

## COPY OF FREE-TEXT ANSWERS TO RDA RIVER USER SURVEY QUESTIONS

**Q2. Please tell us about the things you value most about the River Deben. There are some suggestions below, or you can add to the list and comment in the box below the answers. Please tick one box in each row.**

1 Having lived in Woodbridge for 40+yrs I feel we are incredibly privileged to have access to such a beautiful river and all it offers. Threats to the shoreline environment (Housing etc) are a big concern.

2 An atmosphere which comes partly from the mix of estuary/ agriculture and domestic living

3 But most important of all; as a dinghy racing venue!

4 My work is not river based, but obviously it's very important for those that do.

5 A wonderful place to visit, as I do when I am able, and have done so for over 50 years. The river has really not changed a great deal in this time, thanks largely to your organisation and various landowners and interested residents on both sides of the river.

6 A place to relax and unwind. To picnic at the Tips or the Rocks and look for sharks teeth. To drift down to the Ferry, buy some fish and then reluctantly sail back to Woodbridge.

7 Minor criticism of your questions - wildlife includes birds, if you wanted to pick them out the questions should have been "birds" (first) followed by "other wildlife". "Tranquility" is an ill-defined concept. For me the river is still tranquil when there are quiet activities going on, even if the dinghies are sailing about as fast as they are able and a distant combine is harvesting a crop. People zooming about on PWCs or fast runabouts disturb by both noise and motion. For me, being retired, it is not important as a place for me to work but as boat owner it is important to me that others can work here and as a resident it is important that the local economy should flourish.

8 I value the River Deben as a peaceful place to walk and watch the birds. It is nice to see boats on the river itself or some overwintering on the shore but I feel that there are too many boats already on the shore.

9 I am retired and live in Woodbridge

10 Limitation via Fairways Committees to the expansion of moorings - may sound selfish, but take a look at river Hamble!

11 We have a mooring at Ramsholt for our sailing boat. We sail the Deben and other local rivers extensively (not in winter)

12 history

13 Cleanliness & water quality.



14 Not having boat any more, I enjoy the walks

15 It is the timeless, unchanging, undeveloped and beautiful nature of the riverbanks all the way from Woodbridge to Felixstowe that I find unique and special about the River Deben.

16 I live and work on the river

17 The tranquility and mostly natural condition of the river and it's immediate surroundings is a very valuable asset and creeping sub-urbanisation and inappropriate developments should be resisted at all times.

18 The tranquility and mostly natural condition of the river and it's margins is very valuable and creeping sub-urbanisation and should be resisted at all times.

19 FISH

20 A focus for history, art and literature.

21 This is my favourite place to come to for holidays and short breaks. I'd like to live here one day!

22 The natural unspoilt, ungentrified, undeveloped environment

23 WE HAVE ENJOYED THE DEBEN FOR OVER 55 YEARS

24 WE HAVE ENJOYED THE DEBEN FOR OVER 55 YEARS. **DUPLICATE**

25 Undeveloped Under populated area

26 I don't like that power craft are frowned upon and made un-welcome.

27 Riverside walks

28 It's a wonderful place to take visitors for a stroll along the estuary pathway.

29 I am a sailor based at Felixstowe Ferry so appreciate that from a sailing point of view I can either go upriver or out to sea if the weather and tides are suitable.

30 I first came to River Deben in 1954 and was completely taken by the experience, so much so that some 44 years later, I came to retire here. My work has taken me to many parts of the world, including such places as Mombasa, Lake Naivasha, Mombasa, The Seychelles and many more such places, where I have had the opportunity to sail, but none compared in my mind to a sail on the River Deben

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33 I love this area and find it enormously beneficial to be able to go out in this space and enjoy the water, the birds and the naturalness of it.

34 A place where all can enjoy equally

35 Water based leisure activities both powered and non powered, equal respect for all users of the river Deben

36 waterskiing and wakeboard sailing bbqing

37 Long history of association with the Deben since childhood. Can't imagine not being there.

38 I grew up in Waldringfield and have spent many years enjoying navigating the Deben by sailing boat - swimming and fishing and walking its banks. It is an important part of my life and my work - i am an Artist and for the last 15 years it has informed the work i make. I feel very strongly that the River is

their for all to enjoy, and those who take pleasure from walking its Banks have equal importance to those who enjoy being on the water - Sailing .

39 Space with large skies and peace

40 An unspoilt part Suffolk- which unfortunately is beginning to change

41 Although we live in Enfield, we have a houseboat at the Ferry. I have been visiting the Ferry since 1964 and we have been using the houseboat since 1988. We love the river, the area and all the natural beauty that surrounds it. We walk, cycle, sail and swim, by, on and in the river. Over the years we

have made lots of friends in the area. We also bring like minded friends from London to the area to enjoy its tranquility.

42 Unique quality of River Deben. Ease of access. Going for walks with the family.

43 A wonderful unspoilt Suffolk estuary which must remain.

44 Enjoy sailing on the uncluttered Deben River

45 An AONB to share with those less fortunate in where they live



**Q3. Do you use the banks of the River Deben for leisure activities? Please tick one box in each row.**

- 1 sitting still and watching the river
- 2 picnics
- 3 relaxing as I watch activities on the river in Woodbridge and Felixstowe Ferry
- 4 All above are active. I like to just be there sometimes and sit.
- 5 not just birdwatching - all forms of river/saltmarsh natural history
- 6 people watching
- 7 I can happily spend quite a while just ambling, standing or sitting and looking at the world (and I see many others doing the same)
- 8 Boat maintenance
- 9 picnics and BBQ
- 10 picnics, reading a book, reflection
- 11 For peace and tranquility in all weathers
- 12 Picnics - sometimes
- 13 Generally taking in the natural environment
- 14 picnicing
- 15 cycling
- 16 I am a volunteer warden for suffolk Coast and Heaths
- 17 Mountain Biking
- 18 Have a boat in Martlesham boatyard and sometimes go out down the river.
- 19 Dinghy storage and access to the water at Waldringfield. "Beach" hut owner.
- 20 sitting down and soaking up the atmosphere
- 21 Just sitting soaking in the atmosphere, picnics with friends
- 22 Cycling
- 23 Sailing, powerboating
- 24 To enjoy a beach hut at Waldringfield
- 25 sitting on the banks watching the activity



