

Newsletter Issue 1

The Environment Agency is responsible for managing the flood risk arising from rivers and the sea, in many areas. Prompted by growing concern over several areas in Suffolk that are susceptible to flooding, the Environment Agency has commissioned the development of a long-term strategy to manage the flood defences for three of the Suffolk estuaries: the [Blyth](#), the [Alde and Ore](#) and the [Deben](#). These are known as the Suffolk Estuarine Flood Management Strategies.

The Suffolk Estuarine Flood Management Strategies will be developed over the next two years on a river-by-river basis starting with the Blyth followed by the Alde and Ore estuary and ending with the Deben estuary.

This is the first of a series of Newsletters that will be produced throughout the study, to keep people informed of topics of interest and the progress made on the strategies in each of the estuaries.

Public Exhibitions: Introducing the Suffolk Estuarine Strategies

A series of public exhibitions were held through June and July of this year to introduce the work being carried out for Suffolk Estuarine Flood Management Strategies. The exhibitions took place in Woodbridge, Southwold, Felixstowe, Aldeburgh and Orford with Staff from the Environment Agency and consultants Black and Veatch on hand to answer any questions. The exhibitions were well received by the locals and denizens of Suffolk in attendance, with many lively discussions about the future of the estuaries and the livelihoods of the people associated with them.

The exhibitions provided a preview of the new website – www.suffolkestuaries.co.uk – produced to provide up-to-date information on the strategies as they progress and the chance to have input to the development of the strategies online.

Future roadshows are planned in the estuaries to introduce the start of the strategies in the Alde and Ore and the Deben. The Alde and Ore introductory public exhibitions will be held at **Aldeburgh Church Hall** on the **26th November** and at **Orford Town Hall** in The New Room on the **27th November**. The doors for both venues will be open from between 2pm and 7pm on the dates shown.



The Aldeburgh Public Exhibition, July 2003

Aims and Objectives of the Suffolk Estuarine Strategies

The **Aim** of the SES study is to produce a long-term, sustainable strategy for the management of flood defences in the Suffolk estuaries. A number of **objectives** will also be developed for the study, against which flood defence options can be measured. These objectives will include **statutory objectives** that apply to the whole project, and must be achieved for the study to be appropriate and approved under UK legislation.

There will also be some more **local objectives**, which apply to specific areas or specific interested parties. These objectives will be derived through consultation. These supporting objectives will be used to ensure that the flood defence policy options do not significantly affect the other uses and interests of the study area, but it may not be possible to achieve all the local objectives. To develop these local objectives, we need your input.

SES Consultation – having your say

Consultation will be undertaken with all interested parties and the general public throughout the development of the strategies, through a series of Consultation Documents. You may already have seen the first Consultation Document for the Blyth estuary. We will also shortly be producing a Consultation Document for the Alde and Ore estuary, which will be sent to all people who have told us they have an interest in this estuary.

In addition to consultation with the general public, Consultation Groups will be set up to help develop the statutory and local objectives of the study. A Suffolk Estuarine Strategies Consultation Group has been set up to look at issues that are relevant to all three estuaries. Separate Consultation Groups are now being set up for each estuary, to look at local estuary issues.

Suffolk Estuaries Online

The Suffolk Estuarine Strategies website went live at the end of June. The website provides an online notice board of information on the background and drivers behind the strategies, containing information on the location of the estuaries, legislation and Agency policy guiding the strategies. The site also gives people the chance to comment online as each of estuaries is considered in turn. Consultation forms for each of the estuaries will be posted, allowing the Agency to hear what you have to say on your hopes and desires for the future of the estuaries, what objectives you might have for

their management and any response to potential options put forward as the strategies progress.

The website will change as and when things happen, providing local residents, businesses and interest groups with first hand information about options being considered to manage the flood risk now and in the future.

Work Underway

Since the start of the Suffolk Estuarine Strategies in May work has been underway collecting the great variety of information the Agency need to provide the best options for flood management in the Suffolk estuaries.

The information needed is varied and widespread and includes technical data on roads, services and utilities, habitats, water quality and tidal and river flows amongst many others. Where information is not already available, the Agency is launching a series of surveys to help understand how the estuaries are working today. The Agency has had the following surveys carried out:

- Hydrographic surveys on the Blyth and Alde and Ore Estuaries - looking at water and sediment movement
- Flood Defence Condition Surveys on the Blyth and Alde and Ore
- Environmental Surveys at Waldringfield and Blyth – looking at habitats and the possible presence of protected species
- Aerial 'LIDAR' Surveys for all the estuaries - looking at ground levels throughout the estuaries.

Contacts

If you have any queries or issues you wish to discuss regarding the future of flood management in the Suffolk estuaries, or are able to provide any information that you feel will be useful to the development of the strategies please contact:

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