

Newsletter Issue 7

Welcome to the seventh instalment in the series of SES Newsletters, to be produced throughout the development of the Suffolk Estuarine Strategies to keep you informed of the progress made in each of the estuaries.

In this issue, we have included some information on the proposed sill for the Blyth Estuary, which can be found overleaf.

Blyth Estuary

Blyth Preferred Option

At the time of publication we have received over 150 comments from Blyth consultees. Following feedback from the consultation process we have agreed to extend the consultation period for the Blyth Estuary Preferred Option until **Thursday, 30th November 2005**. This should allow sufficient time for all interested parties to submit comments on the Preferred Option.

Blyth flood risk management

Blyth Estuary Strategy
Preferred option consultation
September 2005

Additional Local Public Meetings

Due to the overwhelming response to this latest consultation stage and in response to several requests made by consultees, we have arranged to hold additional presentations for the public at the **Beachcombers Room, Southwold Pier** on **Monday, 7th November 2005**. Presentations will be at **2pm** and **6pm** respectively. There will also be a number of local meetings to further discuss the Preferred Option with organisations such as Southwold Sailing Club, Lowestoft Cruising Club and local parish councils.

Deben Estuary

Deben Preferred Option

The public exhibition presenting the Preferred Option for the Deben Estuary due to be held at **The Bull Hotel, Woodbridge** on **Wednesday, 2nd November 2005** has been postponed. It will be re-scheduled after we have completed consultation on the Preferred Option for the Blyth Estuary, to make sure that we take feedback from

one estuary consultation into the next. We will re-issue notification for the new public exhibition and consultation period in the near future.

Alde and Ore Estuary

Update on Strategy Progress

We are progressing the shortlisted options for the Alde and Ore Estuary and continue to collect information on the estuary. This includes data on unique assets such as the telecommunication masts in Lantern Marshes.

The complexity of the study area, and the ongoing data gathering, makes the option appraisal process time consuming, but a worthwhile investment of our time!

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 Strategy Study

Update on Strategy Progress

The study is looking to produce a sustainable coastal flood management strategy for the next 100 years in a two phase process. Phase 1 was completed in August 2005 and Phase 2 is currently underway.

We are using the knowledge gained from work already done and current work to develop a list of options. The viability of these options is being evaluated on technical, socio-economic and environmental grounds. This will result in the delivery of a draft Coastal Management Strategy identifying the Preferred Option to go to consultation with key stakeholders and the public.

We are pleased to announce that in November 2005 we will launch The Thorpeness to Hollesley Strategy website: www.thorpeness-hollesley.co.uk

We hope to present the draft Strategy for consultation in 2006 in conjunction with the Alde and Ore Estuary Strategy.

Information on the Proposed Sill for the Blyth Estuary

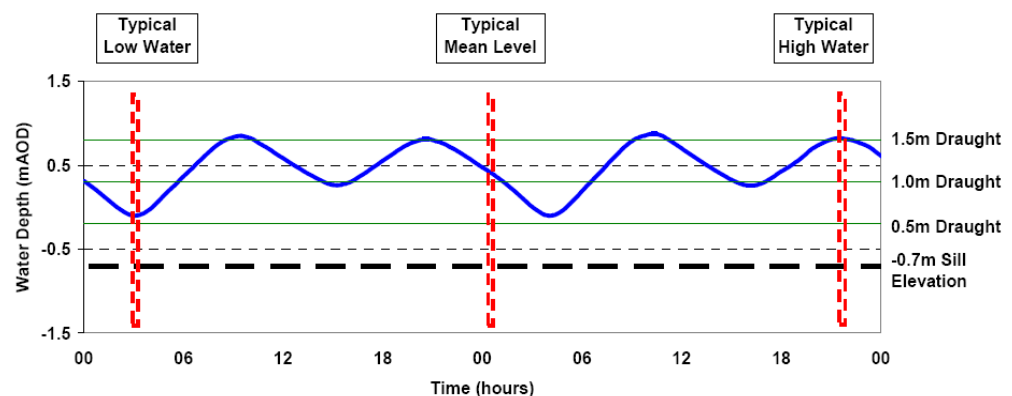
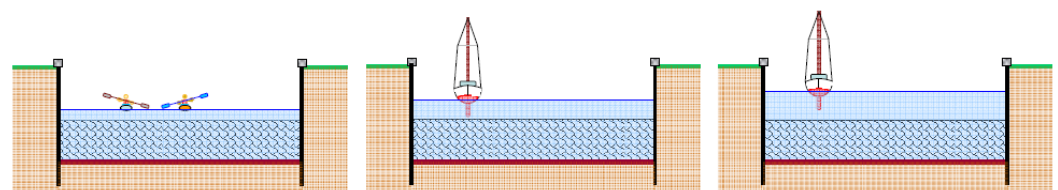
The sill is a tool to “buy us time” to implement the Preferred Option for the Strategy. At present these are our initial ideas because we are at a high level planning stage. Consideration of the design and location of the sill will come in the next stage.

How will the sill work and how do we expect it will affect water levels, current speeds and siltation within the estuary?

The sill will consist of narrowing of the river channel in combination with raising the river bed. It works by reducing the amount of water entering the estuary and in turn lowers water levels, current speeds and erosional pressure upstream of the sill. This allows us time to rebuild the current defence at Reydon Marshes and will also provide us with time to find a suitable site to compensate for the loss of the European designated freshwater habitat at Tinkers Marsh. Downstream of the sill the estuary processes will not be significantly affected and hence the water levels, current speeds and siltation of the harbour region will be similar to present day conditions.

How will we decide the sill's final location?

The general location of the sill has been determined from the computer model of the estuary and the best location appears to be in-between the Blackshore Cottages and the Bailey Bridge. However, during the next stage of the study the position of the sill will be further investigated to see if the sill can be located at a position which can avoid or minimise its impact on moorings. If possible, this will be at, or even upstream of, the Bailey Bridge. However, this will all be dependent on whether the sill can be effective in controlling the way the estuary works. Without this control of flows upstream of the sill, the whole harbour will be at greater risk.



How will the sill effect navigation within the estuary?

When we come to the detailed design of the sill we will endeavour to minimise the impacts on navigation within the Blyth Estuary. The figure above illustrates our initial thoughts on the level of the sill and the implications on navigation over the structure. At low tides it is anticipated that the sill will only be navigable by shallow draft boats, (i.e. canoes, dinghies, tenders etc.). At mean tide level we anticipate the sill will be navigable by most boats with a draught shallower than 1m.

Why is the sill seen as a short term option? Why not keep it in the long term?

With time, sea level rise and increases in frequency of storm surges will make the sill less efficient at managing the estuary processes and therefore it cannot be considered as a longer term solution for the estuary.

Contacts

Nigel Pask, Project Manager
Environment Agency (Anglian region)
Kingfisher House, Goldhay Way
Orton Goldhay
Peterborough PE2 5ZR
Tel: 08708 506 506
nigel.pask@environment-agency.gov.uk

Mike Steen, SES Local Liaison
Environment Agency
Cobham Road
Ipswich
Suffolk IP3 9JE
Telephone: 08708 506 506
mike.steen@environment-agency.gov.uk

Matthew Clegg, Environmental Scientist
Black & Veatch Consulting Ltd.
Grosvenor House, 69 London Road
Redhill
Surrey RH1 1LQ
Tel: 01737 774155
suffolk-enquiries@bv.com