

## **ALDE AND ORE ESTUARY**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Table 1 provides a record of the consultation documents produced to date as part of the Alde and Ore Estuary Strategy.

*Table 1 Alde and Ore Estuary Strategy Consultation Documents*

<b>Document Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Distribution</b>	<b>Number of comments received</b>
A5 Document: The Alde and Ore Estuary Strategy: Introduction to the Strategy	October 2003	Statutory consultees and interested parties	267
A4 Leaflet: The Alde and Ore Estuary Strategy: Options Consultation Leaflet	May 2004	Statutory consultees and interested parties. Displayed at Aldeburgh, Leiston, Woodbridge and Saxmundham Public Libraries and the Yacht clubs at Aldeburgh, Slaughden and Orford during late May to 15 June 2004.	34

In addition to the Consultation Documents, Public Exhibitions were held in June/July 2003 (Introduction to the Suffolk Estuarine Strategy Studies Roadshow) and November 2003 (Introduction to the Alde and Ore Strategy Roadshow).

The following provides a general summary of the feedback received from these periods of consultation.

### **2. CONSULTATION FEEDBACK - 'INTRODUCTION TO THE STRATEGY'**

#### **Objectives suggested by consultees:**

- To manage the Alde and Ore to enhance the whole estuary for recreational boating, by reducing tidal flows, increasing the current navigable area and improving the sea defences
- Protection of private property and land
- Ensure Aldeburgh remains an important coastal town and tourist location
- Maintenance of navigation
- Protection from flooding included land, property and access especially Shingle Street and the town of Aldeburgh
- To give greater emphasis to interests of residents and users of river rather than wildlife
- Provision of additional moorings along the estuary
- Reducing flows speeds
- Maintenance of existing flood defences
- Installation of a sea lock at mouth of the estuary
- Considerate siting an additional marina close to Aldeburgh
- Setting a 5 knot speed limit over the whole of the estuary
- Flood protection of listed buildings
- Concentrate on next 10/20 years to keep costs low, rather than 100 years

### Generic Concerns

- Flooding resulting in mudflat rather than saltmarsh
- Maintenance of river walls during study
- Loss of freshwater habitats and farmland
- Managed retreat allowing ingress of seawater to groundwater aquifers
- Dredging impacts
- Increase of flood walls leading to increase of tidal flows and therefore increase in difficulty of navigability
- Flooding relating to sea level rise
- Management of sea defences and offshore shingle included in strategy
- Managed retreat would restrict recreational rights in Alde and Ore area
- Synchronise river and coastal reviews at Alde and Ore
- Managed retreat causing faster flows
- Loss of historical defences
- Managed retreat causing destruction of shellfish layings on the Alde and Ore (due to sediment accumulation)
- Increase in tidal speeds making sailing a 'no-go'
- Increase in siltation reducing the current navigable areas of the estuary
- A breach in the sea defences

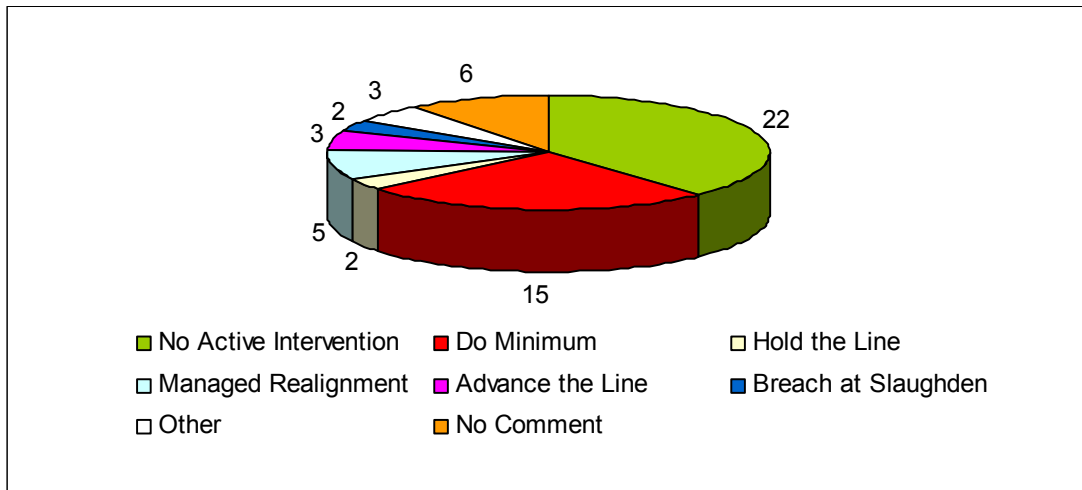
### Site Specific Concerns

- Repair of river wall at River Butley
- Breach in seawall south of Aldeburgh and failure to repair it
- Sea lock at Alde/Ore to control river access and reduce erosion of banks
- Protection of local allotments in Aldeburgh
- Loss of historical Kings Marshes if banks breached
- Look into relationship between coast and River Alde south of Martello Tower (Lantern Marshes)
- Maintenance of Aldeburgh Marshes
- Flood risk to Butley Mills and Chillesford
- Conversion of mudflats at Iken back into saltmarsh
- Lack of pro-active protection around Aldeburgh
- Hazlewood Marshes
- Flooding/National Trust's breach of Lantern Marshes
- Aldeburgh Marshes
- Protection of/and access to Shingle Street

## 3. CONSULTATION FEEDBACK - 'GENERAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT OPTIONS'

### *"Are there any options that you would find unacceptable?"*

Figure 1 shows the options that consultees would find unacceptable (based on the number of comments received per option). No Active Intervention and Do Minimum were the options which were found to be the most unacceptable, followed by managed realignment. Other unacceptable options mentioned by consultees included placing a fixed barrier in the estuary and options which caused increased siltation or made navigation more difficult.