26 crabbing

27 sailing

28 Crabbing off the jetty. Playing with grandchildren on the sandy beach on the Bawdsey side

29 watching the sailing

30 Work with Golf Club, AONB, SWT and RSPB to recognise and enhance wildlife habitat.

31 Water Skiing, Visiting the pubs on the river, Access to the sea to visit other rivers in the area.



River Deben Association

**Q4. Do you use the River Deben for water-based leisure activities? This question assumes that the activities may be seasonal. Please tick one box in each row.**

1 But I enjoy watching those that do (except perhaps Jet-skiing / water skiing !)

2 I believe noisy activities such as jetskis are incompatible with a river like the Deben and should be baned.

3 My rowing is normally only recreational, rather than for exercise, when there is no wind for sailing. I also have to row a bit to get to and from my yacht. I have been to the upper limit of navigation in my dinghy.

4 have switched from dayboat to ( this year ) sailing kayak

5 crab fishing with the grandchildren

6 Our son is a Scout and he uses the river with the Scouts for water based activities such as canoeing and dinghy sailing

7 Have a speed boat and love the water,

8 Now retired from cruiser sailing and previous part time Skipper on Jahan

9 Visiting friends aboard their boats

10 I have a ski boat and stick to the rules,

11 wakeboarding

12 Crabbing

13 Crabbing with teh Grand Children

14 Socialising afloat



**Q6. Do you work in a business that relates directly to the river? Please tick yes or no. If yes please tick a second box to indicate what sort of business you are in, or comment in the box below.**

1 river comes within the area that I work in

2 We own a small business consultancy based in Suffolk but we operate nationally and globally. We relocated from Northampton to Suffolk in 2008 to enjoy the Suffolk lifestyle

3 Businesses that do not directly relate to the river should be discouraged

4 my offices are right beside the river and it offers a wonder view

5 now retired from

6 Artist - photography - using a boat

7 Retired

8 I am retired, so work nowhere now

9 Retired

10 Sailing Club though not sure if this is a business in pure sense

11 Waldringfield Harbourmaster



**Q7. Tell us about how you usually get to the river. Please tick one box.**

- 1 / walking / lift in friend's car
- 2 also by bus to Felixstowe / walk to Ferry
- 3 I live by the river.
- 4 I live a considerable distance from the river, but take holidays there and visit members of my extended family who live in the area.
- 5 Can get to the river wall by foot but need car - 15 mins - to get to car park when sailing
- 6 I dislike strongly questionnaires which, like this, demand a single answer when the truth lies in a combination. If I have things to take to or from my boat or I am combining a river visit with needing to go somewhere else some distance away or with shopping for things heavy or awkward to carry I use my car (under 15 minutes). Otherwise I walk (over 15 minutes but under 30 - time depends on chosen route).
- 7 sometimes by bike to Tide Mill
- 8 I live on the river
- 9 Occasionally use the car (under 15 min).
- 10 Walking along the river bank is usually part of a longer walk. This starts in Martlesham to Martlesham Creek, along the River Deben foot path to Wilford Bridge. Occasionally the car is used to travel to the river. Walking is then along the foot path.
- 11 Also often walk to the Ferry (over 15 mins)
- 12 We spend holidays here in rented accomadation which is within walking distance of the river. We come here from our home usually by come, sometimes by train and very occasionally by sailing.
- 13 Over the last year I have got to the river by car (as indicated) on foot (over 15minutes), by bike (under 15minutes)
- 14 My main residence is in Stansted, Essex but I also have a home at The Ferry at which I am resident for several days per week
- 15 run
- 16 Visiting from Kent every year or two
- 17 it wont let me tick 2 boxes but i go there by boat a lot as well
- 18 also walk and bike
- 19 I usually walk from Melton and continue along the estuary pathway towards Martlesham.
- 20 Also have beach hut at Waldringfield and family lives in Woodbridge





21 Or drive into Woodbridge and walk along the path there back to Keyson Point or up to Melton.

22 boat

23 Bike - over 15 minutes

24 also walking from home and office within Woodbridge. car to Waldringfield to sail

25 Bike over 15mins

26 cycle 5 mins!

27 Bike over 15mins sometimes

28 Houseboat on banks of the river, so there already. When travelling from home it is 90 miles away so we use a vehicle.

29 Liveadjacent

30 Often park at the Golf Club (Felixstowe) and walk on course and river wall. Also walk at Kirton Creek, Martlesham Creek Gosford Hall, Hemley and occasionally Waldringfield and Ramsholt.



**Q8. Changes to the landscape of the River Deben. Tell us which of the issues listed below matter most to you. Please tick one box in each row and comment or add any additional points in the box below.**

1 Anti Adastral Park. Not averse to appropriate riverside re-development, eg whistocks,

2 Maintenance of the river walls is important to prevent the flooding of housing, but it is also very important that the breeches in the wall above and below Waldringfield are not repaired. The fact that people infrequently enter the saltmarsh areas around these breeches has produced relatively undisturbed

and essential roosting and feeding area for waterbirds. A footpath across these salting areas or a newly created footpath along the banks of the saltings, would cause unwanted disturbance for the birdlife there, and also would alter the character of the river in those parts, it losing its splendid remoteness, which adds to the atmosphere and attraction of this river.

3 I am very concerned about the proposed development between Waldringfield and Ipswich as I feel it will be bound to affect the river. Access is not unlimited and roads are narrow.

4 I think the answers to some parts of this part of the questionnaire could end up lumping opposing views under a single heading. One person might consider a subject (for example, commercial development) important because they wish to see it increased (for example finding a good commercial or at least self-sustaining use for the Whistocks yard) and another might wish to see it reduced (for example because they consider the standing areas of boatyards an eyesore. Similarly one person might wish for universal unfettered public access but those concerned for wildlife might wish to see it restricted in places.

