



22b

Do you know?

About The Deben Estuary Partnership



2009 The Deben Estuary Partnership was set up to create an estuary management plan reflecting the broad range of interests on the Deben and addressing the core issue of flood-risk management.

The main partners include Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Unit, East Suffolk Council, Local Parish Councils, the River Deben Association, landowners, river based industries, sailing clubs and agencies such as the Environment Agency and Natural England.

The intention is to ensure a shared approach that reflects a sympathetic vision of the estuary, its systems and the livelihoods it supports.

2015 The partnership published its first **Deben Estuary Plan** which was approved by the Environment Agency and adopted by Suffolk Coastal District Council. The plan set out some ambitious aims, two of which were a commitment to bring all flood defences up to a standard level and the recognition of the value of peaceful tranquility.



Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB
Waldringfield saltmarsh management works



Sutton Hoo Marsh

© Simon Read

2019 Circumstances have changed including the creation of East Suffolk Council and the publication of a new local plan demanding a revision of the existing **Estuary Management Plan**.

Challenges such as incremental sea level rise and an increase in the frequency of tidal surges are becoming more urgent. Pressure for development is creating greater demand for access and recreation, which will impact upon the tranquility of the Deben Estuary.

New terms of reference for the value of natural systems such as “**natural capital**” and “**ecosystem services**” have become standard. They confirm the complexity of estuarine systems raising the potential to identify sources of funding for estuary management projects into the future. These are extremely challenging times but we are well placed to build upon previous successes. The subject of change will be a key theme for the new, revised **Estuary Management Plan**.