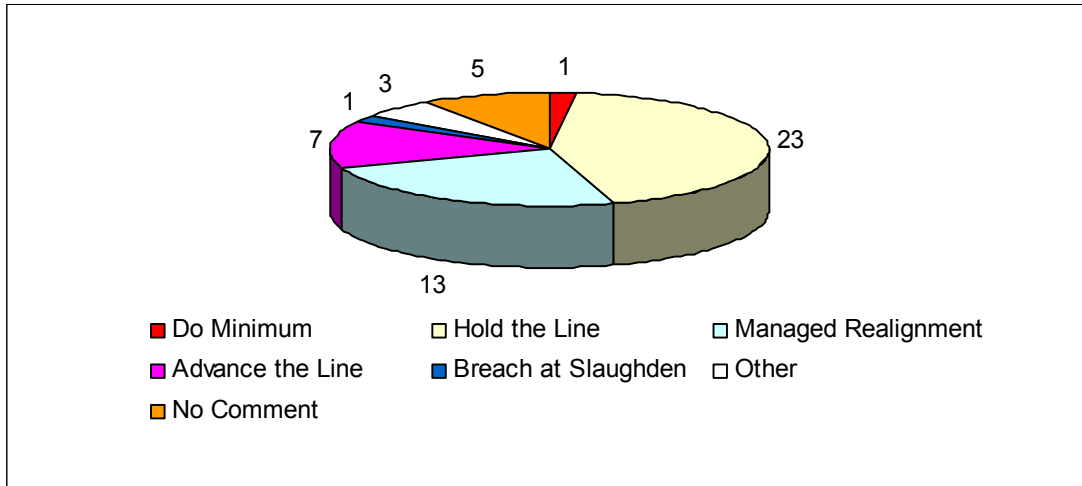
**Figure 1 – Options considered unacceptable by consultees**

*Comments on unacceptable options:*

- If farmland adjacent to defences was flooded and water sources were contaminated with salt it would be impossible to irrigate crops, resulting in closure of businesses and loss of land values.
- No Active Intervention implies lack of control and the consequences are difficult to predict – for the sake of all there needs to be positive planning so that the farmers etc. can plan ahead.
- No Active Intervention and Do Minimum have serious effects on navigation through breaching of defences and increase in siltation and tidal flows and will consequently affect the economic prosperity of the area.
- No Active Intervention will increase the size of the basin to be filled at each tide and will increase the flow velocity through the lower Alde. This may give rise to complications.
- Advancing the line is an expensive option, not a good use of funds
- It would be difficult to see how advancing the line of the defences in the mid and lower parts of the estuary would be possible let alone practical. The river is already constrained within flood walls and any further narrowing would cause unacceptable pressures elsewhere.
- Any option which fails to take into consideration the result of the coastline’s movement inland over the past 120 years – this is a much greater threat than the river alone and obviously the two are related.
- Any option which would result in the river no longer being a safe place for leisure activities such as sailing. In particular any option which would allow a breach in the sea wall at Slaughden.

***“Please list which options you would find acceptable?”***

Figure 2 below shows the results of which options consultees thought would be acceptable (based on the number of comments received per option). Hold the Line is the preferred acceptable option, followed by Managed Realignment and Advance the Line. Other acceptable options mentioned by consultees included a barrier upstream of Slaughden, a tidal barrage or a moveable barrage.



**Figure 2 – Options considered acceptable**

*Comments on acceptable options:*

- Hold the Line would be preferred as it seems to maintain a balance that has existed for many years. This would continue to protect people and the habitat around us.
- The preferred option is to hold the historic boundaries which mostly date to 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Land is a commodity in much demand and should not be lost. The present river walls go back hundreds of years.
- Any managed realignment should be carefully controlled to prevent silting and tidal flow increases.
- Advancing the Iken – Snape Bridge mudflats (not the existing banks) as these were much more extensive in the 1940's. Increasing these mudflats would decrease the size of the basin, and at the very least, give more time to study the effects of sea level rise.
- Main driver for selection of options should be to find a sustainable solution for the future of the estuary bearing in mind the pressures of sea level rise.
- When considering the options there is a need to look at the likely coastal changes. Our understanding is that Orford Ness's movement is to gradually straighten. This landward migration of the shingle at the northern end around Lantern Marsh could over time have effects on the course of the river behind.

***“What are your expectations from the Consultation Process?”***

- A strategy that will help set the agenda for the future of the estuary; engender a better understanding of the processes at work and the need to work sustainably within them.
- A conclusion which gives confidence that those dwellings on higher ground will definitely be protected.
- That people who live and work in the affected area have their views taken into account.
- Clear and detailed information about policy considerations and the technical, economic and environmental considerations; time to seek further explanation of the preferred option and to influence the final decision.
- A decision and positive action thereafter.
- An opportunity to discuss with the implementers the process of identifying the best options and if necessary to influence that choice.
- That the majority view is heeded.
- Honest and open consideration of local opinions.
- Fair outcome that protects coastal and estuary environment related to the rivers Alde & Ore.
- Detailed in-depth analysis of specific options, their impact on estuary and activities within it.

- Serious consideration of views of locals properly weighted against those of wildlife organisations.
- Opportunity to have status quo argument really understood and accepted.
- Clear objectives, time frame, recommendations and budgetary implications; detailed forecasts of community impacts.
- Due consideration of historic environment.
- Support for planned flood defences.
- That views expressed will genuinely be taken into account.