5 When I ticked boxes about housing or commercial development I mean that I am concerned about inappropriate commercial development and about any new housing close to the river.

6 We are concerned about the large housing development at Martlesham, on BT land. A large, influx of people may have a large impact on the river and its environment. Waldringfield is not big enough to cope with many more cars arriving! We would prefer commercial development in the IMMEDIATE area of the river, to be linked to the river, and the activities that occur on and around the river

7 Number of moorings is too high, restricting navigable area Your question on housing is too widely phrased to be clear

8 This is an ambiguous set of questions. e.g. I have said that housing development is an important issue, but am I a developer (ie for development) or an opposer? ( As it happens, I am against).

9 By housing and commercial development, I assume you mean PREVENTING such development in the immediate area of the river?



10 A very close watch needs to be kept on the developments of all kinds in the river valley and the number of moorings, with ever larger boats, need to be controlled to keep the open water. Flood prevention in relation to any permitted development as all the extra, not always necessary, hard surfaces tend to overload the existing drainage systems.

11 Far too much housing development in Woodbridge area already. River area should remain free from encroachment by development and kept as a tranquil space for wildlife. Too many moorings on the river at the moment.

12 Please Take Very Important to mean that I am AGAINST Housing & Commercial Development of an area of natural beauty which my Suffolk family has enjoyed for over a 100 years. It will only be peoples greed that will changes the Deben, I would like my children and grandchildren to enjoy it just as I have and just the way it is.

13 TOTALLY AGAINST DEVELOPMENT SUCH AS ADASTRAL PARK

14 Jet skies should not be allowed to use the river. They infringe the bye laws regarding sound and speed. They should be made to use the area out to sea south of the Coastguard Cottages at the Ferry I think we should reduce the signage on the river. The Enviornment Agency signs and posts (red and white poles) impact negatively on the landscape. An alternative to the use of rocks should be found. Their should be no new pontoons or jetties on the river. The number of moorings should be restricted and preferably reduced.

15 To be clear - I think it important that there is not too much housing development, etc as this would spoil the tranquil nature of the area

16 We are interested in keeping the character of the river and surroundings. This should be a priority when considering future developments.

17 Your questions on development are ambiguous - by ticking important do imply I am for or against it ? The whole attraction of the Deben is its lack of development which should be maintained.

18 Difficulty of access to the river for canoeists. This as gradually worsened at places like Waldringfoeld

19 I assume that issues such as encroachment of housing are very important in the sense of it needing to be controlled. Badly phrased question page!

20 The sheer dispoiyation of the River and the surrounding area

21 With the last three questions I do not wish to see any so called development close or near to the river. It is one of the few rivers that has not suffered the curse of development e.g. large marinas.

22 I strongly object to the BT development - it will destroy the area completely, including the local infrastructure. I think it is abhorrent to even think of building 2000 houses so close to what is an area of outstanding natural beauty. The Planning Dept also need to pull their socks up with regard to Mr Johnson's activities - he has built additional industrial units without



planning permission without recourse from the Council, and is slowly levelling out a large piece of land adjacent to the river with sand, hardcore and waste - presumably to up the level. Local anecdotal evidence says he is intending to build a lorry park in this area just off Sandy Lane. This man is a pain in the a\*se. Not to mention his period of clay pigeon shooting on Sunday afternoons a few years ago, which has thankfully stopped, but did nothing for the wildlife or his fellow men. From an objective point of view, it appears to be that Mr Johnson can do much as he wishes without recourse to local and national laws.

23 please stop trying to get people to indicate that speed is a problem on the river. Safety is important yes, but there are places where the speed limit is not necessary or could safely (both to people and the environment) be increased. This is one area that the RDA loses a lot of credibility with the boating community.

24 development of all sorts necessary but of restrained size and quality nature in sympathy with the area

25 I think some commercial development close to the river is acceptable if it relates to activities associated with the river - eg boating, leisure.

26 I know housing is needed but why can it not be spread among existing villages and hamlets to share the pressure of new housing. Also new houses in every village would support the local services e.g. schools, pubs, shops and public transport Speeding is a big problem on the river.

27 Would like to see public access from Ramsholt down to Bawdsey opened up on river bank.

28 I would not like to see further development as far as housing and commercial property is concerned along the Deben-

29 No more houses in the area, due to overcrowding of existing leisure activities

30 My answer regarding commercial development in the immediate area of the river and housing or commercial development within the wider area is to indicate my strong objection to such development.

31 It is important that housing and commercial development does NOT take place along the river. Not sure how to tick the last 3 boxes as the questions are ambiguous, because it doesn't make clear if you tick 'important' whether it means it is important that you HAVE housing built there or it is 'important' that you don't have housing built there.

32 I would dislike any development on the river or changes to the surrounding area

33 increasing numbers of visitors and increasing use of power boats are creating problems. Speeding on the river is not controlled. Number of moorings is about right but should not be allowed to increase, but size of moored boats should also be controlled.

34 Didn't understand the last 3 questions.



35 The last 3 items are important in the sense that changes in these categories need to be carefully considered. I feel its very important to preserve the river and the surrounding area as much as possible, as it is now. The proposed major housing development in the Martlesham area (BT), I feel, would have a significant detrimental effect on the river and the surrounding area. Once we loose the surrounding beautiful natural landscape by major development in this way, its gone forever. We need to consider generations to come also. However, very small scale schemes, both housing and commercial, could be acceptable change, if they will easily fit in without have any detrimental effect on the beautiful natural 'wild' landscape.

36 No Adastral New Town It would be great if bridal paths could be reinstated along footpaths, as would have been pre 1960.

