

Response from the Alde Ore Association

The Alde and Ore Association has some 2000 members. (Registered Charity No. 1154583). Its charitable objectives are to preserve for the public benefit the Alde, Ore and Butley Creek rivers and their banks from Shingle Street to their tidal limits and such of the land adjoining them or upstream as may be considered to affect them, together with the features of beauty and or historic or public interest in that area

This application is a successor to a previous application DC/21/4869/VOC to which the Association objected on the grounds that the activity proposed represented too great an intensification of use. In principle our **objection** remains as the current application appears to request permission to allow up to 80 people per day (20 canoes, 2 per canoe/kayak for two hour trips, once each side of high water, ie twice per day). Despite our willingness to allow some expansion and encouragement for the public to enjoy the estuary, this level of activity still seems very high to us. We make the following observations:

- We are still content to allow an expansion of the Iken Canoe operation from the original planning approval. We anticipate that there is a balance to be struck between this business and the protected environment. The Association does not have the technical expertise to advise where that balance should be and we look forward to seeing the advice of Natural England before commenting further. We particularly note the advice from NE (attached, dated 14.02.12) that individual canoes (and paddle boards) can penetrate creeks and salt marsh further than motor craft and are likely to disturb wildlife.
- We suggest that any commercial operation receiving up to 80 visitors on a daily basis should provide toilet and changing facilities on its premises as a basic requirement.
- Briefings should take place on their own premises rather than the public footpath or on reed beds and mud flats.
- Iken Canoes should provide a method statement explaining how they will manage canoeist behaviour on the water ensuring they do not go ashore other than at the departure point or land at the quayside at Snape and do not shout and cause other disturbance on the river. Anecdotal evidence suggests that simply asking people not to do this in a riverside briefing is insufficient.