

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The following are extracts relating to shoreline bordering the Alde and Ore Estuary from the Suffolk Coast Shoreline Management Plan first issued in January 2010. The first section deals with the shoreline north of the Martello Tower, the second the shoreline to the south of it.

SUMMARY OF PREFERRED PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS AND JUSTIFICATION

PLAN: The aim of the plan is to maintain the natural shingle defence to the frontage, thereby providing sustainable defence to Aldeburgh. This would require maintaining control at either Fort Green or south of the Martello Tower, depending on the policy for a breach based on full examination of issues within the estuary.

There is a continuing flood risk over the frontage and this would increase with sea level rise. There needs to be a review of flood warning and emergency planning to address this.

PREFERRED POLICY TO IMPLEMENT PLAN:	
From present day	The short term policy would be for the maintenance of existing defence at Aldeburgh and through to the Martello Tower.
Medium term	In the medium term the position for control of defence at Aldeburgh would depend on policy based on an estuary management plan. If defences were to be managed at Fort Green, these works would be undertaken progressively forming a bastion at this location. If defences were to be managed at the Martello Tower, assuming a breach, these works would be in the form of a harbour pier.
Long term	Maintain defences and consider flooding of the area behind the Haven with local flood defence.

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC POLICIES

Policy Unit		Policy Plan			Comment
		2025	2055	2105	
ALB 14.1	Thorpeness Haven property	NAI	NAI	NAI	This would not preclude minor works to sustain property, subject to impact assessment.
ALB 14.2	Thorpeness Haven Beach	MR	MR	MR	Consider allowing flooding with secondary defence but maintain the road.
ALB 14.3	Aldeburgh	HTL	HTL	HTL	Control at Fort Green.
ALB 14.4	Slaughden	HTL	HTL	HTL	Detailed management subject to an estuary management plan.

Key: HTL - Hold the Line, A - Advance the Line, NAI – No Active Intervention
 * HR – Hold the Line on a retreated alignment, MR – Managed Realignment

CHANGES FROM PRESENT MANAGEMENT

No substantial change from existing policy over the northern section of the area. The potential for a breach at Slaughden.

IMPLICATION WITH RESPECT TO BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Economics		by 2025	by 2055	by 2105	Total £k PV
Property	Potential NAI Damages/ Cost £k PV	5,114	4,798	3,962	13,875
	Preferred Plan Damages £k PV	131	107	73	311
	Benefits £k PV	4,983	4,691	3,889	13,563
	Costs of Implementing plan £k PV	2,000	500	550	3,050

SUMMARY OF PREFERRED PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS AND JUSTIFICATION

PLAN: The aim of the plan is to maintain the important natural character of Orfordness. There remains uncertainty with respect to management to the area south of the Martello Tower through to the Lantern Marshes. This needs to be resolved through an estuary management plan. There is a commitment by the Suffolk Coast ICZM Initiative² to develop with local communities and interested groups a Management and Investment Plan for the Alde and Ore. This area will include the Alde and Ore estuary and its adjoining coastline. This plan will take account of the conclusions of the SMP, will review the recommended SMP policy and, if necessary, amend this accordingly. In the meantime it is important to have an interim policy for the coastline. From the perspective of purely managing the shoreline, a policy of No Active Intervention would be concluded. Present management relies on recycling shingle from further south on Orford Ness. There is currently an agreed emergency plan to recharge the shingle bank, if required, that is under constant review. Subject to continued monitoring this practice would continue in the short term. An alternative method may need to be developed later in the first epoch to avoid damaging the Orfordness shingle ridges. South of Lantern Marshes the intent would be for No Active Intervention. The Orfordness lighthouse is located on a highly dynamic feature and is now vulnerable to coastal process. Options for its future are currently being considered and these need to take into account the dynamic nature of the shingle feature, as well as environmental importance.

PREFERRED POLICY TO IMPLEMENT PLAN:	
From present day	No active intervention. Define actions with respect to Lighthouse.
Medium term	No active intervention.
Long term	No active intervention.

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC POLICIES

Policy Unit		Policy Plan			Comment
		2025	2055	2105	
ORF 15.1	Sudbourne Beach (south of the Martello Tower)	HTL	NAI	NAI	An interim policy pending an agreed Management and Investment Plan for the Alde and Ore area.
ORF 15.2	Orford Ness	NAI	NAI	NAI	
Key: HTL - Hold the Line, A - Advance the Line, NAI – No Active Intervention MR – Managed Realignment					

CHANGES FROM PRESENT MANAGEMENT

The intent is to maintain the defence at Slaughden while practical. The policy would then change to NAI. This changes from the policy in SMP1 but is in line with the more recent approach being adopted.

² The Suffolk Coast Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) initiative is a partnership of organisations committed to developing an integrated approach to the management of the Suffolk coast. It includes East of England Development Agency, the Environment Agency, GO-East, Natural England, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council.