37 I strongly object to the noise from jet skis that completely spoils summer weekends.

38 Housing developemnt in the immediate area of the river would spoil the whole ambience of the river, as would commercial development unless it was a marine business

39 The river is an extremely important "green" amenity and a strong policy should be agreed to safeguard its continued role as such. It cannot be "all things to all people" and detrimental use (water skiing, jet skis and too many moorings) must be tackled.

40 You have asked the questions here in a very biased way in my opinion. For example, I may prefer the wildlife habitat to be actively left alone, yet the best I can tick is to be 'indifferent' rather than 'actively discourage maintenance' . In addition, I feel strongly that there should be far fewer moorings. If I indicate this by ticking the box saying 'Very important' then i am ticking the same box as someone to whom increasing the number of moorings is 'very important'

41 Balance is very important such as capping the number of morrings as they impinge on walkers', bird watchers,' artists' & photographers' enjoyment as well as dinghy sailors and rowers freedom.



**Q9. Tell us what you think about arrangements for access to the river? Please tick one box in each row and add any comments in the box below.**

1 As a local council tax payer, I dislike paying an extra 'tax' on my sailing by having to pay the parking fees introduced near Eversons railway crossing car park for weekends use.

2 More signs, clearer signs and signs containing information about the river eg its course, flora and fauna

3 I would like to be able to walk the length of the Deben without having to venture in land where there are breaks in the bank.

4 To preserve the beauty of the river and surrounds I think it should not be cluttered with lots of signs. There are less footpaths on the Bawdsey side than the Felixstowe side and it would be good if one could be established between Bawdsey Quay and Ramsholt. Also important that the ferry is kept going.

5 Generally happy but information on any current activity would be of interest for eg the possible dredging work opposite Melton. Is this to build up the saltmarshes? Would like to be able to walk to Felixstowe ferry along marked RoWays

6 I would prefer greater restrictions on slipway access at The Ferry to prevent jet ski and speedboat launching!

7 Info boards and signs - these would be unnecessary beachside clutter at Waldringfield Footpaths and slipway - access is adequate at Waldringfield

8 Whilst obviously it is good that people wish to visit the river and enjoy themselves there is a limit to how many visitors can be accommodated without spoiling the attractions and tranquillity of the river.

9 I suggest that there should have been a third category - "I would not wish to see changes". For my part I would be content to see some changes in the first two but would not like to see an increase in facilities for launching in the upper reaches because that might encourage PWC owners to bring their noise and wash there.

10 The Ferry at Felixstowe Ferry is important, as it creates more opportunities for circular walks/cycles which makes it more interesting.

11 Maintenance of Bawdsey slip and ferry

12 There are VERY few public slipways that enable river access. These should be maintained adequately.

13 If people really want to find the Deben they will. We don't need too much 'street furniture' pointing way for people or it will detract. Already too much on the river wall to Kyson (Environment Agency signs about soft verges!!!!!!!!!!!!!!) Eyesore. Don't be obsessed with tarmac/ stony ballast (not nice to walk on or look at along Martlesham creek) on what should be a natural walking surface.



14 The number of information boards and signs seem to be increasing and impinging on the riverside adding to the unacceptable feeling of general sub-urbanisation. Could they not be located together at access points only.

15 difficult due to railway line

16 There should be no pontoon on the beaches at Waldringfield where there is an excellent hard beach naturally occurring.

17 Maintenance of river pathways at the ferry is highly important. The provision of the Ferry at Felixstowe Ferry is very important. Why is the Bawdsey Quay now fenced off so the ferry has to land on the beach.? Must maintain the Coast & Heaths pathway anold the coast

18 Cycling should be banned on the river wall pathway with clear notices.

19 The slipway at Felixstowe Ferry is the one that my Grandfather/Father and myself have used as a right of way to the river and whilst I appreciate a launching fee is charged for maintenance it is unclear whether this charge is for the vehicles with the launch trailers that damage the slipway or the type of vessels on them? Also I note that the Ferry Boatyard who had an area for taking out and cleaning boats have now removed the original posts and changed this to a paying slipway what next for the Ferry a Marina?

20 WILDLIFE AND TOO MUCH PUBLIC ACCESS DO NOT GO TOGETHER

21 No boards please.

22 We should be endeavouring to keep the 'natural' and 'wild' character of the river. We should not be 'sanitising' it with more benches, rubbish bins, railings. Any changes should focus on leaflets rather than signboards and visitor points. Access should not be encouraged. People should be allowed to find the river and explore it for themselves. The speed limits on the river are too high . It is not clear whether they apply to over the land or through the water. 8 knots through the water could be 14 knots over the land. They should be reduced.

23 Better signs, and more warning of closures - eg Hemley Sluice Footpath reinstatement where the river banks have failed - up and down river from Waldringfield.

24 Although I wouldn't want a proliferation of signs, it would be useful for visitors if there were more footpath maps at strategic places near the river. There are few public slipways and the private ones that are open for public use are only known to a few - so better publicity for these facilities but restrictions on the type of craft allowed to launch to restrict high-powered fast and/or noisy craft

25 I object to multiple health & safety signage. The Environment Agency seems to be the worst culprit who just seem to be covering their backs to the detriment of the landscape.

26 Rectification of the landing stage at Bawdsey is urgent



27 I would like to see the footpath between martlesham creek and Waldringfield rebuilt as it has disappeared due to erosion.

28 Access for day paddles at Waldringfield and Felixstowe Ferry as deteriorated. Not lack of slipways but lack of a public car park at Waldringfield and limited parking at Felixstowe ferry. There is also very limited public access at Woodbridge to the river for canoeists especially at low tide.

29 don't like how the signs at each end of the moorings are incorrect saying 5kts when its actually 8kts.

30 Ensure landowners make paths accessible and according to sign post directions

31 Some footpaths are not continuous ie Waldringfield to Woodbridge and Ramsholt to Bawdsey. If a circular walk around the river could be established via Felixstowe Ferry it would be an enormous boost for walkers and would ensure that some lesser walked areas ie the Sutton shore would be better maintained. The subject of slipways is one likely to become of increasing importance if the local population increases as forecast. It would be interesting to explore the possibility of making charges for slipway use at least some money would be generated for the river.

