

What are we telling you about?

Essential work planned for the flood defences in the Deben estuary, including the removal of trees, scrub and bushes and the cutting of grass. Routine maintenance works will also be undertaken to repair deterioration in the hard defences through Woodbridge. These works will be to maintain the effectiveness of these defences.

Where is this work happening?

We will be working on defences throughout the Deben estuary. Sites on which we are considering undertaking embankment vegetation works are indicated on the maps overleaf.

When is this work starting?

The work is planned to start in late November 2012, and continue through the winter and into the spring. Local construction and environmental constraints may impact the timing of specific sites.

What will we be doing?

We will be clearing vegetation from the raised tidal flood embankments on both banks of the Deben Estuary. We will remove all scrub and trees that are growing on the front face, crest or back face of these banks, and treat the stumps to prevent further growth. We will also look to remove any substantial waste or un-consented structures and items from the defences. We will seek to consult with relevant landowners where this is the case.

We will also carry out a general cut of all other vegetation (mainly grass) on these raised embankments. Grass will be cut on all faces of the embankment, to a minimum height of 150mm.

It is envisaged that works will be carried out using small plant and motorised hand tools. The choice of plant will depend on the work required, access available at the site and ground

conditions. Cut material will be left on site to naturally decompose as habitat for lizards and other species, chipped on site, or taken off site, depending on the volume, nature and location of material.

In Woodbridge we will also carry out work to hard defences which will comprise of replacing joints between concrete sections with new joint material. Significant cracks that have developed in concrete defences will be repaired and where required, brickwork will be relayed or replaced where it has failed.

To ensure the safety of footpath users, temporary footpath diversions or closures may be required. We will put up signs on site to advise people of these.

Why are we doing this work and how will it benefit you?

We want to make sure that sea defences offer the best standard of flood protection to people and their property. Large vegetation on earth embankments risks undermining the protection offered by the defence. Repairs to hard standing defences will ensure they are at their best standard possible to hold back high tidal levels and minimising risk of failure. This work will help us to continue to protect people, property and valuable agricultural land from flooding.

How can you get involved or get in touch?

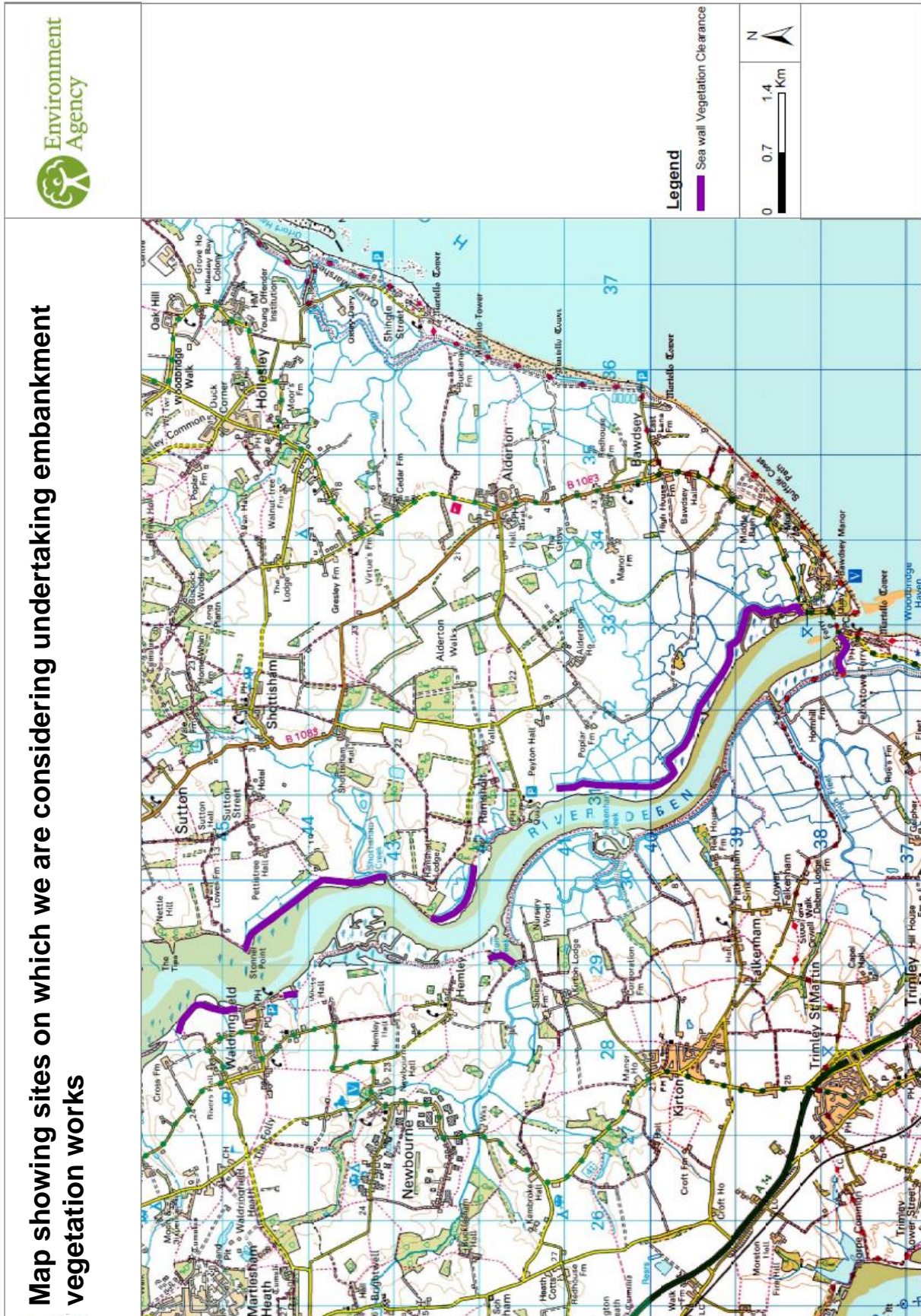
We would like to give people the opportunity to find out more about our work and to raise any concerns they may have with us. We will be holding two public drop-ins on:

Monday 26 November, 2-7pm at Waldringfield Village Hall

Friday 30 November, 2-7pm at Sutton Memorial Hall

✉ enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

☎ 08708 506 506 (Weekday daytime calls to 0870 numbers cost 8p, plus up to 6p per minute from BT Weekend Unlimited. Mobile and other providers' charges may vary).



Map showing sites on which we are considering undertaking embankment vegetation works

