changes in the shoreline position. The Environmental Baseline Report collates existing data and new survey data of the most environmentally sensitive areas. Stage 1 of the Strategy was completed in July.



Stage 2 involves the development of policies and coastal management options for the strategy study area and development of the Coastal Strategy. The planning of this stage has started and the first Project Team meeting was held in July. The Project Team has been set up to ensure that there is a clear, consistent and co-ordinated approach between the development of the Alde and Ore Estuary Strategy and the Thorpeness to Hollesley Strategy Plan.

This stage also involves the development and appraisal of a range of coastal management options in terms of key economic, environmental, technical and social issues and will involve consultation with stakeholders and members of the public at key stages throughout the project. This work will be based, where appropriate, on the work already undertaken for the Alde and Ore Estuary Strategy. (For more details contact Paul Turney, Halcrow, 01793 812479 or email: [TurneyP@halcrow.com](mailto:TurneyP@halcrow.com))

## Estuary Management Group

In order to achieve consistency across both the Suffolk and Essex estuaries the Environment Agency has prompted and instigated a "best practice" group where information on all matters, especially technical approaches, economic analysis and environmental best practice can be shared between Environment Agency staff and consultants undertaking these studies. The first joint output of this group has been the re-launch of the Essex Estuaries website, which has been re-developed by Black & Veatch on behalf of the Environment Agency and Halcrow Group based on the successful Suffolk Estuaries website. The Essex Estuaries website can be found at [www.essex-estuaries.co.uk](http://www.essex-estuaries.co.uk).

At the same time suggested improvements to the Suffolk Estuaries website have now been undertaken. These included improvements to navigability, sections on: sea level rise, the 1953 floods, coastal shoreline management plans and coastal and estuarine strategies undertaken to date. Visit [www.suffolkestuaries.co.uk](http://www.suffolkestuaries.co.uk) for more information.

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## Contacts

Members of the public who have indicated their wish to comment on the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> consultation stage for the Blyth Strategy will receive a copy of the consultation pamphlet and comment form in the post. Alternatively there is the opportunity to comment via the SES website - [www.suffolkestuaries.co.uk](http://www.suffolkestuaries.co.uk), or by contacting the Suffolk Estuarine Strategies Team who will be happy to answer any other SES queries you may have.

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