32 less signs the better improving access often destroys the wildness we are going there to enjoy

33 The greed of certain people who wish to make money for access to the River. (Such as Strutt and Parker on behalf of a certain family )Being very selfish I must admit that the number of users of the River now as compared to when I first came onto the River

34 We were disappointed when the triangular area of land at Kyson Point was fenced off. We were pleased when the footpath at the Wilford Bridge end was re-instated.

35 I think information boards and signs could be improved - they are subject to weather damage so need maintaining. I love the ones that give the circular walk information and the one designating the types of birds you can see at Woodbridge, and it would be nice to have a couple of more of these around - maybe winter and summer sights - including both plants and birds to be seen. I would LOVE for the breached wall between Woodbridge and Waldringfield to be fixed. I cannot understand why all this river wall maintenance - which frankly seems to have destroyed all the hedging and habitat close to the river, so people are obvious and birds have no nesting sites - yes, I understand the Dept of Environment has to maintain the walls, but it seemed to do as much damage (particularly on the section past the boatyard towards Waldringfield) with getting heavy vehicles up on the bank, as it did to maintain them. Large track holes were evident - I haven't been down there for a while as access was totally blocked. So if the Dept of Environment was maintaining the integrity of the river walls, why didn't they fix the breach in the wall between Waldringfield and Woodbridge? Again, Mr Johnson's increase in the level of land around his pig farm suggests that this will impact natural flooding plain.





36 I would like to see better access to footpaths along the river bank between Bawdsey and Ramsholt need better public access to slipways in Woodbridge

37 it would be nice to have the footpath from Waldringfield to Woodbridge repaired

38 Much more traffic through Waldringfield than there used to be. Pub is big business these days.

39 Would like to have public access jetty as I have to use a jetty if I am to pick up my wife for a cruise as she is unable to use a dingy. This would be useful at the easier navigable part of the Deben down river from Kyson point, such as Waldringfield.

40 The major problem of the breach when walking towards Waldringfield! Circumventing this would be so beneficial and a delightful walk if we could persuade local farmers to allow a permissive path inland for a while to then rejoin the river walk again.

41 There is no free access to the river, this is a major problem. encouraging the yards or clubs to open access would be very helpful.

42 I tried to walk along the river bank from Waldringfield towards Woodbridge last Saturday and was disappointed how difficult it was to get across to the causeway just beyond Decoy Pond. It really needs a bridge. Also, I member of the Waldringfield Sailing Club and think it would be good to have a pontoon for the boats there.

43 Public access to slipways has the unfortunate effect of encouraging motorcraft use, which I do not want to increase because it spoils the tranquility.

44 Point out that Waldringfield slipway is private and not public as many seem to think.

45 access at waldringfield is poor, not seemingly available to get small boats on and off the water

46 Only public access that I know of is at the ferry. Waldringfield slip at maybush is silted up so that even dingy launches are difficult.

47 I think some more improvements to the footpaths around Martlesham Creek would be advantageous

48 It would be great to reinstate a footpath that links woodbridge to Felixstowe without having to go inland.

49 Adequate as they are.

50 c A larger cul de sac sign in Cliff Road Waldringfield to alert drivers of very large commercial vehicles to narrow road ahead and limited turning.

51 Access to and enjoyment of the river would be greatly enhanced by a pontoon at Waldringfield. Reconstruct the river wall between Waldringfield and Martlesham Creek On the western side of the river. This would provide a superb river walk at all states of the tide throughout the year.



52 Better signage is required for more people to enjoy the possibilities of the deben area

53 I would like the re-instatement of the river wall to enable walking from Waldringfield to Martlesham creek.

54 It would be good to negotiate consent for access to both banks of the river along those sections where no public footpaths currently run.

55 In line with other AONB's, sea-marshes etc there is probably room for more information boards about what walkers might see.

56 Access to the river bank is poor between Martlesham Creek and Waldringfield. There is not really any proper dinghy launching access in Woodbridge except DYC

57 Too many unauthorised boats use the slipway at Waldringfield.

58 Sea wall is breached, I know there is work going on to repair, but will the route from Martlesham to Waldringfield be intact and usable?

59 There seem to be very few public slipways

60 I am a horse rider there are very few bridleways that go anywhere, short distances then stop. Horses are dangerous on roads.

61 Slipways are privately owned and so access is by permission of these owners. Footpaths along the sea walls need continuous maintenance and where walls are broken down access should be reinstated for walkers including some bridge structures if necessary. This has not always been a priority in the past.

62 Speedboats and jetskis launched from Felixstowe Ferry spoil other river users enjoyment of the river through excessive noise and speed. It would be an improvement to ban them from the river above Ramsholt.

63 Do not like it that public car parks close to river are now pay and display. Nowhere to park if away overnight or for a few days on a boat.

64 It would be wonderful if the breaches on the riverside footpath between Felixstowe Ferry and Woodbridge could be repaired

65 Access must obviously be as safe as possible, but a balance must be sought to ensure over use does not spoil the fragile nature of the environment we seek to enjoy. There is a laissez-faire attitude to footpaths which in places leads to an unacceptable mix of pedestrians and bicycles, eg. footpaths 53, 61 and 62 at Felixstowe Ferry. Footpaths should be for pedestrians and not doubling as cycle tracks. Controls to ensure responsible use should be a prerequisite to licences to operate any slipway or formal access point to the water. Where such supervision cannot be exercised no licence should be issued.



66 I would like to see greater control of access to the WSC slipway by the Maybush at Waldringfield and to the slipway owned by the Felixstowe Ferry Foreshore Trust at Felixstowe Ferry.

67 The signs at Felixstowe Ferry are going to change soon, so I have to indicate that I want them to change as I am instigating the change. The access to the slipway at Waldringfield is ambiguous. There has been a right of way there for many years, yet the sailing club have signs banning people. They cannot do that. I would like to see the Waldringfield slipway extended to the low water mark.

68 The Haven Gateway is designated for strategic UK growth and so the jobs and associated homes are almost bound to increase pressures on the River Deben. We who are fortunate enough to live in or near the AONB have no legal or moral right to exclude visitors so should facilitate with car parking

within walking distance rather than near the River and should also help provide slipway access for lawful boat owners. Lawful is considered important so those who might flout the speed and noise byelaws or are inconsiderate are warned before launching.

69 Not aware of any information boards. Very little information on speed restrictions on the river.

70 The beauty of the River owned by landowning families. Any significant increase in access or numbers of people, boats, etc will inevitably degrade the estuary & surrounding area. We must not encourage extra visits because it will end up spoiling what we want to keep.



**Q10. Please tell us what you think about any changes to the river and its banks that you have noticed. What do you like or not like?**

1 I think they have made great improvements to the appearance of the river frontage at Woodbridge

2 Removal of quayside facility at Bawdsey

3 Parking of Camper Vans at Bawdsey Quay should be restricted. Low flying helicopters should be restricted and shared with other areas. Jet Skis should not be allowed in the river. We should restrict the number of signs especially the Environment Agency signs

4 Silting up marked in the upper reaches compared to years ago.

5 Increase in the use of the footpath of the felixstowe side by mountain bikers. Causes a lot of wear to the surface of the pathway and creates rutting.

6 More mud appearing at Waldringfield Beach with every year ... it's creeping from the Boat Yard to the Sailing Club. More speeding boats.

7 The threat to the ferry between Bawdsey & Felixstowe is a concern Lack of public transport to the Ferry (bus service ended last year) The development of the Whistocks site needs continued careful monitoring to ensure a suitable development and not just a cost effective one.

8 There are too many signs erected mainly by the environment agency.

9 Only recently moved

10 Too many moorings! Inappropriate red windows of new Woodbridge rowing clubhouse. Fairways moorings are a scandal! Waiting lists are far too long, allocations appear opaque and questionable, charges should be increased substantially (double or treble, or more) to discourage people "hanging on" to moorings that are not genuinely used/required, and thereby increase turnover to match demand. They would still be cheap/affordable, but currently the price differential between fairway and boatyard moorings is too large.

11 The number of moorings on the river must be at its utmost maximum. The river is at its best in winter when the yachts have been removed - pity the mooring buoys can't be removed for the winter too! Cyclists who ignore No Cycling signs on the river will seem to think they have a right to cycle there.

12 I was relieved to learn that the proposed pontoon at Waldringfield had been turned down as it would have had a very deleterious effect on the beautiful shoreline.

13 While it happened a while ago, I have been pleased to see the amount of pleasure given to small children by the provision of the play boat and the maintenance of a bit of sand in the relatively sheltered spot near Woodbridge station. The removal of the ivy from the concrete wall behind the river path in this area and the seemingly pointless removal of a tree



and other vegetation from the land adjacent to the nearby reedbed has produced a very barren look.

14 No dislikes. Only concern is Martlesham housing project which may bring 2000 homes which will change everything.

15 Do not like the cutting of the river bank at Woodbridge by the Environment Agency - loss of shrubs and small trees for bird nesting and wildlife.

16 excessive speed and inconsiderate handling by some powered craft

17 Flood prevention works by EA should be accompanied with landscaping and planting

18 Very pleased with the work that has been done to preserve the river wall opposite Woodbridge (at Sutton?).

19 Some saltmarsh areas are suffering from silting. The increasing presence of seals in the river is a good sign; fish prey available in spite of the silting near to Woodbridge.

20 The silting up of the upper reaches of the river (above Kyson). I do not understand why the river cannot be dredged and the spoil taken out of the river - not dumped elsewhere in the river.

21 See above previous points. Some eyesores of 'house boats' (Monster at melton Boatyard)

22 Proliferation of water skis and jetskis. These seem to attract users to the river who do not respect speed limits and riverbank wash. A start would be to bring pressure on those who control slipways to ban the launching of these. Words should be had about the Woodbridge motor cruiser community steaming up the Deben in close convoy putting at risk any other smaller vessels/canoes/dinghies using the river.

23 What I don't like is the poor water quality caused by ancient and useless septic tanks still in use by people near the river. The Environment Agency or whoever is responsible should make sure no untreated sewage is getting into the river!

24 While the riverside should be maintained as accessible to all the urban style asphalt finish to paths should not be used and a more appropriate permeable hard surface be employed. The growth of trees and plants along the river should only be minimally managed and allowed to develop naturally. The numbers of signs should be restricted.

25 Regular maintenance of the river foot path is important. Some parts have developed cracks and are uneven. Like the seating areas along the river path. Are bikes allowed along the footpath? They can be a nuisance during busy times when there are a lot of walkers.

26 generally improved over past twelve months

27 Do not like the removal of natural vegetation (bushes etc) from either side of the river path. Is it necessary to remove the ivy from the flood barrier so frequently as this is a good habitat for bees.



28 Nature at its best and a trip on the Deben from Old Felixstowe to Woodbridge should be made compulsory, I wouldn't change a thing.

29 DO NOT LIKE THE GRASS ON THE RIVER WALLS BEING CUT. VISITING LARGE MOTER CRUISERS HAVE NO IDEA IN GENERAL WHAT ANNOYANCE AND DANGER THEIR WASH CAUSES. CURTESY IN GENERAL IS SADLY LACKING.

30 There has been some very aggressive pruning of blackthorn and other indigenous shrubs along the riverbank on the stretch down to Melton. I did not like this as the whole riverbank looked denuded. Some of the hacked back plants and shrubs are only now starting to grow back, about two years later.

31 The Environment Agency fencing, gating restructuring and signing of the sluices and drains has been unnecessary and unsympathetic to the landscape. The so called 'emergency' works at Felixstowe Ferry, depositing rocks has not only been ineffective but has ruined a large area of the beach and spoiled the landscape. Given the amount of money that has now been spent alternatives should have been considered at the outset. It is not too late to consider alternatives which might be more effective and sympathetic to the landscape. The number of moorings has increased with larger boats. This is impacting on the fairways. there should be an absolute limit for the number of moorings. There has been a large increase in river traffic at the Ferry at peak times, with increased demand for the Ferry, jet skis, sailing schools on both sides of the river. One way of addressing this is to make jet skis and other fast craft go out to sea rather than up river. Increased use of bird scaring guns along the banks has detracted from some walks and the environment. The Environment Agency clearing the banks has been 'brutal'. It has destroyed the landscape above Ramsholt. Suffolk County should not have given up its 'stewardship' of Bawdsey Quay and the jetty. This has effectively re-privatised the area. The railings put in by the Environment Agency at Felixstowe Ferry were unnecessary.

32 I like the improved seating on the beach at Waldringfield but was not impressed that the public toilets had been removed. I would not like to see too many paths fenced off along the river - health and safety can be taken to extremes.

33 I like: repair to footpath between Ramsholt and Pettistree Hall Sluice gate; also maintenance of footpaths with mowing of grass, which helps keep it clear for walkers. I don't like: on some of the raised footpaths, on the river wall to the north shore: I am not sure that horse riding should be allowed in wet conditions, as their hooves churn up the footpath, leaving great hoof marks, which cannot be good for maintenance of sea walls; also makes walking a bit more tricky. Though I don't feel strongly about it, it seems to me that it would be sensible to encourage horses to use a separate bridle path.

34 All looks good at the moment

35 I am concerned about the damage bicycles are making to the footpaths - they are also a nuisance when they ride up behind and startle walkers More money seems to be spend on sluices and sluice signs than on general maintenance - this seems to be the wrong way round to me. Moorings seem to be increasing - or the size of boats is increasing - and I don't think this should continue.



36 Moorings seem to be proliferating - especially down river. Removal of vegetation on the banks to allow work on seawall has made several stretches less attractive. Proposals for mass housing a "stones throw" from the AONB is unacceptable

37 I like everything except the coastal erosion opposite the Knolls

38 I like the reinstatement of the salt marsh opposite Melton, but will want the birdlife monitored for changes. The paths aren't always good for dogs eg the stretch from Kyson Hill to Martlesham Creek is new stones and our dog won't walk on it.

39 I don't like how all the ivy has been removed from the stone wall near the railway boatyard. Also I think some of the clearing by the Environment Agency a couple of years ago towards Kyson Woods was very harsh - was it necessary? The small beach area/dock where the houseboats are near the caravan cafe is not very well maintained - the mud is full of rubbish and at low tide there is an unpleasant smell, at high tide it can be very scummy. Are the boats allowed to put waste out here?

40 A jet ski ban would be great

41 Maintenance of river bank, walkway and seats downstream of Woodbridge would seem to be a good thing.

42 I have noticed the navigable channel getting shallower and what were hard getting muddier following the deepening of marina areas by towing a drag along the bottom

43 There are few easily visible indicators that make speed limits clear. Either on remote river banks and not noticed or the floating ones are too small. There are no postings of river byelaws and speed limits at all boating access points. The only one I have seen is at Felixstowe Ferry and not very visible. There should be ample warning/advisory signs at the Woodbridge marina as most offenders are the large motor boats making time to meet the water levels at the bar or into the marina. There are no warnings aimed to prevent small motor boats from entering the creeks in the saltings causing erosion and damage to wildlife habitat. Seen regularly in the summer between Waldringfield and the Rocks.

44 I am looking forward to the current dredging works to be finished so that I can resume my walks along the estuary pathway from Melton. I usually take this walk several times a week and I miss them.

45 I don't like the railings that have been added to the seawall from Felixstowe Ferry towards the golf course. From a Health & Safety point of view I think they are unnecessary and a waste of money. As far as I know there have been very few, if any accidents along this seawall.

46 New to the area.

47 The key issue is the increased shallowing partly as a result of plough dredging. Future dredging should be subject to study of the likely deposition points before approval or agreement to dump spoil on the banks in suitable places.



48 water levels are rising and eroding the saltmarsh. It would be good to build barriers to slow the water entering and exiting the saltmarsh, which I have heard naturally helps the marsh sustain itself.

49 Like - encouraging saltmarsh conservation and regeneration Don't like - threats to wildlife and their habitats even when protected by European law

50 The expansion of mooring areas, particularly at Ramsholt should be resisted. The area has virtually doubled in the last 10 years

51 Dredging in certain parts has spoilt other parts.

52 Recent work on the embankments looks good but the areas on either side of the path appear vulnerable to erosion as people walk on them.

53 The work on the entrance to the Deben at the Ferry and along the shore, according to the Dutch engineers was not thought through, and really requires a proper analysis, simply dumping rock is not good enough.

54 Am pleased about the saltmarsh at Sutton Hoo and that the paths are kept clear and tidy. It's a shame that not all dog owners clear up their dog's mess.....

55 The area round the tide mill looks good, there are too many 'live aboard' barges behind the cinema

56 I think the improvement to the path at Keyson point is great - it is a lot less muddy to walk through and has really made the path accessible during all but the highest tide. I have found the "bank integrity maintenance" hard to stomach. Lovely rowan hedges and small oak trees have been razed to the ground. Habitat destroyed and cover ruined. Not particularly keen on the large stones put on the path before Keyson point - quite difficult to walk on for both dogs and people. Recent steps into the woods from Church Lane are an improvement. That path could be quite slippery and it is steep. Good to see that someone is maintaining paths and caring for our community.

57 the fairway is too congested at Waldringfield, the channel at some states of the tide is almost indistinguishable

58 I like the access to the river bank but would like to be able to walk the length from woodbridge to Waldringfield and cross where the sea wall is breached or a path round it.

59 It appears that the river at Waldringfield is salting up, but maybe that's just my imagination! I realise that the river changes over time, but it would be good to know if there are any human causes for this.

60 The EA work, especially on Martlesham Creek, is rather stark and involved the removal of many trees. I know the justification is more secure banks to inhibit flooding, but I feel that less draconian cutting would sometimes be preferable.





61 dredging to put the mud back on the islands and saltings to maintain the navigation in some areas has helped, this would be great for the rest of the river particularly round loders cut.

62 It would be nice to be able to walk from Waldringfield to Felixstowe Ferry along the wall without a major diversion inland due to the breach in the wall. Evenso, it is still very nice to walk from Waldringfield along the wall to the breach but some maintenance is increasingly needed.

63 There haven't yet been that many changes but it can only be a matter of time. The river seems to be silting up more and more and that must be of some concern to users of craft on the river. Low average rainfalls can't be helping but I'm not expecting you to be able to do a lot about that!

64 Shoaling in the upper reaches - a problem for leisure use as it is gradually impeding use.

65 some river bank footpaths are broken and i would like to see them repaired

66 Much more slit in navigable channel ! It would be fantastic if the breach was repaired so that it was possible to walk between Waldringfield and Woodbridge. It would also be good if the grass area behind the wall at kirton to the ferry could be used a a cycle way in summer a deal with the land owners would make this a fantastic route for family outings and help trade at the ferry!

67 Size of some of the yachts moored - Too big

68 sympathetic improvements to paths. Disappointed that the hedge was cut down between Sluice Wood and the Sluice at Martlesham Creek - it offered protection from the wind and protection for the birds.

69 The biggest negative aspect of the river is dredging taking place up river and the mud being placed back in the river and falling out around Waldringfield. This makes the beach very muddy at times and makes the sailing club slipways slippery.

70 As the sea walls have broken down this has altered flow of the river Increased Mud at Waldringfield due to diggings at Woodbridge The channel is very narrow at low water-some of the erosion is due to speed of motor cruisers who travel too fast along the river- I feel that the motor boats in particular need to observe the rules of the river and give way to sail which they often do not Better policing of speed would be appreciated Love seeing the birds-little egrets and avocets etc

71 Too many walkerts on river walls, causing damage to river walls.

72 The river wall path proceeding North from Waldringfield is in need of attention to the surface.

73 We like the fact that the Ferry and the River have stayed much the same over the last 30 years, which is unusual in this day and age. Any permanent building developments would spoil the natural beauty.



74 Am concerned that the river is silting up in places. Important to keep Deben navigable up to Woodbridge.

75 The river walls should be maintained not abandoned, even if they cannot provide the recommended Standard of Protection when judged against the Environment Agency's revised flood levels. Better to suffer an occasional flood of farmland than to permanently lose this land and amenity.

76 Of course the natural daily changes are part of its beauty. Part of me would like to see restoration of the sea-walls either side of Waldringfield but not sure how much it would cost, both financially and in terms of wear and tear on the existing seawall walks. Perhaps restoration of the Northern sea-wall would be a realistic start.

77 Seeing the banks eroding and channel silting up is a problem. The feeling is that excessive regulation prevents innovative 'big society' moves to arrest this decline. I would like to see more pressure applied to encourage limited local bank improving and limited dredging to maintain river as it was done in past. (I appreciate RDA is involved in bank work at Woodbridge)

78 The length of the moorings seem to have longer especially at Ramsholt

79 mud seems to get worse and encroaches more on the beach

80 A short part of the footpath from the Manor House, Waldringfield towards the Maybush was shingled a few years back. I believe I am right in saying that the Environment Agency are improving the river banks at Waldringfield much needed or otherwise they will breach. Otherwise if it is not done there will be severe loss of habitat for many animals and birds.

81 Silt is being dredged at Woodbridge which is OK to keep that area navigable but this silt is being dumped on the ebb to adversely affect downstream areas. The marginally higher cost option of dumping this silt to restore the adjacent saltmarsh for wildlife is being missed. The argument for not recreating the adjacent saltmarsh has been given in that this silt might contain environmental nasties but moving it and dumping on the edd is releasing these anyway, if they exist. The temporary structures that have been installed to limit washout of these adjacent ex. saltmarshes are both expensive and are showing to be ineffective in the long timescale.

82 Increased use of motor boats which are too fast and too noisy and too many in number. Moorings have reached saturation point ~now too many at Waldringfield

83 I am mainly concerned with Waldringfield. The repairs to the sandcliff by WSC have been carried out well.

84 Erosion at The Rocks below Waldringfield continues, and may need some sympathetic planting to reduce this. Proposal for a pontoon at Waldringfield Sailing Club was rightly turned down by SCDC.

85 Access for visiting yachts at Waldringfield is poor, since there are no moorings for visitors and no longer anywhere to anchor.



86 Work done to the river wall paths. Would like to see it more accessible during the summer when the bushes and thorns/stinging nettles are overgrown.

87 I remain concerned about erosion of the river banks and whether the measures taken will be effective.

88 It seems to be getting shallower and certainly muddier

89 Keep it as it is will do me fine.

90 Suffolk Coast and Heaths do a pretty good job, given limited funds, signing and maintaining paths. However, recent walks have often be spoiled by shooting and the increased use of very loud gas guns. Low flying helicopters have also disturbed many birds along the river (despite its status as an SSSI !)

91 DON'T LIKE: (a) The number of moorings controlled by each Fairway Committee and the size of yachts moored both seem to have increased steadily over the years. The river is in danger of becoming one big anchorage! (b) Siltation and saltmarsh degradation have both clearly increased in recent years. (c) Increasing numbers of powerboats, especially

et-skis at the Ferry..

92 I would NOT like to see the breaks in the river wall to between Martlesham and Waldringfield and Hemley and Waldringfield repaired. The are delightful alternatives and the breaks deter casual and dog walkers to the benefit of flora and fauna.

93 The quality of the saltmarsh has declined significantly over the last 10-15 years - the vegetation is disappearing fast together with the raised area. Due to rising sea levels? Areas of salt marsh, traditionally covered by spring tides only, are now covered by high tides for half the cycle.

